

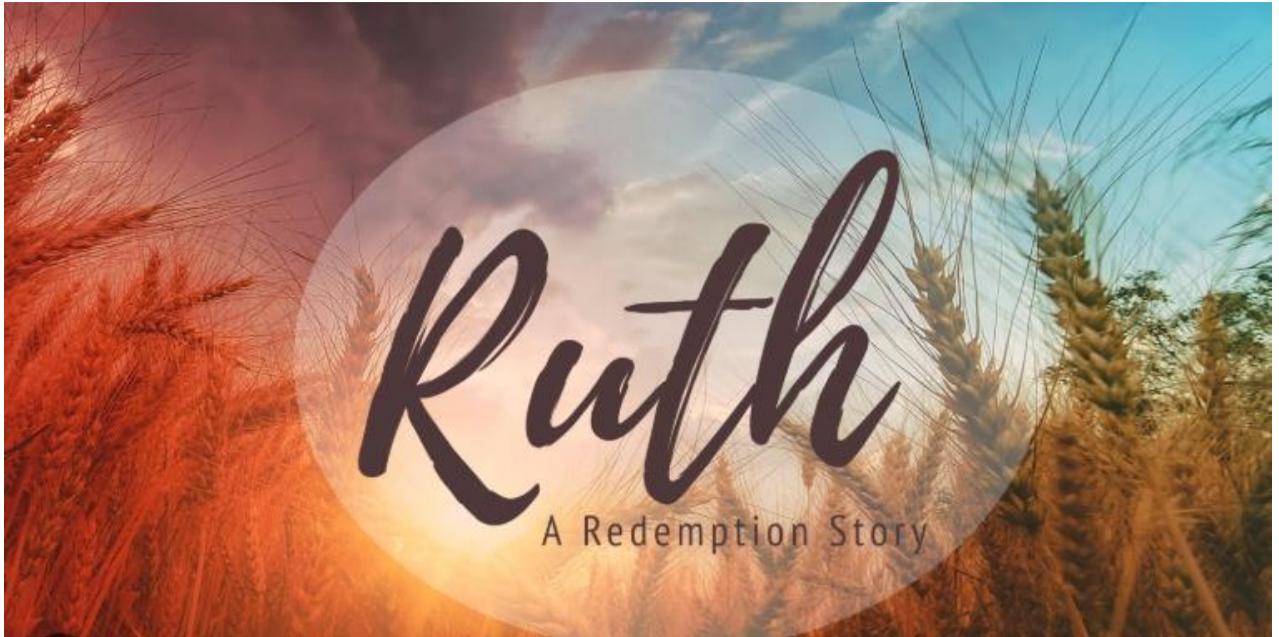


Williston Federated Church

March 8, 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



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

“O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go”
UMC (red) Hymnal #480
(sing all verses)

Suiong Wong,
piano, and
congregation

Prayer for
Today

When we were determined to remain at war
with you, O God, you sent the Prince of
Peace. When our ears become stuffed with
ourselves, you open them with songs of
grateful praise. When our souls are empty, you
fill them with your loving presence. Amen.

Pastor Paul Eyer

Baptism

Kai Sedic-Lawton and Lesley Murray
.....

Pastor Paul Eyer

Pastor: Do you, who witness and celebrate
this sacrament, promise your love, support,
and care to Kai and Lesley as they live and
grow in Christ?

**People: We promise our love, support and
care.**

Welcoming new Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Carleton • Vicki Carleton • Karen Ferrari • Douglass Roger Hall • Jill Irvine • Kai Sedic-Lawton • Isiah Marshall • Lesley Murray • Ivan Wemple • Julia Wick 	Pastor Paul Eyer; Carol Bouchard, Membership Chair; Ashley Dubois, Co-Lay Leader Donna-Sue Hain, Co-Lay Leader
Anthem	<p>“The Wonder of His Love” By Douglas E. Wagner</p>	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting, and Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children of All Ages		Pastor Paul Eyer
Greetings from a Special Guest	Rev. Paul Nickerson, Church Vitality Coach Nickerson Coaching	Introduced by Rev. Paul Eyer
Scripture	Ruth 1:6-18	Gary Lewis
Prayer of Illumination (adapted	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

from Psalm
19:14)

Sermon "The First Heart to Break" Dr. Jill Irvine

Celebrations/
Prayer Requests Prayer requests may be sent to:
WFPrayer44@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

Mission Moment One Great Hour of Sharing / UMCOR Offering update Charlie Magill

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: We pray, Gracious God, that our gifts may provide nourishment to those who thirst for justice, strength to those who hunger for hope, a community to those living in loneliness. This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	“On Eagles’ Wings” Songbook #89 (sing all three verses) NOTE: Soloists will sing the verses. The congregation is invited to join in singing the refrain: <i>And I will raise you up on eagles’ wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of his hand.</i> (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano and congregation
Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
Postlude		Suiong Wong, piano

Liturgical Resources

The **Call to Worship, Prayer for Today, and Prayer of Dedication** were adapted from “Liturgy w/communion for March 8, 2026 (Lent 3 -A) from [Lectionary Liturgies](https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/) by Rev. Thom Shuman found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/> 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](https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/) by Rev. Thom Shuman, found at https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com

Ushers: Chris Burn-DiBiasio and Dan DiBiasio

Greeter(s): Shelley Marshall

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

Sledding Party – TODAY!

The annual Williston Federated Church sledding party will be Today, Sunday, 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.

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 by using the bar code here or 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 [carolcbouchard@gmail.com](mailto:carolcbouchard@gmail.com) Note: Please no donations before March 23rd

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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](http://HomeShareVermont.org) 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](mailto:CarolBurbank@gmail.com) or [Carol Bouchard](mailto:CarolBouchard@gmail.com).

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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 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 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](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com).

## **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)

## **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.

### **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 donnafellnergvt@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.

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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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Greenworks Ministry – Green Tip for the Week

REDUCE, RE-USE, RECYCLE...AND TRY REPAIR

A pair of jeans with a small hole, a pull in a knit shirt or sweater, a small hole in a sock... Usually, these items are replaced by new versions that will wear or break in the same way. Many could have been saved with a simple repair. Fixing things yourself isn't just about pinching pennies. It's a refusal to treat everything as disposable.

For example, a stuck zipper can often be fixed easily using items you probably have at hand. First, check for caught fabric. The most usual cause of zipper malfunction is a thread or bit of lining caught in the teeth. Work it free with tweezers or needle-nose pliers. Don't yank, or you may tear the fabric or bend the teeth. I

If the zipper moves but won't stay closed, the slider has stretched. Squeeze the top and bottom (not the sides) gently with pliers to narrow the gap. Work gradually, testing after each squeeze. For a slider that's completely stuck, try rubbing the tip of a Number 2 pencil along both sides of the teeth, then work the slider.

These efforts don't always work. You may need a new zipper or even new pants, but it's worth a try!

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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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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

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 (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”