

Offering

Offertory

Duet: Cindy Thurston and Carolyn Pillsbury

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem  
(Joe Utterback)

Presentation of Gifts with Doxology

Hymnal #94

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts:*

*Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts;*

*Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (*unison*)

**Holy God, the love we receive from you is beyond our comprehension. Accept these gifts of love returned to you from grateful hearts. As your love has no limits, may this offering be infinite in compassionate outreach to others. Amen.**

Life and Mission of the Church

**\*Hymn**

“Heralds of Christ”  
(Hymnal #567)

**Going Out to Do God’s Word**

Benediction

Postlude

Now Raise Your Song on High  
(Camille Saint-Seans)

\*Please Stand if you are able

Should you need a ride to church or events for any reason, contact [donnafellingsvt@gmail.com](mailto:donnafellingsvt@gmail.com)  
(802-355-1700)

**NOTE:** The lighted flame entering the sanctuary at the beginning of worship symbolizes the Light of Christ coming into our midst. The pastor follows the Light in this procession, seeking to reflect that Light in leading the worship service.

# Williston Federated Church

*United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ – Federated 1899  
An Open and Affirming, Reconciling Congregation*

*Mission Statement*

*Our church is a community which seeks, welcomes and gathers people to share the Gospel of God’s love, enables people to find fullness of life through Jesus Christ, goes into the world to live lovingly and justly as servants of Christ, and responds actively to human need.*



*Pastor ~ Reverend Paul Eyer 878-5792, [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com)*

*Emeritus Pastor ~ Charlie Magill*

*Lay Leader ~ Ashley Dubois, Ministers ~ The People of the Church*

*Church Office Administrator ~ Sally Nowotarski*

*Music Director ~ Martin Hain, Organist ~ Carolyn Pillsbury*

*Choir Accompanist ~ Cindy Thurston, Nursery Caregiver ~ Michelle Davis*

# Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

December 10, 2017 ~ 9:30 A.M.

Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for young children.

Hearing assistance devices are available – please ask an usher for assistance.

## Centering Words

*“Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace.”*

Edward Hays, A Pilgrim’s Almanac, 20<sup>th</sup> Century

## Words of Welcome/ Call to Worship

Ashley Dubois

Lay Leader, Williston Federated Church

One: Listen! The voice of God calls out across the ages.

**Many: We hear and respond. We rise up to worship God from the valleys, the mountains, and the plains.**

One: Like a shepherd God leads us and tenderly gathers us together.

**Many: Comfort, comfort O my people, says our God of love.**

One: The grass withers and the flower fades;

**Many: But the word of our God will stand forever.** *(based on Isaiah 40)*

## Prelude

God is Coming

(J.S.Bach)

## Introit

“Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”

## Greeting and Announcements

**Sharing the Peace of Christ** (a brief time of greeting other worshipers nearby)

## \*Hymn

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

(Hymnal #209)

## Lighting the Peace Candle

### Lighting of the Advent Candle

Jenny Rousseau and Henri

One: Last Sunday we lit the candle of Hope, remembering the hope which comes in Christ. *(Light candle.)* Today we light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace. *(Light candle.)* Let us pray: O God, We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

**All: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed. This Advent, we pray for your peace that surpasses all understanding. Amen**

## Anthem

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes

(by Austin C Lovelace)

## Listening for God’s Word

### Time with Children of All Ages

### Scripture readings

Old Testament: page 667-668

Isaiah 40:1-11

Gospel: page 34

Mark 1:1-8

### Sermon

“Voices in the Wilderness”

Pastor Paul Eyer

### \*Hymn

“Make Way”

(Songbook #80)

## Responding to God’s Word

### Celebrations and Concerns

**Prayers of the People.** Response: **Lord in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

### Pastoral Prayer

### Silent Meditation

### The Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine in the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### **Friday Morning Men's 7:00am Bible Study**

is looking at the lectionary readings for the week, thinking about them, and discussing their meaning for our lives. After the meetings everyone who has time is invited to go out to breakfast together. All the men associated with the church are encouraged to join the group, for one Friday or for more. For additional information, contact Ken Stone, [kmstonevt@aol.com](mailto:kmstonevt@aol.com)

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**Poinsettia Sales!** It's that time again to order your poinsettia to adorn the alter for Christmas Eve. Poinsettias are \$10 a piece and come in red, white, or marble. You can order your poinsettia online <https://goo.gl/forms/bjOmtzsnr43IeDNq1> or check in with Ashley on Sunday morning. All orders must be submitted by December 17th. Checks can be made out to WFC Youth. Questions? Email or call Ashley [ashley0705@gmail.com](mailto:ashley0705@gmail.com) 233-5824.

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**Dear Friends:** I have tentatively scheduled a United Methodist Volunteer in Mission trip to Florida for the week of April 15 to 21, 2018. I picked Florida because we haven't worked there before, it is frequently affordable to travel to, and Puerto Rico is not yet organize to receive volunteers. There is much hurricane recovery work to be done throughout the world.

If this fits your calendar and you'd like to go, please let me know. I will know details about where we should fly to, what the costs will be, and how many can be in the group as time goes by. As you know, we probably won't know what the work is until a week or so before we travel, perhaps not until we arrive. My hope is that it will not be ALL ceiling work, as our last New Jersey trip was.

I hope to hear from several of you. Feel free to distribute this note widely.

God's blessing,  
Charlie Magill

*Liturgical resources: The **Call to Worship** and **Prayer of Dedication** are adapted from a liturgy entitled "From Valleys to Mountains: Prayers for the Second Sunday of Advent" written by UCC pastor Rev. Penny Lowes and found at [http://www.ucc.org/worship\\_worship-ways](http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways). The **Advent Candle** ceremony is adapted from a liturgy found at <https://www.liturgylink.net/category/advent/candle-liturgy/> and a liturgy "Advent: Liturgy for Lighting Advent Candles" found at [http://www.ucc.org/worship\\_worship-ways\\_year-a\\_ace\\_advent-liturgy-for](http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways_year-a_ace_advent-liturgy-for).*

**Greeters:** Carol Bouchard   **Coffee:**

**Ushers:** Charlie Magill and Don Thurston

**Scripture Reader:** Derek Allen

Advent Candle lighting: Jenny Rousseau and Henri

### **Williston Federated Church ~ Week of December 10 2017**

**Tuesday, Dec 12** ~ 6:00pm Christian Education; 7:00pm Official Board

**Wednesday, Dec 13** ~ 6:00pm Youth Ministry; 7:30pm AA Meeting

**Thursday, Dec 14** ~ 8:00am Centering; 12:00pm Rotary Sr. Luncheon; 7:00pm Choir

**Friday, Dec 15** ~ 7:00am Men's Bible Study

**Saturday, Dec 16** ~ 9:00am Alanon;

**Sunday, Dec 17** ~ 9:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Eyer

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### **Arrangement on Altar**

The greens on the altar have been provided by Donna Fellingner ~ In Memory of her Mom, Emma-May Schmidt.

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### **Bible Study**

Explore the writing of the New Testament using the story of Jesus as the starting point. This eight week survey of the testament looks at how the early church took ownership of and was shaped by the story of Jesus and how the church learned how to develop as disciples and create communities of faith.

Join Ruth and Charlie Magill for a short term DISCIPLE Bible study beginning January 9, 2018. Would you prefer an afternoon class or an evening class? There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board where you can indicate your preference.

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**Alternative Gift Shop** - Looking for a creative gift for that special someone for Christmas? The Alternative Gift Shop will be open in the Fellowship Hall right after church on **December 3, 10, and 17** for your shopping convenience. Many great programs, organizations, and projects are available to choose from so you can make a donation in someone's name this holiday season. **A change this year is that checks should be made out to Williston Federated Church, rather than to the organization, with the name of the organization(s) and the amount to be donated on the memo line.** The church will send the donations, **with the list of donors**, to the various organization directly. Questions? Contact Ann Wadsworth at [ann.wadsworth1@gmail.com](mailto:ann.wadsworth1@gmail.com) or 578-8716.

**Cards will be available for the following organizations:**

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

**Giving Tree** – The giving tree will once again be in the hallway outside the sanctuary on November 26<sup>th</sup>. If you are able, please take a tag and purchase a gift for a child in need from our community. Wrapped gifts with the tag attached to the outside of the package should be returned to the giving tree by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you! Please contact Ann Wadsworth at [ann.wadsworth1@gmail.com](mailto:ann.wadsworth1@gmail.com) or 578-8716 if you have any questions.

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

**Here is a link to an advent calendar** that has been created by local UMC pastors. It is a great resource if people want it. I am also attaching it as a document if that is easier. <https://thomasmousin.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/2017adventcalendar.pdf>

**Vigil to end gun violence set for Dec. 14 in the Williston village.**

Please join us on the steps of the Old Brick Church as we sing, pray, and speak words of hope for peace in our schools, churches, and other public places. The vigil will begin at 6:45 PM with some of our choir members singing, and end by 7:30 PM with candle lighting. Ruth Magill and Bob Pasco, organizers

**There is a new symbol of 3 candles** on the cross over the altar. Trudy Anderson made the symbol to represent the Trinity (Father Son and Holy Spirit). Thanks, Peace, Donna