



# Williston Federated Church

May 10, 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](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

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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!**

**May 10, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.**

**Sixth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day**

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<br>Worship                                | Leader: Let us see you this day, O God;<br><b>All: Come to us as light.</b><br>One: Let us hear you this day, O God;<br><b>All: Come to us as truth.</b><br>One: Let us sense your presence, O God;<br><b>All: Come to us as love.</b><br>One: Come and let us worship God.<br><b>All: We have come to rejoice in God, our Savior</b> | Ashley Dubois,<br>Co-Lay Leader,<br>and congregation |
| Prelude   |   | Suiong Wong,<br>piano                                |
| Welcome/<br>Greetings                             |   | Pastor Paul Eyer                                     |
| Words of<br>Peace<br>Lighting the<br>Peace Candle |   | Pastor Paul Eyer                                     |
| Sharing the<br>Peace/                             | One: The peace of Christ be with you<br><b>All: And also with you.</b>  | Pastor Paul Eyer<br>and congregation                 |

## Passing of the Peace

Opening  
Hymn

“All Creatures of our God and King”  
UMC (red) Hymnal #62  
(sing verses 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7)  
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Suiong Wong,  
piano and  
congregation

Litany for  
Mother’s Day

One: We pray for mothers whose children are  
grown.  
**All: Grant them joy and satisfaction for a job  
well done.**  
One: We pray for those who are pregnant who  
will soon be moms.  
**All: Grant them comfort and support in the  
coming months.**  
One: We pray for mothers who face the  
demands of single parenthood.  
**All: Grant them strength and wisdom.**  
One: We pray for women who are not  
biological mothers, but who play an important  
role in our community and in our world.  
**All: Grant them recognition and appreciation  
that is long overdue.**  
One: We pray for mothers who enjoy financial  
abundance.  
**All: Grant them time to share with their  
families.**  
One: We pray for mothers who are raising  
their children in poverty.

Pastor Paul Eyer  
and congregation

**All: Grant them relief and justice.**

One: We pray for stepmoms.

**All: Grant them patience, understanding and love.**

One: We pray for moms who are separated from their children.

**All: Grant them faith and hope.**

One: We pray for moms in marriages that are in crisis.

**All: Grant them support and insight.**

One: We pray for moms who gave up their children for adoption.

**All: Grant them peace and strength.**

One: We pray for adoptive mothers.

**All: Grant them joy and gratitude for the gift you have provided.**

One: We pray for women who think about becoming mothers.

**All: Grant them wisdom and discernment.**

One: We pray for those who desperately want, or wanted, to be mothers.

**All: Grant them comfort and grace in the midst of pain and uncertainty.**

One: We pray for women who have assumed the mother's role in a child's life.

**All: Grant them joy in the midst of challenge.**

One: We pray for persons who are grieving the loss of their mother.

**All: Grant them comfort and hope in Christ's resurrection.**

One: Lord, we thank you for the gift of motherhood.

We thank you for the many examples of faithful mothers in scripture, like Sarah, Hagar, Leah, Rachel, Hannah, Elizabeth, Priscilla, Lydia, Eunice, and Lois. We are mindful this day of all these women, and especially Mary the mother of Jesus, who had the courage in faith to say “yes” to your calling. Inspired by these amazing women of the past, may the women gathered here today model for the rest of us what it means to be your disciple. Bless them on this special day; in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Anthem                                 | “The 23rd Psalm”<br>by Bobby McFerrin  | Senior Choir<br>Adam Hall,<br>conducting<br>Suiong Wong,<br>piano |
| Special Music                          | Arrangement and lyrics by Adam Hall  | Senior Choir<br>Adam Hall,<br>conducting<br>Suiong Wong,<br>piano |
| Recognition<br>of Carolyn<br>Pillsbury | Carolyn Pillsbury will be honored as “Organist Emeritus (Emerita)” for her decades of faithful service as organist at Williston Federated Church | Pastor Paul Eyer<br>and the<br>Pastor/Staff                       |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | Relations<br>Committee  |
| Children's<br>Anthem  | "Hug a Mother"<br>Music by Parry Grip<br>Lyrics adapted by Adam Hall and the Williston<br>Federated Church Children's Choir  | Children's Choir<br>Adam Hall,<br>conducting<br>Suiong Wong,<br>piano |
| Time with<br>Children of<br>All Ages                          |  | Pastor Paul Eyer  |
| Musical<br>Interlude  | "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know"  | Suiong Wong,<br>piano   |
| Scripture   | Acts 17:22-34  | Nancy Stone   |
| Prayer of<br>Illumination<br>(adapted<br>from Psalm<br>19:14) | <b>All: May the words of my mouth and the<br/>meditations of our hearts be acceptable in thy<br/>sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.</b>   | Pastor Paul Eyer<br>and congregation                                  |
| Sermon  | "An Unknown God?"  | Pastor Paul Eyer  |
| Celebrations/<br>Prayer<br>Requests                           | Prayer requests may be sent to:<br><a href="mailto:WFPrayer44@gmail.com">WFPrayer44@gmail.com</a> or if you are online,<br>place them in the chat<br>Private prayer requests may be sent to:<br><a href="mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com">pastoreyer@gmail.com</a> |   |

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

Stewardship  
Moment

Lesley Murray

Call to  
Offering

Pastor Paul Eyer

Offering  
Offertory  
Hymn

Suiong Wong,  
piano

Doxology

UMC Hymnal #94  
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Suiong Wong,  
piano and  
congregation

Prayer of  
Dedication  
(unison)

**All: God our Creator and Redeemer, you made us in love to share that love with neighbor and stranger as Jesus commanded. May these gifts be expressions of your love that we can share throughout our community and our world, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Pastor Paul Eyer  
and congregation

Life/Mission  
of the Church

Pastor Paul Eyer

Closing  
Hymn

“The First One Ever”  
UMC (red) Hymnal #276 (sing all 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 of Dedication** are adapted from  
“Worship PLanner, 6th Sunday of Easter...May 10, 2026, Year A”  
from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, found at  
<https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

The **Litany for Mother’s Day** was adapted from Pastor Asher at  
<http://pastorasher.wordpress.com/> found at <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2013/04/prayer-litany-for-mothers-day.html>

*Ushers: Donna Goodheart*

*Greeter(s): Barb Bristol*

*Coffee Hour: Cindy Thurston*

*Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach*

*Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois*



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

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

### **2026 Stewardship Campaign**

The very wise and kind Rev. Fred Rogers said "It's not what you have in this life that matters, it's what you do with it. Each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors. In our own way, each of us is a giver and a

receiver." Many thanks for your past giving to Williston Federated Church and please consider Mr. Rogers' most famous quote - "Won't you be my neighbor" - as you plan your future giving commitment. Our upcoming annual Stewardship Campaign will be taking place in May culminating on Consecration Sunday, May 17 and while you can pledge at any time, we would like to include your pledge in our prayer of dedication that day. Have you received your mailing yet from the Finance Committee? May 10 and 17 services will include meaningful testimonials.

Have you received your mailing yet from the Finance Committee? The annual Stewardship May services will include meaningful testimonials. We encourage everyone to consider making a pledge or increasing your current pledge to help reach our goal for the next fiscal year starting July 1 in order to fund the missions of WFC. We have been blessed with a challenge, from an anonymous donor, of a matching gift of \$5,000 again this year if we can increase our commitment to giving by \$5,000! Please return your pledge by mail or in person. Together we can do this! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask any of the Finance Committee members. With our sincere thanks from your Finance Committee: Pastor Paul Eyer, Jan Demers, Barb Bristol, Susan Lamb, Simone O'Flaherty, Amy Vaughan, Joan Ebbeson, Shelley Marshall, Sandy Twombly, Dan DiBiasio, Jason Shi and Ivan Wemple.

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### **Growing in Discipleship: an exciting opportunity**

Under the expert coaching guidance of Paul Nickerson, Williston Federated Church is now exploring new ways to offer opportunities for each of us to deepen our faith journey. We will meet next on Tuesday evening, May 26 at 7 p.m. in the Sitting Room (across the hall from the Pastor's Study as well as on Zoom). If you are interested in being part of this small group helping us move forward on the path of discipleship, please contact Pastor Paul at [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)

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### **Take me out to the ballgame!**

On Sunday, May 31st, join us at the field as we cheer on the Lake Monsters! Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids. We will have a section of tickets saved for our group. You can pay and pick them up at Will Call. Game starts at 5:05pm. Kids can run the bases and play catch on the field after the game! Sign up on the bulletin board or at <https://forms.gle/v1BMNcbuQdBjX3W96> so that we know how many tickets to reserve. Let's go Monsters!

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### **Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 14**

The Official Board has scheduled the annual congregational meeting of Williston Federated Church to take place on Sunday, June 14 immediately following the worship service. The annual

meeting will be hybrid. in-person in Fellowship Hall and online via Zoom. (See the Zoom access information below.)

Among the many great things about Williston Federated Church is that the congregation members have such a significant voice in important decisions. This is your chance to be part of those conversations!

We hope that you will be part of this meaningful meeting on June 14. **Committee chairs are reminded that they should have their reports in to the office by May 15.**

Zoom access information:

Williston Federated Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: annual congregational meeting

Time: Jun 14, 2026 10:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87850084599?pwd=Bza1yMCJsBbdaQUhLAhsaCokVvi8Wv.1>

Meeting ID: 878 5008 4599

Passcode: 458003

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One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87850084599#,,,,\*458003# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,87850084599#,,,,\*458003# US

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Join by SIP

- [87850084599@zoomcrc.com](mailto:87850084599@zoomcrc.com)

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/87850084599/invitations?signature=KExzCPaEkt97xtWz6pFSjppDJu2rXTyHsCKnk1AQlvc>

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### **Faith Fellowship Fun!**

Join us this summer at Illumination Station where we shine a light on who Jesus really is!

Mark your calendars! Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> through Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>.

"I am the light of the world..." - John 8:12 Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!

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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 each month in the fellowship hall at 2 pm. Please join us to read and discuss the following books:

May 20: 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell.

June 17: 'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' by Lisa See.

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 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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### **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 is on Friday mornings opening at 9:30am and beginning at 9:45am. The Centering Prayer group gathers via ZOOM ONLY for silent prayer and Bible discussion. For Zoom code or questions call/text Donna Fellingner 802-355-1700 or email at

[donnafellnergvt@gmail.com](mailto: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 in Fellowship Hall. 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 Sitting Room 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 April's volunteers Dan Clark, Kris Clark, and Sara Moran 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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### **Greenworks Ministry – Green Tip for the Week**

Will today's high gasoline prices fuel a revival of carpooling (pun intended)?

We think of carpooling as a way to save money and conserve fossil fuels. By choosing to carpool, individuals actively participate in combating climate change and creating a cleaner, greener environment for future generations. But there are other values to carpooling as well. Communities where carpooling is widely practiced have less need for roadway expansion and the pollution and expense that accompany it.

A community where carpooling is a common practice will have fewer vehicles on the road, meaning only lower carbon emission and fewer other pollutants like nitrogen oxides that cause asthma and other health problems.

Carpooling fosters a sense of community and camaraderie among riders and creates opportunities for social interaction and networking.

Carpooling among people who share a workplace, an organization or a neighborhood helps build a more supportive community.

Carpool to church next week, anyone?

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### **How Might You Share Your Gifts & Talents?**

The Nominating Committee has begun the process of inviting folks to serve on a church committee for the 2026-2027 fiscal year which begins July 1st. WFC plays a vital role in our lives and our response to the needs of our community and the wider world. We are asking that you prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to share your gifts and talents.

Most committees meet monthly, and many take a break in the summer. Terms can be from 1-3 years. Committees include: Official Board, Trustees, Pastor Staff Relations, Finance, Education, Membership, Music & Worship, Missions & Social Concerns & Youth Ministry. There is a handout on the table in the gallery that gives a description of each committee.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about any of these committees, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee: Rebecca Dubois, Donna Goodheart, Carol Bouchard or Pastor Paul.