Williston Federated Church

October 11, 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!
October 11, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

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: Here in this place, with these people, we come to worship the living God. **All: In you, O God, we hope; in you, Creator of love, we live.** Leader: Here in this sacred space, in these very moments, **All: we rejoice in God's message of grace.** One: Here on this day of gentleness and beauty, we are filled with the peace of God. **All: In you, O Spirit, we find our path; in you, Teacher of hope, we learn to serve.**	Donna-Sue Hain, Lay Leader and congregation
Prelude		Suiong Wong, piano/organ
Welcome		Pastor Paul Eyer
Words of Peace Lighting the Peace Candle		Pastor Paul Eyer

Opening Hymn	"Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart" UMC (red) Hymnal #160 (sing verses 1, 3, 4, and 5) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano/organ and congregation
Prayer for Today	One: When we realize how we are blessed beyond every imagining, **All: We can sing of your surprising grace and your steadfast presence to a world which has grown deaf from the noise of empty clichés.** One: When we remember your love which has no beginning and no end, when we stand in grace's sweet waters swirling around our hearts, **All: we can rejoice in your hope which sees every person, even those we would never invite into our circles, as your beloved child.** One: When we remember your call to treat	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation

	every single person with dignity, justice, and hope, **All: we can promote peace in a world which sometimes seems to believe that violence is the solution to every single problem.**	
Anthem	"Think On These Things" By Mark Patterson	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
Sermonic anthem	"Rejoice in the Lord Always"	Children's Choir Adam Hall, conducting Suoing Wong, piano

Scripture	Philippians 4:1-9	Thomas Beach
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	"Rejoice"	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**	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation

	kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.	
Call to Offering		Pastor Paul Eyer
Offering Offertory Music		Suiong Wong, piano/organ
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: May not only our gifts, but our lives, be the grace and hope which bring healing to the broken, as well as food and nourishment to all who hunger and thirst for justice and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	"Rejoice" Songbook #40 (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,** the **Prayer for Today,** and the **Prayer of Dedication** were adapted from "Liturgy w/ communion, October 11, 2026 (Proper 23 - A)" by Thom Shuman, from Lectionary Liturgies found at https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/	

Ushers: Heather & Dean Lewis
Greeter(s): Lesley Murray
Coffee Hour: Cindy Thurston
Online Greeter: Jackie Lingelbach
Online Prayer Coordinator: Ashley Dubois

To give online, use the QR code above.

Commented [1]: I adjusted the location of the instructions for use of the QR code for donations.

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.
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Christmas Bazaar
Save the date for the annual Christmas Bazaar November 21st. More information coming soon.
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Volunteers needed for Window Dressers
Both Trustees and Greenworks Ministry have arranged for eight Window Dresser inserts for the Church Basement windows. These will make that area much warmer in winter and save on fuel costs. Volunteers make the inserts. Sign up and get information after worship, Sunday, Oct 4 and Oct 11, Kim Hornung-Marcy and other Greenworks ministry folks will be in the hallway across from the church kitchen with a computer to sign you up for a morning or afternoon shift Sat. Nov. 14, or Mon Nov. 16 or another time good for you to help build these inserts. This is a fun, once a year, easy project where you are not only helping the church but other people keeping their homes warmer this winter. Fight climate change, reduce fuel costs, increase comfort, have fun. Talk to the Greenworks ministry team for more information (Dan Clark, Sara Moran, Chris Stewart, Jen Zubarik and Kim Hornung-Marcy). Sign up can be accessed at: https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/121449680059/false#/invitation
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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 again on Wednesday evening, October 28 at 6:00pm in the Sitting Room (across the hall from the Pastor's Study as well as on Zoom). If you
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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.
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The most compelling conversation in town: join us this Thursday (Oct. 15) The intersection of faith and politics is a topic that is profoundly relevant and potentially explosive. Our seminarian intern, Dr. Jill Irvine, will guide us through this potential minefield over the course of a seven-session midweek study series for adults on the timely topic "Religion and Democracy." Starting this Thursday, October 15, the sessions will begin at 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall with a tasty light meal of soup and bread (provided by the Education Committee) and will conclude in time for choir rehearsal. Dr. Jill will facilitate these conversations that will touch on important topics like race, anti-semitism, Christian Nationalism, and the breakdown of community. Jill's leadership will draw upon her professional academic expertise in the field of political science, combined with her faith-focused theological study in seminary. The discussions will be riveting!
Engaging conversations on this topic will continue each Thursday evening at 5:00 pm through November 19. You don't want to miss them!
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Trunk or Treat Volunteers Needed for October 25th
The Williston Federated Church and the Williston-Richmond Rotary Club are once again teaming up to host a Halloween Trunk or Treat event on October 25th from 2:00-3:30 PM at the Community Park behind Williston Central School. We are seeking volunteers to participate by attending and handing out treats from your vehicle. This is a free event open to children of the area. Come and enjoy the excitement of our children in a safe and friendly environment.

Decorated trunks and costumes are optional but encouraged. Pre-registration is required. Please sign up here or on the bulletin board at church. Questions speak to Carol Bouchard.
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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
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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:

October 21: 'The Berry Pickers' by Amanda Peters
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.
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Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
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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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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.
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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
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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. Pastor Paul Eyer, 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 affects 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
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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 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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Church Website Redesign
I have a dream.
I have a dream that WFC could have a location that was available 24/7 where one could access information that would help us live our motto of "Come, Meet Christ and Go Serve With Us". An information site that would communicate:

1. Who we are
2. When and where events are happening (committees, small groups, special events)
3. How to support us
4. Administrative information

An updated, redesigned, modern, user-friendly website for our WFC congregation looking for details about the life of the church and for our friends and neighbors who are looking for a spiritual home.
We already have a small core group that will be working on updating/redesigning our website. We would welcome anyone else who feels their skills or desires could

help with this important function. The expectation is that, for the most part, this would be a targeted project with a finite end point, not a committee that would continue to meet.
If this is just the sort of opportunity you've been waiting for, please contact Donna-Sue Hain, 802-598-6612, dshainvt@gmail.com, who will be facilitating this group.
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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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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!