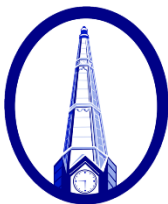


The Steeple Newsletter – September, 2022



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)

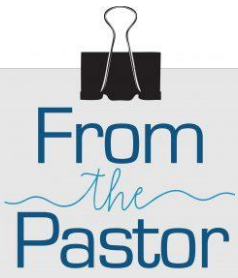
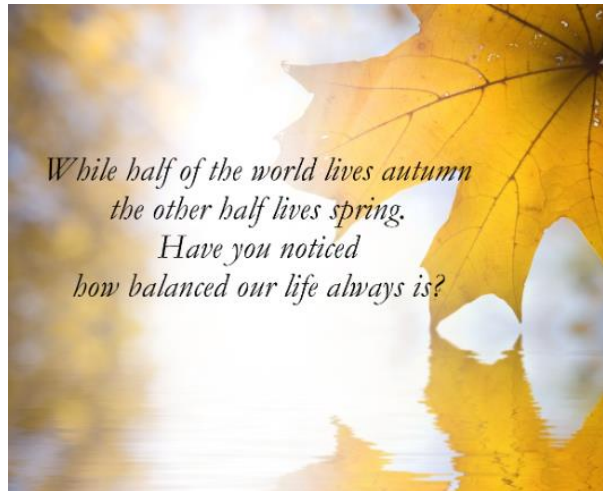


Williston Federated Church



United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church
Federated in 1899





"SOMETHING TO BE KNOWN FOR"

As I write this, the sights and sounds of the closing summer concert of the Williston Town Band on the Village Green linger in my mind. Once again, on August 24, our congregation was well-represented in that serene setting. Some in our midst performed in the band. Others in our congregation were part of the audience. And in recent years, we have made it a custom for Williston Federated Church to offer ice cream to anyone present.

We do this as an act of outreach, an intentional effort to connect with the community. It sends a message of hospitality. It sends a message that we care.

And it makes a difference. We have people regularly worshipping with us now whose first point of contact with our church was the ice cream that we offered them on the Village Green. And this year, lots of people noticed that attendance at the Town Band concerts throughout the summer has increased significantly. One reason, of course, may be that the music performed by the Town Band is well-performed and warmly received. Another reason for increased community participation in this long-standing concerts series—a reason apparently expressed by Town Band members themselves—is that Williston Federated Church is offering ice cream.

I think it is a good thing when people in our community associate our church with acts of hospitality (including offering ice cream!). And a spirit of "extravagant welcome" is indeed a very important part of our identity. As one of the denominations with which are church

is affiliated has put it “Jesus didn’t turn people away. Neither do we.”¹

We will be sharing that message of hospitality and welcome as we participate in the Pride Parade in downtown Burlington after worship on September 18. Let me or Bob Driver know if you would like to be part of our Williston Federated Church contingent at that important event.

But as I say each Sunday, another core component of our identity is service. And in the months ahead, opportunities for service abound:

- dinners delivered each month to Dismas House, where formerly-incarcerated individuals are taking on the often-challenging task of transition back into society;
- Thanksgiving baskets collected in November to provide fixings for a holiday feast for needy families;
- the annual “Giving Tree” during Advent when we have the opportunity to purchase and wrap gifts to be presented to children in need at Christmas;
- and more!

These ministry efforts receive broad support, not only from this congregation but from the wider community as well.

And our church is known for prayer as well. On multiple occasions I have been contacted by people in the community asking to be included in my—and sometimes our—prayers. The spiritual is central to what we do as a church.

This congregation’s commitment to hospitality, to service, and to prayer is recognized in the wider community. And it is important to recognize and remember that reality ourselves as well. After all, I kind of like the idea that when people in Williston enjoy ice cream, they think of our church.

In a spirit of celebration,
Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor

¹ This tagline was one of several that emerged as part of the “God is Still Speaking” campaign of the United Church of Christ.

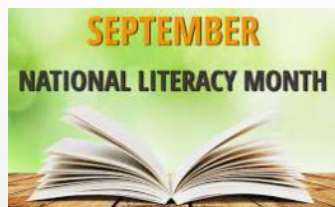


Heather Rivera --September 4th
 Jonah Wayman & Donna Fellingner – September 6th
 Bruce Allen – September 7th
 Bruce Wyatt – September 9th
 William Santor – September 11th
 Carlos Rivera – September 14th
 Bob Driver – September 16th
 Meaghan Goodheart – September 17th
 Michael Moran – September 23rd
 Bryan Connelly – September 25th



Martin & Donna-Sue Hain - September 1st
 Bob & Sandy Twombly - September 4th
 Rick & Barb Bristol & Tony & Susan Lamb - September 7th
 Mary & Cathy Connelly - September 8th

We rejoice with and give thanks for these members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in September. 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



Parade & Festival
September 17th
12pm - 5pm
 Downtown Burlington



Corn Roast September 11th

Join us September 11th right after worship as we bid a fond farewell to summer and celebrate the beginning of a new program year. Bring your lawn chair and be sure to invite a friend or neighbor. We will gather on the church lawn, weather permitting, or in Fellowship Hall. Corn on the cob, hamburgers, hot dogs, watermelon are on the menu.

Reservations are not required but for planning purposes,

please sign up on the bulletin board or [follow this link to an on-line sign up](#) Sponsored by the Membership Committee



Pride Parade on September 18

The annual Pride Parade will take place in downtown Burlington on Sunday, September 18. Once again, Williston Federated Church will proudly take its place in the parade, proclaiming in a visible way our message of inclusion and welcome. If you would like to be part of this important public witness, contact Pastor Paul (pastoreyer@gmail.com) or Bob Driver.

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).



Coming Soon, World Communion Sunday

On Sunday, October 2, we will be celebrating World Communion Sunday with many Christians throughout the world, breaking bread and pouring the cup reminding us that in spite of our differences we are a global community of believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev.

Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination. Rev. Kerr appropriately chose the sacrament of Holy Communion to symbolize this unity.

On World Communion Sunday, Williston Federated Church takes a special offering to commemorate the occasion. These gifts are shared equally between the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church. The UCC offering, "Neighbor in Need," focuses on economic justice with one-third supporting the [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM) and two thirds for grants for justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. The UMC "World Communion Offering" provides scholarships and leadership assistance to ethnic minority students in the United States and others abroad. In 2021, 242 scholarships and grants were awarded as well as mentoring and training for leadership development. Both offerings serve the marginalized and give hope and support to those in need.

Become a Member!



Membership Informational Meeting September 25th After Worship

If you are new to the church community, or have been worshipping with us for years, and are interested in joining the church, there will be an informational meeting September 25th 11:00-12:00 in Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM.

You will learn about the history of the church and our connection to the UMC & the UCC. Representatives from the various committees will be present to share a bit about the work of their committee.

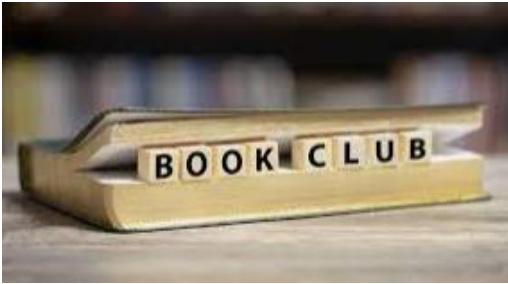
Being a full member of the church is not a requirement for participation in all aspects of worship, serving on committees, providing outreach and service to others. It is an opportunity to make a public statement of Christian witness.

New members will be received on a Sunday in October (TBD). If you have questions, speak to anyone on the Membership Committee: Pastor Paul, Carol Bouchard, Ruth Magill, Sally Metro, Janice Mejia or Carol Burbank. To assist with planning & if you would like the ZOOM link, please RSVP to [Carol Bouchard](#).

You are Invited!



September 18th - Sundae Sunday
after 9:30 am worship



The first meeting of the women's book club will be on Sept. 28 at 7p.m. on Zoom. I hope that you are all looking forward to another year of gathering to discuss each of our book choices.

Our Sept. book will be 'A Long Petal of the Sea' by Isabel Allende. For Oct we will be blessed to have Ursula's friend, Elke Bowman, who wrote the book 'Enduring Shame' speak to us and answer any questions about the book and describe the time in Germany when she and Ursula were little girls. This Oct. meeting will be an afternoon meeting at the Church. Date and time to follow.

Please send suggestions for other books that you would like to read this year.

Lois, loismason418@gmail.com or 802-879-7263



Committee Openings

There are still a few positions on committees that we would love to fill in order to best carry out the mission of the church. Serving on a committee is a great way to make connections with others in the church. If you would like more information about any of the open positions, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee for more details: [Pastor Paul](#), [Carol Bouchard](#), [Rebecca Dubois](#) or [Donna Goodheart](#).



Congregation Survey August 2022 - Thank you for being part of our faith family through all of the changes and challenges over the past two and a half years. As we are looking toward the new program year beginning in September, we would so appreciate your input as we seek to continue to serve our church family and the wider community around us. To that end, we would appreciate it if you would take a few

moments to fill out the [attached survey](#) to help with this process. Thank you again for being part of this community and taking the time to fill out the survey. Please direct questions or concerns to the Membership Committee: Pastor Paul, Carol Bouchard, Carol Burbank, Ruth Magill, Jan Mejia, Sally Metro.



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

get to know



Pamela Osborne

After 22 years working with the site manager and chip distribution at IBM doing analytical research and data presentations, I went on to work at the University of Vermont for the president doing web pages for the his office as well as the provost and the board of trustees. I was the liaison with the IT department when there were computer issues and also the first face in the executive “wing” on campus. During this time I completed my degree in English including a course in London and an internship at the Rokeby Museum. When President Fogel returned to teaching, I went on to the College of Medicine doing web pages for student services and added LCME/medical licensing reporting, and process manuals to my resume. My last position was in the Medical Student Admissions Office interviewing prospective students for admission to medical school and preparing for the national licensing review. After 18 years with UVM, I retired with my husband and two dogs, but it didn’t last long. I began creating spreadsheets for home projects and realized I need to get back into the workforce to continue utilizing the skills I had amassed in my career.

I was delighted to be hired as the Office Administrator in April, 2021. The church was in the midst of Covid which, while terrible, provided a good time to sequester the office for reorganizing and to learn how the church functions. I was able to talk with many of the church members—initially by phone—who had so graciously volunteered their time to fill in for church work before I was hired. As the weeks and months went by, I was able to take on many new and varied responsibilities that could be revisited and revised for a return from Covid restrictions. Please feel free to stop by the office any Wednesday or Thursday to say hello in person.



Update from the Re-Entry Committee

Chittenden County is seeing very favorable trends with fewer new cases and hospitalizations, and the CDC considers the country to be low risk at this time. This is very welcome news! We will continue to evaluate the risks to our members and employees and we pray that the risks will continue to diminish so that we can relax precautions. However, for now we will continue to maintain the same precautions as outlined below through the summer. COVID-19 Precaution Guidelines:

Worship Services

- We will continue to ask everyone to mask. Congregational singing is acceptable.
- The full choir will be allowed to sing but will continue to wear masks.
- The social distancing requirement is no longer in effect but we ask people to be considerate of those who may still wish to social distance.
- Beverages may be consumed during fellowship time after a service. If weather allows, they should be consumed outside. In the event of bad weather, they may be consumed in the Fellowship Hall with the windows open.
- Masks will not be required at outdoor services such as the Easter Sunrise service.

Small Group Use of the Church

- Small groups may now serve and consume food and beverages if they wish to do so.
- We are no longer requiring small groups to wear masks. It will be up to small groups to make their own decisions regarding masking.

General Items

- It is no longer required that masks be worn while entering or leaving the building, with the exception that masks are still required when coming to or leaving a worship service.
- People are free to wear masks if they wish to do so.
- If conditions get worse, the committee may reinstate some or all of the requirements that are being eliminated or loosened at this time.
- High risk or immunocompromised individuals are encouraged to follow the CDC recommendations:
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
 - Have a plan for rapid testing if needed
 - Talk to your healthcare provider about whether you are a candidate for treatments like oral antivirals, PrEP and monoclonal antibodies.