



March 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 congrega-

Message from Pastor Paul

**“BROKEN
HEARTS”**

**A Message from
Pastor Paul Eyer**

It was a result many had feared—an outcome many had prayed would not come.

On February 26, 2019, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) voted to adopt even more restrictive rules regarding LGBT clergy and same-gender weddings. Over eight-hundred delegates from around the world voted (by a margin of 53% to 47%) in favor of the so-called “Traditional Plan” that calls for even stricter enforcement of existing UMC prohibitions against ordination of LGBT persons and same-gender marriage.

Many Methodists—especially in the New England United Methodist Conference of which Williston Federated Church (WFC) is a part—are deeply grieved by the decision of the General Conference. At Williston Federated Church, we share in that

grief and sense of dismay.

Here in Williston, one-hundred-and-twenty-years ago (in 1899), Methodists and Congregationalists came together to form what is now Williston Federated Church. Congregants from both denominations came together and have been together ever since—worshipping together, praying together, fellowshiping together, serving together.

Throughout its history, Williston Federated Church has championed a commitment to justice and exemplified a spirit of service. And for over a decade, our congregation has expressly welcomed LGBT persons into every facet of our faith family, including positions of leadership. (In 2006, WFC became an Open and Affirming/ Reconciling congregation.)

Nearly two years ago, as I considered the possibility of serving as pastor here at Williston, I was impressed by the depth of the congregation’s commitment to this principle of full inclusion. And I was gratified that the con-

gregation had made it a priority to call a pastor who (by virtue of ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ) could officiate at same-gender weddings.

It became clear to me then—and is even more clear to me now—that this commitment to honor ALL of God’s children is at the core of who we are at Williston Federated Church.

One of my seminary classmates, Rev. Andrea Brown, was a delegate to the recently-concluded UMC General Conference. She is also a respected pastor who has helped to lead her congregation (Grandview United Methodist Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania) to engage in inclusive, justice-focused ministry as part of the “Reconciling” network of churches within the UMC. Communicating with her congregation as the outcome of the General Conference began to become clear, Rev. Brown offered these words:

Be assured that Grandview will still be Grand-

The Pastor's Message—continued

when this conference is said and done, and our witness will only increase.

With even more certainty, we can make the same affirmation here at Williston Federated Church. Given our federation with both the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ, we can confidently proclaim that **“Williston will still be Williston.”**

At Williston, we will continue to be—as Nancy Stone’s entryway painting so powerfully illustrates—a place where “All Are Welcome.” We will continue to be a place where LGBT persons can and do hold key positions of leadership. We will continue to be a place where LGBT person are welcome to wed and to live their lives in the freedom of God’s all-embracing love.

At Williston, we will continue to be a place where the inclusive message of the Apostle Paul has real meaning:

There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,

there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. (Galatians 3:28 NRSV).

At Williston Federated Church, we begin every worship service with the words **“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.”** May we proclaim that message with even greater fervor in the days, months, and years ahead.

Sharing the inclusive love of Christ,

Rev. Paul Eyer,
Pastor

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS™

...in the Aftermath of the United Methodist decision regarding sexuality

Many of us at WFC are processing and reflecting upon the recent actions of the United Methodist General Conference adopting an even more restrictive stance regarding ordination and marriage of LGBT persons.

Rev. Jill Colley Robinson, District Superintendent for the Vermont District of the United Methodist Church, extends the following invitation for an opportunity to process this news:

*You are invited to a gathering on Saturday, **March 16 from 1:00- 3:00 at the Lebanon (NH) UMC.***

People from the Vermont and New Hampshire Districts will come together for “Courageous Conversation” after the special General Conference.

[Conversations will be held in the other districts in March in case you have a conflict with the Lebanon date...](#)

[This conversation will offer] *opportunities to be together, laity and clergy alike, to unpack the events and decisions of the 2019 General Conference, and to allow us to process our feelings and experiences together.*

Closer to home, you will have a chance to gather for a conversation among members of our own congregation about these matters **following worship on Sunday, March 17**. Bring your coffee and join us in the Sitting Room (near the church office) shortly after worship on March 17 for this conversation.

Looking Ahead to Lent

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.

6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service

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

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



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March Madness

Mission, Ministry, Music and More

Join Us March 31st for the first ever March Madness event at WFC. After a brief worship that morning, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for refreshments then divide into teams to participate in Mission, Ministry, Music & More at church and beyond. Plans include:

Assembling Hygiene Kits for UM-COR (sponsored by Missions & Social Concerns - see separate article for a list of items needed, also available on the sign up board, suitable for older youth and up)

Working at the Habitat Restore (jobs TBD - ages 16 and older only - Paul Bouchard coordinator)

Preparing a Meal for the Daystation in Burlington (make sandwiches to be delivered to the Daystation by 12:15 - suitable for older youth and up - coordinator needed)

Singing at the Respite House (1:00 PM - choir members & others- limit 20)

Work Project in a Friend's Home (Gil Rodes leading)
Making Easter Cards for Friends and Thank You Cards for Local Police, Fire & Rescue (Christian Education leading - suitable for all ages)

Traveling Tea Parties (taking all the fixings for afternoon tea to a friend's house in groups of two)

Starting a Prayer Shawl (knit and or crochet, depending on the need, basic skills encouraged, materials provided or bring your own - leader needed)

Sign up sheets are posted. Some activities have age restrictions and limits on the # of participants, so sign up early. Sponsored by the Membership Committee. If you have questions contact: [Carol Bouchard](#)

Womens Breakfast

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](#).

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



Hygeine Kits for UMCOR

The Missions and Social Concerns Committee will be assembling hygiene kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief) on Sunday, March 31, at Mission, Ministry, Music and More, following the morning church service.

Hygiene kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. They are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes.

In preparation for this activity, we are asking people to contribute items needed for each kit. Please provide all the contents of ONE kit in a plastic bag. The cost of the contents of the kits should not exceed \$15.00. Purchasing could be shared between two or three people to minimize the cost.

Important Notes:
All items must be new.

Do not wash any of the items as they will no longer be considered new.

One hand towel (15x25 – 17x27 inches) No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels

One washcloth No kitchen, cleaning or microfiber towels

One comb Must be sturdy with at least six inches of teeth No pocket combs or picks Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least six inches of teeth.

One toenail or fingernail clipper No emery boards or metal nail files

Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) No Ivory or Jergens soap Do not remove from packaging

One adult toothbrush Do not remove from packaging Personal advertising not acceptable

10 adhesive bandages (¾ x 3 inches) Common household bandages acceptable

Thank you so much for your participation in this worthwhile activity.



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

New Members to be Received March 3rd

Rev. Gary F. Lewis
Elizabeth R. Lewis
Martin Connelly
Catherine E. Connelly
Lizzy Pope

All are welcome here at WFC.

A reception of new members will take place during worship on March 3rd. New Members are:

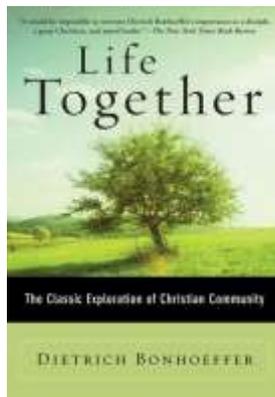


“A reception of new members will take place during worship on March 3rd. We look forward to having you join our family.

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.



All Are Welcome Here

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 oppor-

tunity 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.





Looking Inward During Lent

During the weeks of Lent, there will be a table in the Gallery with papers suggesting devotional practices that could be used in the sanctuary during lent. The sanctuary is always open when the church is open, during the week days the church is open from 7:30am to 5:30pm. The papers were prepared with the quiet of the church sanctuary in mind but

could be used in many other places.

Also during Lent the “Point of Choice” art work of Nancy tone will be displayed in the gallery as in the past. Nancy’s words about the art work “These acrylic-collage scrolls grew out of two month’s sketching and painting during the rehearsals of the rock opera “Jesus Christ Superstar” a 1989 Lyric

Theater production. These collages present the moment when the characters face a crisis and willingly or reluctantly accept their destiny in the unfolding drama.” The ‘actors’ in this drama are Mary Magdalene, Pontius Pilate, Judas and Jesus. Details of Nancy’s poignant insight into this drama will be posted with the paintings.

Rummage Sale Set for April 12th-13th

It's not too early to start spring cleaning closets and while you're at it, set aside those items that are no longer needed for the annual church rummage sale.

We will be seeking **gently worn** clothing for all ages, clean and in good condition, as well as linens, shoes, jewelry, purses.

Think textiles.

Donations will be accepted beginning April 8th. Please do not leave items before then. More information and a sign up sheet will appear in late March.

Sponsored by the Women of the Church. Contact [Carol Bouchard](#) with any questions.



Think
Textiles



Hosts and Greeters

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 some-

thing 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.

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”

Solitude and Silence

Silence with God

Solitude and silence are not, in the end, about success or failure. They are about showing up and letting God do the rest. They are not an end in themselves;

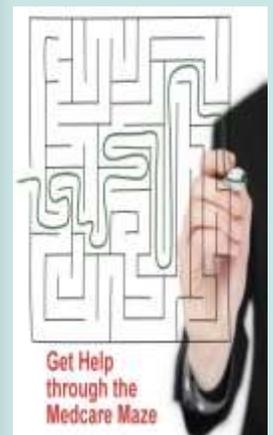
they are merely a means through which we regularly make ourselves available to God for the intimacy of relationship and for the work of transfor-



Navigating the Medical System

Health Care: 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.





A Message from Our Finance Committee

With ice-covered walks, huge snow piles alongside the roads, and temperatures dipping into minus figures, it's hard to think about June...the end of the school year, summer vacations... and the WFC Annual Meeting! But that day will come, and your Finance Committee has already begun preparations for it.

Spring (yes, it will arrive!) is a time we think about the future—about the flowers and our gardens, and new aspirations for ourselves, our families, our work and our community activities. It is also the season of Lent, culminating in Easter Sunday and the Resurrection that provides both hope and direction to our lives.

The church's fiscal (budget) year runs July 1-June 30. That means that by the time of the Annual Meeting, all of us in the congregation need to know two things:

- 1) **how much we expect to spend** in the coming 12 months, and for what purposes; and
- 2) **where the money will come from** to accomplish the many missions we have for the

church itself, for our community, and for the larger world.

The Finance Committee is working with the other committees of the church to develop a 2019-20 budget to address the first matter. And we are developing plans for our annual **Stewardship Campaign** to address the second point. As more than two-thirds of the church's income comes from pledges received during this period and from Sunday plate donations, we cannot overstate the importance of a successful Stewardship Campaign.

Palm Sunday, April 14, will mark the start of our Stewardship drive, and it will conclude with **Consecration Sunday**, May 19 (which is also Youth Sunday and Confirmation Sunday). We will need a highly successful Stewardship drive to achieve what we all want for WFC in 2019-

20. The Finance Committee invites others who are interested in helping plan and execute the campaign to join us for this period. If you are interested, please contact any of us!

Working alone, we fear accomplishing little. Working together, we can achieve great things!

Your 2018-19 Finance Committee,

Barb Bristol
Paul Eyre
Donna Goodheart
Donna-Sue Hain
Mike Moran
Amy Vaughan
Bruce Wyatt



HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

The following two articles are from "A History of the Religious Life of Williston, Vermont"

A Thesis submitted to the

Faculty of the Hartword School of Religious Education Hartford Seminary Foundation in candidacy for the degree of

Master Religious Education Dept of Education Aimee Angus Barber May 29, 1940

Item 4

Building a New Church

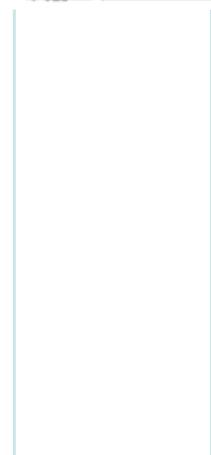
The first Methodist Church building had been in use a little over twenty years when it was proposed to erect a larger, more adequate meeting-hours. Subscriptions began to be taken before 1867, but work on the new edifice was not begun until that fall. At that time stone was drawn for the foundation. The work of building was continued through the year 1868 and was not completed until the fall of 1869. In October of that year the

Church as dedicated, Rev. S.D. Brown preaching the dedicatory sermon. The cost of the lot and building, together with furnishings, was \$18,116. \$12,000 of this amount was contributed by three persons: L.A. Bishop (husband of Aurill Clark Bishop, daughter of Wright Clark), Priscilla Clark (widow of Wright Clark), and Jason Clark (son of Wright and Pricilla Clark). (1)

The new church was built of wood and was large and imposing. It had a basement vestry with one large room. The main auditorium was large and high, approached by a flight of stone steps which led immediately into a good-sized vestibule. From this two flights of stairs led to a gallery in the auditorium. Surmounting the front of the church was a steeple. The building occupied a commanding site, facing Winooski turnpike, at the corner of the road from Jericho to Hinesburgh.

The pastor during whose ministry the new church was built was Matthias Ludlum. One of the most notable revivals that occurred during the history of the church came in his pastorate. On December 14, 1868, he received 52 persons on probation into the church, at one service.

(1) From the Clark family it is learned that Wright Clark had persistently opposed the erection of a new church, maintaining that the old building was "good enough". However, he knew that he was in the minority and, just before he died, predicted that his body would not be cold before the enterprise would be undertaken. He also realized that a goodly share of the expense would be met with his money, for others in his family favored the church.



History of the Church —continued

**From the pages of...
The Burlington Free
Press
Thursday, Oct. 14,
1869**

Dedication At Williston

**The new Methodist
Church at Williston
was dedicated yester-
day (Wednesday) after-
noon. The exercises
were conducted by the
pastor, Rev. Mr. Lud-
lum, and Rev. Messrs.
Chas of Colchester,
Dayton of Burlington,
and Walker of Middle-
bury, and Rev Mr.
Maynard, Pastor of the
Congregational
Church at Williston.**

**The dedication sermon
was preached by Rev.**

**S. D. Brown of New
York City. The dis-
course was able and
appropriate, and
highly appreciated by a
large and intelligent
congregation who had
assembled, notwith-
standing the unfavor-
ableness of the
weather, and who re-
tired to their homes
delighted with what
they had witnessed,
and greatly rejoiced
that they were enabled
to consecrate to the
Lord a house of wor-
ship free from debt.**

**The singers, under the
direction of Prof. Toby,
furnished most delight-
ful music.**

**The building is of
wood, and presents a
very handsome appear-
ance. It is about sixty
feet in length and forty
in width. The walls are
elegantly frescoed. The
basement of the build-
ing is divided into
church parlors, class
and Sunday School
Rooms and will accom-
modate about two hun-
dred persons.**

**We congratulate this
Society upon the suc-
cess which they have
attained in erecting
their beautiful temple.
The strenuous labors
of the building commit-
tee in furthering the
object are high com-
mendable.**

Although the weather was unfavorable the crowd was there to dedicate the church.



A Message from Bishop Devadhar

Feb. 26, 2019

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with tumult.
Psalm 46:1-3
Dear Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We have just concluded the special session of the General Conference in St Louis. During this gathering of the global church, we worshiped and prayed together and spent time in Christian conferencing, but much remains unresolved and unknown.

Though the actions of the General Conference are still subject to review by the Judicial Council, we return with a *Book of Discipline* that moves us further from full inclusion. This is disheartening at best and despairing at worst.

While our call as United Methodists is to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God ... I suspect we have fallen far shorter on the first two than the last. I ask that we spend time in prayerful confession of the ways our church has caused deep pain to beloved children of God, particularly LGBTQIA and their allies. No matter what plan you supported for the way forward, remember that when one part of the body suffers, so do we all - and so now we are all in need of healing.

My prayers continue for our church and for each of you in this covenantal community, for all LGBTQIA children of God and their allies, as well as for those who are listening to our words and watching our actions.

I continue to pray for a day when we can live together in the unified Spirit in a fully inclusive church. I celebrate the beauty and rich variety of gifts that God has created, and I have faith that God will create, in and through us, a beautiful incarnation of the Body of Christ for the transformation of the whole world.

As you gather with your congregations this Sunday, I pray you will build up one another in love, caring for each other's needs, and praying for God's spirit to inspire you to witness to Christ's love in your communities.

In the next two weeks, your superintendents, in coordination with our delegation to this special session of General Conference, have scheduled opportunities for you to gather for support, prayer, and "[Courageous Conversations](#)" with one another as we process the actions - and inactions - of the general church and seek a faithful response. I hope and pray these will be opportunities for us to do good and begin to heal while we stay in love with God and each other.

May our faithful God hold us in strength as we witness to the powerful love of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, for such a time as this.

In Christ's Love,

Bishop Devadhar

A Message from District Superintendent Jill Robinson February 27, 2019

Beloved United Methodists in Vermont:

It is with a heavy heart that I write to you today, the day after the conclusion of our Special General Conference.

As many of you already know, the delegates at the conference voted 438 to 384 to approve an amended version of the Traditional Plan. This is the one plan among several prepared by the Commission on the Way Forward and other groups within the larger church which affirms the current language of the Book of Discipline regarding human sexual and gender identity and which intends to more strictly enforce limits on ordination and the officiating at and hosting of marriage ceremonies. Both the One Church Plan and the Simple Plan were debated and then defeated by delegate votes. There is still much more work to be done by the Judicial Council, the General Council on Finance and Administration and Wespath, and other leading bodies within our connection in the coming weeks and months before more definitive answers will be available to us regarding how the actions of General Conference will be born out. For more information about what happened at General Conference and what is happening now that it has concluded, see the following the link on our conference website: www.neumc.org/GC2019.

All of this said, I acknowledge that some of us receive this news as an affirmation of what we believe with regards to scripture, while many others of us receive this news as a painful condemnation of who we are and how we hope to live out our faith in Christ Jesus. I cannot begin to name the range of feelings we are experiencing, and dare not try at the risk of unintentionally failing to name and validate where you are. Those of us who watched the conference unfold witnessed deep pain and division in our beloved church akin to that which has been present for over 45 years, but arguably even more acute. We have or may experience this deep pain and division in our homes, our congregations, and our communities, too. We also witnessed courage, conviction, truth spoken in love, and prophetic passion for Christ's church. May we be blessed with some of these same gifts and an abundance of others from the Spirit in the coming days and weeks.

As mentioned in previous communications, there will be 'Courageous Conversation' sessions around the conference in the coming weeks to afford us opportunities to be together, laity and clergy alike, to unpack the events and decisions of the 2019 General Conference, and to allow us to process our feelings and experiences together. You are welcome to attend any event that is convenient for you. Check the calendar at www.neumc.org/events to find event details.

March 7 – Rhode Island/Eastern MA District - 6-8 p.m. Lincoln, RI

March 9 – Connecticut/Western MA 10 a.m-12 p.m. Springfield, MA

March 9 – Northern Maine District 1-3 p.m. Brewer, ME

March 10 – Metro Boston Hope District 4-6 p.m. Milton, MA

March 16 – N. Hampshire & Vermont Districts 1-3 p.m. at the Lebanon UMC, NH

March 18 – Tri-Sate District 7-9 p.m. Nashua, NH

March 19 – Tri-Sate District 7-9 p.m. South Portland, ME

March 21 – Central MA District 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Marlborough, MA

March 24 – Mid-Maine District 2-4 p.m. Brunswick, ME

Whatever your feelings about what has transpired today and in the coming days, I implore you to join with me in praying for our Church and for one another.

- Join me in praying specifically for the delegates from VT, Rev. Leigh Goodrich and Conference Lay Leader Rene Wilbur, and all of the delegates from the New England Annual Conference and every conference.
- Join me in praying for the pages from VT, Julie Waldron and Rev. Megan Stowe, and all those who volunteered and served at the Special General Conference.
- Join me in praying for many others from our state and annual conference and around the world who attended the Conference as prophetic and prayerful witnesses.
- Join me in praying for our Bishop, Sudarshana Devadhar, and all of the bishops as they endeavor to continue to lead us at such a time as this.
- Join me in praying for those inside and outside the United Methodist Church who self-identify as LGBTQIA and all allies, humbly trusting that God's all-sufficient grace will be easily discernible and accessible even and especially after this most recent vote at the Special General Conference.
- Join me in praying for the many federated and union churches in VT in particular whose commitments to more than one denomination may be further strained by decisions made at General Conference.
- Join me in offering a prayer of thanksgiving for those churches around our district who in a spirit of mutual care opened their doors over the past four days and welcomed us in so that we could be together to witness the General Conference.

Like you, in the midst of prayer I have many questions that do not yet have answers with regards to what happens next. People inside and outside the church will be asking us questions that we cannot yet respond to with clarity or certainty. The world was watching us over the last several days and will continue to do so in more public, inquisitive, and challenging ways than some of us are accustomed to. Beth DiCocco, Conference Director of Communications, has made herself available to field any and all inquiries from the media. If you get an inquiry from a reporter regarding the General Conference, please let them know that all media inquiries are handled by the Director of Communications, and give them Beth's cell phone (315-527-7644) and email (beth@neumc.org). We give thanks for this support from our Annual Conference, and from Beth in particular.

As a conference superintendent, please know that I am more deeply, profoundly, and humbly committed than ever to seeing us through this time of great uncertainty, trusting that God will work with us, through us, and even despite us. I will do my very best in the coming days, weeks, and months, God willing, to equip you with the best counsel and information I can as it becomes available to us so that you can make informed choices that are respectfully considered and enveloped in prayer. I will do my very best to support you and care for you in your own discernment out of a deep love and respect for each and every one of you, knowing and respecting the diversity of beliefs we cling to and live out. I commend to you the words from our Bishop sent out last evening, and personally stand with him in his abiding, prayerful commitment to a fully inclusive church as I devote myself to this important work with you. [A Message from Bishop Devadhar GC 2019](#)

I also commend to you a verse from scripture that has been formative in my life, and encourage you to lean upon those passages that have been a balm and beacon for you in hours of need.

'Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for;
the conviction of things not yet seen.' Hebrews 11.1

We stand as a denomination in aching need of the holy season that begins in just one week with ashes and dust and ends many weeks later with an empty cross and tomb—with things hoped for and not yet seen. The gifts of Lent are almost upon us: an opportunity to repent and turn to God, an opportunity to walk with Jesus and to lay our burdens down at the foot of the cross, and an opportunity to experience the life-giving, salvific power of resurrection—of God doing a new thing. We pray to the God who creates and loves each and every one of us, to Jesus Christ who invites us to the table of forgiveness and new life, and to the abiding Spirit that intercedes for us with sighs too deep for human words.

In prayer, trust, and hope,

Reverend Jill C. Robinson

Vermont District Superintendent
New England United Methodist Church

Ruth Painter our Patron of Peace

by Sue Leister

When I consider my mental picture of a peacemaker, I picture a person of great serenity, perhaps a monk-like persona who has, perhaps, taken a vow of silence, and I picture them praying in a cell in a monastery in Tibet. Ruth Painter, in her life, has done so much for peace yet does not fit this picture! She has been an outspoken peacemaker, active in her community, particularly in her church community, and specifically in her movement for Peace and justice in our world!

Ruth and her husband Herb Painter lived in Williston Village for many years. They were involved with the country skiing program at Catamount for kids in the 70's. Ruth always had a lovely garden and hosted the Williston Town Band picnic at the end of many seasons (Herb played in the band). Ruth lost her husband at an early point in their life together but that never slowed Ruth down. She became one of a group of ladies that started the local town paper, "The Williston Whistle" (the paper we now know as the "Williston Observer"). She volunteered for Meals on Wheels. Even after developing a severe visual impairment, she continued to attend to many of these causes with the help of her

church family.

A number of her church friends remember a meeting after church one Sunday in 2004 where a discussion began regarding bringing to light the need for Peace, as the violence surrounding the war in Iraq continued and escalated. They decided they would hold a peace vigil on the front steps of the church once a month. Ruth Painter, Sally Metro, Ruth Magill, Yvonne Alexander, and Carol Burbank, were some who consistently gathered. There were others who joined them, of course, even people from off the street. They called themselves the "Peace and Non-Violence Task Force". Each month, they stood on the front steps of the church, holding candles, sometimes with signs, in any kind of weather. They would share a short message, sing a hymn and listen to beautiful and inspiring thoughts and prayers, many beautiful pieces written by Yvonne. Ruth was their leader. Sally remembers the group as being very intentional, sharing songs, prayers and discussions that were truly inspirational. Ruth continued to attend these vigils, even after moving to Wake Robin for health reasons, until the group ceased meeting in the summer of 2011.

Ruth, ever active in the community, held potluck dinners for the peace movement, went to peace marches, and made sure to encourage our church community to attend any and all activities to forward the message of peace in which she so wholeheartedly believed.

She invited speakers to these events, one of whom, Sally remembers, spoke on the issue of Conscientious Objection, teaching the group how to invoke this right, should they feel the need to. In Ruth Magill's words: "Ruth Painter was a strong advocate for resolving differences without resorting to violent action in word or behavior. She was very clear that real peace must include justice and did not mean ignoring discrimination and oppression. She continues to model this attitude today, an inspiration to many of us who call her a special friend."

Sally Metro and her family met Ruth before they joined WFC. Ruth tutored their son, Pat, and the family became very fond of her. Sally counts her as at least one of the influences that helped make their decision to join the church. Sally writes "Ruth was thoughtful and kind, but very focused in her energy against war. She was a wonderful mentor and role model for pursu-

She was a wonderful mentor and role model for pursuing one's passion. I miss her so!"

A number of members of the church community, in fact, have such admiration for Ruth's constant mission, her strong convictions and her genuine hope for peace, that they decided to create a lasting reminder of her efforts. A lovely Danforth pewter candle holder now cradles the Peace Candle we use every week during worship. It is inscribed with "Peacemaker" and Ruth's name to honor her legacy,

(Of note: Ruth currently lives at Wake Robin due to health issues. This move, a number of years ago was, of course, very difficult for her, leaving her beloved church and community).

She founded and supported the Peace Vigil movement held weekly on the front steps of the Federated Church during the most un-peaceful times in our nation. She spent months working with the Town in its attempts to avoid "mall city." She believed in peace on every level. She was a role model for one's on-going spiritual development. She embodied acceptance and love for everyone she met even if the meeting was every day or nowhere near a church. When I think of working for peace on any level, I think of Ruth Painter.



Family to Family Class March 6—May 22 6:00-8:30

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Vermont (NAMIVT) is once again offering its Family-to-Family Education Program in Williston.

This **free** 12-week evidenced based course is structured to help families of individuals with a mental health condition understand and support their loved ones while maintaining their own well-being.

The course is designed specifically for parents, siblings, spouses, teenage and adult children and significant others.

If you are interested, please contact NAMI Vermont at (802) 876-7949 or email nickmartin@nami.vt.org.



Silence With God

Solitude and silence are not, in the end, about success or failure. They are about showing up and letting God do the rest. They are not an end in themselves;

they are merely a means through which we regularly make ourselves available to God for the intimacy of relationship and for the work of transformation that only God can accomplish.



Centering Prayer, Silent Prayer and Bible Reflection

The Thursday morning group encounters faith journey, moments of learning and moments of spiritual connections. This group meets 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—donnafellin-gervt@gmail.com 802-355-1700.

HOW TO FAST

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.	Fast from worry; Feast on Divine Providence.	Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of light.	Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.	Fast from anxiety; Feast on hope.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.	Fast from negatives; Feast on positives.	Fast from yourself; Feast on a silent heart.
Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on healing powers of God.	Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.	
Fast from words that pollute: Feast on phrases of purity.	Fast from hostility; Feast on nonresistance.	
Fast from anger; Feast on patience.	Fast from bitterness;	Tim Unsworth, U.S. Parish

Substance Use & Prevention Forum

**Wednesday,
April 10th 2019 at the**

A Community Conversation

Williston Central School

Dinner Available:
6:00-6:30 PM
Program:
6:30-8:30 PM

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.

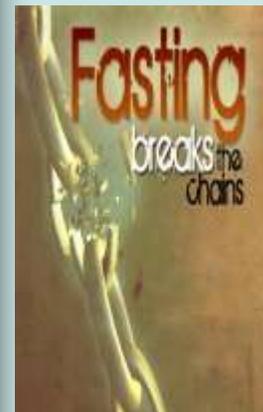
Do Compost: table scraps, coffee filters and grounds, paper tea bags, shells, rinds, meat, bones & fish, shellfish, dairy products, fats & cooking oils. paper napkins & paper towels, uncoated paper plates, oily take-out pizza boxes, wet or soiled paper bags & wet

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, Contacts

Mar 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
25	26	27	28	1	2	3
				7 am - Men's 9 am - Golden 10:15am - Gen	9 am - Alanon	FAT Sunday New Member 9:30am - Missal 2:45pm - Girl
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:15am - Gol 11:30am - Tal 7pm - Trustee'	10:15am - Stre	LENT BEGINS 10:15am - Tal 11:30am - Tal 7pm - FINANCE 7:30pm - AA	Bonhoeffer 8am - CenterIn 9am - Caring 10:15am - Stre 1:15pm - Haze 4:30pm - Haze 5:30pm - SR 7pm - Choir	7 am - Men's 9 am - Golden 10:15am - Gen	9 am - Alanon 9 am - FH Tiny	9:30am - Wors
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:15am - Gol 11:30am - Tal 6pm - Cub	10:15am - Stre 6pm - Christia 6pm - Mission 7pm - Official	10:15am - Tal 11:30am - Tal 6pm - Youth 7:30pm - AA	Bonhoeffer 8am - CenterIn 10:15am - Stre 1:15pm - Haze 4:30pm - Haze 7pm - Choir	7 am - Men's 9 am - Golden 10:15am - Gen	8:30am - FH 9 am - Alanon	9:30am - Wors 2:45pm - Girl
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:15am - Gol 11:30am - Tal	10:15am - Stre	10:15am - Tal 11:30am - Tal 1pm - SR 7pm - Pastor 7:30pm - AA	Bonhoeffer 8am - CenterIn 10:15am - Stre 11am - Membe 1:15pm - Haze 4:30pm - Haze 7pm - Choir	7 am - Men's 9 am - Golden 10:15am - Gen	9 am - Alanon 9 am - FH	9:30am - Wors 6pm - FH
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:15am - Gol 11:30am - Tal 1pm - Senior	10:15am - Stre 4pm - Armista	7 am - Men's 9am - Armista 10:15am - Tal 11:30am - Tal 7:30pm - AA	Bonhoeffer 8am - CenterIn 10:15am - Stre 1:15pm - Haze 4:30pm - Haze 7pm - Choir	7 am - Men's 9 am - Golden 10:15am - Gen	9 am - Alanon	March 9:30am - Wors 2:45pm - Girl