

Williston Federated Church

United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ – Federated 1899 An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation

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.)

Mission Statement

Our church is an inclusive community which enthusiastically welcomes and gathers all people to share the wonder of God's love. Together we seek to find fullness of life through Jesus' teachings, to reach out into the world to live lovingly and justly as followers of Christ, and to respond actively to human needs. (Adopted by the Williston Federated Church congregation in 2024.)

Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

Sunday – June 28, 2026, 9:30 A.M.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Donna Sue Hain, Lay Leader,
Williston Federated Church

Leader: In a world shaped by conflict, where we seem to be slipping back into tribal divisions,

All: we are called to welcome those with whom we might have little in common.

Leader: In a culture full of inequalities which only seem to be widening,

All: we are called to treat each person as family.

One: In a time of intensifying injustices which are found in every community, if not in every neighborhood,

All: we are called to embrace God's radical hope.

PRELUDE

Suiong Wong

WELCOME

Pastor Paul Eyer

WORDS OF PEACE

Pastor Paul Eyer

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE

Pastor Paul Eyer

OPENING HYMN “Welcome (Let’s Walk Together)”
 Songbook #198
 (sing all verses)
(copyright license CCLI #176957 and #20480319)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: Holy and Liberating God, You gather us in all our colors and all our names. You gather the loud and the quiet, the certain and the questioning, the joyful and the grieving, the healed and the healing.

All: You gather people of all places and races and backgrounds. You gather people from nearby and from far away.

One: Your love reaches children born in this country and children born in far-off lands. Your love reaches children from nuclear families, from extended families, from chosen families. Your love reaches straight children, LGBTQ-plus children, and nonbinary children. Your love reaches children who are oppressed. Your love reaches children in war zones and in disaster areas. Your love reaches children in safe neighborhoods and supportive communities.

All: Your grace extends to adults who are strong and to those who are struggling. Your grace extends to the very old and to the very young and to everyone in between.

One: Root us beside living water. Root us in love that does not flinch. Root us in affirmation and hospitality that reflects your boundless love. Root us in a sense of justice and in a spirit of welcome.

All: Let this worship be both sanctuary and spark. Let it be balm for the wounded and fire for the faithful. Let this worship remind us that we are yours. Amen.

ANTHEM “Psalm One”
 (sung in Swahili, as taught to us by our Congolese friends)
 Adam Hall, conducting (Suiong Wong, piano)

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Pastor Paul Eyer

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor (and children): The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you

SERMONIC HYMN "Jesu, Jesu"

UMC (red) Hymnal #432

(verses 2 and 3, using lyrics from the New Century Hymnal for verse 2)

(Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

(verse 2—from the New Century Hymnal)

Neighbors are rich and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are near and far away.

(Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

(verse 3—identical in both the New Century Hymnal and UMC Hymnal)

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love; all these are neighbors to us and you.

(Refrain)

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.

SCRIPTURE: Mathew 10:40-42

Adam Hall

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (*Psalm 19:14*)

All: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.

MESSAGE: "Whoever Welcomes"

Pastor Paul Eyer

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

Pastor Paul Eyer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Lord of Life and Love,

Congregation: Hear our prayer.

SILENT MEDITATION

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor Paul Eyer

CALL TO OFFERING

Pastor Paul Eyer

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Suiong Wong

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*unison*)

Pastor Paul Eyer

All: God of abundance, receive these gifts we offer this day. May they empower welcome to neighbors near and far. May they extend care for those who have been cast out. May these gifts grow into justice, joy, safety, and beloved community. Bless what we give. Bless what we build together. Bless a world in need. Amen.

LIFE AND MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Pastor Paul Eyer

CLOSING HYMN “God, Whose Love is Reigning o’er Us”
UMC (red) Hymnal #100
(sing verses 1, 2, and 5)

Suiong Wong

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Pastor Paul Eyer

POSTLUDE

Suiong Wong

*Liturgical resources: The **Call to Worship** was adapted from “Liturgy for June 29, 2024 (Proper 8) from Lectionary Liturgies by Thom Shuman found at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/06/liturgy-for-june-29-2014-proper.html>*

*The **Prayer for Today** and **Prayer of Dedication** were adapted from a liturgy for Open and Affirming Sunday with the theme “We Shall Not Be Moved! Rooted in Love, Justice, and Affirmation” by Rev. Derek A. Terry, Acting Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition, United Church of Christ, found at <https://openandaffirming.org/ona26>*