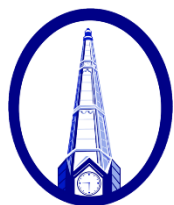


The Steeple Newsletter – June, 2023



The Williston Federated Church now offers hybrid worship—both in person and on-line—each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. If you would like a refresher on the in-person guidelines, they are available in the current bulletin and on our webpage at: <http://www.steeple.org/>

We continue to livestream our service on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch](https://www.facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch)





[Williston Federated Church](#)




United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church
Federated in 1899





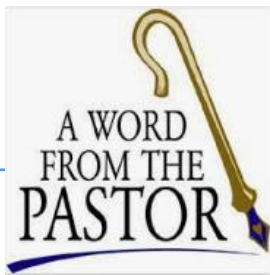
"Rest and self-care
are so important.
When you take time
to replenish your spirit,
it allows you to serve
others from the overflow.
You cannot serve from
an empty vessel."

~ Eleanor Brown



"Spring being
a tough act to
follow, God
created June."

- AL BERNSTEIN



"VISION"

June 2023

On Saturday, May 20, members of the Official Board gathered in Fellowship Hall for a "visioning" retreat. Facilitated by our own Mark Demers (a retired Methodist pastor), Board members spent four hours together, focused on input from the congregation as reflected in the results of a recent survey.

We received responses to this survey from some forty-five (45) folks connected with our congregation. One open-ended survey question had asked respondents to name the most important thing that Williston Federated Church does. In reviewing the wide-ranging responses to this question, the Official Board saw that most of the responses fell into one or more of the following categories:

- service
- outreach
- community
- worship
- fellowship
- inclusion

Survey respondents were also asked to identify the values evident at Williston Federated Church. Among the leading responses to this question were:

- compassion
- generosity
- faith
- prayerful
- justice

Considerable energy emerged as Official Board members (led by Mark's timely promptings) entered into a wide-ranging discussion about how we might be led to live out these values going forward.

On that meaningful Saturday morning, the Official Board took the initial steps along a path where others will also trod. Over time, the entire congregation and the wider community will be part of the conversation. And of course, the congregation's voice—as reflected in the survey results—was already the starting point for this discussion.

This retreat on May 20 represents the start of what promises to be a very meaningful process of self-reflection and spiritual discernment about where God might be leading us.

May God indeed guide us as we move forward!

Prayerfully,
Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor



Ginger Isham - June 7th
Trevor Lewis - June 7th
Robert Nesbitt - June 9th
Joe Maloney - June 10th
Barb Bristol - June 12th
Connor Lewis - June 12th
Sarah Mason - June 16th
Rick Bristol - June 26th

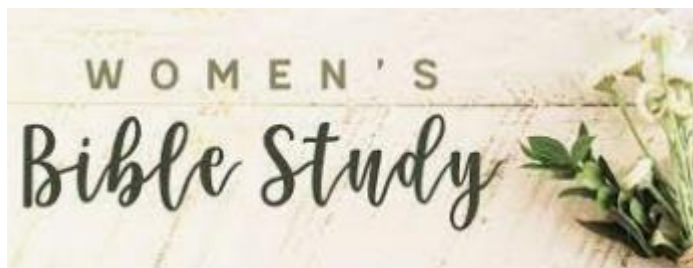


Carol & Paul Bouchard June 2nd - celebrating 50 years!
Brian & Gayle Goodwin – June 5th
Bruce & Carol Wyatt - June 12th
Kyle Sala & Lizzy Pope - June 16th
Ken & Nancy Stone - June 19th
Mike & Sara Moran - June 23rd - celebrating 50 years!
Jon & Kirsten Santor – June 24th
Ted Marcy & Kim Hornung-Marcy - June 25th
Betty & Gary Lewis - June 30th - celebrating 50 years!

We rejoice with and give thanks for these members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in June. We would love to celebrate your birthday/anniversary in the monthly newsletter.

If you would like to be included, please send names & dates to Carol Bouchard, Membership Committee Chair, at carolcbouchard@gmail.com





Women's Bible Study

The women's Bible study has reconvened! We have restructured the study after much discussion. We will study individual books of the Bible for 3 weeks each month and will read a book by a spiritual author to discuss in the 4th week. The group meets in person and by ZOOM every Monday from 1-3pm. If you'd like to join us please email Sally Metro at ssmetro9@gmail.com.



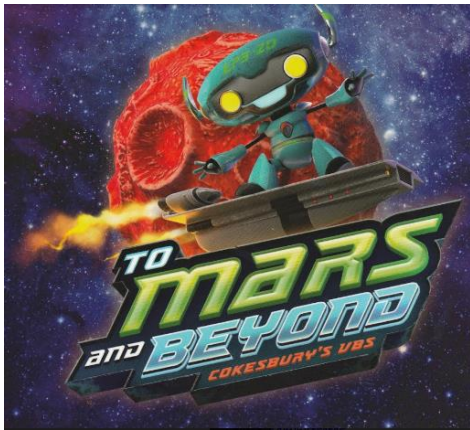
The Education Committee is looking for summer volunteers to supervise the children during the church service. We will provide a video for them to watch and the rest of the time can be playing outside. We hope some folks will volunteer for one or two Sundays. Thanks!

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).



Annual Congregational Meeting – Sunday June 11 after worship service in Fellowship Hall and online



Faith + Fellowship ♥ Fun

Faith, Fellowship Fun!

This summer, we are off to Mars and Beyond! Children ages 3-12 are invited to join a space travel adventure and explore where God's power can take them. Along the journey, these Voyagers will explore a new realm of possibilities as they reach for the stars and encounter the limitless power and love of God!

Mark your calendars! Friday July 14th through Sunday July 16th.

- ✓ Friday kickoff starting with dinner 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- ✓ Saturday 9:00am – 4:00pm snacks and lunch will be provided
- ✓ Sunday 9:30am worship service followed by a cookout celebration

To register, please visit steeple.org



Final Update from the Covid-19 Reentry Team

At worship services, masks are respected and optional. If you aren't feeling well, please stay home and worship with us online



Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer
 Emeritus Associate Pastor – Charlie Magill
 Lay Leader – Ashley Dubois
 Church Office Administrator – Pamela Osborne
 Music Director – Adam Hall
 Organist – Carolyn Pillsbury
 Choir Accompanist – Carol Schein
 Nursery Caregiver – Michelle Davis
 Sunday School Coordinator – Jenny Rousseau, Ed.D



How Might You Share Your Gifts & Talents?

The Nominating Committee has begun the process of inviting folks to serve on a church committee for the 2023-2024 fiscal year which begins July 1st. WFC plays a vital role in our lives and our response to the needs of our community and the wider world. We are asking that you prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to share your gifts and talents.

Most committees meet monthly and many take a break in the summer. Terms can be from 1-3 years. Committees include: Official Board, Trustees, Pastor Staff Relations, Finance, Education, Membership, Music & Worship, Missions & Social Concerns, Youth Ministry and Nominating. The Vitality Team is an ad hoc group and welcomes participation by any who are interested.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about any of these committees, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee: Rebecca Dubois, Donna Goodheart, Carol Bouchard or Pastor Paul.



Join in the Fun on July 4th and Walk in the Parade

Walking as a group in the July 4th parade has been a Williston Federated Church tradition for many years. We invite all ages to walk with us on July 4th. Meet at the Johnson Farm on route 2 east of the church by 9:30 am. If you would be willing to be point person for getting the banner and other signs to the starting point, speak to Carol Bouchard.



Ice Cream Social July 3rd on the Town Green

WFC is once again hosting Williston's Independence Day Ice Cream Social, to be held July 3rd beginning at 6:30 PM on the town green. The event runs concurrently with the band concert, as well as the Friends of the Library Book Sale. It has been a popular Williston tradition for many years. Volunteers are needed to prepare a hot chocolate topping, set up, serve

ice cream & toppings, accept donations, and clean up. Proceeds will benefit an organization yet to be determined. Please follow this link to an [online sign up](#) or contact [Matt Bliss](#). Thank you!