



Williston Federated Church

September 27, 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.)

**Let each of you look not only to your own
interests, but also to the interests of others.**

-Philippians 2:4

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 27, 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
(inspired by
Psalm 25)

Leader: To you, O God, we lift up our hearts. We trust in you.

All: Make your ways known to us. Teach us your truths.

Leader: To you, O God, we lift up our hearts. We follow you!

All: Lead us in your ways. Your path liberates and saves.

Leader: To you, O God, we lift up our hearts. We worship you!

All: Guide us in humility and goodness. Praise the Holy One!

Gayle Goodwin,
Official Board
Chair, and
congregation

Prelude

Suiong Wong,
piano/organ

Welcome

Pastor Paul Eyer

Words of
Peace

Dr. Jill Irvine

Lighting the
Peace Candle

Pastor Paul Eyer

Opening Hymn	“At the Name of Jesus” UMC (red) Hymnal #168 (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: Holy God, your mysterious presence stretches to the furthest reaches of the universe, yet you draw near to us in Christ Jesus. All: You walk beside us, guiding us with wisdom, loving us with boundless grace. One: We praise you that your love embraces the whole creation, All: yet you find a place for us. One: Your Spirit gives us the energy and insight we need to serve you and to serve others around us. All: Creator, Christ and Spirit, we are humbled in your presence. In our worship we offer you our love, now and always. Amen.	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation
Anthem	“Live-a-Humble” arranged by Peter Bagley	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 Hymn	“Creator of the Stars of Night” UMC (red) Hymnal #692 (sing verse 1 and 2, then repeat verse 1) (Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740093. All rights reserved)	Suiong Wong, piano/organ and congregation
Scripture	Philippians 2:1-13	Jan Demers
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	“The Interests of Others...”	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 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...	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	Brief videos highlighting the upcoming World Communion Sunday/ Neighbors in Need offering that support 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 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: God of abundance, we bring what we have to share, a portion of your goodness to us. Bless our gifts and our lives, so that generosity and justice will join hands, and your	Dr. Jill Irvine and congregation

Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve with Us

**goodness touches those in need, in Jesus’
name.**

Life/Mission
of the Church

Pastor Paul Eyer

Closing
Hymn

“He is Lord” Songbook #30 (sing three times)
(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 “The People May
Drink: Service Prayers for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
Year A” by Cheryl A Lindsay, Minister of Worship and Theology for
the United Church of Christ, found at
[https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-18a-
september-27/](https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/after-pentecost-18a-september-27/)

The **Prayer for Today** and the **Prayer of Dedication** were adapted
from “Worship Planner, 21st Sunday after Pentecost, October 18,
2026, Year A” Presbyterian Church in Canada, found at
<https://presbyterian.ca/worship/>

Ushers: Chris Burns-DiBiasio and Dan DiBiasio

Greeter(s): Vicki and Phil Carleton

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

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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### **Come Join Our Church Family! Meeting TODAY! 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 make a public statement of Christian witness. 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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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 Sept. 27, 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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**Special Program on Voting Rights**

"The Moral Urgency of Voting Rights" will take place Wednesday September 30th at 7pm by Zoom. This program is offered by The New England Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society. This free program will look at the threats to our voting rights and what people of faith can do to be prepared so everyone has a fair way to vote this November. This program features a nationally known UMC speaker and the backing of our Global Board of Church and Society staff who work on behalf of all of us in Washington DC and monitor legislation and causes that impact Federal and State level public policy. To register for this free program go to (easy to access from the online bulletin): [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_nqnCHwR\\_THmVYLAKExK9dA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nqnCHwR_THmVYLAKExK9dA). If you have questions talk to Rev. Kim Hornung-Marcy

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World Communion Sunday, October 4

World Communion Sunday, October 4, will give 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 - Oct. 4**

Sunday, Oct. 4, is World Communion Sunday. Traditionally we decorate the altar with a variety of breads. This year the members of Music and Worship invite the members of the congregation to contribute breads we can donate to the Williston Food Shelf. Breads can come in all sizes, shapes and types. Bring it Oct. 4 before the service, and we will place it on the altar. Thank you!

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Blessing of the Animals - October 4

Calling all pets! Bring your favorite animals (furry, fishy, or otherwise) to our annual observance of the Blessing of the Animals Sunday, Oct. 4 at 3 p.m. We will 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](mailto:jillirvine@gmail.com).

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Religion and Democracy Series

The most compelling conversation in town: a mid-week study series for adults on Religion and Democracy 15 at 5:00 pm 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, 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](mailto: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!**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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!