



July 2019

Message from Pastor Paul

**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.)

“FEDERATED”

I doubt that they saw “eye-to-eye” on everything. After all, they came from different faith traditions. But they came together anyway.

Back in 1899, our spiritual forebears overcame differences between denominations and worship traditions to find common ground.

This was a significant event. In important ways, the coming together of the Congregationalist and Methodist congregations to form Williston Federated Church was trailblazing! This appears to have been the first such federation in Vermont joining congregations from these two denominations. And in some ways it foreshadowed—even modeled—the kind of respectful ecumenical spirit that grew in strength across Christianity in the decades that followed.

Respect-filled relationships—relationships that transcend differences in tradition and understanding—continue to be a hallmark of the Williston Federated Church.

And now, in our own time when public discourse on the national level is poisoned by profound polarization, our congregation daily demonstrates the kind of caring, respectful sense of community that the wider world desperately needs.

On Sunday, July 7, at 9:30 a.m. we will worship in the Old Brick Church, harkening back to the history that led to that momentous federation back in 1899. The Old Brick Church was the setting for worship for our Congregationalist ancestors between 1832 (when the Old Brick Church was built) and 1899 (when the Congregationalist moved down the street to join the Methodists.

And because this year will mark the 120th anniversary of that trailblazing union, our worship service that day will specifically honor this meaningful part of our heritage. In recent weeks, as part of our successful stewardship campaign this year,

we talked a lot about the power of community. “Community Happens Here,” we correctly proclaimed!

One-hundred-and-twenty (120) years ago, a new community of faith was formed as a result of this remarkable federation. Powerful community has been happening here ever since! We have much to celebrate!

In a spirit of community,
Rev. Paul Eyer, Pastor

From Your Finance Committee

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MANY thanks to all who have made advance financial commitments (pledges) to WFC for the 12 months beginning July 1, 2019. Thanks to your generosity, we enter the new financial year with the confidence to move ahead in the many ways we provide worship, pastoral care, education, music, fellowship, and outreach to our neighbors in need, both nearby and throughout the world. Our church is a cornerstone of our community, and we are all seeing the results of increased vitality efforts. Thank you again!

As this edition of the *E-Steep* goes to print, we have received some \$135,139 in commitments for the coming fiscal year (2019-2020) from 68 individuals and families. Both numbers represent a meaningful increase over last year's figures. While we still have a structural deficit for the coming year (as noted in the Annual Report), the success of our strong stewardship campaign this spring points to two encouraging realities:

1. Our congregation

has the capacity to give more in support of the church's mission; and

2. The generous people in our congregation can be inspired to give more. Just imagine what we can do in the year ahead!

Your Finance Committee looks forward to keeping members and friends of Williston Federated Church apprised of financial developments as we move forward in the new year.

Again, thank you, thank you, thank you for your faithfulness and commitment.

Your Finance Committee,
 Barb Bristol
 Pastor Paul Eyer
 Donna Goodheart
 Donna Sue Hain
 Mike Moran
 Amy Vaughan
 Bruce Wyatt



Introducing the Vitality Team

Introducing the Vitality Team

In February six folks including Pastor Paul attended a day long workshop entitled "Reaching New People", sponsored by the VT Conference of the UCC and led by Rev. Paul Nickerson, a church coaching consultant. The purpose of the workshop was to help each church:

- A) Assess our current reality
- B) Look at the practices of growing churches
- C) Adapt these growth strategies to our church and came away with an action plan and a coaching process to help us implement this plan.

Rev. Nickerson pointed out that "Growth strategies from 1955 no longer work. Today we have a generation of people whose parents and grandparents didn't go to church and who don't have any faith community." These folks will not show up at the door on a Sunday morning if they have no connection or relationship with the church or the people inside. Sixty years ago, attending church on Sunday was the norm. Statistics now show that <10% of Vermonters will attend worship on Sunday.

We learned that growing churches seek help from professionals to learn new strategies for connecting with the community. In April, the Official Board gave their approval for the church to enter into a year long coaching process with Paul Nickerson.

Since that time, several more folks have joined the group. We currently meet monthly at Chef's Corner to discuss strategies that WFC might use to connect with and relate to our community. Others are welcome to join in at any time. The next meeting is July 9th 9:30 AM at Chef's Corner.

WFC is connected with several other churches in a 'coaching cluster'. There is a monthly coaching call; one month the pastors meet and the next month the groups meet for a video call. The next coaching call is August 6th. In the fall there will be a 'Tune Up Day' where all the churches will come together for another workshop. Each church is encouraged to bring as many members as possible. More details on the date and place will be announced. We hope many of you will want to participate.

"Growing Churches Expect Their Pastor to be Out of the office and in the Community 8 Hours/week." This doesn't mean an additional 8 hours tacked on to Pastor Paul's full schedule. Pastors are encouraged to cut back 20% in other areas; perhaps attend fewer committee meetings. We encourage committees to consider giving Pastor Paul a pass, if his attendance isn't crucial.

WFC has maintained an excellent connection with the community but we would like to expand that connection and be more visible at town events like July 4th, and The Chowder Challenge. We have

developed a six month action plan that includes some concrete efforts already under way: committee meetings outside the church building; the 4th of July Float; thank you cards to public service professionals; prayer walk; community outreach/mission opportunities; Faith Fun & Fellowship; Facebook and updating our web site. In addition to Pastor Paul's participation in Rotary, he is now the chaplain for the Williston Fire Department.

Growing a church does not happen overnight. It takes time and effort. We hope all will want to be part of this effort. Current team members are: Heather Lewis, Ashley Dubois, Jenny Rousseau, Lizzy Pope, Gary Lewis, Melissa Delisle, Charlie & Ruth Magill, Vicki Trueman, Carol Bouchard and Pastor Paul. We welcome your participation.

New England Annual Conference June 13-15, 2019

Once again, Pastor Paul, Rebecca Dubois, WFC Lay Delegate, and I attended the New England Annual Conference UMC held in Manchester NH. The theme for this year's conference was *"Vital Conversations: Justice."* Over 700 laity & clergy, representing 500 plus United Methodist and Federated churches from around New England, were present to conduct the business of the conference: to approve the budget; elect 3 clergy & 3 lay delegates to the 2020 General Conference as well as delegates to the Northeast Jurisdictional Conference; to remember clergy & laity who have died; to honor retiring clergy; to ordain & commission 24 new clergy, one of the largest classes in recent years; to celebrate mission; to celebrate the contributions of lay persons; to close 8 churches and to discuss the New England Conference's response to the General Conference ruling that discriminates against the LGBTQIA community. Amidst all the business, we participated in meaningful worship, Bible

Study, great music led by Dr. Mark Miller and his band and inspiring messages from Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar, Rev. Dr. Elaine Heath, Ophelia Hu Kinney, a lay leader at HopeGateway in Portland, ME and Rev. Dr. Jay Williams.

The bishop's opening address focused on the theme, "Vital Conversations: Justice," and the guiding scripture Micah 6:8: "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" The Bishop went on to say "We invite all to the table because holy communion is a means of grace, and we want to extend that means of grace to all as so many of our churches have affirmed, **all means all.**"

In his remarks to the newly commissioned, Bishop Devadhar said "The church needs you ... not simply to keep us afloat

or to keep the ship upright. We need you to help us fix our eyes on Jesus. We need you to help discern and proclaim the new direction to which we are being called. We need you to help us change our course, and if necessary, to abandon ship, so we can move into a new future – to a place of biblical and theological integrity; to a way that changes and forms us into the whole people of God. We need you to help us create a church that is righteous, true, and trustworthy – both inside and out."



New England Annual Conference June 13-15, 2019



Mitch Hay, Paul Hoffman, Larry & Helen Curtis, Ted Marcy & Kim Horning Marcy, to name a few. It was a time of learning and reflecting; a time to grow and be refreshed. I feel blessed to have been able to participate.

Carol Bouchard, Equalization Member to Annual Conference

The keynote addresses of: Bishop Devadhar, Dr. Heath, Ophelia Kinney' and Dr. Williams are printed in their entirety on the [Conference web site](#). I encourage you to read them if you have a chance.

The Annual Conference approved 19-210 COMMISSIONING THE OPEN SPIRIT TASK FORCE "to examine whether and how United Methodists of New England might align with, create, or form a new church body in the Methodist tradition (independently or in collaboration with others)." You can find the full list of resolutions on the [Conference web site](#).

More than 1,500 laity in the New England Conference and others signed a [statement](#) in response to the 2019 General Conference, to be included in the Journal.

New this year were handheld voting machine for all delegates. These machines replace the old method of paper ballots for election of delegates to General Conference, as well as voice vote on many of the legislative items. Once we got the hang of it, voting proceeded quite quickly.

We made new connections with folks from around the conference and reconnected with old friends: Barb Lemmel,

Welcome to our newest member

On June 9th DA (DorothyAnn) Wendeborn was welcomed into church membership. DA was born in St. John's Newfoundland. She moved to The Residence at Shelburne Bay from Fort Myers Florida a year ago to be closer to family (daughter Gayle & son-in-law, Brian Goodwin). She has three daughters, two sons, 16 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. She loves dogs, enjoys reading and walking.



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 Fellingert—
donnafellinger@
gmail.com

802-355-1700.



Steeple Scoop Ice Cream Booth



After the Fourth of July parade, WFC will once again be serving up ice cream cones on the green. This has the potential for being an outstanding summer fund raiser for the church especially if people are able to donate ice cream cones, cases of water or \$ to go toward the purchase of the ice cream.



appreciated. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board and any donations can be left on the table outside the fellowship hall.

All donations are very welcome and much



Book Club News

The book club is taking its usual summer break.

There will be no meetings between June 1 and

September 1, 2019. We will begin again in September. See you then

ATTENTION KIDS AND PARENTS:

Summer Sunday School will be offered all summer thanks to a great group of volunteers.! The exception is June 30th, when there will be a very short service followed by community service opportunities. Children are welcome to participate in some of these activities as well.

It is not too late to volunteer to help with Summer Sunday School - Please see the sign up sheet on the bulletin board. THANKS!



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The summer Sunday School will start June 16.

The *One Room School House* materials should be here in plenty of time for teachers to prepare, or you may have always wanted to do a special lesson for the children. Whichever you prefer, please pick a Sunday or two to share

you time and effort in teaching the young people.

The sign up sheet in on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall entry.



Fun Ahead

Faith + Fellowship ♥ Fun

Faith + Fellowship ♥ Fun

Faith Fellowship Fun! Join us as we revisit Hero Central and celebrate the heroes of the Bible and the heroes that live inside of us! .

Once again there will be 5 nights of FREE dinner and activities for all ages, both young and young at heart! Mark your calendars for August 11-15th 5:30-7:30pm

To register, visit <https://forms.gle/Pxc3GdHgJCRUuXJ2A>. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Lewis, hmlewis06@gmail.com.

4th of July Parade

Have you ever wanted to be in Williston's famous 4th of July parade?

Now's your chance! Williston Federated Church will once again be represented in the parade with an amazing float! If you are free on the Fourth, come and celebrate with us!

Sign up sheet on bulletin



HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

Harriet Burnett Family

I met Harriett Burnett and her family in the 1960's . Her daughter ,Betty and husband Jack had two children , Gwen and Ian. They were active members of the church. When Harriett passed away and Betty and her family moved Dr. William Burnett, brother of Betty, moved into the family home at Cherry Hill . Cherry Hill is on the left side of Route 2 just before you get to our local fire station today. It is a 2-story house with a porch and railing on the first floor and second floor. It was once the home of one of Williston's earliest settlers.

I met Dr. Burnett in 2010 and he shared a story with me. He was born in 1930 and went to UVM Medical School. Later he worked for 26 years for the New York Department of Health. When he was a 12 year old boy going to school on the Cape in Massachusetts he learned to cook. He had a favorite teacher by the name of Louise Han-nant. She convinced

the head of the school to let her teach the boys to cook because when the girls , who took her cooking classes, came back to the class-room with small pies the boys were envious. Years later when Dr. Burnett was an intern at UVM Medical School in Burlington he and his classmates would visit and care for the sick children at the Children's Baird Center on Shelburne Road. It was here he was surprised to meet his childhood teacher. She was working for social services and recognized him. He asked me if she was still living. I said yes and that I knew her well and she was residing at the Green Mountain Nursing Home. I visited Louise and told her his story and yes she remembered him. She was now known as Louise Whitcher . Louise was active in our church along with her husband, Wendell.

Dr. Burnett loaned me his composition notebook with all his hand-written recipes from the cooking school . The following is a favorite and I have made it several times.

Sponge Cake
4 egg yolks
1/8 teaspoon salt
4 egg whites
1 Tablespoon lemon juice
3/4 cup sugar
3/4 cup flour

Method:

1. Beat the egg yolks until thick and lemon-colored.
2. Add sugar gradually and continue beating until all sugar has been added and grains of sugar disappear.
3. Add lemon juice.
4. Beat egg whites stiff, fold into yolk mixture
5. Sift dry ingredients three times and carefully fold into the mixture.
6. Bake in greased floured pan for 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

by Ginger Isham



Answers to this puzzle will be

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HISTORY OF THE CHURCH



Enjoy the following crossword puzzle celebrating the history of Williston Federated Church.

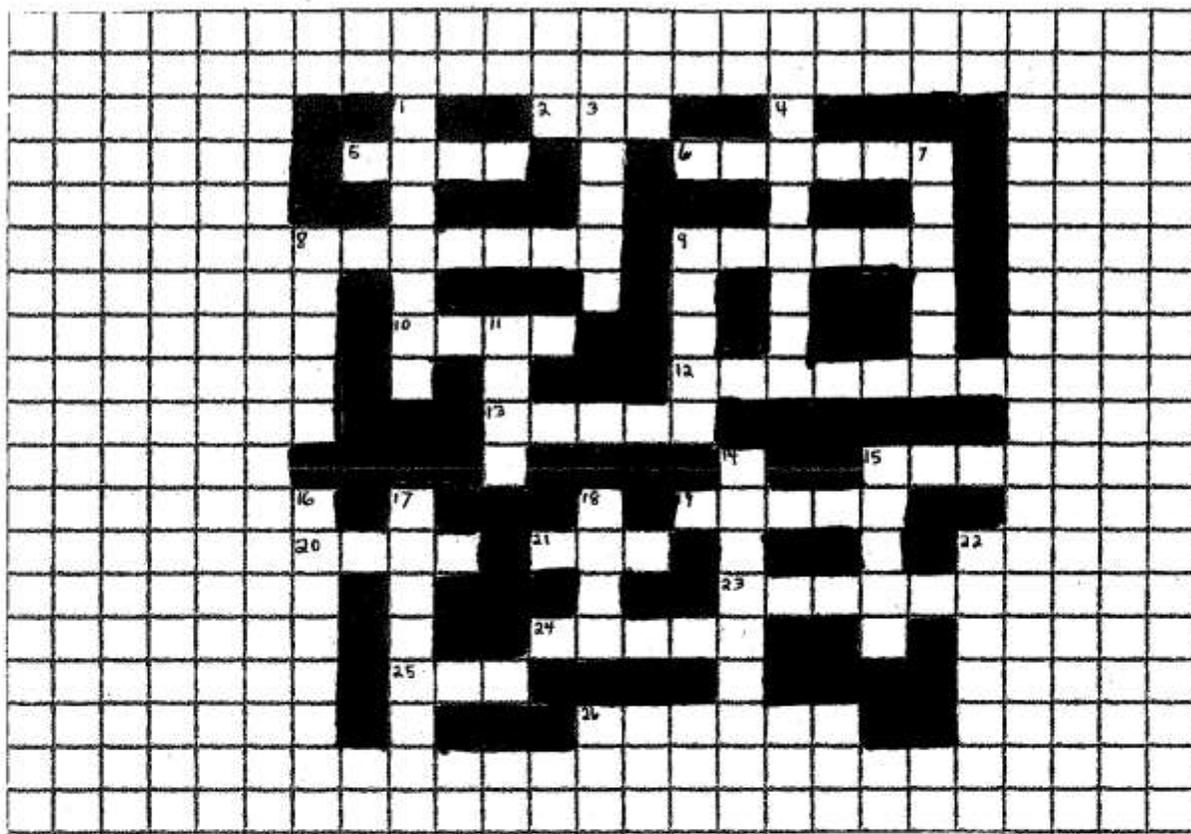
This crossword puzzle was created by Mina Isham in celebration of the 150th anniversary of our church building and the 120th anniversary of the federating of the Congregationalist and Methodist Churches that resulted in Williston Federated Church.

Answers to this puzzle will be provided on the next E-Steeple which comes out September. Finished crossword puzzles should be placed in the tray marked for puzzles on the table in the hallway to the Fellowship Hall.

Remember, there will be a prize for the puzzle that comes closest to having all the correct answers.



Answers to this puzzle will be



ACROSS

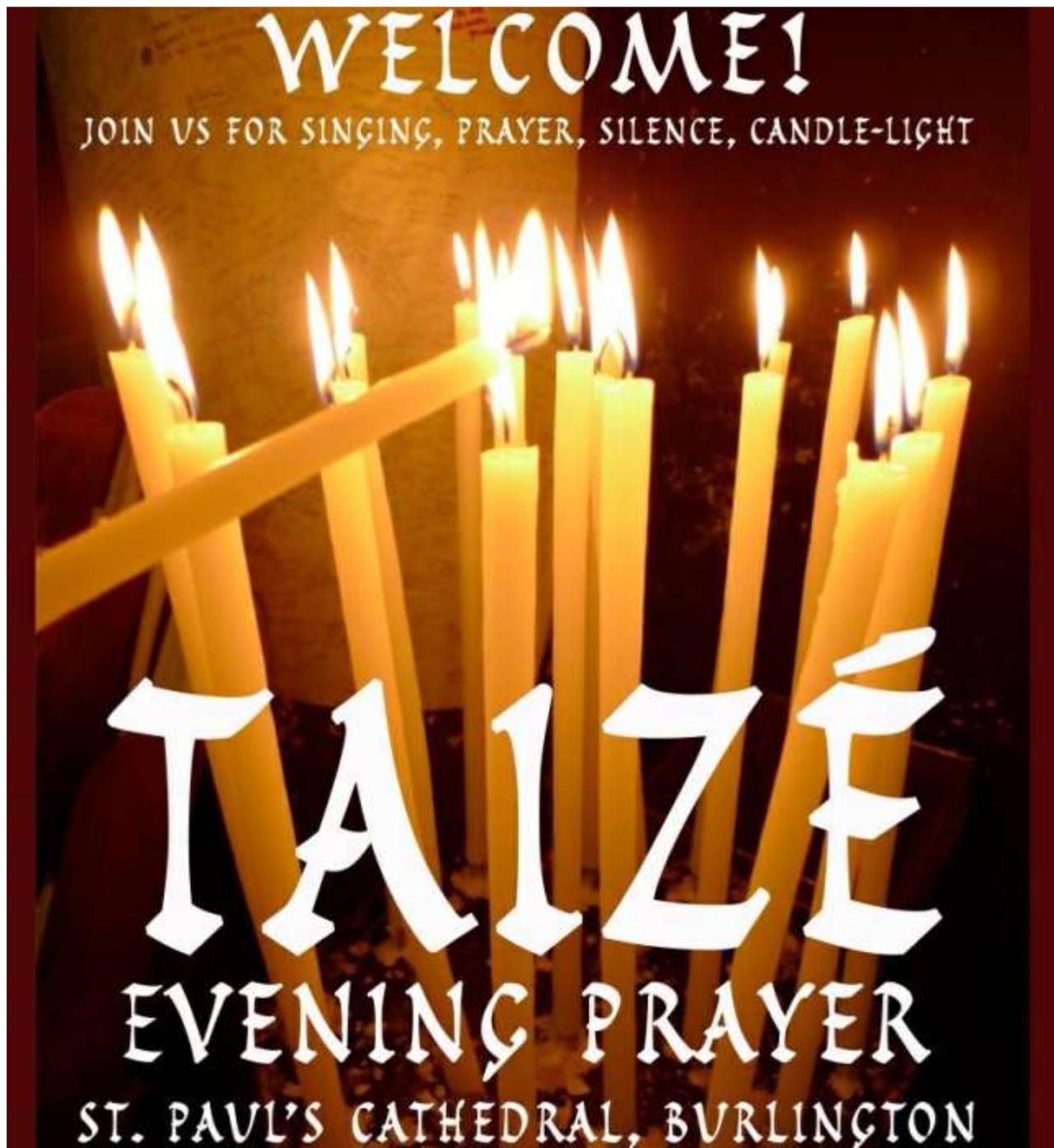
- 2 Troy is in Vt. as well as what neighboring state?
- 5 chicken barbecue month
- 6 part of WFC
- 8 chicken pie topper
- 9 Rev. Van Dreser's wife
- 10 choir member uniform
- 12 part of WFC URL
- 13 KJV or Gutenberg
- 15 delty
- 19 body of singers affiliated with church
- 20 current pastor with 18 down
- 21 it or a vase holds flowers
- 23 new steeple material
- 24 it has a face & two hands
- 25 pastor's title
- 26 once held after church on last day of Sunday School

DOWN

- 1 tots spend worship svc. here
- 3 teens participate in __ Group
- 4 when Easter svc. might be held
- 7 book with music & lyrics
- 8 sexton uses one
- 9 Peter is/was his name
- 11 nursery occupant
- 14 WFC unofficial "bird"
- 15 juice served at communion
- 16 church "lecture"
- 17 lg. rm. in basement
- 18 see 20 across
- 22 it often accompanies choirs & congregants

Created by
Mina Isham

Answers to this puzzle will be found in the September 2019 E-Steeple. A prize will be awarded for the entry having the most correct answers.



JOINING THE COMMUNITY TO WORSHIP EVENING PRAYER in the manner of **TAIZE** will be held Sunday July 7 2019 7p.m. at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul, 2 Cherry Street, Burlington VT This service includes scripture readings, times of silence, spoken prayer, and music from the Taizé Community. Parking is FREE at St. Paul's Anyone wishing to rehearse music, contact Liz Thompson 373-7597 or ehthomps@UVM.edu for details/rehearsal time(s).

June 24, 2019

Dear Beloved in Christ,

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

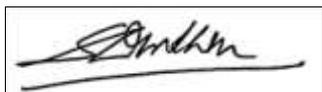
With many in our New England community, I am grieving the tragic death of seven motorcyclists in a roadway accident near Randolph, NH, on Friday, June 21, as reported in [USA Today](#).

My understanding is that all seven victims, as well as three persons who were injured in the crash, were Marines or their spouses participating in a fundraiser for veterans. They were from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New Hampshire.

Please join with me in praying for the families and friends who mourn their loss, for the young driver whose truck collided with them, and for those who are still recovering from their injuries.

During these summer days when we spend more time traveling, may we all be especially careful on the roadways.

In Christ's love,



Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar



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Answers to

SAVE THE DATE

Save the date: Back to Sunday School & Corn Roast September 8th
Join us September 8th from 11:00 am -1:00 pm as we bid farewell to summer and kick off a new Sunday School year. There will be face painting, lawn games and a camp fire for toasting marshmallows. Bring your lawn chair and be sure to invite a friend or neighbor.

We will gather on the church lawn, weather permitting, or in Fellowship Hall. Corn on the cob, hot dogs, salad & s'mores will be served. Sponsored by the Membership Committee.

Thanks!



CHICKEN PIE SUPPER

Chicken Pie Supper October 19, 2019

Save the date Everybody!! Mark your calendars for this fun, exciting, and work filled event.

It takes everyone's participation to make a success of this traditional chicken pie dinner.

Many of our diners start calling for reservations for weeks in advance so

lets not disappoint. Watch for more news in September and enjoy the summer.



SINGING BOWL - HISTORY

A metal bowl on a cushion is sitting on the prayer table in the church gallery. The history of this bowl begins with Rev Joan O'Gorman's sabbatical. With the funding of the sabbatical a course was taught in Centering Prayer. A few church members were interested in continuing the practice and this happened on Wednesday evenings for several months.

I joined a group in the community that was practicing a form of this prayer tradition. The place they were meeting

became unavailable and so with the OK of Joan we became the Prayer Group and continue to meet in the Sitting Room Thursday mornings at 8am. Pastor Joan occasionally joined the group especially for the 20 minutes of silent prayer.

Somewhere in conversation with Pastor Joan a prayer bowl of the Buddhist tradition was mentioned. With sabbatical funds she presented our group with what we call a singing bowl. (I don't think this bowl is truly a singing bowl but it is close.) As time

progressed and we now have a settled pastor I realized that this was a gift to the congregation and not just to our group. So the question of how and where to place was discussed with the Caring Circle and the suggestion was made to place it on the prayer table. It sits on the table for use by the congregation perhaps as a call to prayer, as a beginning of meditation or entry into the sanctuary or?

submitted by Donna Fellingner



Remodeling Finished

.Have you had an opportunity to check our updated kitchen. If you haven't make it a point to come and see it.

The cabinets are in, the stoves are brand spanking new; we have a new beautiful counter and our dishwasher saves lots of time.

Thanks to **ALL** who were responsible for this remodeling endeavor and thanks to Lois Mason for orchestrating the project. It is a dazzling success.

Photo at left: Carmyn Stanko and Lois Mason celebrate the new dishwasher in the church kitchen.



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.



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE

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tion, 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. (*Open and Affirming/Reconciling statement adopted by the Williston Federated Church congregation in 2006.*)



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1 10:15am - G 11:30am - T 7pm - Truste	2 10:15am - St	3 10:15am - T 11:30am - T 7pm - FINAN 7:30pm - AA	4 8am - Cente 9am - CarIng 10:15am - St 1:15pm - Ha 4:30pm - Ha	5 7am - Men's 9am - Golde 10:15am - G	6 9am - Alano	7 9:30am - Wo
8 10:15am - G 11:30am - T 6pm - Cub	9 10:15am - St 6pm - Christi 6pm - Mission 7pm - Officia	10 10:15am - T 11:30am - T 6pm - Youth 7:30pm - AA	11 8am - Cente 10:15am - St 1:15pm - Ha 4:30pm - Ha	12 7am - Men's 9am - Golde 10:15am - G	13 9am - Alano	14 9:30am - Wo
15 10:15am - G 11:30am - T	16 10:15am - St	17 10:15am - T 11:30am - T 7pm - Pastor 7:30pm - AA	18 8am - Cente 10:15am - St 11am - Mem 1:15pm - Ha 4:30pm - Ha	19 7am - Men's 9am - Golde 10:15am - G	20 9am - Alano	21 9:30am - Wo
22 10:15am - G 11:30am - T 1pm - Senior	23 10:15am - St	24 10:15am - T 11:30am - T 7:30pm - AA	25 8am - Cente 10:15am - St 1:15pm - Ha 4:30pm - Ha	26 7am - Men's 9am - Golde 10:15am - G	27 9am - Alano	28 9:30am - Wo
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