

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.

Open and Affirming, Reconciling Pledge

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.

Welcome To All Who Worship Here!

Reign of Christ Sunday – November 22, 2020, 9:30 A.M.

GATHERING MUSIC

Carolyn Pillsbury

“Meditation” by Widor

“Faith of Our Fathers”

“A Mighty Fortress” by Johann Gottfried Walther

GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Ashley Dubois, Lay Leader,
Williston Federated Church

One: We gather, for God gathers us. We gather with that community called faith:

All: where the hungry are served first, where the thirsty drink life's water.

One: We come, for God welcomes us into that home called grace:

All: where the needy are clothed in robes of hope; where the stranger is

embraced with warmth.

One: We come, for God reunites us as sisters and brothers in that family called love:

All: where the imprisoned model justice and where the sick are cradled in God's peace.

INTROIT

“We Thank Thee Lord”

Recorded by the Junior and Senior Choirs on the Sunday before Thanksgiving
2008

WELCOME

Pastor Paul Eyer

LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

HYMN

“Church is the Way We Live”

(used by permission of the composer, Amanda Udis-Kessler)

Led by Martin and Donna Sue Hain

Church is the way we live. Church is the way we care.
Church is open. Church is gathered all the time and everywhere.
Church is the hungry fed. Church is the wounded healed.
In the work we do for justice, in the hope we bring the hopeless,
All the best that church can be is finally revealed.

Church is the time we take tending to those in pain.
Church is joined in holy worship when the bound are free again.
Church is the pained at ease. Church is the peace they find.
In the welcome of the stranger, in the clothing of the naked,
All the best that church can be is burning in our lives.

Church is the choice we make, year into joyous year
As we seek to love and trust, abandoning our hate and fear.
Church is the world restored. Church is the feast begun.
In the tending of our neighbors, in the mending of our planet,
All the best that church can be is shining like the sun.

PRAYER FOR TODAY *(adapted from "Imagine Integrity" by Bruce Sanguin)*

One: Mighty and tender God, you, the encompassing heart of all, we enter now into your kingdom, your community of wholeness, a realm of peace.

We bring our hunger,

All: and the hunger of the world.

One: We bring our inner stranger,

All: and the exiled of the world.

One: We bring our hurting selves,

All: and the hurting of the world.

One: We open to healing. Inspired, we dare to imagine integrity

All: in our inner life, our relationships, our planet, and our political systems.

One: We dare to imagine the reign of Christ.

ANTHEM

"Declare Your Maker's Praise"

Williston Federated Church Senior Choir

music arranged by Lloyd Larson, with Deni-Marie Bond, oboe.

recorded at the Steeple Benefit Concert on May 5, 2018

TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Toccata” by Buxtehude

Carolyn Pillsbury

Liturgical resources: The **Call to Worship** is adapted from “Lectionary Liturgies” by Thom Shuman, found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/11/liturgy-for-november-23-2014-reign-of.html>. The **Prayer for Today** is adapted from “Imagine Integrity” from *If Darwin Prayed* (at page 162) by Bruce Sanguin, used as a Spoken Reflection in a liturgy by Rex. A. E. Hunt of the United Church of Australia. The **Prayer of Dedication** was inspired by a prayer from “Lectionary Liturgies” by Thom Shuman, found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2014/11/liturgy-for-november-23-2014-reign-of.html>.

This Week and Beyond at WFC

In addition to prayers offered during our worship services, prayer requests may still be sent to Pastor Paul via email at pastoreyer@gmail.com. These prayers will then be lifted in prayer by the pastor throughout the week. (If you would like to submit prayer requests to be shared during our online worship service, please send those requests to WillistonFederatedYouth@gmail.com or post them as chat comments during our video live-stream of our worship service on Facebook Live on Sunday.)

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Today (Sunday, November 22) at 4:00 p.m. we join in the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service with our sisters and brothers at Richmond Congregational United Church of Christ (Richmond, VT), Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church (Richmond, VT), and Immaculate Heart of Mary (Williston, VT). This pre-recorded online service features clergy, readers, and musicians from each church, and expressions of Thanksgiving from members of each congregation (including a certain panda...). A freewill offering will benefit the Richmond and Williston Food Pantries. Please make a donation payable to your Williston Federated Church” with the notation marked “Thanksgiving Offering.” Here is the link to this pre-recorded service that will be available at 4:00 p.m. Sunday via youtube:

<https://youtu.be/IAhgjABhgwU>

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**A GoFundMe Page** has been started for Eric & Sylvia Love, community members & former WFC members. Eric fell in the road last week and re injured his brain. A **gofundme** page has been started to help this family with ongoing medical expenses and lost income.  
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**The Missions and Social Concerns Committee would like to thank** everyone who participated in making the Drive By Thanksgiving Food Drop such an enormous success. We planned to give away 20 “baskets” but received so much extra food that we were able to prepare 27. In addition, each of those families received another bag of staples. We also took two very full carloads of food to the Williston Food Shelf. How fortunate we are to live in such a caring and generous community.

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Youth group online gathering

The Williston Federated Youth Group (aimed at those in the 6th through 12th grades) gathers each Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Email Ashley at WillistonFederatedYouth@gmail.com for the link to this “virtual” time of connection.

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**Virtual Bulletin Board**

We are happy to share that we have created a virtual Bulletin Board for announcements and sign ups that will be accessible through our website. We have also created a tutorial video to guide you through using the bulletin board. Both the tutorial and bulletin board can be found on our website.

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## **Prepare the Way!**

“Trust in the Lord, and do good” (Psalm 37:3). Our church has always demonstrated a strong commitment to service, in our community and throughout the world. Shortly before the pandemic struck, our Vitality Team initiated “Fifth Sundays” service projects. These were a great way to show our Christian love to our neighbors, and enjoy fellowship within the congregation. We all look forward to resuming these efforts when we are able to gather together again.

Since March, our church has continued its service efforts despite the pandemic. Two recent examples show how important Williston Federated Church is to the life of our community. On Halloween, many children were unable to trick-or-treat in their neighborhoods. The church organized a “drive-by” for them, handing out more than 100 bags of treats within an hour and then needing to go procure more! And just last Saturday, 80 cars stopped by the church parking lot with food items for the annual Thanksgiving baskets for families in need at Williston schools. We had planned on serving 20 families, but the outpouring was so generous, we filled 27 bags, and an additional bag of food for each family. We still had two carsful of food to donate to the Williston Food Shelf. And enough Hannaford gift cards for the families, both for Thanksgiving and Christmas! Talk about “loaves and fishes!”

The above are just two of the many examples of church service during these challenging times. The members and friends of WFC “**Do Good.**” And we also “**Trust in the Lord.**” Our Advent Stewardship campaign, “**Prepare the Way,**” begins next Sunday, November 29. Please join with your support. Thank you!

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Access to church building – please note **NEW INFORMATION**

Access to the church to building is now allowed subject to the requirements listed in "Opening the Church Building for Prayer, Group Meetings and Limited Special

Services". If you would like a copy of this document, please contact Martin Hain at mhainvt@gmail.com. All visits to the building must be scheduled and approved in advance. You can schedule a visit by contacting Tony Lamb at 802-343-1544 or stolat36@gmail.com, Martin Hain at 802-598-6611 or mhainvt@gmail.com, or Mike Moran at 802-343-9427 or mpmoran1a@yahoo.com. All people entering the building must wear a face mask and must social distance. Please see the document listed above for other requirements.

Remember that the building is closed but the Church is open, carrying out ministry in support of God's work in the world.

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Dismas House Dinners

A sincere thank you to Barb Bristol and Jane Stickney for preparing, providing and delivering a nourishing meal to the residents, volunteers and staff at Dismas House in Burlington, this past Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Thank you for your frequent participation in this very meaningful volunteer opportunity.

Now, we have come to December, 2020. There is only one date in 2020 to participate in providing a meal to Dismas House: December 15, 2020. If you feel moved to participate, please contact Peet Grobler at 📞:(802)881-9007 or ✉️: peetgrobler@aol.com.

Then we start all over again in 2021. January 19, 2021 will be the first date in the new year for this volunteer opportunity.

Thank you all for considering.

Have a meaningful, albeit different Thanksgiving 2020.

With thanks,

Your Missions and Social Concerns Committee

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Giving Tree. Soon we will be entering the Advent Season and that means gift giving, special Christmas music, church services, family gatherings, and more. But

unfortunately, many of our traditions will look a bit different this year due to the pandemic.

The Missions and Social Concerns Committee will again be sponsoring the Giving Tree. But instead of purchasing specific gifts for each child, we will be collecting gift cards for families to purchase holiday gifts for their children. We will have an online sign-up available for your use in the coming days. So stay tuned for more information.

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