



Williston Federated Church

January 25, 2026

Open and Affirming, Reconciling Pledge

We, the Williston Federated Church, declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming, Reconciling congregation. With God's grace, we seek to be a congregation that includes all persons, embracing differences of sexual orientation, gender, marital status, age, mental and physical ability as well as racial, ethnic, or social-economic background. We welcome all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship sacraments, responsibilities, and blessings of participation in our congregation. (Adopted by the Williston Federated Church congregation in 2006.)



Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer phone: 802-878-5792 email: pastoreyer@gmail.com

Pastoral (seminarian) Intern – Dr. Jill Irvine

Emeritus Associate Pastor – Charlie Magill

Co Lay Leaders – Ashley Dubois and Donna Sue Hain

Church Office Administrator – Pamela Osborne

Music Director – Adam Hall

Choir Accompanist – Suiong Wong

44 North Williston Road, Williston, Vermont 05495

Church Office: (802) 878-5792

E-mail address: WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com Website: www.steeple.org



United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church
Federated in 1899



Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

January 25, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for children up to age three.

Hearing assistance devices are available—please ask an usher for assistance.

A Fellowship time follows worship—please join us downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

Mission Statement

Our church is an inclusive community which enthusiastically welcomes and gathers all people to share the wonder of God's love. Together we seek to find fullness of life through Jesus' teachings, to reach out into the world to live lovingly and justly as followers of Christ, and to respond actively to human needs. (Adopted by the Williston Federated Church congregation in 2024.)

Call to Worship	Leader: Come, people of God—the dawn is breaking! Even amidst sorrow, a new day rises. All: The dawn is breaking—and we rise with it. Leader: The Holy One draws near— All: and we gather our courage. Leader: Come, all who yearn for justice; all who hope for healing; all who hunger for joy. All: We come to the dawning way, we come to the hopeful way, we come to the way God makes glorious.	Ashley Dubois and Donna-Sue Hain, Co-Lay Leaders and congregation
Prelude		Suiong Wong, piano
Welcome/ Greetings		Pastor Paul Eyer
Words of Peace		Pastor Paul Eyer

Lighting the Peace Candle/ Sharing the Peace/ Passing of the Peace	One: The peace of Christ be with you All: And also with you.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Opening Hymn	"Jesus Calls Us" UMC (red) Hymnal #398 (sing five all verses) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation
Prayer for Today	<p>One: Holy One, your light dawns where our shadows are deepest. You are never far. Your presence remains with us.</p> <p>All: Awaken us to the glimmers of your glory breaking into our world's weariness.</p> <p>One: Shine upon the paths we walk—</p> <p>All: paths obstructed by fear, uncertainty, and the heavy burdens our communities carry. Yet, your compassion rises like morning light!</p> <p>One: Draw near to us today. Let us behold your radiance in overlooked places</p> <p>All: and in one another.</p> <p>One: Make us ready, alert, and courageous people who move with your Spirit,</p> <p>All: a people who join your work to make way for justice and joy to flourish.</p>	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation

One: Descend upon us, Spirit of the Living God.

All: Awaken us. Guide our worship into the brightness of your new day. Amen.

Anthem	“Will You Be Ready?” by Mark Patterson	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of All Ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	Matthew 4:12-17	Austin Hornyak
Scripture in Song	“The People Who Walked In Darkness” From <u>Messiah</u> by G.F. Handel	Adam Hall, solo Suiong Wong, piano
Prayer of Illumination	“May the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.”	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermon	“Turn Around!”	Pastor Paul Eyer
Celebrations /Prayer Requests	Prayer requests may be sent to: WFCPrayer44@gmail.com or if you are online, place them in the chat Private prayer requests may be sent to: pastoreyer@gmail.com	

Silent Reflection

Lord's Prayer	Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Call to Offering		Dr. Jill Irvine
Offering		
Offertory		Suiong Wong, piano
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: May these gifts we offer, O God, bring comfort to those who grieve; hope to those who live on the streets of despair; peace to all the broken places; and grace to all who long to draw closer to you. In Jesus' name. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation

Life/Mission
of the
Church

Pastor Paul Eyer

Closing Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
Songbook #107 (sing all three verses)
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Suiong Wong,
piano and
congregation

Benediction/
Blessing

Pastor Paul Eyer

Postlude

Suiong Wong,
piano

Liturgical
Resources

The **Call to Worship** and **Prayer for Today** are adapted from "Make Glorious the Way: Service Prayers for the Third Sunday after Epiphany" written by Rev. Michael Anthony Howard, who serves as the Minister of Faith in Action for the Living Water Association, Ohio NorthEast, of the Heartland Conference, United Church of Christ. This liturgy was found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-3a-january-25/>

The **Prayer of Dedication** was drawn from "Liturgy w/communion for January 18, 2026 (Epiphany 2 - A) from Lectionary Liturgies by retired Presbyterian pastor Rev. Thom Shuman, found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>

Ushers: Hillary Andrews and Donna Goodheart Greeter(s): Louise Kyle

Coffee Hour: Louise Kyle

Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach

Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois

This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church

Membership Informational Meeting TODAY! Sunday, January 25 After Worship

If you are new to the church community, or have been worshipping with us for years, and are interested in joining the church, there will be an informational meeting TODAY, January 25 11:00-12:00 in the Sitting Room. You will learn about the history of the church and our connection to

the UMC & the UCC. Representatives from the various committees will be present to share a bit about the work of their committee. Being a full member of the church is not a requirement for participation in all aspects of worship, serving on committees, providing outreach and service to others. It is an opportunity to make a public statement of Christian witness.

New members will be received on a date TBD. If you have questions, speak to Pastor Paul or Carol Bouchard, Membership Committee Chair.

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### **Pancake breakfast on February 15**

Don't miss the annual Mardi Gras pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, February 15. The Christian Education Committee will again help host this wonderful time of food and fellowship. You don't want to miss it!

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Mark your calendars!

On Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Williston Federated Church will again host a workshop led by the nationally-renowned church vitality coach Rev. Paul Nickerson. Methodist and UCC congregations across Vermont are invited to attend this event as well.

Paul Nickerson's workshops are always engaging and entertaining—and his presentation approach helps to inspire congregations to come up with their own creative ideas to implement the outreach strategies he recommends. His training around discipleship and stewardship is deeply meaningful as well. Our congregation has been blessed by the coaching of Paul Nickerson in the past. (Some of our most effective outreach ideas came from our coaching sessions with Paul.) We hope that you will make plans to attend. Please RSVP to Pam at the church office (WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com or 802-878-5792) to indicate your interest in attending. *A lunch of soup and sandwiches with a morning snack will be provided to all attendees. A signup to help with this will be posted on the bulletin board.*

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### **Women's Brunch**

All the church women are invited to brunch at Chef's Corner in Williston the first Saturday of each month starting at 11:00 AM. This is a great way to connect socially and enjoy excellent food, at a locally acclaimed restaurant. Contact: Kathy Quesnel at [kathyquesnel@gmail.com](mailto:kathyquesnel@gmail.com) for additional information.

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New Ministry for Widows or Widowers

As of January 11, 2026, the WFC Widow/Widower Support Group Monthly Meetings will be held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM in the WFC "Sitting Room" just past Pastor Paul's

Office. This is a caring and empathetic group that supports each other through active listening, compassion, and understanding.

Ministry Leaders: Kathy Quesnel, Carol Burbank and Ursula White

Valentine Cookie Extravaganza

WFC would like to express our heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the church, to the following community servants: staff at WCS, ABS & CVU as well as our local police, fire & rescue, Town Clerk, USPS, CSWD, medical practices and others, for their continued service to our community during the past year as well as our Mace House friends..

Please sign up on the bulletin board to make and deliver cookies or sign up online using this [link](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAEAE2EA2F9C70-cookie#/):
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAEAE2EA2F9C70-cookie#/>

Cookies may be delivered at your convenience leading up to Feb.14th. If you live outside of Williston, please consider delivering cookies to an organization in your city or town. Thank you note cards, to include with the cookies, can be found on the bulletin board or feel free to write your own note. If possible, and with the recipient's permission, please take a photo when you deliver the cookies. For more information, contact [Carol Bouchard](#).

Is Choir Calling Your Name?

Do you like to sing? Adult choir rehearsal takes place each Thursday at 6:45pm in the church sanctuary. The children's choir (Kindergarten through 8th grade) rehearses at 9am each Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will meet on Feb 18 to discuss 'Home Front' by Kristin Hannah. On Mar 18: 'Good Dirt' by Charmaine Wilkerson. On Apr 15: 'The Book Club for Troublesome Women' by Marie Bostwick. On May 20: 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell. All women are welcome.

Sunday School Coordinator Needed

The church is looking for a Sunday School Coordinator who would plan and supervise Sunday School for children aged four years through eighth grade.

Principal duties would include:

- Recruit, train and support Sunday school teaching volunteers
- Provide outreach to children who have attended WFC in the past two years
- Assist with teaching Sunday school when needed
- Welcome new families and supervise Sunday school registration

- Assist the Education committee with special programs, such as fall kickoff, Christmas pageant, Mardi Gras brunch and various mission programs
- Attend monthly meetings of the Education committee
- May also include facilitating parent discussions group and coordinating summer vacation bible school

For more information, contact Brian Goodwin at 802-238-4180 or by email at

Goodwinjsd@gmail.com

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

For those who would like to hear the worship service better, we encourage you to sit in one of the first four pews. You are not alone!

There are also two hearing devices to use. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Prayer cards

Prayer Cards are available to write prayer requests. (You may find them in the pew rack in front of you.) You are invited to place your completed prayer cards in the Prayer Box (crafted by Chris Stewart) that is now positioned on a table in the Gallery area (the space between the stairs and the hallway to the sanctuary. Additional prayer cards can be found on that table as well.)

Written prayers entered in the Prayer Box will be lifted to God in prayer by Pastor Paul throughout the week.

A Note about the Time with Children

We are delighted to welcome children into our worship service! And we have a special time during the service aimed especially at the youngest among us—and the young at heart! We welcome children to participate in the "Time with Children" in any of the following ways: remain seated in the pew with their family; gather on the first pew; or sit on the chancel steps. Remember that the worship service is being live streamed to social media. So, if you would prefer that your child not appear in this video on our church's Facebook page, you can keep the children with you in the pew or have them sit on the first pew with their back to the camera. If you have no objection to your child appearing in this live streamed video feed, then all of the options are open to you.

And then following the Time with Children, the younger set can head off to join members of the Education Committee who will engage with the children for a time of crafts and learning. It is a joy to welcome children in our midst!

Fellowship Time After Worship

Each Sunday after the worship service, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall (downstairs) for coffee and light refreshments. This is a wonderful opportunity for informal conversation and building community.

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## **Morning Centering Prayer Group**

The Centering Prayer Group meets on Fridays on Zoom, opening at 9:45. The meeting begins at 10am and includes 20 minutes of silent prayer, reading of the Gospel Bible passage of the day and centering on a particular part of the passage and sharing personal impressions about the passage. For zoom link or questions contact Donna Fellinger at 802-355-1700 or [donnafellingervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellingervt@gmail.com).

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Monday Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study chooses books of the Bible to discuss, and we have a great time listening to each other as we try to discern God's word. We meet by ZOOM ONLY every Monday afternoon from 1:30-2:30. If you'd like to join us, have questions, or wish you knew more about the Bible, please contact Sally Metro at ssmetro9@gmail.com. All are welcome!

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## **Men's Social Breakfast**

All the men of the church are invited to breakfast and chat the last Wednesday of every month. Breakfast starts at 8:00 am; cooking at 7:30 am. Come for one or both. Charlie Magill, [cmagillvt@aol.com](mailto:cmagillvt@aol.com).

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Friday Men's Bible Study

Men gather weekly to discuss and try to understand God's Word and how it effects our lives. Join the group in the Fellowship Hall every Friday morning at 7:00 am. The sessions are also on Zoom.

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## **Longevity Gathering**

For those who want to live a long, healthy, and happy life, you are invited to be part of the conversation! Helena Katz is leading a "Longevity Gathering" that meets in the choir room the first Sunday of the month following worship. The gathering gets started at 11:00am so that people have a chance to enjoy fellowship and refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Please also see the Longevity Gatherings page on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@LongevityGatherings> Please subscribe to our channel. (NOTE: The choir room is located past the gallery space just beyond the hallway that connects with the sanctuary here on the upper level of the church.)

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Dismas House

Every third Tuesday of the month volunteers from Williston Federated Church provide a meal to the residents and staff at Dismas House in Burlington. We'd like to thank November's volunteers, Carol and Bruce Wyatt, Sara Moran, and Sue Hook for sharing food with Dismas, and we continue to welcome offers for future months. You can find the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board. One volunteer does not need to be responsible for the entire meal, teamwork is always possible! Volunteers can join those at Dismas for the meal, or they can drop the meal off, whatever works best. Thank you to everyone for supporting this very meaningful outreach! Please reach out to Lizzy Pope at lizzypope@gmail.com with questions.

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## **Opportunities For Service**

Are you feeling energetic? Need to get some more steps in? Do you feel the desire to serve this church, but can't make another long-term commitment? Are you new to the church or just returning from being away? Or are you only going to be in the area for a short time? Whatever your motivation, we'll take it!!! We are working on a new way to communicate opportunities for folks to serve this church and our community. They are "Opportunities to Serve". Not on a committee or a board but as a person who appreciates this church and wants to give back, by doing some small bit of work, sharing a talent or ability, or simply lending a hand when another member has a bit of labor that needs doing. There will be a bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs as you exit after worship towards coffee hour or out the door by Fellowship Hall. On it will be written opportunities to serve the church. If you find one there that fits your abilities and your calendar, take it with you. Make contact with the person whose name is on the card and make a plan for how you will fulfill this opportunity. How good it feels to help out!

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Greenworks Ministry – Green Tip for the Week

Put outdoor lighting on motion sensors and make sure it aims downward.

This saves money by only being used when needed. Lighting that aims down preserves night sky, is eco-friendly for all night creatures, and is safer as it reduces glare.

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## **A Compelling Conversation That We Need Right Now**

A nation broken by injustice. A society riven by division. Sound familiar? This was the world that confronted Howard Thurman, a great African American pastor and theologian of the twentieth century. Howard Thurman's writings proved deeply relevant to the Civil Rights movement and remain remarkably relevant today.

In the coming weeks, we, too, can benefit from the abundant wisdom offered by this significant spiritual leader. Beginning Thursday, January 29, our pastoral (seminarian) intern Dr. Jill Irvine will lead an adult study series focused upon the life and thought of Howard Thurman. Our window into his work will be a more recent book authored by Lerita Coleman Brown entitled: "What Makes You Come Alive, A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman". The Christian Education Committee is procuring a fixed number of these books to be available for those participating in the study. (The books are available in hardback only, so if you can contribute ten dollars or more to help defer the expense of the book incurred by the committee, that would be welcome.) The schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, January 29 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 5 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 12 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 19 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 5 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: There will be no session on Thursday, February 26. (And for the duration of this study series, the "responding to racism" conversation will occur in the context of these Howard Thurman-focused sessions. The usual "responding to racism" conversations will resume on their regular schedule on March 12.) These sessions will take place in person only in Fellowship Hall. A light meal of soup and bread will be provided for those attending (courtesy of the Christian Education Committee).

Please RSVP to Pam at the church office ([WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com](mailto:WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com) or 802-878-5792 to indicate your interest in attending.