

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.

Offering

Offertory Congregation is invited to sing along “The Summons”
(Songbook #165)

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)

O God, accept these offerings with the dedication of our lives, that we may be for the world a sign of your abiding love and a testament to your enduring promise. Amen.

Life and Mission of the Church

*Hymn “Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”
(Songbook #49)

Going Out to Do God's Word

Benediction

Postlude Toccata in E Minor (Johann Pachelbel)

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 25, 2018 ~ 9:30 A.M.

Second 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

I have a lot of faith. But I am also afraid a lot, and have no real certainty about anything. I remembered something Father Tom had told me--that the opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty. Certainty is missing the point entirely. Faith includes noticing the mess, the emptiness and discomfort, and letting it be there until some light returns.

Anne Lamont, 21st Century

Words of Welcome/ Call to Worship

Ashley Dubois

Lay Leader, Williston Federated Church

One: In this season of Lent, we are invited to follow Christ wherever he leads.

All: We are invited to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

One: We are challenged to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all of God's people.

All: We are called to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

One: The season of Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.

All: We are called to journey with God.

One: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

Prelude

“Sicilienne “
(Maria Theresa von Paradis)

Introit

“Rejoice Ye Pure in Heart”

Greeting and Announcements

Lighting the Peace Candle

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

*Hymn

“At the Name of Jesus”
(Hymnal # 168)

CALL TO CONFESSION

One: Trusting in God's promise of salvation, let us confess our shortcomings and repent.

CONFESSION

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always been sincere Christians. We claim to follow Jesus but have rarely taken his path of sacrificial love. We profess to be disciples, but we are often unwilling to bear the cost of discipleship. We affirm the virtue of self-control, but we indulge our selfish desires and seek earthly gain. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for sincere repentance through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Hear the good news: God deems as righteous all who trust that Jesus has been raised from the dead for our salvation. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Anthem

“The Wonder of His Love”

Listening for God's Word

Time with Children of All Ages

Scripture readings

Gospel reading: Page 44 (in the New Testament) Mark 8:31-38

Sermon

“Sharp Words” Pastor Paul Eyer

*Hymn

“Give Thanks”
(Songbook #3)

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.

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. The sanctuary is open during the week during day-care hours: 8am to 5:00pm Monday thru Friday

A Thank You to Nancy Stone ~ our own resident artist is once again sharing her collages, entitled "Point of Choice, with us for Lent. Please view them in the gallery area. Nancy writes:

"These acrylic-collage scrolls grew out of two month's sketching and painting during rehearsals of the rock opera "Jesus Christ, Superstar," a 1989 Lyric Theater production. Some Flynn Theater architectural motifs are used for the same reason that Andrew Lloyd Webber wrote the contemporary music...so that people today can respond to messages that transcend time."

These collages present the moment when the characters face a crisis and willingly or reluctantly accept their destiny in the unfolding drama.

Mary Magdalene Change and follow Jesus or continue her life as it was

Judas Ask for forgiveness or end his suffering

Pontius Pilate Free Jesus, an innocent man or Give in to the threats and cries of the crowd

Jesus Accept human suffering or Return to his Godliness

NOTE: The lighted flame entering the sanctuary at the beginning of worship symbolizes the Light of Christ coming into our midst.

Liturgical resources: *The Call to Worship* was adapted from "Lectionary Liturgies" prepared by Rev. Thom Shuman. (found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2015/02/liturgy-wcommunion-for-march-1-2015.html>.)

The Call to Confession, Prayer of Confession, Assurance of Pardon, and Prayer of Dedication 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 page 103.

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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: Fred and Barb Bristol **Coffee:** Vicki Trueman

Ushers: Melissa Delisle and Ursula White

Scripture Reader: Melissa Delisle

Williston Federated Church ~ Week of February 25, 2018

Wednesday, March 1 ~ 7:00am Men's Breakfast; 7:30pm AA Meeting

Thursday, March 2 ~ 8:00am Centering; 6:00pm Bonhoeffer Study Series; 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Friday, March 3 ~ 7:00am Men's Bible Study

Saturday, March 4 ~ 9:00am Alanon; 9:00am Tiny Dreamers Conference

Sunday, March 5 ~ 9:30am Worship Service

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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 in this new adult study series **continuing each Thursday through March 22 at 6:00 p.m.**, led by Pastor Paul Eyer. Don't miss this spiritual spy story!

**Rummage Sale** – March 23<sup>rd</sup> 9 AM – 6 PM and March 24<sup>th</sup> 9 AM -12 PM.

This sale is for **clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry and linens only**. *Think textiles. We are looking for donations of gently worn clothing for all ages, clean and in good condition, as well as linens, shoes, jewelry, purses. Items may be brought to Fellowship Hall beginning Monday, March 19th. Tables will be set up and labeled. If you have time, please take a moment to place your items on the appropriate tables. Folks are needed to help with table set up on Sunday the 18th, sort clothes during the week, work at the sale Friday & Saturday and to help take the left over items to Goodwill on Saturday. If you can help, please sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen or contact Carol Bouchard at 862-7400 or [carolcbouchard@gmail.com](mailto:carolcbouchard@gmail.com) Note: Please no donations before March 19th.*

**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)).

### **Book Club and Pot Luck Dinner**

March’s Book Choice is “The Girl With Seven Names”. The time and place are not yet decided. As the information becomes available it will be published in the Sunday Bulletin.

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

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### **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](mailto:CarolBurbank) or [Carol Bouchard](mailto:CarolBouchard) with questions.

### **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)