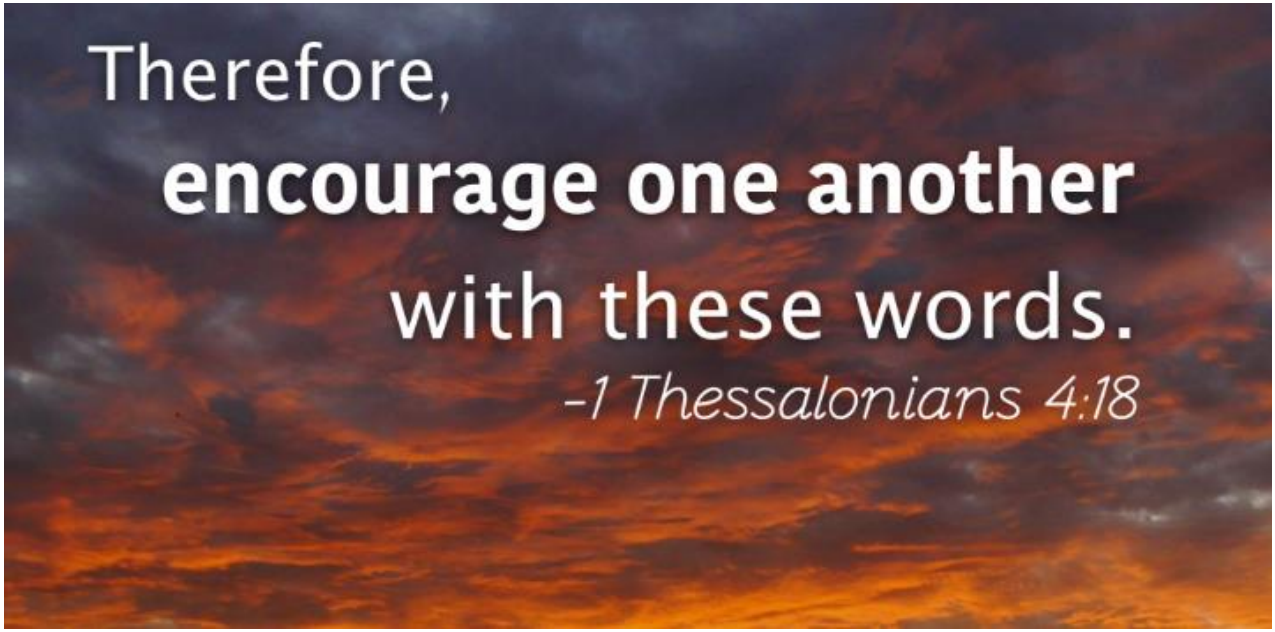
Williston Federated Church

November 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
Lay Leader – 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

Welcome To All Who Worship Here!
November 8, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

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 (adapted from Psalms)	Leader: Set your hope in God, who is worthy of our trust. **All: We remember the glorious deeds of the Holy One.** Leader: Set your hope in God, who redeems our lives. **All: We rejoice in the wonders the Holy One has done.** Leader: Set your hope in God, who leads us. **All: We recommit to the ways of the Holy One. Our hope is in God!**	Ashley Dubois and congregation
Prelude		Suiong Wong, piano/organ
Welcome		Pastor Paul Eyer
Words of Peace Lighting the Peace Candle		Dr. Jill Irvine

Opening Hymn	"Rejoice, the Lord is King" UMC (red) Hymnal #715 (sing verses 1, 2, and 4) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano/organ and congregation
Prayer for Today	One: God of grace, you call us to serve in your world and inspire us to choose a purpose for ourselves that will express your goodness and mercy. Jesus has shown us many ways to serve with courage and compassion. The Holy Spirit opens doors for us to act with love and loyalty. **All: Draw near to us in this time of worship and show us where you need us to be so that our lives may bring honor to you, Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life. Amen.**	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Anthem	"O Love" (by Elaine Hagenberg)	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting Suiong Wong, piano
Passing of the Peace	Pastor (and children): The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Time with Children		Pastor Paul Eyer
Scripture	I Thessalonians 4:13-18	Lynn Bujnak

Prayer of Illumination (adapted from Psalm 19:14)	**All: May the words of my mouth, and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.**	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Sermon	"Encourage One Another"	Pastor Paul Eyer
Celebrations/ Prayer Requests/ Prayers of the People	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 The congregation is invited to participate in the call and response: Pastor Paul: Lord of Life and Love, **All: Hear our prayer…**	Pastor Paul Eyer
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 Music	"My Lord, What a Morning" (African American spiritual)	Adam Hall, tenor Suiong Wong, piano
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano/organ, and congregation
Prayer of Dedication (unison)	**All: God of promise, we offer our gifts to help fulfill your purposes on earth. Bless this offering and our actions so that others will grasp the promise of your love. Amen.**	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	"10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" Songbook #144A (sing as written) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano/organ, and congregation
Benediction/ Blessing		Pastor Paul Eyer
Postlude		Suiong Wong, piano/organ

Liturgical Resources

The Call to Worship was adapted from "We Will Serve: Service Prayers for the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Year A" by Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay. Minister of Worship and Theology for the United Church of Christ, from Worship Ways on the United Church of Christ website found at https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-24a-november-8/

The Prayer for Today and Prayer of Dedication was adapted from "Worship Planner: 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Remembrance Sunday, November 8, 2026, Year A" The Presbyterian Church in Canada, https://presbyterian.ca/worship/#

Ushers: Sylvia and Joe Maloney
Greeter(s): Louise Kyle
Coffee Hour: Louise Kyle
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

The Green Altar Cloth

The lovely green altar cloth, which adorns our altar from Pentecost until Advent, was given to the church by the late member Louise Whitcher in honor of her husband Wendall- a major contributor to the church. Trudi Anderson helped choose the symbols represented on the cloth. Wendall served the church for many years, and Louise was known for her kindness and caring. For example, she was instrumental in getting Meals on Wheels started in Chittenden County. The green altar cloth constitutes a meaningful way to honor the significant legacy of Louise Whitcher.

~~~~~~~~~~

Grocery Store Gift Cards

Though we will not be holding a food drive in November to support the food shelf we will still be supporting families in need through our continued connection with the Williston Schools. For the last few years we have done this by inviting people to purchase local grocery store gift cards. You are invited – isn't it great to be invited – to join together to provide support for Williston school families who need a bit of help providing a Thanksgiving meal and extra food during the week of vacation. We will be collecting local grocery store gift cards (**$25.00 denominations)** through Sunday November 15th. You may drop them off either in the offering plate on Sundays
~~~~~~~~~~

or in the box in the narthex (opposite the lift/elevator on the 2nd floor) anytime through the two weeks. Thank you for being such a blessing. Your Mission and Social Concerns Committee
~~~~~~~~~~

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 again on Tuesday evening, November 17 at 6:30pm 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 our pastoral (seminarian) intern Dr. Jill Irvine at jillirvine@gmail.com.
~~~~~~~~~~

The most compelling conversation in town: Religion and Democracy
This conversation continues Thursday evening at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. A light supper is provided by the Education Committee.
The intersection of faith and politics is a topic that is profoundly relevant and potentially explosive. Our seminarian intern, Dr. Jill Irvine, is guiding us through this series of engaging discussions about profoundly relevant issues on Thursdays through November 12. Come join us.
~~~~~~~~~~

Save the Date for the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
Here is a preview for the Christmas Bazaar on **November 21st** sponsored by the Women of the Church. Please sign up here or on the bulletin board at church.

- **Craft Table** - Chairperson, Carol Bouchard - We need hand crafted items such as mittens, scarves, ornaments, jewelry, wooden items, Christmas ornaments or other holiday decorations.
- **Bake Sale Table** - Chairperson, Rebecca Dubois - We need all sorts of baked goods including pies, cakes, cookies, candies, breads, jams, pickles, fudge etc. The bake sale table is one of the most popular. ***Please package cookies, bars, fudge etc. in small packages.***
- **Plant Table** – Chairperson Sally Metro - We are looking for houseplants, dried flowers, bulbs, wreaths, gourds, gifts for gardeners.
- **Attic Treasures –** Chairperson, Sylvia Maloney & Shelley Marshall– We are looking for ***small*** items: collectibles, old linens, jewelry, Christmas decorations, small treasures.
- **Soups To Go -** Chairperson, Heather Lewis - We are seeking soups pre-packaged in containers (to be provided) & delivered cold to church Friday or Saturday morning.
- **Nancy Stone** - will be selling her artwork
~~~~~~~~~~

- **JJ Garcia** - will be selling his crafty creations.
- **Partners in Adventure** - will be selling granola.

Set Up – Thursday, November 19th 9-12 and Friday, November 20th 9-1 - Bring your donated items and come help us set up.

~~~~~~~~~~

Williston Community Tree Lighting – December 6

The Williston Community Tree Lighting will be held Sunday, December 6th 4:30-5:30pm on the Williston Village Green. We will light the tree, sing Christmas carols and enjoy cookies and hot cocoa. Our very own Children's Choir will provide special music and the SD Ireland holiday truck will bring some extra cheer. Please bring a donation of new hats, mittens, gloves or socks for the Williston Community Food Shelf.

Would you like to be a part of the Community Tree Lighting? We are looking for help with decorating, baking cookies and setting up/cleaning up at the event. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or you can sign up using this QR Code:

~~~~~~~~~~

Women's Bible Study

Dr. Sally Stockwell Metro facilitates a group that has been meeting regularly since early 2022. This Women's Bible Study meets every Monday afternoon on ZOOM from 1:30-2:30pm. We read and discuss books of the Bible, our understanding of them and their relevance to us today. We're a happy and curious group and welcome anyone who wishes to join us. This will be a slight diversion from reading a book of the Bible so if you're interested in joining us please contact Sally Metro at ssmetro9@gmail.com

~~~~~~~~~~

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:

November 18: 'Last Bus to Wisdom' by Ivan Doig
December 16: 'Theo of Golden' by Allen Levi
January 20: 'Calamity Club' by Kathryn Stockett

All women are welcome. For more information, contact Lois Mason loismason418@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.
~~~~~~~~~~

Monday Women's Bible Study
The Women's Bible Study meets every Monday afternoon on ZOOM from 1:30-2:30pm. We read and discuss books of the Bible, our understanding of them and their relevance to us today. We're a happy and curious group and welcome anyone who wishes to join us. This will be a slight diversion from reading a book of the Bible so if you're interested in joining us, please contact Sally Metro at ssmetro9@gmail.com.
~~~~~~~~~~

Women's Social Lunch
The Williston Federated Church (WFC) is inviting all women (members/non-members/family/friends) to join us on the 1st Saturday of each month for a social activity. The brunch starts at 11:00 AM at Chef's Corner in Williston. This is an opportunity to gather, enjoy delightful conversations, and eat a delicious breakfast. We look forward to seeing you! Contact Kathy Quesnel at kathyquesnel@gmail.com
~~~~~~~~~~

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. Pastor Paul Eyer, cmagillvt@aol.com.
~~~~~~~~~~

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.
~~~~~~~~~~

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.)
~~~~~~~~~~

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 October's volunteers Dan and Kris Clark 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.
~~~~~~~~~~

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!
~~~~~~~~~~