Williston Federated Church

September 13, 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!
September 13, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.
Pride Sunday

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 (adapted from Psalm 103:8)	Leader: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. **All: Let us worship God.**	Donna-Sue Hain, Lay Leader and congregation
Prelude		Suiong Wong, piano/organ
Welcome		Pastor Paul Eyer
Words of Peace Lighting the Peace Candle		Dr. Jill Irvine
Opening Hymn	"There is a Wideness in God's Mercy" UMC (red) Hymnal #121 (sing verses 1, 3, and 4) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano/organ and congregation
Prayer for Today	One: Holy and Liberating God, you gather us in all our colors and all our names. You gather the	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation

loud and the quiet, the certain and the questioning, the joyful and the grieving, the healed and the healing.

All: You gather people of all places and races and backgrounds. You gather people from nearby and from far away.

One: Your love reaches children born in this country and children born in far-off lands. Your love reaches children from nuclear families, from extended families, from chosen families. Your love reaches straight children, LGBTQ-plus children, and nonbinary children. Your love reaches children who are oppressed. Your love reaches children in war zones and in disaster areas. Your love reaches children in safe neighborhoods and supportive communities.

All: Your grace extends to adults who are strong and to those who are struggling. Your grace extends to the very old and to the very young and to everyone in between. Your grace envelopes those who are straight. Your grace envelopes those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community.

One: O God, root us in love that does not flinch. Root us in affirmation and hospitality that reflects your boundless grace. Root us in a sense of justice and in a spirit of welcome.

	All: Let this worship be both sanctuary and spark. Let it be balm for the wounded and fire for the faithful. Let this worship remind us that whoever we are, we are yours. Amen.	
Anthem	"Fill-a-Me Up" by Pepper Choplin	Senior Choir Adam Hall, conducting Suiong Wong, piano
Time with Children		Pastor Paul Eyer
Passing of the Peace	Pastor (and children): The peace of Christ be with you. **All: And also with you.**	Pastor Paul Eyer and congregation
Scripture	Romans 14:1-3, 6-12	Sara Moran
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	"So Why Do You Pass Judgment?"	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	Pastor Paul Eyer

	Prayers of the People: The congregation is invited to participate in the call and response: Pastor Paul: Lord of Life and Love, **All: Hear our prayer…**	
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		Suiong Wong, piano/organ
Doxology	UMC Hymnal #94 (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano, and congregation

Prayer of Dedication (unison)	**All: O God, may these gifts grow into justice, joy, safety, and beloved community. Bless what we give. Bless what we hold. Bless what we build together. Root our generosity in love, justice, and affirmation, so that your people may flourish. Amen.**	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Life/Mission of the Church		Pastor Paul Eyer
Closing Hymn	"Gather Us In" Songbook #110 (sing verses 1, 2, and 4) (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 Psalm 103:8. The **Prayer for Today** and **Prayer of Dedication** were adapted from a liturgy for Open and Affirming Sunday with the theme "We Shall Not Be Moved! Rooted in Love, Justice, and Affirmation" by Rev. Derek A. Terry, Acting Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition, United Church of Christ, found at https://openandaffirming.org/ona26/	

Ushers: Heather Lewis and Donna Goodheart
Greeter(s): Bruce and Carol Wyatt
Coffee Hour: Ruth Magill
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

Pride Parade TODAY, September 13

The Pride Parade in downtown Burlington will take place today, Sunday, September 13. We will assemble at King Street near the Hood plant by 11:30am this morning. The parade kicks off at 12 noon. This represents a wonderful opportunity for our church to offer public witness to the inclusive message of the gospel. If you are interested in participating in the parade, please contact Cathi Brody at cbrody1@comcast.net .

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Corn Roast and Sundae Sunday September 20!

Join us September 20th right after worship as we bid a fond farewell to summer and celebrate the beginning of a new program year.

We will gather on the church lawn, weather permitting, or in the Fellowship Hall. Corn on the cob, burgers, hot dogs, salad, watermelon, and ice cream sundaes are on the menu. (And it's all free!) Some help is needed to pull off this fabulous event! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Co-sponsored by the Education and Membership Committees.

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Come Join Our Church Family! Meeting September 27 After Worship

If you are new to the church community, or have been worshiping with us for years, and are interested in joining the church, there will be an informational meeting September 27 11:00-12:00 in the Sitting Room. Pastor Paul; Donna Sue Hain, our Lay Leader; and Cindy Thurston, Membership Committee Chair; will be there to answer your questions. Also, we also want to hear about you and your faith journey! Being a full member is not a requirement for participating in most aspects of church life. It is, however, an opportunity to formally affiliate with our congregation. If you have questions, speak to Pastor Paul or Cindy Thurston. To assist with planning please RSVP Cindy at cindythurston57@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you there!

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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 6p.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
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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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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. We will reconvene on Monday, September 14. 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:

September 16: 'The Yellow House' by Sarah Broom
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!
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 group has adjourned for the summer as of May 25. We will meet again after Labor Day, the exact date to be determined. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please look for the notice as we approach the fall.
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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 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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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!
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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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