

# The Steeple Newsletter – May 2026



## SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

In-person and online

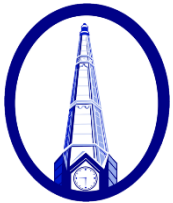
9:30 AM

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.)*



- Gary Lewis - May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Eli Jones and Brian Vaughan - May 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Carmyn Stanko and Gayle Wilcox - May 5<sup>th</sup>
- Oralia Williams - May 6<sup>th</sup> (95 years!)
- Margy Wemple – May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Sylvia Maloney - May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Mark Demers - May 10<sup>th</sup>
- Delainey Leblanc - May 11<sup>th</sup>
- Vickie Walker – May 12<sup>th</sup>
- Dan Clark - May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Gayle Goodwin - May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Armand Fournier – May 17<sup>th</sup>
- Brian Goodwin - May 18<sup>th</sup>
- Becky Johnston - May 19<sup>th</sup>
- Scott Leister - May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Eliza Andrews - May 27<sup>th</sup>
- Tony Lamb - May 28<sup>th</sup>
- Pam Osborne - May 29<sup>th</sup>



- Charlie & Ruth Magill - May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Bruce & Karen Allen - May 12<sup>th</sup>
- Mark & Jan Demers - May 26<sup>th</sup>
- Joseph & Rebecca Dubois - May 28<sup>th</sup>

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

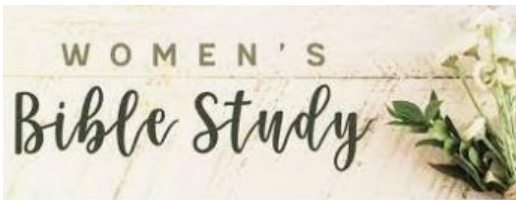


# What's Happening



## Thursday afternoon Centering Prayer Group

The Centering Prayer Group is on Friday mornings opening at 9:30am and beginning at 9:45am. 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](mailto: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 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 each month in the fellowship hall at 2 pm. Please join us to read and discuss the following books:

May 20: 'The Marriage Portrait' by Maggie O'Farrell.

June 17: 'Snow Flower and the Secret Fan' by Lisa See.

July 15: 'The Listeners' by Maggie Stiefvater.

August 19: 'The Correspondent' by Virginia Evans.

WIDOW & WIDOWER  
SUPPORT GROUP



## Ministry for Widows or Widowers

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.



### **Women's Brunch**

Our next WFC Women's Brunch social gathering will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2026, at Chef's Corner at 11:00 AM. Everyone is welcome! If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Kathy Quesnel at [kathyquesnel@gmail.com](mailto:kathyquesnel@gmail.com). See you there!



### **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.



### **2026 Stewardship Campaign**

The very wise and kind Rev. Fred Rogers said "It's not what you have in this life that matters, it's what you do with it. Each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world.

That's one of the things that connects us as

neighbors. In our own way, each of us is a giver and a receiver." Many thanks for your past giving to Williston Federated Church and please consider Mr. Rogers' most famous quote - "Won't you be my neighbor" - as you plan your future giving commitment. Our upcoming annual Stewardship Campaign will be taking place in May culminating on Consecration Sunday, May 17 and while you can pledge at any time, we would like to include your pledge in our prayer of dedication that day. Have you received your mailing yet from the Finance Committee? May 3, 10 and 17 services will include meaningful testimonials.

Have you received your mailing yet from the Finance Committee? The annual Stewardship May services will include meaningful testimonials. We encourage everyone to consider making a pledge or increasing your current pledge to help reach our goal for the next fiscal year starting July 1 in order to fund the missions of WFC. We have been blessed with a challenge, from an anonymous donor, of a matching gift of \$5,000 again this year if we can increase our commitment to giving by \$5,000! Please return your pledge by mail or in person. Together we can do this! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask any of the Finance Committee members. With our sincere thanks from your Finance Committee: Pastor Paul Eyer, Jan Demers, Barb Bristol, Susan Lamb, Simone O'Flaherty, Amy Vaughan, Joan Ebbeson, Shelley Marshall, Sandy Twombly, Dan DiBiasio, Jason Shi and Ivan Wemple.



### **Food Drive May 9th 9-11am**

Community-Wide Food & Hygiene Drive to benefit the Williston Community Food Shelf May 9th, 9-11am in the church parking lot. In addition to basic food items there is a big need for feminine hygiene items.

If you can't make it on the 9th, you can leave your donations on the table near the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers are needed on the 9th. Please sign up on the bulletin board or speak to [Carol Bouchard](#)



### **How Might You Share Your Gifts & Talents?**

The Nominating Committee has begun the process of inviting folks to serve on a church committee for the 2026-2027 fiscal year which begins July 1st. WFC plays a vital role in our lives and our response to the needs of our community and the wider world. We are asking that you prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to share your gifts and talents.

Most committees meet monthly, and many take a break in the summer.

Terms can be from 1-3 years. Committees include: Official Board, Trustees, Pastor Staff Relations, Finance, Education, Membership, Music & Worship, Missions & Social Concerns & Youth Ministry.

There is a handout on the table in the gallery that gives a description of each committee.

If you would like to volunteer or have questions about any of these committees, please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee: Rebecca Dubois, Donna Goodheart, Carol Bouchard or Pastor Paul.



### **Faith + Fellowship ♥ Fun**

Join us this summer at Illumination Station where we shine a light on who Jesus really is!

Mark your calendars! Friday July 10<sup>th</sup> through Sunday July 12<sup>th</sup>. "I am the light of the world..." - John 8:12

Be on the lookout for more information coming soon!



### HomeShare Vermont

At the Saturday April 11 brunch, the Women of the Church hosted Ric Cengeri who described the mission of HomeShare Vermont through a video and PowerPoint. Then Nancy Stone, WFC member, reflected on being a host to 4 HomeShare matches over the years. Soon Khawar Shafi spoke about moving from London, discovering HomeShare Vermont, and his experiences as Nancy's current guest....(Think deep conversations, flying kites and chasing sunsets).

Ric sent this lovely letter to Nancy, reflecting on the gathering of 40 women from the church and community:

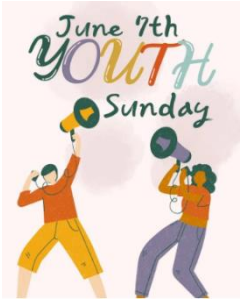
*I must tell you, that was the warmest, most beautiful group I have ever presented to. They were entirely respectful during the presentation, laughed at all the right places (and even sighed audibly in spots) and spent time with me afterwards asking more questions and offering more help. I left on a cloud of love and hope.*

*Please send my sincere thanks to every one of the group for welcoming me and allowing me to share the story of what we do. I could tell from everything they said to me that they all are committed to helping others and making our community better. I feel like I made a new roomful of friends!*

*Also, thanks for the contribution to HomeShare Vermont. Another unexpected plus that came from being there on Saturday.*

*Ric Cengeri  
HomeShare Vermont  
(802) 863-5625*





### Don't miss Youth Sunday on June 7

At Williston Federated Church, we recognize that the youth among us are not just the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today. On Sunday, June 7, some of our outstanding young people will lead us in worship. You won't want to miss this inspiring service lead by those who will carry forward God's message of love into the future.

If you or a young person you know, are interested in participating in this Youth Sunday Service, please contact Heather Lewis at [hmlewis06@gmail.com](mailto:hmlewis06@gmail.com)



### Annual congregational meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 14

The Official Board has scheduled the annual congregational meeting of Williston Federated Church to take place on Sunday, June 14 immediately following the worship service. The annual meeting will be hybrid or in-person in Fellowship Hall and online via Zoom. (See the Zoom access information below.)

Among the many great things about Williston Federated Church is that the congregation members have such a significant voice in important decisions. This is your chance to be part of those conversations!

#### Zoom access information:

Williston Federated Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: annual congregational meeting

Time: Jun 14, 2026 10:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87850084599?pwd=Bza1yMCJsBbdaQUhLAhsaCokVvi8Wv.1>

Meeting ID: 878 5008 4599

Passcode: 458003

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One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87850084599#,,,,\*458003# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,87850084599#,,,,\*458003# US

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Join by SIP

• [87850084599@zoomcrc.com](mailto:87850084599@zoomcrc.com)

Join instructions

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meetings/87850084599/invitations?signature=KExzCPaEkt97xtWz6pFSjppDJu2rXTyHsCKnk1AQlvc>

We hope that you will be part of this meaningful meeting on June 14. Committee chairs are reminded that they should have their reports in to the office by May 15.



### 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.



### Take me out to the ballgame!

On Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, join us at the field as we cheer on the Lake Monsters! Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for kids. We will have a section of tickets saved for our group. You can pay and pick them up at Will Call. Game starts at 5:05pm. Kids can run the bases and play catch on the field after the game! Sign up on the bulletin board or at <https://forms.gle/v1BMNcbuQdBjX3W96> so that we know how

many tickets to reserve. Let's go Monsters!



- 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