

The Steeple Newsletter – **March, 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 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



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.)

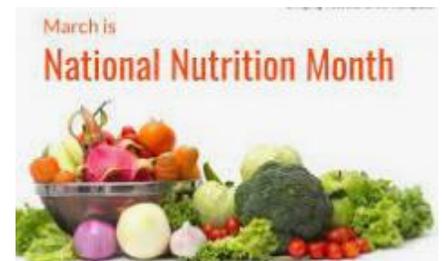


celebrate!



Joshua Hain – March 1st
Kathleen Cote – March 3rd
Ben Hain – March 4th
Janice Mejia – March 7th
Carol Pierce – March 7th
Martin Rivera – March 15th
Ruby Hall – March 15th
Derek Allen – March 19th
Emme Andrews -- March 23
Jon Santor – March 24th
Sara Moran – March 27th
Edward Hall - March 29th
Leah Leister - March 29th

LENT 2026		
Ash Wednesday February 18	First Lent Sunday February 22	Palm Sunday March 29
Holy Thursday April 2	Good Friday April 3	Easter Sunday April 5



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


MARCH

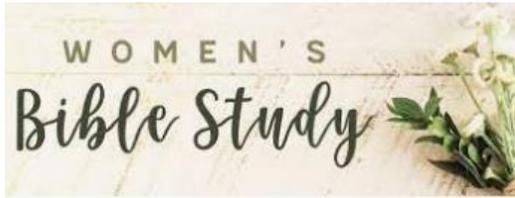
 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Thursday afternoon Centering Prayer Group

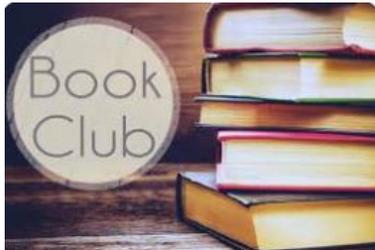
The Centering Prayer Group moved back to Thursdays with a start time of 2:00pm. The Centering Prayer group gathers via Zoom ONLY for silent prayer and Bible discussion. For Zoom code or questions call/text Donna Fellingner 802-355-1700 or email at donnafellnergvt@gmail.com



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 both in person in the Sitting Room (near Church office) and on ZOOM on Mondays from 1:30-2:30pm. If you

are interested, please contact Sally at ssmetro9@gmail.com



Church Book Club

Our Book Club has chosen the following interesting books for our winter-spring meetings. Please try to join us.

On March 19 the book is 'The River We Remember' by William Kent Krueger, on April 16 the book is 'The Women' by Kristin Hannah.

The book club meets on the third Wednesday of the month in the Church fellowship hall at 2 p.m. Lois Mason 879-7263



Acolyte Training

Our worship is enhanced by the role of children and youth who light the candles that grace the altar at the beginning of each Sunday morning worship service. The official liturgical name for these candle-lighting youth is "acolyte." If you are in the third grade or higher and are interested in training to become an acolyte, let Pastor Paul know.



Rummage Sale March 27th & 28th

We are looking for donations of gently worn clothing for all ages, clean and in good condition, as well as linens, shoes, jewelry, purses. Think textiles. Please no household items. Donations may be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, March 23rd. Tables will be set up and labeled. If you have time, please take a moment

to place your items on the appropriate tables. Folks are needed to help with table set up on Sunday the 22nd after coffee hour, sort clothes during the week, work at the sale Friday & Saturday and to help take the left over items to Restore, Resource & Goodwill on Saturday. If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen or contact Carol Bouchard at 862-7400 or carolbouchard@gmail.com Note: Please no donations before March 23rd



Mark your calendars!

On Saturday, March 7, from 10:00 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 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.

A lunch of soup and sandwiches with a morning snack will be provided to all attendees. Please [follow this link to sign up](#) or sign up on the bulletin board at church.



Women's Potluck Breakfast April 11th with Guest Speaker Ric Cengeri, Outreach & Communications Specialist for HomeShare Vermont

Calling all women. Please save the date for the Annual Women's Breakfast: April 11th 8:30 -10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our guest speakers will include

Ric Cengeri, Outreach & Communications Specialist for [HomeShare Vermont](#) who will explain how the program works. Nancy Stone will share her experiences as Host with four matches and her current match will discuss his experience as a Guest.

There will also be a brief business meeting to decide how we might allocate the money we have raised through our two major fundraisers. A sign up sheet for planning purposes will be posted on the bulletin board. For more information speak to [Carol Burbank](#) or [Carol Bouchard](#).



Sledding Party, March 8

The annual Williston Federated Church sledding party will be on March 8th after church at Rossignol Park. Bring your sled or coaster and be prepared for FUN! We will provide extra sleds, hot dogs, cocoa, and chips. For more details contact Heather Lewis or Susan Lamb.



Note about the Williston Federated Church Office

Our office administrator, Pam Osborne, will be away on vacation beginning March 11 and will be back in the office on March 19. Phones and emails will be lightly monitored during this time. If you know that you need something beforehand, please contact the office. Thank you.



Reaching Out with some Help from Our Friends

On Sunday, March 15th our church will receive one of our two annual "Special Offerings" supporting the vital outreach ministries which have defined so much of the work that our two denominational partners (United Methodist Church – United Church of Christ) do for us in reaching out to be

Christ's hands and heart to people in need. One Great Hour of Sharing is an ecumenical ministry supported by many denominations, including the UCC. OGHS works directly with vetted partners to provide needed assistance in many places around the world.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) – is the multi-faceted outreach program for the UMC nationally and internationally. They are renowned for their prompt, flexible and vital responses to crises. These key programs rely on support from local churches. We are blessed to have two denominational partners blessing the world. Local churches cannot be everywhere, but with our partners we can do a whole lot more together than separately.

Your gift to this offering will be split evenly between UMCOR and UCC/OGHS.

You may give through your normal means of giving to the church (electronically, check sent, or in person).



Nancy Stone paintings on display

Once again, Nancy Stone is displaying her paintings titled: 'Point of Choice'. These will be on display in the gallery during Lent. Nancy writes: "These acrylic-collage scrolls grew out of two month's sketching and painting during rehearsals of the rock opera 'Jesus Christ, Superstar', a 1989 Lyric Theater production. They present the moment when the characters face a crisis and willingly or reluctantly accept their destiny in the unfolding drama. Some Flynn Theater architectural motifs are used for the same reason that Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote the contemporary music...so that people today can respond to messages that transcend time.."

MARY MAGDALENE

Present at the crucifixion and the first to see the Risen Lord, Mary Magdalen announced His Resurrection to the apostles.

POINT OF CHOICE: Believe and tell others or run away in fear.

JUDAS

Surrounded by accusers, Judas repented, throwing down the coins paid to him for betraying Jesus.

POINT OF CHOICE: Ask for forgiveness or End his suffering.

JESUS

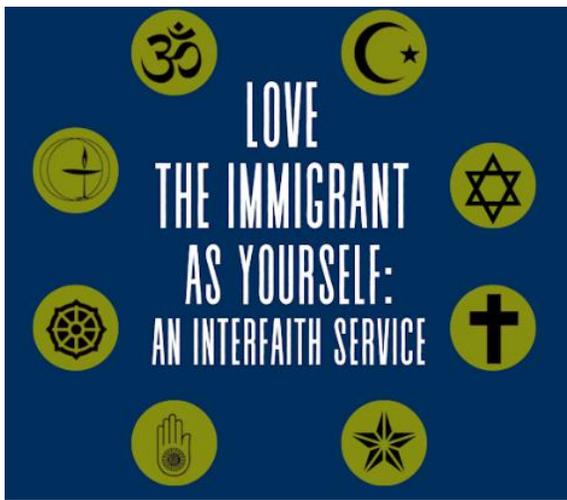
Jesus went to pray on the Mount of Olives. One hand is a fist, showing resistance; the other is open, signifying submission to His Father's will.

POINT OF CHOICE: Accept human suffering or Return to his Godliness.

PONTIUS PILATE

Submitting to the crowd's demand for Jesus' crucifixion, Pilate washed his hands of responsibility for the death of an innocent man.

POINT OF CHOICE: Free Jesus, an innocent man or give in to the threats and cries of the crowd.



Interfaith Service Honoring the Immigrants Sunday, March 1, 3pm

Coming together from diverse faith traditions across Vermont, an interfaith worship service celebrating "love for the immigrant" will be held at Temple Sinai in South Burlington **Sunday, March 1, at 3:00 p.m.**

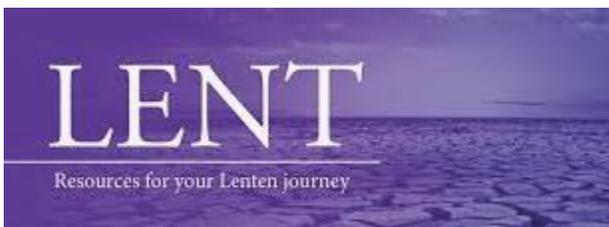
Among the speakers for this interfaith service will be **Steven Tendo**, the Ugandan pastor and healthcare worker who has been seeking asylum here in Vermont. As has been widely-reported in news accounts, earlier this year Pastor Tendo was apprehended by ICE in early February even though he has been following the legal process for pursuing asylum.. A federal judge ordered his release from ICE custody just last Friday.. (See Vermont Public’s account of this story here: <https://www.vermontpublic.org/local-news/2026-02-23/released-detention-asylum-seeker-steven-tendo>) Pastor Tendo will no doubt speak about that experience and the faith that sustains him.

Representatives from Judaism, Catholicism, Protestant Christianity, and the Hindu tradition, among others, will have roles in this service. The speakers will include Rev. Dr. Becca Girrell of the United Community Church of Morrisville (whom many of you know). And Williston Federated Church’s own Music Director **Adam Hall will lead one of the songs!**

This one-hour service promises to be a meaningful and inclusive moment to draw strength from our diverse traditions as we find common ground seeking to honor the dignity of all of God’s children. I invite you to be part of this important gathering this Sunday afternoon.



- 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
- Pianist/Organist – Suiong Wong
- Nursery Caregiver – Michelle Davis



The Season of Lent, a time of contemplation and prayer as we prepare for Easter, began on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. The *following resources are suggested by the Education Committee.*

“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

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 (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”