The Steeple Newsletter – November 2026

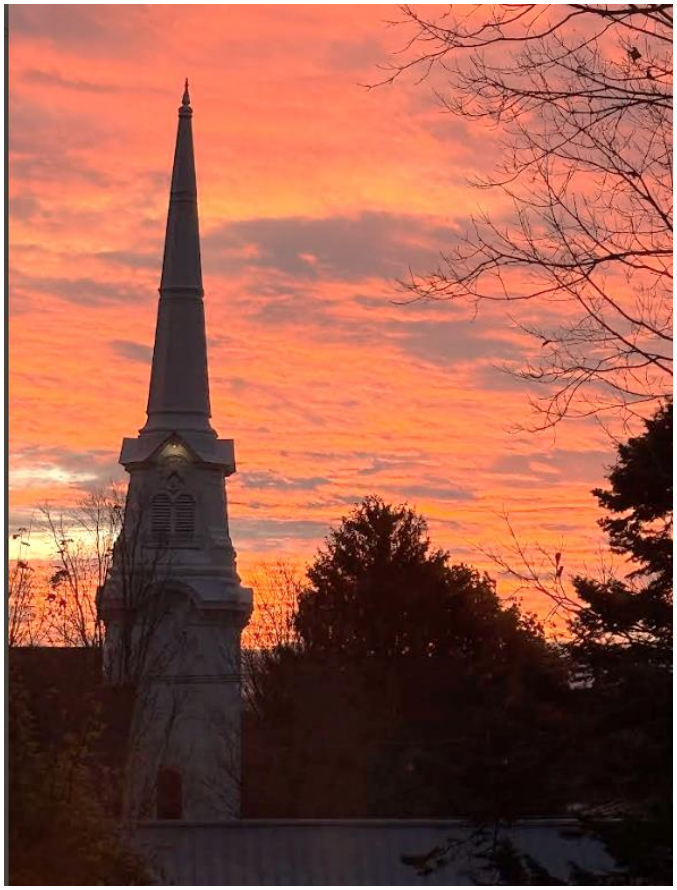


Photo by Ezra Dickin



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

Williston Federated Church

United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church
Federated in 1899

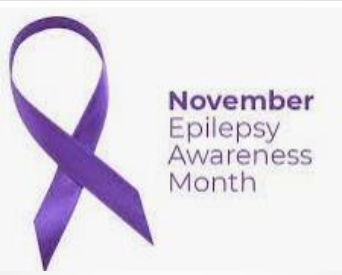
Open and Affirming, Reconciling Pledge

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.)











Ryan Allen & Julia Nesbitt – November 1st
Ethan Hain – November 2nd
Kristin Clark & Elizabeth Cortez – November 3rd
Amy Vaughan – November 4th
Leslie Murray – November 5th
Paula LeBlanc - November 17th
Bob Greene – November 29th







Joanna Cole & Sarah Flynn - November 1st
Reg Melrose & Vicki Walker – November 6st

We rejoice with and give thanks for these members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays in November. We would love to celebrate your birthday/anniversary in the monthly newsletter.

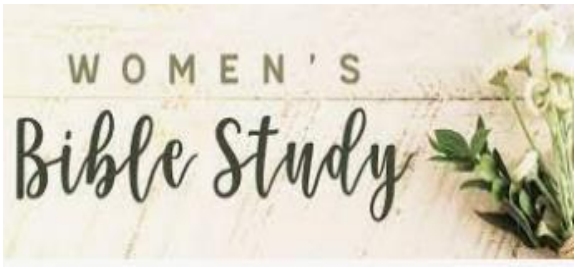
If you would like to be included, please send names & dates to Cindy Thurston, Membership Committee Chair, at **cindythurston57@gmail.com**



Come, Meet Christ, Go Serve with Us







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 every Monday afternoon on ZOOM from 1:30-2:30pm. We read and discuss books of the Bible, our understanding of them and their relevance to us today. We're a happy and curious group and welcome anyone who wishes to join us. This will be a slight diversion from reading a book of the BIble so if you're interested in joining us, please contact Sally Metro at 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:

November 18: 'Last Bus to Wisdom' by Ivan Doig
December 16: 'Theo of Golden' by Allen Levi
January 20: 'Calamity Club' by Kathryn Stockett

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.



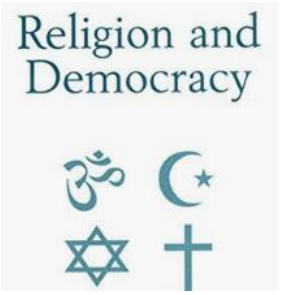
Friday Men's Bible Study

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.



Women's Social Lunch

The Williston Federated Church (WFC) is inviting all women (members/non-members/family/friends) to join us on the 1st Saturday of each month for a social activity. The brunch starts at 11:00 AM at Chef's Corner in Williston. This is an opportunity to gather, enjoy delightful conversations, and eat a delicious breakfast. We look forward to seeing you! Contact Kathy Quesnel at kathyquesnel@gmail.com



The most compelling conversation in town: Religion and Democracy

The intersection of faith and politics is a topic that is profoundly relevant and potentially explosive. Our seminarian intern, Dr. Jill Irvine, is guiding us through this potential minefield over the course of a seven-session midweek study series for adults on the timely topic "Religion and Democracy." **The first session, which began on October 8,** featured the acclaimed documentary film "Join or Die" focused on the impact--and decline--of community in America.

Each subsequent session begins at 5:00 pm with a tasty light meal of soup and bread (provided by the Education Committee) and concludes in time for choir rehearsal. Dr. Jill is facilitating these conversations that will touch on important topics like race, anti-semitism, Christian Nationalism, and the breakdown of community. Jill's leadership draws upon her professional academic expertise in the field of political science, combined with her faith-focused theological study in seminary. The discussions are riveting!

Engaging conversations on this topic will continue each Thursday evening at 5:00 pm through November 12. You don't want to miss them!

Thank you!!

Thus is a note of thanksgiving to our church family for the support you have given to our denominational partners this year through the **Neighbors-In-Need/World Communion Sunday offering**. This year the total offering came to $2528.00 (this compares to $1389.00 in 2025 and $1656.00 in 2024). This offering will go to support scholarships for underserved people and justice and witness ministries as well as supporting Native American communities in the upper Midwest. Thank you for all you do to make the world better. What a blessing. Your Mission and Social Concerns Committee



Pastor – Reverend Paul Eyer
Pastoral (seminarian) Intern – Dr. Jill Irvine
Emeritus Associate Pastor – Charlie Magill
Lay Leader – Donna-Sue Hain
Church Office Administrator – Pamela Osborne
Music Director – Adam Hall
Pianist/Organist – Suiong Wong
Nursery Caregiver – Michelle Davis





Thanksgiving Food Drive

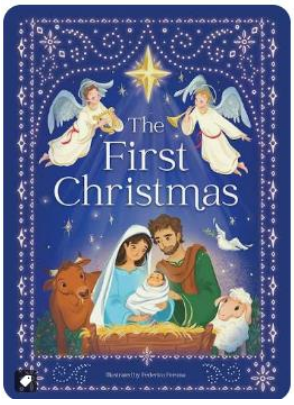
For many years our church has sponsored a November/Thanksgiving drive-through food drive, supporting the Williston Food Shelf and families connected with the Williston schools. Last year we partnered with the Williston Fire Department and Williston Police Department for a two-day food drive which was tremendously successful. Our hope was to repeat that event this year. Unfortunately, the only day the Williston Fire Department could hold their drive this year was on Saturday the 14th which was the day we were planning our food drive. As we cannot hold a drive on Sunday and not wanting to have competing drives, we have decided not to hold a November drive-through food drive this year. We enthusiastically encourage everyone to bring their food donations to the Williston Fire Department (drive-through a bay) food drive between 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on Saturday the 14th of November.



Grocery Store Gift Cards – Though we will not be holding a food drive in November to support the food shelf we will still be supporting families in need through our continued connection with the Williston Schools. For the last few years, we have done this by inviting people to purchase local grocery store gift cards.

You are invited – isn't it great to be invited – to join together to provide support for Williston school families who need a bit of help providing a Thanksgiving meal and extra food during the week of vacation. We will be collecting local grocery store gift cards (**$25.00 denominations)** from Sunday November 1st to Sunday November 15th. You may drop them off either in the offering plate on Sundays or in the box in the narthex (opposite the lift/elevator on the 2nd floor) anytime through the two weeks. Thank you for being such a blessing.
Your Mission and Social Concerns Committee





The First Christmas

Save the date! This year's Christmas pageant, "The First Christmas," will be presented during our 9:30am worship service on Sunday, December 20th. Rehearsal schedules and casting details will be shared soon. We look forward to celebrating the season together through this special story of light and hope.



Save the Date for the ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

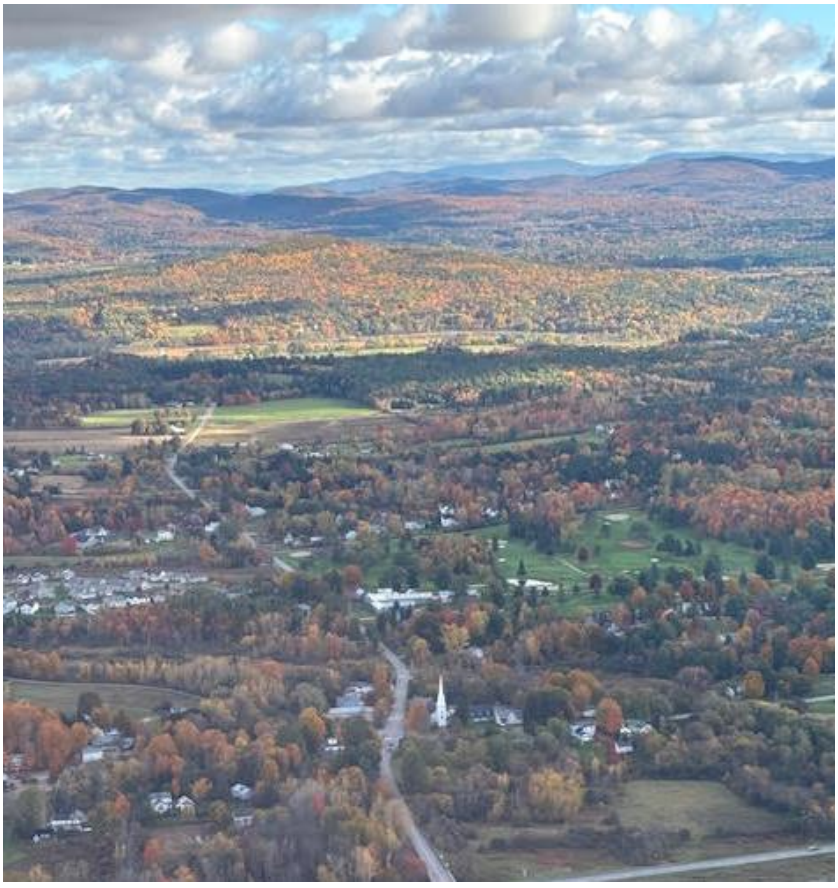
Here is a preview for the Christmas Bazaar on **November 21st** sponsored by the Women of the Church. Please sign up here or on the bulletin board at church.

- **Craft Table** - Chairperson, Carol Bouchard - We need hand crafted items such as mittens, scarves, ornaments, jewelry, wooden items, Christmas ornaments or other holiday decorations.
- **Bake Sale Table** - Chairperson, Rebecca Dubois - We need all sorts of baked goods including pies, cakes, cookies, candies, breads, jams, pickles, fudge etc. The bake sale table is one of the most popular. ***Please package cookies, bars, fudge etc. in small packages.***
- **Plant Table** – Chairperson Sally Metro - We are looking for houseplants, dried flowers, bulbs, wreaths, gourds, gifts for gardeners.
- **Attic Treasures –** Chairperson, Sylvia Maloney & Shelley Marshall– We are looking for ***small*** items: collectibles, old linens, jewelry, Christmas decorations, small treasures.
- **Soups To Go -** Chairperson, Heather Lewis - We are seeking soups pre-packaged in containers (to be provided) & delivered cold to church Friday or Saturday morning.
- **Nancy Stone** - will be selling her artwork
- **JJ Garcia** - will be selling his crafty creations.
- **Partners in Adventure** - will be selling granola.

Set Up – Thursday, November 19th 9-12 and Friday, November 20th 9-1 - Bring your donated items and come help us set up.



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:



Autumn picture of Williston (including the church steeple) from the air by Pam Osborne October 15, 2026

live-streaming at
facebook.com/WillistonFederatedChurch







Please join us for the Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday at 9:30am December 20
in the Williston Federated Church sanctuary (in person and live-streamed)



Wednesday, December 16 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.



Thursday, 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.



Thursday, 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.



Thursday, December 24 at 11pm -- Community Christmas Eve service
in the Old Brick Church (in person only)





Sunday, December 27 "Worship Around the Breakfast Table"
Join us on December 27th 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.