



**ALL ARE WELCOME! (Open and Affirming, Reconciling Statement) :**

*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 and embraced by the WFC congregation in February, 2006.)*

**LASTING INSPIRATION  
Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor**

**LASTING INSPIRATION**

If you are like me, one of the first challenges that you face in the new year comes when you are asked to write today's date—and today's date is no longer in 2018. It is that last digit that is the problem! Or more likely, the problem is my inertia in moving from one year to the next. But I prefer to think that that part of me is just still lingering in reflection on uplifting events in the previous year.

A new year has begun, and it is filled with exciting possibilities. But as we bid farewell to the past year, perhaps like me you are still buoyed by some of our shared experiences in the just-concluded Advent and Christmas seasons.

Blessings were abundant! On the First Sunday of Advent, we recognized the faithful service of our communion stewards (Rebecca Dubois, Shelley Marshall, Robin and Trent Coletta) for their work (often done behind the scenes) to prepare for communion on the first Sunday of each month.

The Giving Tree in the Gallery overflowed with gifts for needy families. Contributions to worthy ministries were made as part of the Alternative Gift Fair. (Here is a very big thank you to the Missions and Social Concerns Committee for organizing those efforts.)

In the annual Christmas Pageant the children and youth reminded us again of the appeal of the Christmas story to the young—and young at heart. (Thank you to the Christian Education Committee and the parents who organized this amazing event!)

Inside this issue:

Message from Pastor Paul	1-2
Racism in America	3
Thank You	4
Navigating Medical System	4
History Lesson	5-6
Coffee Hour Greeters	7
Shoveling Need	7
Membership Drive	8
Dismiss House	8
Prayer Time	10
Composting	10
Calendar	11

And then on Christmas Eve, we came together as a community. (Over 100 people attended the 5:00 p.m. family service. For the 7:30 p.m. candlelight service, we had printed 200 bulletins—and they were ALL distributed before the start of the service!)

Let us offer a huge “thank you” to the Music and Worship Committee for their herculean effort to coordinate countless details so that the Christmas Eve services—and indeed all of the services throughout Advent and Christmas—would be filled with meaning.)

At the 5:00 p.m. service, the children and youth helped to tell the Christmas story in an interactive way, led by liturgical assistants Delainey LeBlanc and Lauren Vaughan. At the 7:30 p.m. service, the music from our choir and guest soloist Helen Lyons was inspiring, enhancing the scripture readings offered by multiple church members.

And at each service we sang beloved Christmas carols, including “Silent Night” on the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its composition and first performance. (At the 7:30 p.m. service, this carol was accompanied by Martin Hain on guitar, the same instrument used to accompany that first performance precisely two centuries earlier.)

And as happens each year when “Silent Night” is sung, our sanctuary was bathed in beautiful candlelight. On the final verse, as each person in attendance lifted their candle heavenward, it was as if the incarnation of Christ was reenacted before our eyes:

*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people...The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

(John 1:3b-4, 9 NRSV)

It was a visual memory that last for a lifetime!

And then we closed out the year with “Worship Around the Breakfast Table” as Polly Malik and Vickie Walker (assisted by the Membership Committee) fed us a fabulous meal immediately following an informal worship service on the last Sunday of 2018. During the “Time with Children,” Polly and Vickie shared about the meaningful feeding ministry that they offer to the homeless.

The new year brings exciting opportunities. As we turn that calendar page, however, may the inspiring experiences of the year past continue to carry us forward.

Uplifted by inspiration with staying power,

Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor

# Racism in America

And Why We Should Care



Fifth Meeting and Topic

## *Us and Them*

*To What Extent Do We Identify with the Norm or the Abnormal?*

Emily Bernard, Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, UVM

For nearly four centuries white racism has set the standard of what is in or out, beautiful or ugly, powerful or weak, normal or abnormal; and that standard has influenced how people of color see themselves, and themselves in relation to white people.

*Each forum is a potluck gathering where we invite you to share a dish along with your thoughts.*

Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 6:30 pm at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
273 Vermont Route 15, Jericho, Vermont



Dear Pastor Staff Committee and Women of the Church:

Thank you, thank you for the beautiful baskets! Once again you spoil us with delicious treats and thoughtful gifts. It is *truly our pleasure* to

work with all of you. Thank you for the privilege!

Blessings,

Rev. Paul, Martin, Ashley, Carolyn, Carol and Sally

## Navigating the Medical System



**Second Sunday.** Starting in January and usually happening on the second Sunday of every month Sally Metro and Toby Rockwood will hold a meeting at 11am after church in the Sitting Room to talk about how to navigate the medical system, how to communicate with your doctor/PA/NP, how to participate in your health care, and to answer any questions you have about your health needs. Deb Beckett will also be available to answer questions about the VA system.

Because of other church scheduling the first of these sessions will take place on January 20, the third Sunday. But future meetings will always be on the second Sunday. Please join us, bring your coffee and your questions.

## In The Beginning

Articles from local newspapers tell of happenings between the years 1829 and 1856 at Eagle Hall/Tavern which once occupied the site our church sits on today. Records tell us the building of the church began around 1867 and a dedication was held in 1869. A celebration of our church's 150th anniversary will be held in October 2019.

A committee has been formed to share the history and happenings throughout the years with an article each month in our newsletter and presentation of specific events from the past. Committee for 150th celebration are: Deb Beckett, Pastor Paul Eyer, Ginger Isham, Tony Lamb, Bill Skiff and Carmyn Stanko.

### Notice.

**A**LL persons who feel interested in the erection of a bridge across Onion River, between Williston and Essex, at or near Mr. Eli Chittenden's; are hereby requested to meet at Eagle Hall, in Williston, on the 12th day of August, 1829, at 1 o'clock, P. M. to adopt such measures as shall then be considered expedient for carrying the aforesaid plan into operation.

THE PUBLIC.

July 13, 1829.

### DR. CARL VOLK.

FROM GERMANY.

(LATE from *Harmony N. Y.*) Tenders his medical services to the inhabitants of Williston and vicinity. His intention being to settle permanently amongst them, he hopes to be favoured with their patronage. His office is at the Eagle Hall, kept by Mr. Raymond in the village of Williston.

Williston Oct. 25 1839



**COTILLIONS.  
AT THE EAGLE HALL.**  
MESSRS. SHERMAN & Co.

**F**IRST COTILLION PARTY will be hold-  
en at the EAGLE HALL in Williston, on  
Wednesday the 27th of December inst.,--to  
be continued every two weeks through the  
season. First rate music to be furnished.  
Williston, Dec. 20, 1843.

**FIRE IN WILLISTON.**—A destructive fire oc-  
curred in Williston village Sunday last. Be-  
tween nine and ten o'clock in the forenoon, the  
Eagle Tavern, a large three-story brick building,  
was discovered to be on fire in the roof, and as  
the wind was blowing very high, efforts were  
unavailing to extinguish it, and it was entirely  
consumed, with barns and out-buildings. There  
was no insurance on the property. The burn-  
ing shingles, carried by the wind, set fire to the  
house and barns of Mr. R. Moreton, nearly a  
quarter of a mile distant, which were burned,  
with another barn near by. Mr. Morton had  
an insurance of \$600 on his property, and it was  
called the finest residence in Williston.

May 1, 1956

**The Methodist Society at Williston, have  
commenced the erection of a new Church, on  
the "old Eagle tavern" site in the village.  
The building will be of wood 40x64½ feet,  
and built at an estimated expense of \$15,000.  
It is expected to be ready for occupancy about  
the 1st of next January.**

June 20, 1868

***Coffee Hour Hosts & Greeters Are Needed*** - Sunday morning coffee hour is a great time to catch up with friends & to welcome visitors. Please consider signing up to provide a snack. Coffee hour snacks do not have to be elaborate. The snack can be as simple as a loaf of sweet bread or some crackers & cheese. If you aren't comfortable making coffee, the Membership Committee person in charge that week, can help. Greeters play an important role for anyone visiting our church for the first time. A greeter provides that first word of welcome and directions to the sanctuary. From Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." If you have questions, speak to a member of the committee: Ruth Magill, Vicki Trueman, Sally Metro, Carol Burbank, Elaine Pellechia or Carol Bouchard. The sign up sheet is on the bulletin board.



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## **TRUSTEE'S NEED**

Looking to hire an individual to shovel the walk after a snowfall. If you are interested, please contact Tony Lamb email [stolat36@gmail.com](mailto:stolat36@gmail.com)

## Membership Opportunity

**On January 13th**



All are welcome here at WFC. Being a full member of the church is not a requirement for participation in all aspects of worship, serving on committees, providing outreach and service to others. It is an opportunity to make a public statement of Christian witness. 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 Jan 13th in the sitting room, beginning right after worship and concluding around noon. Child care will be available. At this meeting you will learn more about what church membership means, hear a bit of the history of WFC and our denominational connections to the United Methodist and the United Church of Christ and have an opportunity to meet with others. If you are interested in attending and would like a “Membership Information Packet” in advance, please speak to Pastor Paul Eyer or a member of the Membership Committee: Carol Bouchard, Ruth Magill, Sally Metro, Elaine Pellechia, Carol Burbank or Vicki Trueman. New members will be received at the end of January or early February during worship. The date is to be determined.



### **DISMIS HOUSE DINNER**

#### **SIGN-UP 2019**

Dismas House Dinners Looking for a worthwhile volunteer opportunity for 2019? Consider preparing and serving a meal at Dismas House. Dismas House is a transitional housing facility in downtown Burlington for recently released inmates who are getting their lives back together. WFC is committed to cooking

dinner and eating with these residents on the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. It is a humbling experience to spend time with these folks whose lives have been so challenging and are so grateful for the help they are receiving. If you would like to prepare all or part of a meal, or would just like to come along and meet some of these residents, please sign up. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Wyatt, [brucecarol@gmail.com](mailto:brucecarol@gmail.com), 802-876-7950. with someone, please contact: Carol Wyatt, [brucecarol@gmail.com](mailto:brucecarol@gmail.com), 802-876-7950.



## *Centering Prayer*

### *Silent Prayer and Bible Reflection*

The Thursday morning group encounters moments of clearer understanding of the faith journey, moments of learning and moments of spiritual connections. This group meets from 8am-9am. The group begins with 20 minutes of silence, followed by a sharing of responses to a few Bible verses. The method, called Centering Prayer, will be practiced by some in the group, others will practice whatever form of silent prayer or meditation they choose.

Information about Centering Prayer is available. Anyone is welcome to come once a month, once a year, or once.

If you would like to join the group and are not on the email list, please contact Donna Fellingner - [donnafellnergervt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellnergervt@gmail.com) 802-355-1700.

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## Composting

There is a green composting bucket and there are compostable plastic bags in the kitchen. Hopefully **we can reduce our church's load on the landfill by separating things that can be turned into useful soil** from things that are buried forever.

In general, things that have once been alive can be composted. Paper, from trees, and bones, from animals, are examples. But petrified wood, coal, and diamonds are exceptions.

Most paper cups and expensive paper plates have a plastic coating that prevents their being composted; it is possible to buy cups and utensils that are made from corn, cane, or grass that can be **composted**. **Don't put anything in the green bucket you are not sure about, but strive to get and use** things that can be reused, recycled, or composted. Inexpensive paper plates and used paper napkins can be composted.

Do Compost:

table scraps, coffee filters and grounds, paper tea bags, shells, rinds, meat, bones & fish, shellfish, dairy products, fats & cooking oils.

paper napkins & paper towels, uncoated paper plates, oily take-out pizza boxes, wet or soiled paper bags & wet newspaper, unlined flour & sugar bags, uncoated butcher paper.

Do Not Compost:

plastic, glass, condiment packets or cups, waxed paper, metal, foil, straws or swizzle sticks, produce stickers, glossy or plastic-coated paper, twist ties, rubber bands, human or pet waste, dryer lint, coal, diamonds.

Compost, up to 30 pounds, can be dropped off free at the CSWD composting site on Redmond Road. If each of us take a turn, composting should be easy, good for the environment, and reduce the use of the land fill.

Williston Federated Church, 14 days, Contents

Jan 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
31 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi	1 10:15am - Streng	2 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - AA	3 8am - Centering 9am - Caring 10:15am - Streng 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	4 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	5 8:30am - NAM! FH 9am - Alanon @	6 Degreening After 9:30am - Worship 2:45pm - Girl Scout
7 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 7pm - Trustee's	8 10:15am - Streng 6pm - Christian 6pm - Mission 7pm - Official	9 9am - FH 10:15am - Tai Chi 10:30am - SR 11:30am - Tai Chi 6pm - Youth 7:30pm - AA	10 8am - Centering 10:15am - Streng 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	11 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	12 9am - Alanon @	13 9:30am - Worship 11:30am - New
14 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 6pm - Cub Scout	15 10:15am - Streng 3:30pm - FH	16 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 6pm - Pastor 7:30pm - AA	17 8am - Centering 10:15am - Streng 11am - Members 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	18 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	19 9am - Alanon @	20 9:30am - Worship 11:30am - Naviga 2:45pm - Girl Scout
21 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi	22 10:15am - Streng 6pm - Heartworks	23 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 5pm - AA	24 8am - Centering 10:15am - Streng 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	25 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	26 9am - Alanon @ 9am - Tiny	27 9:30am - Worship
28 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 1pm - Senior	29 10:15am - Streng 6pm - Golf Links	30 7am - Men's 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7:30pm - AA	31 8am - Centering 10:15am - Streng 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	1 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	2 9am - Alanon @	3 9:30am - Worship 2:45pm - Girl Scout