



Williston Federated Church

January 4, 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.)



2026

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

Organist – Carolyn Pillsbury

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 4, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Feast of Epiphany and Communion Sunday

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	ONE: On the threshold of a new year we come together. ALL: As this year begins to unfold, we begin by gathering as a faith community.	Ashley Dubois, Lay Leader and congregation
	ONE : Beckoned by the light of Christ, we come together as a people of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Amen.	

Prelude	Suiong Wong, piano
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Welcome/ Greetings	
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Words of Peace/ Words of Peace	Rev. Gary Lewis
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Lighting the Peace Candle/	One: The peace of Christ be with you All: And also with you.	Rev. Gary Lewis and congregation
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Sharing the
Peace/
Passing of
the Peace

Opening Hymn	Christmas Carol Sing (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation
Prayer for Forgiveness	Dear God, as we celebrate the coming of light into the world, we see places in our lives that are not aligned with your hope for all people. As those places where we have fallen short come into view, forgive us and lead us into a life-giving journey with you.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Silent Confession		
Word of Assurance	The welcoming, grace-filled light of Christ never dims. We are forgiven. We are made whole in and through him. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine
Anthem	“Christ Child’s Lullaby”	Karen Allen, harp
Time with Children of All Ages		Rev. Gary Lewis
Scripture	Matthew 2:1-13	Sara Moran

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.”	Rev. Gary Lewis and congregation
Sermon	“Lighting the Way”	Rev. Gary Lewis
Celebrations /Prayer Requests	<p>Prayer requests may be sent to: WFCPrayer44@gmail.com or if you are online, place them in the chat</p> <p>Private prayer requests may be sent to: pastoreyer@gmail.com</p>	
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.	Rev. Gary Lewis and congregation
Offering		
Offertory	“We Three Kings” #254 Red Hymnal – all verses	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation

Doxology	Refrain from “Go Tell It on the Mountain” UMC Hymnal #251 Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere: go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born. (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	ALL: Holy One, we ask your blessings upon all gifts, given and received. May our offerings, combined with your loving direction, provided paths of hope, peace, joy and love throughout the world. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Service of Holy Communion /Eucharist /The Lord’s Supper	<u>Invitation</u> ONE: 2000 years ago, in a dark and troubled world, Magi, from the east were beckoned by the light of a star to the Christ Child. They brought gifts to honor him. Today, in this dark and troubled world, from the east and the west, the north and the south we again are beckoned by a divine light. The gifts we bring are ourselves to be opened and filled by that one true light, the light of the living Christ. Together we come to the table to be reclaimed, renewed and re-membered into the living, loving body of Christ.	Rev. Gary Lewis, Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
<u>Unison Prayer</u>	ALL: Lord, I have heard your invitation and I come to you. Illumine and guide me. Let my heart be changed, renewed, flowing from the	

(adapted
from the
Northumbria
Community
Prayers and
Blessings)

**grace that I've found in you. Hold me close,
let your love surround me. I will rise up like an
eagle and I will soar with you. Your spirit
leads me on by the power of your love.
Unveil my eyes and renew my mind as your
will unfolds in my life. Amen.**

Blessing of
the Elements

**ONE: Pour out your blessings upon this loaf
and this cup, transform them into the essence
of your being, that as we partake of them, your
life may enter us and we may grow into you.
Amen.**

Words of
Institution

**ALL: We remember that on the night of
betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread,
blessed and broke it
and gave it to his disciples saying: 'This is my
body broken for you. Take and eat in
remembrance of me'.**

**In the same manner he took the cup, filled it
with drink
saying: 'this cup is the new covenant in my
blood which is shed for you, do this is often as
you drink it in remembrance of me'.**

Receiving
Communion

Unison
Prayer of
Thanksgiving

**ALL: Thank you God for the gift of life and
light growing in us. May we go forth
extending the Christ light into this
world. Amen.**

Life/Mission
of the
Church

Rev. Gary Lewis

Closing
Hymn

Christmas Carol Sing
(Reprinted with permission under
ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)

Suiong Wong,
piano and
congregation

Benediction/
Blessing

Rev. Gary Lewis

Postlude

Suiong Wong,
piano

Ushers: Jane Stickney and Chris Stewart Greeter: Barb Bristol

Coffee Hour: Louise Kyle

Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach

Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois

This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church

Winter Arrangement

Donna Fellinger has put a winter flower arrangement on the altar in this Advent season in memory of her mother, Emma May Schmidt.

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### **Church Degreening**

The Music and Worship Committee will be “degreening” the church AFTER coffee hour on Sunday, January 11. We would welcome a few helping hands. Thank you for your assistance.

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Membership Informational Meeting 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 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. To assist with planning please RSVP to Carol.

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## **New Ministry for Widows or Widowers**

We are hosting our 2nd Widow/Widowers Support Group Ministry Monthly Meeting monthly from 11-1 in the Choir Room. Please come and join us. The next date is December 14 so you can mark your calendar. We look forward to seeing you. Ministry Leaders: Kathy Quesnel, Carol Burbank and Ursula White

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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!

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## **Women's Book Club**

The Women's Book Club will meet on December 17 at 2 pm at Jane Stickney's home at 32 Hickory Hill Rd to discuss 'Queens of Crime' by Marie Benedict. Our January books are two books by Claire Keegan. 'Foster' and 'Small Things Like These' Our book for February is 'Home Front' by Kristin Hannah. Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com).

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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

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### **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.

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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.

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### **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!

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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

December 21st was the winter solstice the day with the least amount of sunlight. It will be a while before the days are longer, Solstice literally means "sun stands still". The move forward is slow. So here are tips for lighting. Transition all your bulbs to LED, they emit less heat, use ten times less energy and last longer than incandescent bulbs and this saves you money and reduces energy use which is good for the earth.