

# *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.

Sunday, February 21, 2021 -- First Sunday of Lent

## **Welcome To All Who Worship Here!**

### **OPENING MUSIC**

Carol Schein

"Depth of Mercy with Search Me, O God" -Von Weber

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" -anonymous, arr. Hayes

"Lamb of God" -Paris

### **GREETING**

Ashley Dubois, Lay Leader  
Williston Federated Church

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We are gathered to worship our God.

**All: Send your Spirit upon us.**

One: We come from many places, with many burdens.

**All: Send you Spirit upon us.**

One: We turn our hearts to you, O God.

**All: Send your Spirit upon us, and build us into a beloved family.**

**WELCOME**

The Rev. Paul Eyer

**LIGHTING THE PEACE CANDLE**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**HYMN**        “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”  
                  (sing verses 1 and 3)

UMC hymnal #269

**PRAYER FOR TODAY** (*unison*)

**Faithful God,  
you called all creatures into being,  
and you care for each one.  
Send your grace upon your people gathered here,  
that we may follow your ways of truth,  
and walk in the paths of steadfast love,  
proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**        “A Time for All Things”

arr. Douglas Wagner

Recorded by WFC Senior Choir on April 28, 2013

**TIME WITH CHILDREN OF ALL AGES**

**SCRIPTURE**

Genesis 9:8-17

Gary Lewis

(New Revised Standard Version—NRSV)

**8** Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, **9** “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, **10** and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.[a] **11** I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” **12** God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **13** I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. **14** When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, **15** I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. **16** When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” **17** God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION** *(from Psalm 19)*

**All: May the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer.**

**SERMON**

"Never Forget"

Pastor Paul Eyer

**CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor: Lord of Life and Love,

**Congregation: Hear our prayer.**

**SILENT MEDITATION**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERING**

*(please see notes in THIS WEEK AND BEYOND AT WFC about how you can make your offering effortless via online giving)*

**OFFERTORY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (unison)

**Because of your grace and goodness, O God, we offer you these gifts.**

**Take our lives and our gifts and use them to save our world. We put our hope in you. Amen.**



## **This Week and Beyond at WFC**

### **Prayer Requests**

In addition to prayers offered during our worship services, prayer requests may still be sent to Pastor Paul via email at [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:WillistonFederatedYouth@gmail.com) or post them as chat comments during our video live-stream of our worship service on Facebook Live on Sunday.)

### **Your On-line Offering Options:**

If you're interested in setting up automatic online withdrawals, please contact Matt Bliss who can invite you to set up an account with our online church membership software, Realm. When logged in, select the "Giving" menu on the left hand side and the "+ Give" button on the next screen. Then, enter your giving details and payment information to set up automatic withdrawals from your bank account. Select one of the pledge accounts (e.g., Pledge Jul 2020 to Jun 2021). Frequency should be set to monthly on the 15th. You can follow the same process to make one-time contributions too. If you have any questions, contact Matt Bliss at [blisswm@comcast.net](mailto:blisswm@comcast.net). Or you can complete a hard-copy registration form (posted on the church Facebook page) and mail it to Matt Bliss at the church. Credit card contributions can be made on the church website at [steeple.org](http://steeple.org).

### **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](mailto:WillistonFederatedYouth@gmail.com) for the link to this "virtual" time of connection.

### **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.

### **Thursday morning prayer:**

On Thursday morning, February 18, at 9am, there will be a Zoom gathering for silent prayer and Bible discussion. The session begins with a brief reading and then 20 minutes of silence. A picture and participants will appear on the screen. After 20 minutes a bell will ring 3 times. Then the Bible passage of the day will be read three times. Participants will talk of the part of the passage that touched them or had questions or special meaning. The gathering lasts about one hour, ending with the Lord's Prayer also known as the Our Father. The Zoom code is 395 928 9957. Questions call Donna Fellingner (802)-355-1700.

### **Looking Ahead in Lent**

The season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday last week and will culminate with the events of Holy Week: Palm Sunday (March 28 at 9:30 a.m.); Maundy Thursday (April 1 at 7:00 p.m.); Good Friday (April 2); and Easter Sunday (April 4 at 9:30 a.m.)

### **New Members to be Received March 28th :**

All are welcome here at Williston Federated Church. Being a full member of the church is not a requirement for participation in all aspects of worship, serving on committees or providing outreach and service to others. It is an opportunity to make a public statement of Christian witness and a commitment to Williston Federated Church. If you are new to the church community, or have been worshipping at WFC for years, and are interested in joining the church, please contact Pastor Paul at [pastoreyer@gmail.com](mailto:pastoreyer@gmail.com). A reception of new members will take place virtually during worship on March 28th.

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### **Palm Sunday and Easter Music**

Everyone is invited to sing "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna" and "Christ the Lord is Risen Today". Martin Hain, choir director, will be putting together virtual choir/congregation presentations of these hymns for Palm Sunday and Easter. The process involves each participant recording themselves singing the carols using a PC or a Mac computer while listening to pre-recorded accompaniment with earbuds or headphones. If you can Zoom on your PC or Mac then you can do this. The PC/Mac records video and audio which will be used to create a composite video of all participants singing together (at least together in the video).

If this is something that you might like to do, please send Martin an email at [mhainvt@gmail.com](mailto:mhainvt@gmail.com) and he will send you more detailed instructions.

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### **Dismas House Opportunity**

Thank you Bruce, Carol, Joanna and Sarah for taking on Dismas House Dinner for February 16, 2021. We are sure the feast was enjoyed very much.

How about considering to be a volunteer cook for next month's dinner?

Our March date for Dismas House dinner is March 16th, 2021.

Ginger Isham has promised yeast rolls and dessert (thanks, Ginger!).

We usually offer a main course and either a salad or a vegetable side dish as well.



For more detail, please contact Peet Grobler at: (802) 881-9007 or [peetgrobler@aol.com](mailto:peetgrobler@aol.com).

Thank you for considering to participate in this deeply meaningful volunteer opportunity.

All the dates for the 2021 Dismas House Dinners are on the virtual bulletin board that can be viewed on the church's webpage.

-Your Missions and Social Concerns Committee

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## **Williston Racial Equity Partnership**

The Williston Racial Equity Partnership aims to identify, address and make repair for the ways in which racism has and continues to impact those who live, work and recreate in Williston. The Partnership Steering Committee is seeking individuals to join in this effort. The team is in the beginning stages of formation and requires a dedicated, diverse group of Williston residents who have a strong desire to be a part of a shared community effort, a willingness to learn, work and grow among others, and to have an active role in addressing and dismantling racism. This will be a time-intensive start up project, with the goal of establishing and solidifying our mission, vision, and strategic plan for the work ahead.

We are seeking to receive applications from a variety of interest areas, expertise, and fields of endeavor (see list below). All individuals, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identification, sexual orientation, ability, level of education, past experiences or backgrounds, political interest, or religious affiliations are encouraged to apply.

- BIPOC Youth and Young Adults
- BIPOC Parents
- Social Justice Advocates or Partners
- Faith Communities
- Aging Adults
- Child Care / Pre-K Educators
- Housing Advocates / Property Management / Developers
- Recreation / Prosocial Connections / Clubs
- Medical / Dental / Healthcare
- Business and Banking
- Public Safety (Police, Fire, Emergency Services)
- General Interest / Other

The Williston Racial Equity Partnership already includes representation from the BIPOC Community, the Williston Community Justice Center, the Williston Federated Church (Pastor Paul Eyer), Vermont Interfaith Action, Town Management, Library Services, Williston-Richmond Rotary Club, and Public Education.

To apply:

- Fill out the Google Form online: <http://bit.ly/WillistonREApp>
- A printable version of the application is available at the bottom of this page. Complete the application and mail to Town Hall at 7900 Williston Road or leave in the dropbox behind Town Hall.
- Contact the Williston Community Justice Center at 503-2320 to set up an appointment to have your application completed over the phone.

Applications are due by 5 pm on Friday, March 5th. You will be contacted for follow-up within two weeks after that date (by March 19).

 [Williston Racial Equity Partnership Steering Committee Application.pdf](#)