



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.)

SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES DURING ADVENT / CHRISTMAS 2018

Sunday, December 16 at 9:30 a.m. – Christmas Pageant
(featuring children of all ages)

Wednesday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m. – Longest Night service (a service especially focused upon those feelings that are NOT so joyful this time of year as we reflect upon loss and disappointment during this season of celebration)

Sunday, December 23 at 9:30 a.m. -- Fourth Sunday of Advent

Monday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. – Family Christmas Eve service (a service suitable for children of all ages)

Monday, December 24 at 7:30 p.m. -- Candlelight Christmas Eve service (a “Lessons and Carols” service featuring selections by soprano Helen Lyons and the Williston Federated Church Senior Choir as well as abundant congregational singing of beloved Christmas carols)

Inside this issue:

Special Worship Services	1-2
Message from Pastor Paul	3-4
Racism in America	5
Giving Tree	6
Navigating Medical System	6
Alternative Gift Giving	7
Coffee Hour Greeters	8
Shoveling Need	8
Poinsetta Sales	8
Membership Drive	9
Janet Anderson Address	9
Prayer Time	10
Composting	10
Calendar	11

Come share in the joy as we welcome the timeless message that captured the imagination of humble shepherds and wealthy travelers alike. Come hear those familiar stories filled with good news, yet hear them as though they were being told for the first time. Come be part of an experience that will touch the very core of your being.

And if those reasons are somehow not enough, then come simply to savor the beauty of our sanctuary resplendent in its holiday best. Adorned with greenery for the season and aglow in soft candlelight, the lovely Williston Federated Church sanctuary will offer visually stunning testimony to the ultimate message of Christmas: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5 NRSV).

This holiday season, come bask in the glow of that divine light. Come share in our worship services (open to all) as we celebrate the hope and the good news of Christmas:

Food, Faith and Fellowship ~ Worship Around the Breakfast Table December 30th

Mark your calendars and plan to join your church family for an informal

worship as we gather around the breakfast table December 30th at 9:30 am. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall for food, faith and fellowship. Bring your coffee mug and a hearty appetite. Polly Malik & Vickie Walker have planned a special breakfast of ham, hash brown casserole & Polly's famous eggs. The children's



ADVENT INSIGHT: Be Alert A Message from Pastor Paul Eyer

During this sacred season, a United Methodist pastor in Massachusetts, Steve Garnaas-Holmes, shares the following reflection on words from the gospel of Luke:

Be alert at all times.

—Luke 21.36

*You have to know how to look
and where
among the distress of the nations,
the fear and foreboding,
to see the little fig leaves,
the subtle bursts of possibility,
God's faint but certain emergences,
the little gracelets that abound
and clue you in
on what is coming upon the world.
Look for the child who endures,
the woman who persists,
the beauty that subverts,
the love that sneaks in.*

*Watch for the free, outlandish life
that is not yet done arriving.
"That's just the way it is"
isn't the way it is.
Look till you see.
Dance till the music
can't help but start.
Don't miss a single birdsong.
You may have to silence yourself,
shed earbuds, turn off the TV,
and the one in your head.
The mercy that does not pass away
shows itself to those who are watching.
In the gray streets,
among the rows and columns,
the mystery keeps happening
and happening
and happening.*

Blessings in this holy time,

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



Giving Tree - The giving tree will be in the hallway outside the sanctuary on December 2nd. If you are able, please take a tag and purchase a gift for a child in need from the Williston community. Wrapped gifts with the tag attached to the outside of the package should be returned to the giving tree by Sunday, December 16th. Thank you! Please contact Ann Wadsworth at 578-8716 or Carol Wyatt at 876-

7950 if you have any questions.

For those of you new to our Giving Tree, there are two tags on the tree for each child. One tag is for the child's "wish" and the other tag is for clothing that the child needs. If you choose a tag that lists clothing needs, please don't feel like you need to purchase everything listed on the tag.

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.



Alternative Gift Shop - Looking for a creative gift for that special someone for Christmas? The Alternative Gift Shop will be open in the Fellowship Hall right after church on **December 2, 9, 16, and 23** for your shopping convenience. Many great programs, organizations, and projects are available to choose from so you can make a donation in someone's name this holiday season. Checks should be made out to Williston Federated Church, rather than to the organization, with the name of the organization(s) and the amount to be donated on the memo line. The church will send the donations directly to the various organizations.

Questions? Contact Carol Wyatt at 876-7970 or Ann Wadsworth at 578-8716.

Cards will be available for the following organizations:

Camp Agape
COTS
Dismas House
Good News Garage
Green Mountain Habitat for Humanity
Heifer Project International
Howard Center
Hunger Free Vermont
JUMP
Kids 4 Peace
King Street Youth Center
NAMI-VT (National Alliance on Mental Illness-Vermont)
Project Chacocente
Spectrum
STEPS Vermont
Summer Recreation Food Program
VT Refugee Resettlement Project
VT Respite House
WFC Community Dinners
Williston Food Shelf

"Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, you should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give."

~Eleanor Roosevelt



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.



TRUSTEE'S NEED

Looking to hire an individual to shovel the walk after a snowfall. If you are interested, please contact Tony Lamb email sto-lat36@gmail.com

Christmas Poinsettias

You can place your order for a Christmas poinsettia by following this link <https://goo.gl/forms/dkIv6hAYJouVJOb32> or by connecting with Ashley at church. Poinsettias are \$10 per 6.5" pot. You can pick them up on Christmas Eve at church. All proceeds benefit the youth groups. Please make checks to WFC Youth. All orders must be in by December 16th. Contact Ashley (233-5824 or ashley0705@gmail.com) with questions.





Membership Opportunity

Coming Early in 2019

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.

Janet Katherine Anderson's new address in Ohio, is PO Box 842, Marietta, Ohio 45750.

She would love to get mail from home. Thanks.





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 - donnafellnergvt@gmail.com 802-355-1700.

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.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
26 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 1pm - Senior Group 2pm - Heather Lewis	27 10:15am - Strength	28 7am - Men's breakfast 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7:30pm - AA Meeting	29 8am - Centering 10:15am - Strength 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	30 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle/Sea	1 Wreath Making and 4pm - Kids4Peace Overnight @ Sitting Room 9am - Alanon @ 2:45pm - Girl Scout	2 9:30am - Worship
3 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 2pm - BR Heather 7pm - Trustees's Meet	4 10:15am - Strength	5 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - AA Meeting	6 8am - Centering 9am - Caring Circle 10:15am - Strength 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	7 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle/Sea	8 9am - Alanon @ 11am - Ginger Isham	9 9:30am - Worship
10 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 6pm - Cub Scout	11 10:15am - Strength 6pm - Christian 6pm - Mission 7pm - Official Board	12 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 3pm - Armistead 9pm - Youth Ministry 7:30pm - AA Meeting	13 6:30am - Rotary 8am - Centering 10:15am - Strength 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	14 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle/Sea	15 9am - Alanon @	16 9:30am - Worship 2:45pm - Girl Scout
17 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi	18 10:15am - Strength	19 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7pm - Pastor Staff 7:30pm - AA Meeting	20 8am - Centering 10:15am - Strength 11am - Membership 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	21 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle/Sea	22 9am - Alanon @	23 9:30am - Worship 2:45pm - Girl Scout
24 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 1pm - Senior Group	25 10:15am - Strength	26 7am - Men's breakfast 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7:30pm - AA Meeting	27 8am - Centering 10:15am - Strength 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	28 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle/Sea	29 9am - Alanon @	30 3th Sunday 9:30am - Worship
31 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi	1 10:15am - Strength	2 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - AA Meeting	3 8am - Centering 9am - Caring Circle 10:15am - Strength 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	4 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle/Sea	5 9am - Alanon @	6 9:30am - Worship 2:45pm - Girl Scout