

HISTORY OF WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

DATE	EVENT
1818	Congregation founded by Alvin Torry, Methodist Saddlebag Preacher. Met first in an unfinished church, then homes. It was connected with an American Methodist circuit.
1820s	Job Lodor, local businessman built non-denominational chapel at site of present Baptist Church for use of all churches.
1830–38	Congregation became part of a breakaway group, called the Ryanites, who wanted a Canadian based Methodist Church.
1839	Congregation became part of the mainstream Methodist groups, the New Connexion Methodist Church.
1840–1855	Congregation grew.
1855	Congregation built a barn shaped, whitewashed frame church on the current site – “A home of our Own.”
1865	There were two other Methodist Congregations in the village, each with slightly different doctrinal views. One of these joined our congregation and moved to our church.
1875–1876	Our New Connexion Church enlarged to accommodate growing congregation. Rev. Egerton Ryerson came to preach at dedication of renovated building.
1874	Most Methodists united into the Methodist Church of Canada.
1880s	The third Methodist Church in Waterford joins us. First records we have of a women’s group: Women’s Beneficence Society.
1889	Building enlarged to accommodate enlarged congregation and a brick veneer put over the frame building.
1874–1925	Sunday School grew; Epworth League formed for Young People.
1925	United Church of Canada formed.
1925–1949	Improved SS Curriculum. Groups for all ages.
1932	Villa Nova United Church, part of Waterford Pastoral Charge, closed. It was unable to meet its financial obligation. It was sold to Townsend Township Roads Department.
1938	Round Plains United Church, part of Waterford Pastoral Charge, closed due to declining congregation. Building was sold and converted into a private house, still standing on the east side of Highway 24.
1940s	Basement dug under church and Sunday School rooms built.
1962	Due to a continued expansion of the Congregation and particularly the Sunday School, a Christian Education wing was added to the Waterford United Church. Money received from the sale of the Round Plains church was used for this building project. UCW formed from Women’s Auxiliary and Women’s Missionary Society. There were 2 UCW units.
1965	New curriculum for Sunday School. Many parents concerned about the changes; new youth programs.
1972	UCW began a morning program one day a week for mothers and their pre-school children. A group of UCW volunteers would look after the children so they could learn to play separately from Mom, and the mothers would meet by themselves participating in a program which they organized. When the provincial government set up the Early Years program in 2004, Moms and Tots continued as a satellite location for the new government program. It continues to operate to the present time.
1980s	Restore roof structure.
2001–2002	Major restoration of old building.
Many years	From its earliest days the church has had a variety of successful youth programs. Some activities included highway clean up. Each year for several years in the 1990s Killarney Canoe Trips – Waterford United Church youth and their leaders took canoe trips of several days to Killarney Provincial Park.
Many years	Waterford UC has become known to Presbytery for its generous givings to the Mission and Service Fund.
2005	Waterford marked the 150 th anniversary of the church building. Famous church music composers, Besig and Price, were commissioned to write a choir anthem for the occasion.

April 10, 2008	The original church building suffered serious damage by fire. The Christian Education wing had smoke and water damage. It was decided to repair the CE building, but to demolish the old church, and to re-build.
2009–2010	A new church was built by MCI from London, ON, based on plans created by church member Robert Judd.
September, 2010	The new Waterford United Church was officially dedicated by Mardi Tindall, Moderator of the United Church, with a capacity crowd in attendance. Other church dignitaries from Hamilton Conference and Erie Presbytery, as well as local politicians, were present.