

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.

Offering

Offertory

Trio en Chaconne
(Andre' Raison)

Presentation of Gifts with Doxology

*We give thee but thine own, What e'er the gift may be:
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.*

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive, we ask, these offerings, and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all creation. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.

Life and Mission of the Church

*Hymn

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"
(Songbook #150)

Going Out to Do God's Word

Benediction

Postlude

"Fugue"
(Jean Francois Dandrieu)

*Please Stand if you are able

Should you need a ride to church or events for any reason, contact donnafellinger@vt@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.

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

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

44 North Williston Road, Williston, VT 05495

Church Office: (802) 878-5792, e-mail address: office@steeple.org, Website: www.steeple.org

Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

February 18, 2018 ~ 9:30 A.M.

First Sunday of Lent

Childcare is available downstairs in the nursery for young children.

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

Centering Words

Rainbows introduce us to reflections of different beautiful possibilities so we never forget that pain and grief are not the final options in life.
Aberjhani, 21st Century

Words of Welcome/ Call to Worship

Ashley Dubois

Lay Leader, Williston Federated Church

One: From water to wilderness:

All: God’s covenant continues; God’s kingdom comes near.

One: On stone and in hearts:

All: God’s covenant continues; God’s kingdom comes near.

One: From ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

All: God’s covenant continues; God’s kingdom comes near.

One: We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

All: for where he is, we would be also.

Prelude

“Our Father”
(Armstorff)

Introit

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting the Peace Candle

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

*Hymn

“Give to the Winds Thy Fears”
(Hymnal # 129)

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: God’s bow has been hung in the clouds—a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin. God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. Without fear, then, let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We admit that we often do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We seem to condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil in its many guises, and turn us toward your kingdom drawing near. In covenantal love, remember us, we pray, and be for us, once more and always, an ark of safety and new life. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth. Thanks be to God for this good news!

Anthem

“We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace”
(arr by William Hooper)

Listening for God’s Word

Time with Children of All Ages

Scripture readings

Old Testament reading:	Page 7	Genesis 9:8-17
Gospel reading:	Pages 34-35 (in the New Testament)	Mark 1:9-15

Sermon

“Clouds of Controversy”
Pastor Paul Eyer

*Hymn

“God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale”
(Hymnal #122)

Responding to God’s Word

Celebrations and Concerns

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

Pastoral Prayer

Help Enhance Our Worship Services: Do you enjoy the images projected at the front of our sanctuary during worship services? Would you like to help those images to be displayed? We are looking for a few volunteers who would be willing to operate the remote control device during worship. This consists of clicking a button at the correct time to advance the image on screen. (You would be provided with an annotated bulletin and thumbnail "script" so that you will know when to advance the frame each time.) The goal is to have a team of remote control device operators who can rotate responsibility for this role each week or each month. Please let Pastor Paul (pastoreyer@gmail.com, [802-878-5792](tel:802-878-5792)) know if you are interested in helping in this way.

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### **Different Types of Prayer for Lenten Devotion**

During the weeks of Lent, there will be a table in the Gallery with instructions for different types of prayer: Lectio Divina, Composing Prayer, Intercessory Prayer, and Walking Prayer. These instructions are from the "Deepening Spirituality" workshop that was held at WFC in February. Please feel free to take the instructions home with you, or to come and use the sanctuary for your Lenten prayer time, either to sit in prayer or to walk prayerfully. The sanctuary is open during the week during day-care hours: 8am to 5:00pm Monday thru Friday

**Blessings on your Lenten prayer practice!**

**The National Alliance for Mental Illness VT (NAMI VT)** will offer a free 12-week class for families of people with a mental health condition starting March 5th. For more information, contact NAMI VT at (802) 876-7949 or email [nickmartin@namivt.org](mailto:nickmartin@namivt.org).

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Liturgical resources: *The Call to Worship, Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession* are adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year B*, vol. 1, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long (Louisville: Westminster/John Knox Press, 2014) at pages 96-102.

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The Powerpoint presentation of projected images is the result of a collaborative effort involving our Church Office Administrator, Sally Nowotarski, Heather Lewis, a member of the Communications Task Force, and Pastor Paul Eyer. Carmyn Stanko is serving as the remote control operator today.

Greeters and Coffee: Meisenzahl Family

Ushers: Ruth and Charlie Magill

Scripture Reader:

Williston Federated Church ~ Week of February 18, 2018

Monday, Feb 19 ~ 1:00 pm Bible Study

Tuesday, Feb 20 ~ 11:00 am funeral for Ralph Vezina, 5:30pm Book Club Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 21 ~ 7:00pm Pastor/Staff; 7:30pm AA Meeting

Thursday, Feb 22 ~ 8:00am Centering; 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, Feb 23 ~ 7:00am Men's Bible Study

Saturday, Feb 24 ~ 9:00am Alanon

Sunday, Feb 25 ~ 9:30am Worship Service

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## Sledding Party

The sledding party will take place today (Sunday, February 18th) after church. We will meet at Rossignol Park at 11:15 for sledding plus a campfire with cocoa, hot dogs and s'mores. It will be great fun for the young and young at heart. All are welcome!

## 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)

## Book Club and Pot Luck Dinner

Because February is Black History Month, our book group will be discussing the play, 'A Raisin in the Sun' by Lorraine Hansberry. We will meet in the Church fellowship hall for a potluck on February 20 at 5:30. Michelle Davis will lead our discussion. Please let me know if you plan to attend. All women are welcome. The book choice for March is 'The Girl with Seven Names' by Hyeonseo Lee and for April 'America's First Daughter' by Laura Kamoie and Stephanie Dray. Please let me know if you would like to lead the discussion or hostess the events. Lois Mason [loismason418@gmail.com](mailto:loismason418@gmail.com) 879-7263

**Missions and Social Concerns** Please take the time to look over the Missions and Social Concerns bulletin board downstairs in the entry. We have posted several "thank you" notes from some of the organizations which you supported through your gifts to the Alternative Gift Shop. Your financial support to these groups is being used to help people, programs, and facilities.

**Children's Time** During the Lenten Season (2/18 through 4/1) we are inviting volunteers to lead Children's Time. Do you have a 5 to 7 minute message, story, or idea you would like to share with the children at church during lent? If you are interested or have more questions about this opportunity, please contact Ashley ([ashley0705@gmail.com](mailto:ashley0705@gmail.com)).

## Women's Breakfast March 10th 9-11am - *What Brings You Peace?*

Reach In – Reach Out: A Williston Community Peace Project presentation by Deb Chisholm and Deb Burke. All women of the church are invited to come and bring a friend. Enjoy a hearty breakfast at 9:00 AM with the program to follow. A sign up sheet, to assist in planning, is on the bulletin board. Child care will be available. Please indicate this when you sign up. Hope to see you there. Contact [Carol Burbank](#) or [Carol Bouchard](#) with questions.

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**Martyr or murderer? Theologian or Thug?** Come explore one of the most fascinating figures in all of church history! Who was **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**? Why did the Nazis want him killed? Why do the provocative writings of this German pastor remain controversial over seventy years after his death? And why is Bonhoeffer's dramatic life story—abounding in *cloak-and-dagger intrigue*—profoundly relevant to our lives today? Come find out as we begin a new adult study series this **Thursday, February 22 and continuing each Thursday through March 22 at 6:00 p.m.**, led by Pastor Paul Eyer. Don't miss this spiritual spy story!