



# Williston Federated Church

March 22, 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.)*

**AUDACIOUS  
HOPE**

Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer phone: 802-878-5792 email: [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com) Website: [www.steeple.org](http://www.steeple.org)



United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church  
Federated in 1899



# Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

March 22, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

## Fifth Sunday in Lent

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: Some of us come to worship today, weary and worn, heavy with all the circumstances that are too much to bear alone.	Ashley Dubois, Co-Lay Leader, and congregation
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**All: We gather to travel together along God's redemption road.**

Leader: Some of us come to worship today,  
dry and thirsty, longing for relief and peace  
from the troubles that surround us.

**All: We gather to travel together along God's redemption road.**

Leader: Some of us come to worship today  
with stories to tell of little resurrections,  
moments of new life that sprang up when we  
least expected them.

**All: We gather to travel together along God's redemption road.**

Prelude	"What Wondrous Love is This?"	Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak, dulcimer
Introit	"What Wondrous Love is This?"	Senior Choir

		Adam Hall, conducting
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 <b>All: And also with you.</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Opening Hymn	“Breathe on Me, Breath of God” UMC (red) Hymnal #420 (sing all verses) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation
Prayer for Today	<b>All: God of mercy, there may be times when we come to you dry and lifeless, seeking your breath of life. In those moments, lead us to the place where our hopes lie buried and call us out from the tombs of despair. Call forth our faith that we may know you to be the resurrection and the life, in this world and the world to come. Amen.</b>	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Anthem	“My Shepherd Will Supply My Need” By Arthur Hardwicke	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and

		Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of All Ages	Kathy Quesnel and Bailey the Therapy Dog	Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Rev. Dr. Lynn Bujnak
Prayer of Illumination (adapted from Psalm 19:14)	<b>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.</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermon	"Audacious Hope"	Pastor Paul Eyer
Celebrations/ Prayer Requests	Prayer requests may be sent to: <a href="mailto:WFCPrayer44@gmail.com">WFCPrayer44@gmail.com</a> or if you are online, place them in the chat Private prayer requests may be sent to: <a href="mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com">pastoreyer@gmail.com</a>	
Silent Reflection		
Lord's Prayer	<b>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</b>	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation

**but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Call to  
Offering

Dr. Jill Irvine

Offering  
Offertory

Suiong Wong,  
piano

Doxology

UMC Hymnal #95  
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Suiong Wong,  
piano and  
congregation

Prayer of  
Dedication

One: From these offerings, Holy One,  
**All: create freedom.**  
One: From these hearts, Holy One,  
**All: raise up love.**  
One: From these hands, Holy One,  
**All: bring life.**  
One: From every one of our gifts, in the  
sharing of our resources,  
**All: may we be unbound, and called forth  
into a new day together. Amen.**

Dr. Jill Irvine and  
congregation

Life/Mission  
of the Church

Pastor Paul Eyer

Closing  
Hymn

“Now the Green Blade Riseth”  
UMC (red) Hymnal #311 (sing verses 1,2, & 4)  
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Suiong Wong,  
piano and  
congregation

Benediction/  
Blessing

Postlude

Liturgical  
Resources

The **Call to Worship** was adapted from a prayer authored by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, United Methodist Church, July 2025, posted by Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church

at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/renewed-in-mercy/fifth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/fifth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-liturgical-resources>.

The **Prayer for Today** was adapted from a prayer written by Ruth C. Duck, *Touch Holiness: Resources for Worship*, updated, edited by Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi (Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2012), at page 58, posted by Discipleship Ministries of the United Methodist Church

at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/renewed-in-mercy/fifth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/fifth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-liturgical-resources>.

*Reprinted by permission of the publisher from Touch Holiness, ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren C. Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press*

The **Prayer of Dedication** was adapted from “Unbind: Service Prayers for the Fifth Sunday in Lent” written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema and posted on [Worship Ways](#) on the United Church of Christ (UCC) website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/lent-5a-march-22/>

*Ushers: Lois Mason and Louise Kyle*

*Greeter(s): Don Thurston*

*Coffee Hour: Carol Bouchard*

*Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach*

*Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois*

Pastor Paul Eyer

Suiong Wong,  
piano



*To give online, use the QR code above.*

## **This Week and Beyond at Williston Federated Church**

### **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 [carolcbouchard@gmail.com](mailto:carolcbouchard@gmail.com) Note: Please no donations before March 23rd

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### **Easter Flowers**

It's time to order your flowers to adorn the church for Easter. Daffodils and Lilies are \$15 per 7" pot. You can pick up your flowers on Easter morning after the service. All orders must be in by the evening of March 29th. Contact Ashley (802-233-5824 or [ashley0705@gmail.com](mailto:ashley0705@gmail.com)) with questions.

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Easter Flowers

### **Women's Potluck Breakfast April 11th with Guest Speaker**

#### **Ric Cengeri, Outreach & Communications Specialist for HomeShare Vermont**

Calling all women. Please save the date for the Annual Women's Breakfast: April 11th 8:30 -10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speakers will include Ric Cengeri, Outreach & Communications Specialist for [HomeShare Vermont](#) who will explain how the program works. Nancy Stone will share her experiences as host with four matches and her current match will discuss his experience as a guest. There will also be a brief business meeting to decide how we might allocate the money we have raised through our two major fundraisers.

A sign-up sheet for planning purposes will be posted on the bulletin board. For more information speak to [Carol Burbank](#) or [Carol Bouchard](#).

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### **Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup> is Earth Day Sunday at Williston Federated Church!**

**Wear green! And we will hold a seed swap!** Bring seeds you no longer need and we will invite people to take home those they can use! If your seeds are still in the packet bring them that way. If not please identify what they are. We will have instructions on how you figure out if the seeds are still good in the bulleting as the Green tip that day!

**Check out our Greenworks Ministry Displays at Coffee Hour:** There will be free items to take and information on a variety of topics that help us care for the earth, there will also be activities for young people.

Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup> but that falls during school break so we are moving things up so most can participate on Sunday April 12<sup>th</sup>. All this is brought to you by your Greenworks Ministry Team.

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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 April 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](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com).

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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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## **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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## **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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## **Sunday School Helpers Needed**

We are looking for adults who would be willing to spend 30 fun minutes with our youth as a Sunday School Helper. Our teachers prepare the lesson plans—you simply assist in the classroom and help create a welcoming, supportive environment for the children. This is a flexible opportunity and helpers are only scheduled occasionally to fit your availability.

If you are interested in helping or would like to learn more, please contact Brian Goodwin at 802-238-4180 or by email at [Goodwinjsd@gmail.com](mailto:Goodwinjsd@gmail.com)

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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 [donnafellinger@vt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellinger@vt@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](mailto: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](mailto: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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### **A question about insurance...**

Leaders of the church are currently reviewing our church's insurance policies. If you have experience with insurance policies and related matters and might be willing to help, please contact our Church Treasurer Susan Lamb ([susanlambvt@gmail.com](mailto:susanlambvt@gmail.com)) or Finance Committee Chair Jan Demers ([demers.jan@gmail.com](mailto:demers.jan@gmail.com)). We are specifically looking to compare competing insurance policies and welcome additional insight and wisdom in that process.

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*



**Palm Sunday services will be held on Sunday, March 29 at Williston Federated Church at 9:30am.** Palms and processions (and our Children's Choir!) will celebrate Christ's "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem.



**Maundy Thursday services will be held on April 2 at Williston Federated Church at 7:30 PM.** There will be a combined choir from the Williston Federated Church and Richmond Congregational Church. The service will include hymns, scripture readings, and communion.



**On Good Friday, April 3, there will be a service of scripture readings, hymns, and remembrance at the Richmond Congregational UCC Church in Richmond, VT at 7:30PM.**



You won't want to miss our **Easter morning services on Sunday, April 5. There will be a "Sonrise" service at 6:30AM at the home of Tony and Susan Lamb at 24 Beebe Lane by Lake Iroquois**, followed by a potluck breakfast.



**At 9:30 AM at Williston Federated Church, our Easter Sunday service** will feature a myriad of musical offerings, including a brass quartet, a choral processional, joyous congregational singing, an Adam Hall solo, and more. Join us for what promises to be an uplifting celebration of this sacred day!

### Message from the Music and Worship Committee

As we anticipate celebrating Easter Sunday, the Music and Worship Committee would like to make some suggestions that will hopefully make the service more welcoming and comfortable. Please consider arriving earlier than you usually do. If you are wearing

overcoats, please hang them up downstairs or on the hooks in the upstairs Narthex hallway. We want to fill the Sanctuary before seating folks in the balcony. So come right in. The ushers will be encouraging folks to fill the Sanctuary forward pews first. With everyone's cooperation, we hope to seat everyone comfortably and start on time. Thank you for your help with this!

**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”