



Williston Federated Church

October 4, 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 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

World Communion Sunday/ Baptism

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: Creator God, we are here, together in hope! All: With community and creation; Leader: With neighbors near and far; All: With those known and those who are new; Leader: Across geography and across time; All: Together in hope, let us worship.	Donna-Sue Hain, Lay Leader and congregation
Prelude		Suiong Wong, piano/organ
Welcome		Pastor Paul Eyer
Words of Peace		Dr. Jill Irvine
Lighting the Peace Candle		
Opening Hymn	"O Church of God, United" UMC (red) Hymnal #547 (sing all verses) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano/organ and congregation

Prayer for Transformation	One: O God, you have given us a world of abundance and diversity. All: Yet there are times when we live guided by greed and selfishness. There are times when we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment. One: You have made us brothers and sisters and siblings and intended for us to be united. All: And yet there are times that we have built walls to separate us from those who are different from us. One: Forgive us, O God, when we have fallen short of your glory. All: Forgive us, O God, and make us whole.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Silent Confession		
Words of Grace	One: O God, we are grateful for your abundant grace. Help us to continue to share peace and hope with neighbors far and near. Amen.	Pastor Paul Eyer
Anthem	“The Heavens Are Telling” from <u>Creation</u> by Franz Josef Haydn	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

Baptism

We are blessed this day to baptize many of our Congolese friends:
Enyonyi Msambya
Safari Balemwilungu
Children of Catherine Riziki Eliza:
 Msambelwa Prince Kiza
 Ungwa Kabonga
 Eto Kabonga
Children of Safari Balemwilungu and Mapendo
Mwami Atende:
 Jeanne Mwami
 Raphael Safari
(NOTE: The mother/grandmother of these friends who are baptized today is Jeanne Asende Pelelo.)

Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation

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

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Baptismal Hymn

“I Was There To Hear Your Borning Cry”
Songbook #127 (sing all verses)
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Suiong Wong,
piano/organ and
congregation

Scripture	Acts 16:9-34	The Lewis Family
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
Mission Moment	World Communion Sunday/ Neighbors in Need offering that supports important ministries within both denominations (United Methodist and United Church of Christ) with which Williston Federated Church is affiliated.	Pastor Paul Eyer

Call to Offering		Pastor Paul Eyer
Offering		
Offertory		Suiong Wong,
Music		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: With hope in our hearts, we offer our gifts to you, O God, trusting that you will use them in the work of your kingdom which welcomes all, loves all, needs all, and serves all. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Service of Holy Communion/ the Eucharist/ the Lord's Supper	(see bulletin insert)	Rev Paul Eyer, Pastor; Dr. Jill Irvine, seminarian intern; communion stewards
Hymn during Communion	"One Bread, One Body" UMC (red) Hymnal #620	Suiong Wong, piano/organ
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	"O For A World" Songbook #75 (sing all verses) (Reprinted with permission under	Suiong Wong, piano/organ,

Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve with Us

Benediction/
Blessing

Pastor Paul Eyer

Postlude

Suiong Wong,
piano/organ

Liturgical
Resources

The **Call to Worship** was adapted from “Service Prayers for World Communion Sunday” prepared by the Southern Asia Initiative of Global Ministries found at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/world-communion-pentecost-18-october-4-2020/>.

The **Prayer for Forgiveness and Assurance of Pardon** were adapted from Shant Agoushian, Near East School of Theology student, Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East; Arabic, Jameel Maher Khadir, Near East School of Theology student, Episcopal Church in Jerusalem for World Communion Sunday “Special Offerings” for the Presbyterian Church USA found at <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/page/worship-world-communion-sunday-2021/>

The **Prayer of Dedication** is adapted from “Liturgy w/ communion for September 21, 2014” at [Lectinary Liturgies](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/09/liturgy-wcommunion-for-september-21.html) found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/09/liturgy-wcommunion-for-september-21.html>

The **Service of Holy Communion** was adapted by Rev. Eyer building in part on a liturgy from Rev. Moira Laidlaw of the Uniting Church of Australia, “Liturgies Online” found at http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au/liturgies/main/index.php?ch_table=link3&PID=19&SID=&year=A

The invitation to communion includes language adapted from Seekers Church, a Christian community in the tradition of the Church of the Savior, in Washington, D.C.

<http://www.seekerschurch.org/liturgies/communion2005.htm>.

And the structure of the invitation to communion was inspired by Rev. Lance Mullins, former pastor at Wisdom’s Table/St. Peter’s UCC in Lancaster, PA.

The litany “And the Table will be Wide” was composed by Rev. Jan Richardson and found at her blog:

Ushers: Ruth and Charlie Magill

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.

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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### **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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Thank you!

A big "Thank You" to the Foley Fontaine Farm for, again, donating over one hundred ears of fresh, sweet corn for our Corn Roast on 9/20/26. We so appreciate their support!

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## **World Communion -- TODAY!**

Today, World Communion Sunday, affords all of us an opportunity to not only receive the gift of communion but to extend the gift of love to the world through our World Communion Sunday/Neighbors In Need offering. Through our two denominational connections our offering, which will be split evenly between them, will help fund educational opportunities focusing on equity and inclusion nationally and world-wide, as well as providing support for Native Americans and providing grants to local churches offering programs focusing on justice and witness ministries. One offering from one congregation, joining others to make a difference around the world. Checks can be made out to the church with a memo "WCS-NIN". For your convenience you can use this QR code to access a "donation" form. Thank you ALL!



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World Communion Sunday Bread

In celebration of World Communion today, we have adorned the altar with a variety of breads provided by members of the congregation. This diverse array of bread on the altar reflects the breath and global reach of the gospel message. Following today's worship service, we will donate bread to the Williston Food Shelf. Thank you!

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## **Blessing of the Animals – TODAY!**

Calling all pets! Bring your favorite animals (furry, fishy, or otherwise) to our annual observance of the Blessing of the Animals today at 3 p.m. We plan to meet on the recreational path near the volleyball courts at Village Community Park (formerly Williston Community Park). Is your four-legged friend not a fan of the great outdoors? Feel free to bring a photo or other representation for Pastor Paul to bless. Please see Cathi Brody for more information. We hope to see you - and your pets.

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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 7 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.

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### **The most compelling conversation in town: Religion and Democracy beginning October 8**

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." **The first session, beginning at 5:15 pm in Fellowship Hall on hursday, October 8,** will feature the acclaimed documentary film "Join or Die" focused on the impact--and decline--of community in America.

Each subsequent session (beginning October 15) will begin at 5:00 pm 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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Guess Who's Coming to Dinner and Kid's Movie Night October 24th

Join in this fun event where no one knows where they will dine until that night and the hosts won't know who is coming to dinner until the guests arrive at their door. Hosts will provide the main course. Guests will bring an appetizer or a dessert. Hosts will be notified by 10/19 of the number of guests to expect and any dietary restrictions. Guests will be notified of what they should bring.

Fill out the confidential form available from an usher or on the bulletin board and drop it in the envelope hanging on the bulletin board. No peeking! Or you may sign up [online](#). Once your reservation appears online, the information will be transferred to a paper form and deleted from the site. This will aid us in keeping the participants a mystery to all.

Please indicate if you want to host or be a guest or are flexible. If you are willing to host, how many guests can you accommodate? Also, please note any dietary restrictions. Guests will stop by the church at 5:30pm on the 24th and be given an envelope with the name and address of their host.

Children will stay at the church for dinner and a movie hosted by Heather & Dean Lewis. **Pickup time for children is no later than 8:00 pm.**

When the evening is over, guests head home happy, filled and fulfilled and

hosts will be basking in the glory of offering hospitality for stronger connections – stronger community.

Deadline to sign up is October 18th. Speak to [Gary Lewis](#) with any questions.

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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](mailto:loismason418@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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**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](mailto: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](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 August's volunteers, Suiong Wong and her family as well as Natalie Lodge and her family 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.

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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](mailto: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!