

The Steeple Newsletter – September, 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

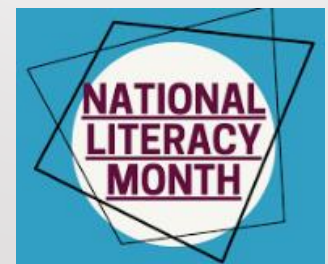


United Church of Christ and United Methodist Church
Federated in 1899



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.)



Bruce Allen- September 7th
 Heather Rivera - September 4th
 Jonah Wayman and Donna Fellingner – September 6th
 Bruce Allen – September 7th
 Bruce Wyatt – September 9th
 William Santor – September 11th
 Carlos Rivera – September 14th
 Meaghan Goodheart – September 17th
 Michael Moran – September 23rd
 Bryan Connelly – September 25th

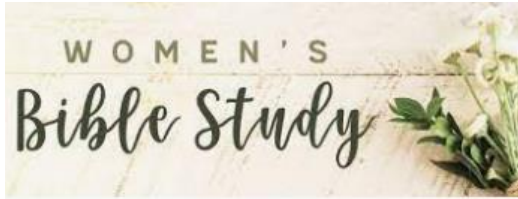


Martin & Donna-Sue Hain - September 1
 Bob & Sandy Twombly - September 4
 Rick & Barb Bristol and Tony & Susan Lamb - September 7
 Marty & Cathy Connelly - September 8

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING

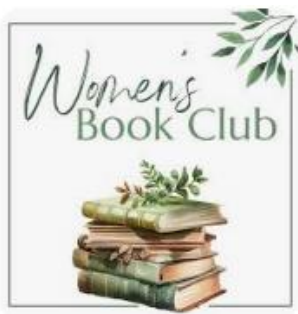


Women's Bible Study

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. We will reconvene on Monday, September 14. 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:

September 16: 'The Yellow House' by Sarah Broom

October 21: 'The Berry Pickers' by Amanda Peters

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



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.



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



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



Welcome back Jill!

We are delighted to welcome back among us our seminarian (pastoral) intern, Dr. Jill Irvine. Jill is embarking on her final year of studies toward a Master of Divinity degree from the Moravian University School of Theology.

Jill comes to us with an extraordinary background. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from Harvard University. She was a Fullbright Scholar whose focus upon international relations led her to spend time among the once-warring successor

states to the former Yugoslavia. During her exemplary academic career she served as professor, department chair, dean, and acting provost. But God had other plans, and Jill's faithful response to that call led her to seminary and ultimately to us.

We were blessed to have Jill among us last year and we are privileged that she has returned to share her gifts with our congregation again this academic year! (And now she is a member of our congregation as well.) Let us welcome her warmly!



Pride Parade on September 13

The Pride Parade in downtown Burlington will take place this year on Sunday, September 13. We will assemble at King Street near the Hood plant by 11:30am that day. The parade kicks off at 12 noon. This represents a wonderful opportunity for our church to offer public witness to the inclusive message of the gospel. If you are interested in participating in the

parade, please contact Cathi Brody at cbrody1@comcast.net.



Corn Roast and Sundae Sunday September 20!

Join us September 20th after worship as we bid a fond farewell to summer and celebrate the beginning of a new program year.

We will gather on the church lawn, weather permitting, or in the Fellowship Hall. Corn on the cob, burgers, hot dogs, salad,

watermelon, and ice cream sundaes are on the menu. (And it's all free!) Co-sponsored by the Education and Membership Committees.

Help is needed with setup, grilling & cleanup. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board or [follow this link to an online signup](#). Co-sponsored by the Education and Membership Committees.



Coming Soon!

Award-winning film-maker Bess O'Brien of Kingdom County Production is showing her documentary film titled "Every Day: Big and Small". Covering positive and joyful things happening in our state, one of the 15 stories covers HomeShare Vermont with Nancy Stone, a member of WFC, and Khawar, her HomeShare match. You may remember that last autumn Bess filmed our congregation, Nancy singing in the choir and our historical church building nestled in the village. Bess said the film ends with Nancy and Khawar flying a kite at nearby Catamount Outdoor Family Center. More publicity will be coming out in local media. Save the date: Saturday, September 26th at 7 p.m. Williston Central School auditorium. Tickets are \$15.



Come Join Our Church Family! Meeting September 27 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 September 27 11:00-12:00 in the Sitting Room. Pastor Paul; Donna Sue Hain, our Lay Leader; and Cindy Thurston, Membership Committee Chair will be there to answer your questions. Also, we would be delighted to hear about you and your faith journey! Being a full member is not a requirement for participating in most

aspects of church life. It is, however, an opportunity to make a public statement of Christian witness. If you have questions, speak to Pastor Paul or Cindy Thurston. To assist with planning please RSVP Cindy at cindythurston57@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you there!

Your Church Website
In 2026



Church Website Redesign

I have a dream.

I have a dream that WFC could have a location that was available 24/7 where one could access information that would help us live our

motto of "Come, Meet Christ and Go Serve With Us".

An information site that would communicate:

1. Who we are
2. When and where events are happening (committees, small groups, special events)
3. How to support us
4. Administrative information

An updated, redesigned, modern, user-friendly website for our WFC congregation looking for details about the life of the church and for our friends and neighbors who are looking for a spiritual home.

We already have a small core group that will be working on updating/redesigning our website. We would welcome anyone else who feels their skills or desires could help with this important function.

The expectation is that, for the most part, this would be a targeted project with a finite end point, not a committee that would continue to meet.

If this is just the sort of opportunity you've been waiting for, please contact Donna-Sue Hain, 802-598-6612, dshainvt@gmail.com, who will be facilitating this group.



Looking ahead to October...

Next month, some exciting things are in store as well. These include the following:

Sunday, October 4 at 9:30 am

World Communion Sunday, a joyous celebration of the delightful and diverse expressions of our faith around the world.

Sunday, October 4 in the afternoon

Blessing of the Animals, an annual tradition We will gather with pets and animals--or photos of the same--near the volleyball courts and the new pavilion on the recreational path at Village Community Park (easily accessed from the church parking lot west of North Williston Road).

Thursday, October 15 at 5:00 pm

Dr. Jill Irvine begins a six-session midweek study series for adults on the timely topic "Religion and Democracy." Taking place in Fellowship Hall, these sessions will begin with a tasty light meal of soup and bread (provided by the Education Committee) and will conclude in time for choir rehearsal. Compelling conversations on this topic will continue each Thursday evening at 5:00 pm through November 19.

Saturday evening, October 24

"Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" a delightful chance to connect with other congregation members. Look for more details!

A host of other exciting opportunities await us in October as well. We have a lot to look forward to!



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

Partners In Adventure

Providing programming for young people with & without disabilities, fostering friendship, independence & building self-esteem.

To the Congregation of the Williston Federated Church:

THANK YOU!

Partners In Adventure has just finished another amazing summer camp program! We are so thankful for the support the church has provided us for the last few years!

Thank you for sharing a space with us that is just right in so many ways! We love the convenience of being close to many of our summer adventure venues, and the use of the kitchen adds sweet opportunities for life skills associated with making and baking snack recipes.

This summer camp program adds so much to enriching the summer lives of our participants and families! Part of our mission is to honor diversity while providing unique experiences that foster independence, self-esteem, & build social & community connections. If you care to learn more about PIA, our website is: www.partnersinadventure.org

Thank you again for enabling us to have such a wonderful summer!

With sincere gratitude, the Summer Staff of Partners In Adventure, all of our participants and families, and especially Sue Minter and Joan Martin, Directors.

