

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, May 11, 2025

4th Sunday of Easter / Christian Family Sunday

LLWL Heather King

Today, our service will focus upon the celebrations of
Mother's Day and Christian Family Sunday.

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light this candle as a sign of Christ at work in us.
May its light brighten our spirits, and may the light of God shining through
us, brighten the world.

GATHERING HYMN: Come In, Come in and Sit Down (vs 1,2,4) VU #395

CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

We gather together to worship our loving, nurturing God.
Who, like a mother, knows us intimately, and loves us unconditionally.
Who teaches us the way we should go, and comforts us in times of need.
Praise God, the Source and Sustainer of life!

OPENING PRAYER *(together)*

Nurturing God, on Christian Family Sunday, we pray for the families we
belong to in which we received some reflection of your unconditional love.
We thank you for parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, for the
generations who started our families and all they gave to us. Today we
thank you for all those who mothered us and we pray for loving mothers
and fathers throughout the world.
God of love, we pray for each other and for our church family. We give you
thanks for the friendship and fellowship we share and the unique gifts each
one brings to our life together. Rekindle our energy for ministry and mission
and show us our path into the future. Amen

HYMN: Spirit, Open My Heart

MVU #79

As we sing this hymn you are invited to come forward and light a candle in
memory of a woman who has nurtured and loved you unconditionally.

MEMORIAL LITURGY *(Responsive)*

God promises in Isaiah 16:13 - "As a mother comforts her child, I shall
comfort you." Although death has separated us physically,
faith and love have bound us eternally.

Though we cannot see you,

we know you are here.

Though we cannot touch you,

**we feel the warmth of your smile as we continue our own journeys. As you
were, you will always be, loved and treasured forever in our memory.**

YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me

VU #365

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *(together)*

*God of the ages, open our ears and our hearts. Open us to a new message in
familiar words. Open us to new thinking and new actions. Amen*

SCRIPTURES:

Responsive Psalm 139
1 Corinthians 13: 1 – 7

read by Carol Goff
VU pgs. 861

MUSIC MINISTRY: In the Bulb There Is a Flower

VU #703

MESSAGE: Love is...

HYMN: Would You Bless Our Homes and Families (vs. 1,3,4)

VU #556

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING:

Invitation: As Christ's disciples, let us offer our gifts to his ministry

Offertory: What Can I Do?

MVU #191

*What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing? I'll sing
with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

Prayer of Dedication: (together)

Risen Saviour, responding to your love and grace, we offer our gifts of time, talent and service. May our offerings feed the hungry, cloth the poor, quench the thirsty and shelter the vulnerable. Amen.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN
THE LORD'S PRAYER**

WE ARE SENT FORTH AS GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: Let Us Build a House (vs. 1, 4, 5)

MVU #1

BENEDICTION:

Go into your week, knowing that you are embraced by the love of God;
May the grace, hope, peace and love of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer be with you now and always. Amen.

SUNG BLESSING: Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of everyday
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true
Know He will guide you in all you do
Go now in Love and show you believe
Reach out to others, so all the world can see
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen, Amen, Amen.



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

May 11, 2025

Worship Leader: LLWL Heather King

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



4th Sunday of Easter/ Christian Family Sunday

Today we are gathered in the traditional territories of several indigenous nations with gratitude. As settlers, we take on the responsibility of learning about historic and current relationships, and our desire to engage in building right relations. We are also mindful of broken covenant, and the need to commit ourselves to deep reconciliation and healing.

The Waterford United Church is a place where everyone is welcome regardless of their ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual orientation.

Church Phone: 519-443-5261

Church Webpage: www.waterfordunitedchurch.org

Office Administrator, Diane Holden wucsecretary@bellnet.ca

Treasurer, Kimberly Holden wuctreasurer@bellnet.ca

Church Bookings, Cori Angus 519-443-8212 or

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANK YOU to LLWL Heather King for leading in Worship today and to Azrael Hackshaw for his Music Ministry



THE OUTREACH TEAM IS HOSTING A SOUP SUPPER (Loaves of Bread) on Wednesday May 14 at 5 p.m. All are welcome.

We have received notice that as appointed by Horseshoe Falls Region, **REV.HEATHER LEFFLER** has agreed to offer **PASTORAL CARE** to members of WUC who feel they need it specifically in relation to the review process. Please contact her at hleffler@rogers.com or via cell 519-573-9642. **FOR ALL OTHER PASTORAL CARE** needs, contact the office for an appointment.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS! A special service and lunch is being planned for Sunday, June 8 when churches across Canada will be celebrating. Put the date on your calendar!!

What are your special memories over the years of a United Church? You are invited to write a few sentences to be read by you or someone else at the 100th anniversary service on June 8. Please e-mail your ideas to wucsecretary@bellnet.ca , phone 519-443-5261 or speak to Diane or Alma by May 25.

As part of our 100th Anniversary series of articles, the history of the WOMEN OF THE CHURCH is included in today's bulletin. Please take some time to read the article as we will express our appreciation to these women on June 8.

THE OUTREACH SOUP LUNCH is being rescheduled due to Mother's Day and Victoria Day to **Sunday, May 25** after our worship service. Mark your calendars for the changed date.

THREE SIMCOE FAMILIES IN DISTRESS: Three refugee families, 19 people, living in Simcoe have limited support and need many items like beds and mattresses, bedding and towels, washing machine, carpets, vacuum, curtains, tables, chairs, dishes, etc. If you can donate any of these items, please contact Alma at 519-443-7297 or Leanne Arnal at norfolkcommunityinaction123@gmail.com.

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Women of the Church

Throughout the history of the Methodist/United Church in Waterford, there have been various women's groups. The earliest one, to be mentioned in the records of Waterford UC Archives was the Women's Christian Benevolent Society, founded in 1885. In 1930, this group was renamed to the Ladies Aid and then, in 1930, the Woman's

Association (WA). They held bazaars teas and lectures in order to raise funds. Their main accomplishment was the gradual improvement and upkeep of the manse. This is supported in the minutes which mention that numerous items were purchased and furniture supplied. They were also community minded. In 1924, a motion was made to give \$25 to the Norfolk Hospital Fund for the Waterford Ward.

In 1888, the Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) was founded. Their particular interests were missions and outreach, assisting the needy. In 1950, the WMS gathered clothes for ladies, children and babies to be packed in "bales" to be sent overseas. This was an important part of their mission work throughout the 1950s. Their programmes sometimes included presentations about missions in Africa, India and Korea.

In 1953, the Eventide Federation was founded. The WA and WMS met in the afternoons. The Eventide Federation accommodated ladies who worked during the days. Some of their projects were packing Christmas baskets, setting up the nursery department, and visiting sick and shut-ins. Some of their members organized the Explorer and CGIT groups for young girls and teenaged girls.

These groups continued until 1962, when all of the women's groups within the United Church of Canada joined to form the United Church Women (UCW). Two groups (or units) were formed at Waterford UC, one which met in the afternoon and one in the evening. These two groups both supported the needs of the congregation and also promoted missions. For the first ten years of the UCW, the evening and afternoon units combined their effort on a number of projects to raise money for the church. An example of this was the candy booth at the Norfolk County Fair. There were many women who had memories of the hours spent making fudge to keep the candy booth stocked.

At Waterford United Church, as well as throughout Canada, it was becoming more difficult to attract the younger women to become active in a women's group. In 1972 the afternoon and evening units of the UCW amalgamated. However the work of the UCW continued. They donated thousands of dollars to charities, such as the H-N Women's Shelter, the Wesley Centre, the Mission and Service Fund of the UCC and the Mennonite Central Committee. The UCW had lots of fun, too. They held an annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner as well as an outing. One year they went to the historic village at Sparta ON; another, they went to Rev. Larry and Ginny Wiegand's home at Peacock Point.

For many years, Quilting has been part of the work of the UCW and one of its predecessors, the WMS. The first quilting group to be sponsored by the UCW evolved from a small group of women who met at Mamie Pew's house on Main St. N in Waterford. The quilters made many of their quilts specifically for customers who had ordered them. The quilters charged for their work. In 1982, the quilters gave \$600, which they gave to the UCW for distribution. By 2002, they had raised approximately \$30,000 over the years, which they gave to the UCW for charities and mission work. For many years the quilters worked at the homes of Lillian Vince and Grace Wardlaw. After their passing, they moved to Janet Mayer's house.

As the years went by, the UCW became smaller and smaller. Members became older; they were unable to recruit new, younger members. Most women worked, and their jobs as well as other activities and interests took up their time. In 2020, the Waterford UCW made the difficult decision to disband.

The quilting group carried on quilting four afternoons a week at Janet Mayer's house until there were no more orders for them to make quilts and the number of quilters had dwindled to four. In 2024, the quilting group also disbanded.

However, women continue to play a vital role in the church. The UCW and other formal groups have disappeared from Waterford UC, but women are active in all the church functions locally, regionally and nationally.

Sources: *Waterford United Church: A History, 2002*
Waterford United Church, Annual Report, 2020