



Williston Federated Church

March 1, 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

Pianist/Organist – 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



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	“Gather Us In” Songbook #110 (sing all verses)	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation
Prayer for Forgiveness	One: When we least expect it, even when we are not ready, God comes to us, calling us to trust, calling us to follow. Let us confess how often we choose not to follow:	Pastor Paul Eyer
Silent Confession		
Words of Grace (in unison)	All: Keeper of our souls, be with us; Watcher of our days, lead us; Salvation of our lives, have mercy on us. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Anthem	“God So Loved the World” by John Stainer	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of All Ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	John 3:1-17	Don Thurston

Prayer of Illumination (adapted from Psalm 19:14)	All: 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	"The Wind Blows Where it Chooses"	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		Pastor Paul Eyer
Offering Offertory		Suiong Wong, piano

Doxology	UMC Hymnal #95 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	All: You trust us enough to place your blessings in us, O God. May we be as faithful in offering them back to you, so that others might be kept in their loneliness, so that they might be fed in their emptiness, so that they might receive hope in their despair. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Service of Holy Communion/ the Eucharist/the Lord's Supper	(see bulletin insert for communion liturgy)	Pastor Paul Eyer
Communion Hymn (sung during communion)	"Of the Father's Love Begotten" UMC (red) Hymnal #184 (Adam Hall will sing verse one as a solo. Then the congregation will join in to sing all three verses.)	Adam Hall, Suiong Wong, and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	"Give to the Winds Thy Fears" UMC #129 (sing all verses) (Reprinted with permission under	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation

Benediction/
Blessing

Pastor Paul Eyer

Postlude

Suiong Wong,
piano

Liturgical
Resources

The **Call to Worship** was adapted from “Of Water and Spirit: Service Prayers for the Lent 2A” was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema from Worship Ways at the United Church of Christ website found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-2a-march-1/>

The **Prayer for Forgiveness, Words of Grace, and Prayer of Dedication** was adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for March 1, 2026 (Lent 2 - A)” from Lectionary Liturgies by Rev. Thom Shuman, found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com>

Ushers: Don Thurston Kathy Quesnel

Greeter(s): Chris Stewart

Coffee Hour: Carol Bouchard

Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach

Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois



To give online, use the QR code above.

This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church

Mark your calendars!

On Saturday, March 7, from 10:00 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 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. Please [follow this link to sign up](#) or sign up on the bulletin board at church.

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### **Sledding Party**

The annual Williston Federated Church sledding party will be on March 8th after church at Rossignol Park. Bring your sled or coaster and be prepared for FUN! We will provide extra sleds, hot dogs, cocoa, and chips. All ages welcome! For more details contact Heather Lewis or Susan Lamb.

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Reaching Out with some Help from Our Friends

On Sunday, March 15th our church will receive one of our two annual “Special Offerings” supporting the vital outreach ministries which have defined so much of the work that our two denominational partners (United Methodist Church – United Church of Christ) do for us in reaching out to be Christ’s hands and heart to people in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is an ecumenical ministry supported by many denominations, including the UCC. OGHS works directly with vetted partners to provide needed assistance in many places around the world.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) – is the multi-faceted outreach program for the UMC nationally and internationally. They are renowned for their prompt, flexible and vital responses to crises. These key programs rely on support from local churches. We are blessed to have two denominational partners blessing the world. Local churches cannot be everywhere, but with our partners we can do a whole lot more together than separately.

Your gift to this offering will be split evenly between UMCOR and UCC/OGHS.

You may give through your normal means of giving to the church (electronically, check sent, or in person).

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### **Rummage Sale March 27th & 28th**

We are looking for donations of gently worn clothing for all ages, clean and in good condition, as well as linens, shoes, jewelry, purses. Think textiles. Please no household items. Donations may be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, March 23rd Tables will be set up and labeled. If you have time, please take a moment to place your items on the appropriate tables. Folks are needed to help with table set up on Sunday the 22nd after coffee hour, sort clothes during the week, work at the sale Friday & Saturday and to help take the left over items to Restore, Resource & Goodwill on Saturday. If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen or contact Carol Bouchard at 862-7400 or [carolbouchard@gmail.com](mailto:carolbouchard@gmail.com) Note: Please no donations before March 23rd

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Ministry for Widows or Widowers

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

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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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. Our book for 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. For more information, contact Lois Mason

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](mailto:Goodwinjsd@gmail.com)

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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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## **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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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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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 Fellingner 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

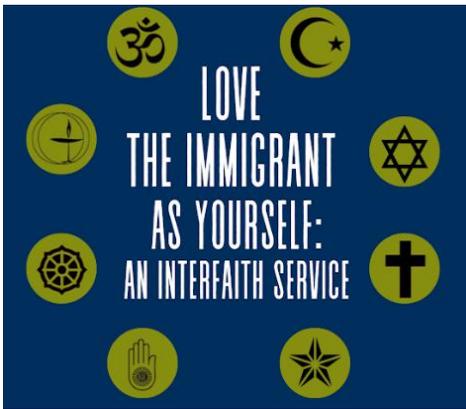
Every third Tuesday of the month volunteers from Williston Federated Church provide a meal to the residents and staff at Dismas House in Burlington. We'd like to thank February's volunteers, Jane Stickney, Carol Burbank, and Barb Bristol for sharing dinner with Dismas, and we continue to welcome offers 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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### **Greenworks Ministry – Green Tip for the Week**

Some false solutions to fossil fuels: renewable natural gas and wood. Renewable natural gas is still 97% methane (80 times more warming than Co2 for the first 25 years after release) just like regular natural gas, but it often costs more. Wood is particularly bad for human health emitting the most of any fuel of toxic fine particulate matter and many other toxic chemicals. Wood smoke is very similar to cigarette smoke and is now linked to heart problems, lung problems, Parkinson's disease, dementia and mood disorders. According to the American Lung Association it has replaced coal in causing death in those over 65 in many American communities.

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Interfaith Service Honoring the Immigrants TODAY! At 3pm

Coming together from diverse faith traditions across Vermont, an interfaith worship service celebrating "love for the immigrant" will be held at Temple Sinai in South Burlington **TODAY, Sunday, March 1, at 3:00 p.m.**

Among the speakers for this interfaith service will be **Steven Tendo**, the Ugandan pastor and healthcare worker who has been seeking asylum here in Vermont. As has been widely-reported in news accounts, earlier this year Pastor Tendo was apprehended by ICE in early February even though he has been following the legal process for pursuing asylum.. A federal judge ordered his release from ICE custody just last Friday.. (See Vermont Public's account of this story here: <https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2026-02-23/released-detention-asylum-seeker-stein-tendo>) Pastor Tendo will no doubt speak about that experience and the faith that sustains him.

Representatives from Judaism, Catholicism, Protestant Christianity, and the Hindu tradition, among others, will have roles in this service. The speakers will include Rev. Dr. Becca Girrell of the United Community Church of Morrisville (whom many of you know). And Williston Federated Church's own Music Director **Adam Hall will lead one of the songs!**

This one-hour service promises to be a meaningful and inclusive moment to draw strength from our diverse traditions as we find common ground seeking to honor the dignity of all of God's children. I invite you to be part of this important gathering this Sunday afternoon.

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**We have now entered the Season of Lent, a time of contemplation and prayer as we prepare for Easter. The *following resources are suggested by the Education Committee.***

“OUTGROW” {The UCC (United Church of Christ) Lenten Booklet}

This booklet presents different ways to view ‘giving up something for Lent.’

The booklet is written by individuals who are part of the “God Is Still Speaking, Writers’ Group.” Each writing includes a title, a Bible verse and perspectives on ‘Out Growing.’

The season of Lent presents a special opportunity to intentionally invest time in considering spiritual growth. Below is a list of a few resources that some in our church have found meaningful in their spiritual journeys. You are invited to explore these or others to use in your daily time of meditation and/or prayer.

#### Devotional Possibilities from the Education Committee

1. UCC (United Church of Christ) daily devotions:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> (Free)

2. UCC Lenten Devotional Booklet:

“*Outgrow*” A few booklets are available on the prayer table in the ‘gallery’.

LINK: [thepilgrimpress.com](http://thepilgrimpress.com)

**Or Google through Pilgrim Press**

If hard copies are not available (\$5.00 + shipping) PDF copies are available on line for \$3,

3. Retired United Methodist Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes’ meaningful devotionals found at [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net) (free). Many in our congregation know Rev. Garnaas-Holmes.
4. <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals> (free)
5. Richard Rohr daily meditations (free) <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/> or Google
6. “The Book of Awakening” - a book by Mark Nepo of daily readings inviting the life you want by being present to the life you have.
7. Rev. Cameron Trimble (PilotingFaith) <http://www.pilotingfaith.org> (free)

In his introduction to the Lenten Devotional ‘OUTGROW’ Kenneth L. Samuel, an African/American minister in Atlanta, presents an invitation to grow in the Spirit. He writes: “Trials this season will not relent. But neither will our growth in the Spirit”