

The Steeple Newsletter – December, 2025



[Williston Federated Church](#)

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

In-person and online

9:30 AM

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Williston Federated Church offers hybrid worship—both in person and online—each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. You can view our weekly Sunday bulletin and other church activities/communications on our webpage at:

<http://www.steeple.org/>

We continue to live stream our service on Facebook at:

<Facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch>

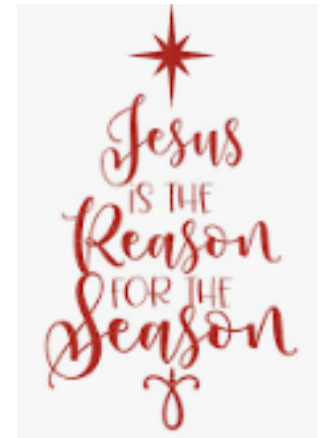


United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church
Federated in 1899

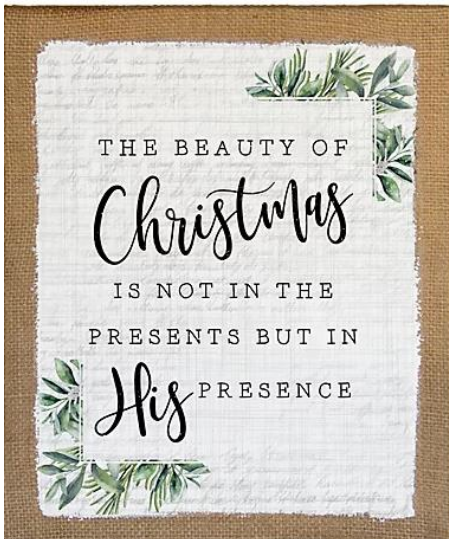


Open and Affirming, Reconciling Pledge

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.)



Sue Leister – December 5th
 Gil Rodes – December 6th
 Trudy Anderson – December 9th
 Rod Muir – December 10th
 Dottie Woods – December 17th
 David Nesbitt – December 19th
 John Willis – December 21st
 Charlie Hanson – December 29th



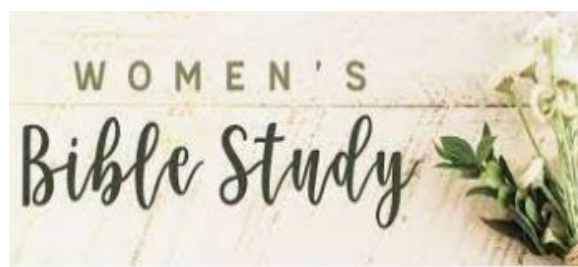
We rejoice with and give thanks for these members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in December. We would love to celebrate your birthday/anniversary in the monthly newsletter. If you would like to be included, please send names & dates to Carol Bouchard, Membership Committee Chair, at carolcbouchard@gmail.com





Friday Morning Centering Prayer Group

This prayer group now meets on Fridays on Zoom, opening at 9:45. The meeting begins at 10am and includes 20 minutes of silent prayer, reading of the Gospel Bible passage of the day and centering on a particular part of the passage and sharing personal impressions about the passage. For zoom link or questions contact Donna Fellingner at 802-355-1700 or donnafellingervt@gmail.com.



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 on ZOOM only Mondays from 1:30-2:30pm. If you are interested, please contact Sally at ssmetro9@gmail.com.



Women's Book Club

The book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. The book choice for December 17 is 'Queens of Crime' by Marie Benedict. Lois Mason loismason418@gmail.com.



Men's Social Breakfast

All the men of the church are invited to breakfast and chat the last Wednesday of every month. Breakfast starts at 8:00 am; cooking at 7:30 am. Come for one or both. Charlie Magill, cmagillvt@aol.com.



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 Fellowship Hall every Friday morning at 7:00 am. The sessions are also on Zoom.



Choir for All Ages!

Do you like to sing? Adult choir rehearsal takes place each Thursday at 6:45pm in the church sanctuary. The children's choir (Kindergarten through 8th grade) rehearses at 9am each Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!



Membership Informational Meeting January 25 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 January 25 11:00-12:00 in the Sitting Room.

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 date TBD. If you have questions, speak to Pastor Paul or Carol Bouchard, Membership Committee Chair. To assist with planning please RSVP to Carol.



Baptism

With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrated the baptism of Amelia Lodge on November 16th. She is pictured here with her parents, Natalie & Xander and big brothers Finn & Jack.



Christmas Bazaar Wrap Up

Many thanks to all who contributed to this year's Christmas Bazaar with your gifts of time and treasure. The Women of the Church raised ~ \$3300 for local and worldwide missions. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR...

I write this on the day before Thanksgiving and just days before the beginning of that sacred season that we call Advent. The Advent season of expectation and preparation invites us to look ahead with hope for what lies ahead. The celebration of Thanksgiving encourages us to look with gratitude upon what

we have already received. Both vantage points—prospective (Advent) and retrospective (Thanksgiving).

Retrospectively, I am deeply thankful for the blessing of serving in this place, among these people, in this time. I am repeatedly astonished by the myriad ways in which the spirit is at work among us and the amazing ministries that are in evidence in this congregation. There is our ministry to our refugee neighbors and friends that is a blessing. This is ongoing ministry to the hungry (the Thanksgiving food drive on November 15 was inspiring!). There is ministry to the residents at Dismas House who seek to reenter society following incarceration. The list goes on and on. People might have reason to think that the Williston Federated Church congregation takes seriously the words of Jesus about loving our neighbors (Matthew 22:39), feeding the hungry (Matthew 25:35), and visiting the imprisoned (Matthew 25:36). I delight in sharing with people that we do just that.

And (consistent with the retrospective posture of Thanksgiving), I continue to bask in the seemingly unending affirmation that this congregation showered upon me during in marking my eighth anniversary as pastor back on the last Sunday of October. What a joyful day! The celebratory words spoken in worship that Sunday by Sara Moran (representing the Pastor/Staff Relations Committee), the amazingly creative parody composed and sung by Adam Hall, and the countless expressions of support from so many of you (including an apparently anonymous gift card) will sustain and encourage me for years to come.

I carry those memories—and that sense of gratitude—with me as we enter into the Advent season. In this time of expectation, we have ample reason for hope.

With prayers of blessing in this sacred time,

Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor





Poinsettias for Christmas Eve

You can purchase a poinsettia to adorn the church on Christmas Eve and include a dedication in the bulletin. Poinsettias are \$10 per 6.5" pot. You can pick it up on Christmas Eve following the 7:30pm service. To order, fill out [this form](#). All orders must be in by December 14th. Contact Ashley (ashley0705@gmail.com) with questions.



Christmas Pageant

"Christmas Store Window" will be presented during our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, December 21st. We look forward to celebrating the season together through this special story of light and hope.



The Giving Tree

Christmas is a joyous time of year for most of us, but for many in our community who are financially challenged, it can be exceedingly stressful. We at Williston Federated Church have the opportunity to make this a happier holiday by providing gifts to children from Allen Brook and Williston Central Schools. We invite you to participate in The Giving Tree by purchasing a gift card or cards that the families may use to select the "perfect" Santa gift, e.g. a toy, a game or art supplies, AND winter clothing items for

their child(ren). This provides a level of autonomy and dignity to folks to be able to actually pick out the gifts for their children, which they may not be able to do otherwise.

The Giving Tree will be set up as usual in the hallway outside the sanctuary beginning on Sunday, November 30th, with \$25 gift tags attached. Please take one or more tags and purchase a gift card or cards from the store indicated on the back. There is no sign-up necessary. We trust that if you remove a tag, that you will purchase a gift card and return it. Please place your gift card(s) in an

envelope and drop it in the decorated box next to the Giving Tree outside the sanctuary. All gifts should be returned to church by Sunday, December 14th and will be delivered to school on Monday, December 15th. A white dove will be hung on the tree for each gift received. Thank you so much for your abundant generosity. Your gifts will bring much joy to many children in our community. If you have any questions or need help selecting a tag or returning the gift to church, please contact Chris Burns-DiBiasio, cburnsdibiasio@gmail.com, 419-230-4417 or Sue Hook, hooksuzanne4@gmail.com, 201-694-7890. And a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday to you.



Ushers Needed

We need ushers for the Christmas Eve services Wednesday, December 24th. There will be a family service at 5pm and our traditional candlelight service at 7:30pm. Please contact Donna Goodheart at dgheart@hotmail.com or text 802-734-0409 if you can help. Thank you!.

Williston Community Tree Lighting

**Sunday, Dec 7th - Village Green
4:30 - 5:30pm**

Join us as we light the tree, sing Christmas carols and enjoy cookies & hot cocoa. Special music by the Children's Choir at Williston Federated Church. The SD Ireland holiday truck plans to bring some extra light and cheer.

Please bring a donation of new hats, mittens, gloves or socks for the Williston Food Shelf.

Sponsored by Williston Federated Church and Williston Richmond Rotary Club



Williston Community Tree Lighting

Would you like to be a part of the Williston Community Tree Lighting? We are looking for help with decorating, baking cookies and setting up/cleaning up at the event. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can sign up using this QR Code:



Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer
Pastoral (seminarian) Intern – Dr. Jill Irvine
Emeritus Associate Pastor – Charlie Magill
Co-Lay Leaders – Ashley Dubois and Donna Sue Hain
Church Office Administrator – Pamela Osborne
Music Director – Adam Hall
Organist – Carolyn Pillsbury
Choir Accompanist – Suiong Wong
Nursery Caregiver – Michelle Davis

2025

Christmas Worship Schedule



Please join us for the Children's
Christmas Pageant Sunday at 9:30am
December 21 (in person and live-streamed at
facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch)



Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30pm -- Longest Night Service

in the Williston Federated Church sanctuary (in person and live-streamed)
You are invited to a special service designed for those who find the holidays to be a difficult time. Our church cares about you. This brief service offers ample opportunity for quiet worship and reflection.



Wednesday, December 24 at 5pm -- Family-Friendly Christmas Eve service

in the Williston Federated Church sanctuary (in person and live-streamed)
This family-focused service is designed with the younger ones (and those "young at heart") in mind. Interactive elements to engage the kids will be interspersed amid Christmas carols in this service for all ages.



Wednesday, December 24 at 7:30m -- Candlelight Christmas Eve service
in the Williston Federated Church sanctuary (in person and live-streamed).
Beautiful music, beloved Christmas carols and candlelight combine to make this service special. After the 7:30 worship service on Christmas Eve, stop by Fellowship Hall to greet friends and enjoy cookies and punch. Donations of cookies are appreciated. They may be placed on the table in Fellowship Hall.



Wednesday, December 24 at 11pm -- Community Christmas Eve service

in the Old Brick Church (in person only)



Sunday, December 28 "Worship Around the Breakfast Table"

Join us on December 28th for an informal worship and breakfast in Fellowship Hall. This wonderful event will combine a breakfast with an informal worship service that will include prayer, Christmas carols, and conversation. If you wish, you are welcome to bring a dish to share. There will be a sign up on the bulletin board to help with planning.

