

The Steeple Newsletter – **January 2026**



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

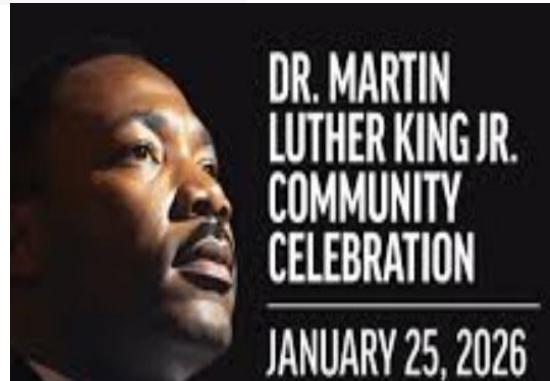


Open and Affirming, Reconciling Pledge

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.)



Susie Dickin – Jan. 10th
Carol Bouchard – Jan. 11th
Cathi Brody - Jan. 13th
Peet Grobler – Jan. 16th
Katherine Wayman – Jan. 18th
Charlene Muir – Jan. 21st
Joanna Cole – Jan. 23rd
Alaina Mejia – Jan. 25th
Molly Dickin & Reg Melrose – Jan. 27th
D.A. Wendeborn - Jan. 28th
Lois Mason – Jan. 30th



Charlie & Rose Hanson – Jan. 25th
Rod & Charlene Muir – Jan. 30th

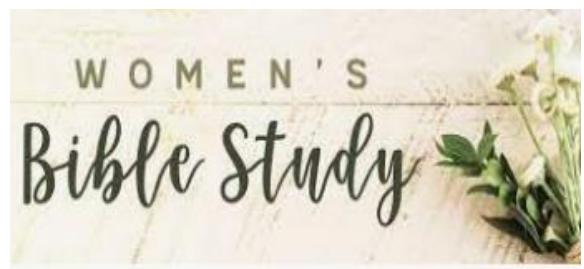
We rejoice with and give thanks for these members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in January. We would love to celebrate your birthday/anniversary in the monthly newsletter. If you would like to be included, please send names & dates to Carol Bouchard, Membership Committee Chair, at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

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 Fellinger 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. Our January books are two books by Claire Keegan. 'Foster' and 'Small Things Like These' Our book for February is 'Home Front' by Kristin Hannah. 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.



Thank you!!

The staff of Williston Federated Church offers its heartfelt thanks for the lovely Christmas baskets that we received last year. The delightful goodies helped to fill our holidays with delicious treats, and the thoughtful gesture of affirmation brightened our spirits. Thank you for the lovely gift!



New Ministry for Widows or Widowers

As of January 11, 2026, the WFC Widow/Widower Support Group Monthly Meetings will be held the 2nd Sunday of each month at 11:00 AM in the WFC "Sitting Room" just past Pastor Paul's Office. This is a caring and empathetic group that supports each other through active

listening, compassion, and understanding. Ministry Leaders: Kathy Quesnel, Carol Burbank and Ursula White



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



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](#).



Trustee and Greenworks Ministry Update

Trustees, and Greenworks Ministry tackled a number of energy efficiency projects, on two church buildings, in 2025.

1. Our Mace house, which we rent to low-income families, has qualified for free weatherization from Champlain Valley Office of

Economic Opportunity (CVOEO). They will do an energy audit of the home, and then upgrade insulation, and other systems that qualify. They hope to get to us by spring or summer of 2026!

2. We are working with Vermont Gas and Cx Associates on efficiency recommendations for the church building. VGS did a walk-through energy audit and gave us DIY projects. Then VGS arranged for Cx to do a blower test energy audit on Dec. 29th. We will receive a report with recommendations on how we can save energy/lower costs/reduce greenhouse gasses. VGS paid for half of the cost and we applied for a grant to cover the other half of the energy audit cost.

3. Two Air Source Heat pumps were installed in Fellowship Hall Dec. 26th. They are now providing heat, and in summer will cool Fellowship Hall and the Kitchen area. We received the 30% point of sale rebates by purchasing this equipment in early December. (These rebates ended Dec. 31, 2025). We are applying for State of Vt., Federal, and Vt Interfaith Power and Light grants to further reduce the cost to the church.

Many thanks for the support from all the Trustees, and Greenworks ministry team, and to those who are putting in extra time on these projects: Dan Clark, Rebecca and Joseph Dubois, Martin Hain, Joan Ebbeson, Cliff Hook, Kim Hornung-Marcy, Carmyn Stanko, Susan and Tony Lamb, Bruce Wyatt.

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 or 802-878-5792) to indicate your interest in attending.



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!



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 Christian Education Committee is procuring a fixed number of these books to be available for those participating in the study. (The books are available in hardback only, so if you can contribute ten dollars or more to help defer the expense of the book incurred by the committee, that would be welcome.)

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 or 802-878-5792) to indicate your interest in attending.