



FEBRUARY

SECURITY

A Message from Pastor Paul Eyer

thE-Steeple

February 2019

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.)

As people of faith, we find security in the love and strength of God. We find comfort in a faith community characterized by Christ-like compassion. We find joy in fellowship and inspiration in worship.

Our church building a place of “refuge and strength,” a setting for spiritual nurture and growth. It is a place of hospitality that welcomes the entire community. Groups both a part of the church and those from the wider community use our space nearly every day of the week.

Given this admirable posture of welcome, we also have a responsibility to ensure the safety of those who enter our premises, as best as we are able. Many in the church work toward this goal: the Trustees, chaired by Tony Lamb, carefully tend to the church buildings and grounds; our Sexton Carmyn Stanko is on-site countless hours taking care of property matters; on Sunday mornings, our ushers and greeters and many others help create an atmosphere of welcome and hospitality. There is so much to celebrate here.

We are reminded, tragically, that sometimes there are forces at work that run counter to this sense of community and belonging. The horrific shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh last fall—literally in Mr. Rogers neighborhood, no less—was the most recent and most publicized instance of violence directed against a house of worship in recent years.

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With this as a backdrop, many churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship are entering into conversations about how to enhance security in their worship places and spaces even as they seek to maintain a strong sense of welcome and peace. Our congregation here at Williston Federated Church has begun this conversation as well.

At its monthly meeting in January, the Official Board created an ad hoc Security Task Force to explore a possible grant for funding some enhancements to our security here at the Federated Church. These enhancements might range from training (in the use of “Stop the Bleed” first aid kits, for example) to strengthened locks and doors.

The Security Task Force consists of Mike Moran (Chair), Toby Rockwood, Shawn Hollick, Ken Morton, and myself. Trustee representatives have been engaged in this conversation as well. The Task Force will hold its second meeting on February 3, and will report back to the Official Board (which typically includes Trustee representation) on February 12. All of this in advance of a grant application deadline on February 28.

Any grant monies applied for would not be received until October. Opportunities for congregational input will precede implementation of significant steps toward security enhancement.

Speaking to church elders in Ephesus nearly two millennia ago, another preacher named Paul proclaimed:

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock...to shepherd the church of God.
(Acts 20:28 NRSV)

May God guide us as we continue this process.

Prayerfully,
Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor

P.S.--Here is a timeline of what has transpired thus far:

November, 2018 In the wake of the tragic shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh the previous month, Mike Moran approached Pastor Paul Eyer with concerns about security needs at Williston Federated Church.

December 6, 2018 Houses of worship across Vermont were invited to send representatives to a gathering to be convened by the Vermont Homeland Security Unit on December 21 to discuss resources that might be available to houses of worship to enhance security at their facilities.

December 21, 2018 Mike Moran attended the Vermont Homeland Security Unit program on enhanced security for houses of worship.

December 28, 2018 Mike Moran reported back regarding the information shared at the December 21 Vermont Homeland Security Unit presentation. Present for Mike's briefing were the Pastor, the Lay Leader, the Official Board Chair, and Carmyn Stanko (representing the Trustees). Mike's report noted that the presentation included an indication that the Vermont Homeland Security Unit was offering a grant to houses of worship for security enhancements and that the deadline to apply for that grant was February 28, 2019.

January 8, 2019 Mike Moran was asked to share his report from the Vermont Homeland Security Unit at the Official Board meeting. The Official Board then voted "to establish a security team... to gather info and report back to this Official Board's next meeting, in preparation for grant application." Mike Moran was asked to chair this new Security Task Force.

January 9, 2019 and following: Mike Moran began a series of appointments to gain information related to the grant, including a walk-through security audit, security consultant recommendations, meetings with vendors, etc.

January 23, 2019 The Security Task Force, consisting of Mike Moran (Chair), Toby Rockwood, Shawn Hollick, Ken Morton, and Carmyn Stanko (representing the Trustees), held its first meeting. Mike reported on the information gathered to date. The Task Force chose to proceed in preparing a report regarding the grant application. This report will be presented to the Official Board at its February 12, 2019 meeting.

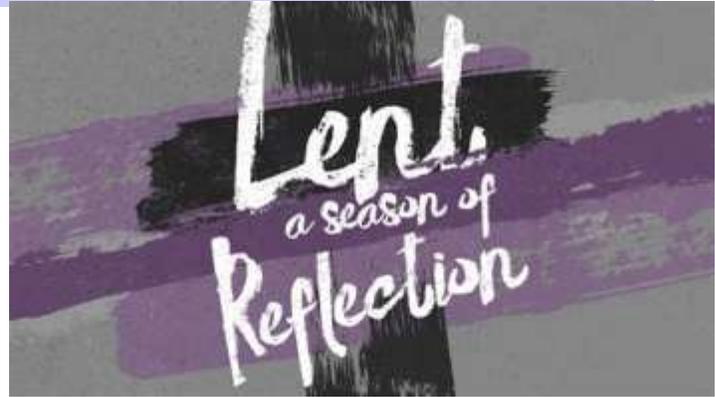
January 24 and following Mike Moran and other Task Force members continued gathering information about items and estimates that could be included in a grant application by the end of February.

February 3, 2019 The Security Task Force is scheduled to hold its second meeting to compile the report to be presented to the Official Board at its February meeting.

February 12, 2019 The Official Board will receive the report of the Security Task Force and make a decision about whether to pursue a grant from the Vermont Homeland Security Unit.

February 28, 2019 DEADLINE for the grant application to be submitted to the Vermont Homeland Security Unit.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT



Our observances of the season of Lent are just weeks away, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Please join us for these opportunities for worship and devotional reflection during this sacred season:

Wednesday, March 6 Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a time when we can reflect

on our own mortality and be reminded of the significance of spirituality. Many Christians have traditionally marked this day by receiving “the imposition of ashes” a mark made with ashes of the sign of the cross on the forehead or the back of the hand.

4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Pastor Paul will be in the sanctuary to offer prayers and the “imposition of ashes” for anyone who might want to receive them.

6:45 p.m. Ash Wednesday service

This service will feature prayer, silence, scripture, and song, and imposition of ashes will be offered as well.

Continuously throughout the season of Lent

Throughout Lent –which begins with Ash Wednesday (March 6) and concludes right before Easter (April 21)--there will be opportunities for individual prayerful reflection and contemplation in the gallery and in the sanctuary.

Holy Week observances

And of course, the season of Lent reaches its apex in Holy Week, the week leading to a joyous Easter celebration. Please mark these dates for these significant worship services:

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 18

Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 19

Good Friday

Sunday, April 21

Easter

TRUSTEE’S NEED

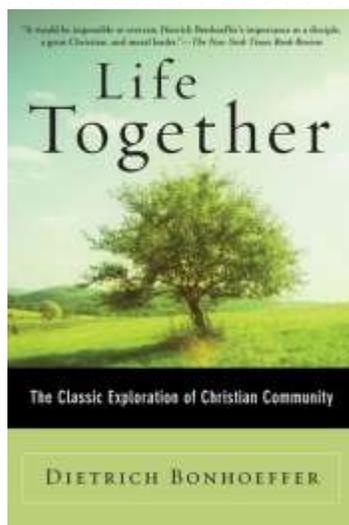
Looking to hire an individual to shovel the walk after a snowfall. If you are interested, please contact Tony Lamb email stolat36@gmail.com



March Madness: Mission, Ministry, Music & More



Join Us March 31st for the first ever *March Madness*. After a brief worship that morning, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for refreshments then divide into groups to participate in *Mission, Ministry, Music & More* at church and beyond. Plans include: assembling hygiene kits for UMCOR (a list of items needed will be posted in March), working at the Habitat Restore, preparing lunch for the Daystation, singing at the Respite House, a work project in a friend's home, making Easter Cards, traveling tea parties and starting a prayer shawl. Look for more details and sign up sheets in early March. Sponsored by the Membership Committee. If you have questions contact: [Carol Bouchard](#)



Soup and Study

An adult "Soup and Study" course led by Pastor Paul Eyer begins on Thursday, March 14 and concludes Thursday, April 4. These four Thursday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 will focus on Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "Life Together." Copies of the book will be circulated prior to the study. Please look for a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Women's Breakfast March 16th



Calling all women. Please save the date for the Annual Women's Breakfast March 16th 8:30 -11:00 AM in Fellowship

Hall. Our guest speaker will be Linda Hokit, Regional Workforce Engagement Manager for the NH/VT chapter of the American Red Cross. Linda spent time near Paradise, CA after the Camp Fire. More details to follow. A sign up sheet for planning purposes will appear late February. For more information, contact [Carol Burbank](#) or [Carol Bouchard](#).

CHURCH VITALITY WORKSHOP



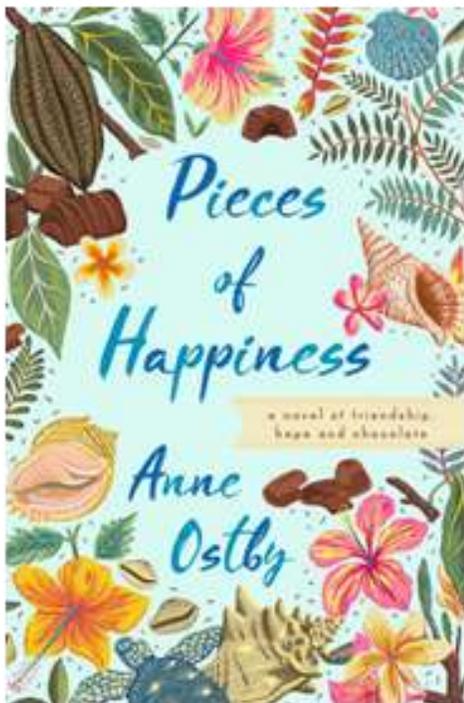
Would you like to see our church grow? Are you interested in helping invite others to enjoy the fellowship of Williston Federated Church? Then here is the event for you!

On Saturday, February 9, a workshop entitled "How to Reach New People" will take place at First Congregational UCC in Springfield, Vermont. The workshop begins at 9:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00

p.m. (Please bring a sack lunch.)

This program will feature Paul Nickerson, a dynamic presenter whose ideas about church growth have helped to revitalize congregations across the country. (Our own Pastor Paul highly recommends Paul Nickerson and this program!)

If you would like to attend what promises to be an energizing, idea-generating day, please let Pastor Paul know. There is one modest fee for the entire church for this workshop, so we can take a large contingent!



Hi Ladies,

The book club has chosen 'Pieces of Happiness: A Novel of Friendship, Hope, and Chocolate' by Anne Ostby for our February read.

When Sina, Maya, Ingrid, and Lisbeth each receive a letter in the mail posing the same question, the answer is obvious. Their old high school friend Kat--Kat the adventurer, Kat who ran away to the South Pacific as soon as they graduated --has extended the invitation of a lifetime: Come live with me on my cocoa farm in Fiji. Come spend the days eating chocolate and gabbing like teenagers once again, free from men, worries, and cold. Come grow old in paradise, together, as sisters. Who could say no?

The meeting will be on Tuesday, February 26 at 5:30 in the Church Fellowship Hall. Please let Ann Wadsworth or Susan Lamb know if you plan to attend.

ann.wadsworth1@gmail.com 578-8716 or susanlambvt@gmail.com 878-1251.

Other suggested books were: 'Beneath a Scarlet Sky' by Mark T Sullivan, 'The Other Alcott' by Elise Hooper, 'The Threat Matrix: The FBI at War in the Age of Global Terror' by Garrett M Graff. Contact Lois Mason with questions. loismason418@gmail.com

Mardi Gras Brunch

Remember this date..... Join us after church on March 3rd. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit and games for the kids. Come and have some food and fun before the Lenten season begins.

Sponsored by the Education Committee.



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.



Navigating the Medical System

Second Sunday. Starting on February 10 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.



History of WFC continued....

From the Burlington Free Press (Burlington, Vermont) Mon. Jul 19, 1880 Main Edition . Page 3

WILLISTON.—In regard to the recent burning of the M. E. parsonage, as far as is known the fire started in the hay loft of the barn, and so far as the little child mentioned is concerned, 1st. she could not go into the hay loft alone; 2d, there were no matches she could get at as, I used the last one that morning in the safe myself; 3d, for three hours or more she was with her mother until the moment the alarm was given. On the night before the fire I left the outside doors to the barn open for the first time this season. We cannot tell how the fire took, but great injury has been done the child by the report that she set it. Please ask other papers copying from yours to correct, and oblige.

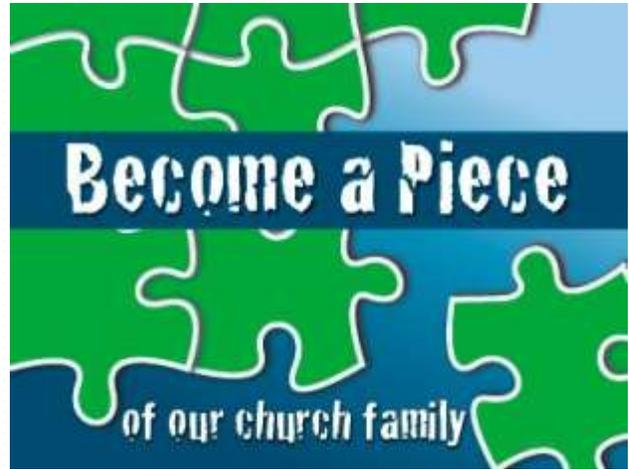
Yours, etc.,

M. P. BELL.

July 1880

New Members to be Received March 3rd

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 or providing outreach and service to others. It is an opportunity to make a public statement of Christian witness and a commitment to Williston Federated Church. If you are new to the church community, or have been worshipping at WFC for years, and are interested in joining the church, please speak to Pastor Paul. A reception of new members will take place during worship on March 3rd.



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, 802-876-7950. with someone, please contact: Carol Wyatt, brucecarol@gmail.com, 802-876-7950.

PRAYING THE WAY FORWARD

The United Methodist General Conference will gather February 23-26, 2019 for one of the most important—and perhaps most contentious—meetings in the denomination’s history. At issue is the stance of the United Methodist Church toward persons in the LGBTQ community.

Many Methodists (and especially many Methodists in Vermont) have championed the opportunity for LGBTQ persons to be ordained as clergy and have their marriages blessed by the United Methodist Church. Many other Methodists in other parts of the country and the world prefer that the current denominational prohibition on ordination and marriage of same-gender persons prevail. The special session of the General Conference taking place later this month is expected to decide this issue. At least three different options are to be presented to the General Conference:

- (1) maintain the restrictive stance of the status quo;
- (2) remove the restrictive language currently in place (but respecting the rights of those whose consciences would not allow them to perform same gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ person;
- or
- (3) a middle way that might allow for contextual variations on these issues.

As this important international Methodist gathering approaches later this month, let us lift the General Conference—and indeed the whole of the United Methodist Church—in prayer. One resource to do just that is called “Praying the Way Forward” and can be found at <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/bishops-the-upper-room-launch-phase-3-of-praying-our-way-forward>.

NOTE: Williston Federated Church is an Open and Affirming, Reconciling congregation. In 2003 the congregation adopted the following statement: “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.”

Williston Federated Church is affiliated both with the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ. With its decentralized decision making structure, the United Church of Christ has allowed for the ordination of openly gay and lesbian persons to authorized ministry since 1972 and has allowed for (and advocated for) marriage equality for LGBTQ persons since at least 2005. **Consequently, the actions of the United Methodist General Conference will in no way impede the inclusive welcoming stance of Williston Federated Church.** And as ordained clergy in the United Church of Christ, Pastor Paul is free to officiate at same-gender weddings (and did so in Pennsylvania prior to his call to our congregation).



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.

Williston Federated Church, 14 days, 1/28/2019

Feb 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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 Souper-Bowl 9:30am - Worship 11:30am - Februa 2:45pm - Girl Scout
4 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 7pm - Trustee's	5 10:15am - Streng	6 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7:30pm - AA	7 8am - Centering 9am - Caring 10:15am - Streng 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	8 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	9 8:30am - Peel the 9am - Alanon @	10 9:30am - Worship
11 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 6pm - Cub Scout	12 10:15am - Streng 6pm - Christian 6pm - Mission 7pm - Official	13 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 6pm - Youth 7pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - AA	14 8am - Centering 10:15am - Streng 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	15 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	16 9am - Alanon @	17 9:30am - Worship 2:45pm - Girl Scout
18 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi	19 10:15am - Streng	20 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7pm - Pastor 7:30pm - AA	21 8am - Centering 10:15am - Streng 11am - Members 1:15pm - Hazen's 4:30pm - Hazen's 7pm - Choir	22 7am - Men's Bible 9am - Golden 10:15am - Gentle	23 9am - Alanon @	24 9:30am - Worship
25 10:15am - Golden 11:30am - Tai Chi 1pm - Senior	26 10:15am - Streng	27 7am - Men's 10:15am - Tai Chi 11:30am - Tai Chi 7:30pm - AA	28 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 FAT Sunday New Member 9:30am - Mission 2:45pm - Girl Scout