

# The Steeple Newsletter – *February 2026*



## **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP**

In-person and online

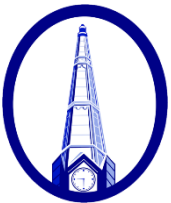
**9:30 AM**

**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](https://www.facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch)



**Williston Federated Church**



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.)*



celebrate!



Larry Pillsbury – Feb 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Martin Hain – Feb 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Donna Sue Hain – Feb 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Paul Dickin – Feb 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Deanna Davis-Kilpatrick – Feb 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Bea Jones – Feb 21<sup>st</sup>  
 Aidan Mejia – Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>  
 Carol Wyatt – Feb 25<sup>th</sup>  
 Nancy Aitken – Feb 26<sup>th</sup>  
 Caitlin Purinton – Feb. 28th



Katherine & Michael Wayman - Feb 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Helena & Hadrian Katz - Feb 7<sup>th</sup>

We rejoice with and give thanks for these members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in February. 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 [carolbouchard@gmail.com](mailto:carolbouchard@gmail.com)

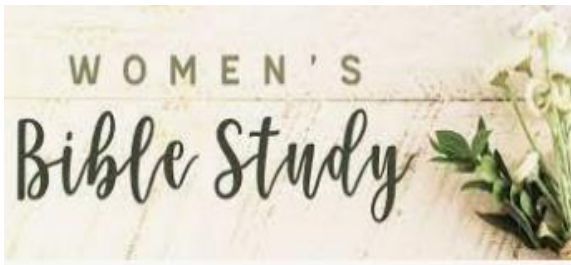


# What's Happening



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:ssmetro9@gmail.com).



## Women's Book Club

The women's book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 2pm in Fellowship Hall. Our book for February is 'Home Front' by Kristin Hannah. On Mar 18: 'Good Dirt' by Charmaine Wilkerson. On Apr 15: 'The Book Club for Troublesome Women' by Marie Bostwick. On May 20: 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell. All women are welcome.

For more information, contact Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup> grade) rehearses at 9am each Sunday in Fellowship Hall. Let us make a joyful noise to the Lord!



### **Valentine Cookie Extravaganza**

WFC would like to express our heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the church, to the following community servants: staff at WCS, ABS & CVU as well as our local police, fire & rescue, Town Clerk, USPS, CSWD, medical practices and others, for their continued service to our community during the past year as well as our Mace House friends..

Please sign up on the bulletin board to make and deliver cookies or sign up online using this [link](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAEAE2EA2F9C70-cookie#/): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CAEAE2EA2F9C70-cookie#/>

Cookies may be delivered at your convenience leading up to Feb.14th. If you live outside of Williston, please consider delivering cookies to an organization in your city or town. Thank you note cards, to include with the cookies, can be found on the bulletin board or feel free to write your own note. If possible, and with the recipient's permission, please take a photo when you deliver the cookies. For more information, contact [Carol Bouchard](#).



### **Women's Brunch**

All the church women are invited to brunch at Chef's Corner in Williston the first Saturday of each month starting at 11:00 AM. This is a great way to connect socially and enjoy excellent food, at a locally acclaimed restaurant. Contact: Kathy Quesnel at [kathyquesnel@gmail.com](mailto:kathyquesnel@gmail.com) for additional information.



### **Pancake breakfast on February 15**

Don't miss the annual Mardi Gras pancake breakfast in Fellowship Hall following worship on Sunday, February 15. The Christian Education Committee will again help host this wonderful time of food and fellowship. You don't want to miss it!



### **Mark your calendars!**

On Saturday, March 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Williston Federated Church will again host a workshop led by the nationally-renowned church vitality coach Rev. Paul Nickerson. Methodist and UCC congregations across Vermont are invited to attend this event as well.

Paul Nickerson's workshops are always engaging and entertaining—and his presentation approach helps to inspire congregations to come up with their own creative ideas to implement the outreach strategies he recommends. His training around discipleship and stewardship is deeply meaningful as well.

Our congregation has been blessed by the coaching of Paul Nickerson in the past. (Some of our most effective outreach ideas came from our coaching sessions with Paul.) We hope that you will make plans to attend. Please RSVP to Pam at the church office ([WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com](mailto:WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com) or 802-878-5792) to indicate your interest in attending.

*A lunch of soup & sandwiches with a morning snack will be provided to all attendees. A signup to help with this will be posted on the bulletin board.*



### **A compelling conversation that we need right now**

A nation broken by injustice. A society riven by division. Sound familiar? This was the world that confronted Howard Thurman, a great African American pastor and theologian of the twentieth century. Howard Thurman's writings proved deeply relevant to the Civil Rights movement and remain remarkably relevant today.

In the coming weeks, we, too, can benefit from the abundant wisdom offered by this significant spiritual leader. Beginning Thursday, January 29, our pastoral (seminarian) intern Dr. Jill Irvine will lead an adult study series focused upon the life and thought of Howard Thurman. Our window into his work will be a more recent book authored by Lerita Coleman Brown entitled *What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman*.

The schedule will be as follows:

Thursday, January 29 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 5 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 12 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, February 19 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
Thursday, March 5 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

NOTE: There will be **no** session on Thursday, February 26. (And for the duration of this study series, the "responding to racism" conversation will occur in the context of these Howard Thurman-

focused sessions. The usual “responding to racism” conversations will resume on their regular schedule on March 12.)

These sessions will take place in Fellowship Hall—and will be made available online via Zoom. A light meal of soup and bread will be provided for those attending in-person (courtesy of the Christian Education Committee).

Please RSVP to Pam at the church office ([WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com](mailto:WillistonFederatedChurch@gmail.com) or 802-878-5792) to indicate your interest in attending.



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  
Choir Accompanist – Suiong Wong  
Nursery Caregiver – Michelle Davis



The Season of Lent, a time of contemplation and prayer as we prepare for Easter, begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The following resources were compiled by Donna Fellingner of our congregation.

**"OUTGROW" {The UCC (United Church of Christ) Lenten Booklet}**

This booklet presents different ways to view 'giving up something for Lent.'

The booklet is written by individuals who are part of the "God Is Still Speaking, Writers' Group." Each writing includes a title, a Bible verse and perspectives on 'Out Growing.'

The season of Lent presents a special opportunity to intentionally invest time in considering spiritual growth. Below is a list of a few resources that some in our church have found meaningful in their spiritual journeys. You are invited to explore these or others to use in your daily time of meditation and/or prayer.

Devotional Possibilities from the Education Committee

1. UCC (United Church of Christ) daily devotions:

<https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/> (Free)

2. UCC Lenten Devotional Booklet:

*"Outgrow"* A few booklets are available on the prayer table in the 'gallery'.

LINK: [thepilgrimpress.com](http://thepilgrimpress.com)

Or Google through Pilgrim Press

If hard copies are not available (\$5.00 + shipping) PDF copies are available on line for \$3,

3. Retired United Methodist Pastor Steve Garnaas-Holmes' meaningful devotionals found at [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net) (free). Many in our congregation know Rev. Garnaas-Holmes.

4. <https://www.upperroom.org/devotionals> (free)

5. Richard Rohr daily meditations (free) <https://cac.org/daily-meditations/> or Google

6. "The Book of Awakening" - a book by Mark Nepo of daily readings inviting the life you want by being present to the life you have.

7. Rev. Cameron Trimble (PilotingFaith) <http://www.pilotingfaith.org> (free)

In his introduction to the Lenten Devotional 'OUTGROW' Kenneth L. Samuel, an African/American minister in Atlanta, presents an invitation to grow in the Spirit. He writes: "Trials this season will not relent. But neither will our growth in the Spirit"