

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, June 22, 2025
Rev. Gary Patterson
INDIGENOUS DAY OF PRAYER
TRINITY SUNDAY

WORDS OF WELCOME:

I want to thank Creator God for allowing me to be here with you today. I welcome you all and I greet you all in the Name of God, In the Name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We have gathered here today to celebrate this beautiful day.

Today is a special Sunday, the extra, double special Sunday in which we celebrate Indigenous Day of Prayer which is June 21, 2025. So this Sunday we will celebrate the special day and also celebrating Trinity Sunday which is which falls in our church lectionary calendar.

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

OPENING PRAYER:

As on the first day You began the work of creating us;
as on the first day you raised your Son from the dead;
so on this first day, good Lord, freshen and remake us:
and as the week is new, let our lives begin again because of Jesus who shows us your loving power. Amen

SONG: O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing VU #326

MEDICINE PRAYERS and SMUDGING CEREMONY

(facing east) From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace, light, wisdom and knowledge. This is the place of new beginnings in our lives. **We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

(facing south) From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the fullness of life. This is the place of warm rains, purifying the waters to sustain all living things. **We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

(facing west) From the West comes the sunset, reminding us to find balance of work and rest. This is where we are reminded of our dreams and our visions. **We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

(facing north) From the North comes the cold and mighty wind, the white snows and the teachings from the Elders, giving us strength and endurance. **We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

(facing upward) From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of our breath, and messages from your winged creatures. **We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

(facing center) From the center of all of life come your light and love O God. It is from You that we receive the very gift of breath. We acknowledge your love for us and your presence with us each and every day. **We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

(facing down) From Mother Earth we come, from Mother Earth we will return. We are grateful for your creation that is home to us. May we walk in good paths...Oh Loving Spirit...living on this earth as one family in harmony. Rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in ones sorrows, and together with You, renewing the face of Mother Earth.
A' Hey

SCRIPTURES:

Psalms 96

VU Page 816

Refrain: Sing a new song unto God who has done such marvellous things.
John 3: 1 – 17

MUSIC MINISTRY: God So Loved the World

MESSAGE : "Every year once spring has sprung, my world regains proper perspective because baseball is back. I love the central metaphor of the game – **all of us helping each other to make it home.** Funny how a game can teach us so much about life .." from Embers Richard Wagamese 2016

SONG: Open My Eyes, That I May See VU #371

OFFERING INVITATION: The Holy Spirit reminds us of what Jesus taught us: to view the world and its inhabitants in the light of God's love. Trusting that we can reflect God's love in our own world through our offerings and actions, let us now present our gifts.

Offertory: Giver of the Perfect Gift (vs. 1) VU #116

Giver of the perfect gift, only hope of human race,

Hear the prayer our hearts uplift, gathered at thy throne of grace

Prayer of Dedication:

God of love, take our gifts and send them to places we never dreamed they would go. Let us follow your lead and give from our hearts. Please accept these gifts, and those given through PAR and online, as a symbol of your love for us and the world. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Creator of All, in Jesus, you share the joy and sorrow of this life, and so we pray today for:

- All others who know suffering and pain
- All who are sick in their homes, people who are in hospitals, care homes; in the jails and in other shut ins.
- People who are homeless and feel as if they have no one.
- All who are held hostage in addictions of drugs and alcohol.
- Children and adults who live with complex disabilities.
- Families who are in need of your love and guidance
- Citizens of our communities far and near, throughout the world, we pray for your love and justice.

Grant us all a vision of your purpose in our life and work together,
that we may bear witness to the hope which is in Jesus Christ,
in life,
in death,
and life beyond death.

This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

SONG: For the Beauty of the Earth VU #226

BENEDICTION:

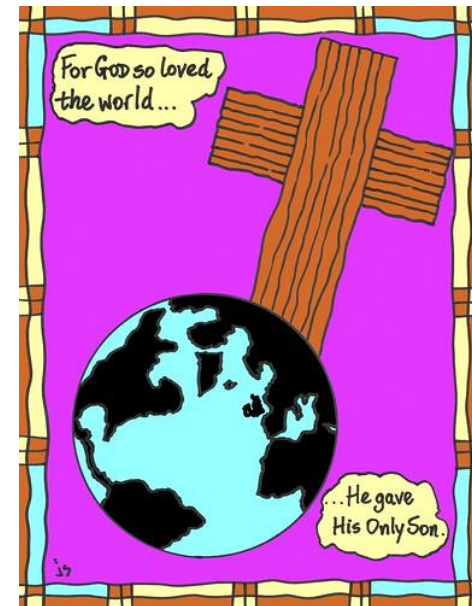
The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit with us now and forever. Amen

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

June 22, 2025

Worship Leader: Rev. Gary Patterson

Music: Chris Savory



JOHN 3: 16

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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be held TODAY at about 12:30 p.m. following the Worship service and LUNCH. This meeting will approve the **2024 ANNUAL REPORT** and approve the **2025 BUDGET**. Copies of the Report have been sent out electronically and a few hard copies are available at the back of the sanctuary along with copies of the Agenda. **We encourage as many of our congregation as possible to attend. Your opinions and ideas are valued.**

We are in receipt of the Carol Hancock Review Report and the resulting recommendations from Horse Shoe Falls Regional Council.

These reports will be described to the congregation by a Regional Representative who will chair the **ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING TODAY**. As the review report is a lengthy document it will be made available to peruse in the office after today's meeting.

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.

A NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SENDING E-TRANSFERS has been set up for the church is and is wucdonations@gmail.com. Please DO NOT send to Kim's usual e-mail for e-transfers. Her usual address is to be used for correspondence only.

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES:

Sunday, June 29	led by LLWL Mae Bedford
Sunday, July 6	led by LLWL Heather King
Sunday, July 13	led by Rev. Mary Jo Patterson
Sunday, July 20	led by Rev. Randy McKenzie
Sunday, July 27	led by LLWL Mae Bedford

The following correspondence was sent especially to WUC by Rev. Brenna Baker from Community of Faith Stewardship Support, UCC.

The 3 aspects of my work are education in the areas of stewardship and generosity generally, Bequest and estate giving, and Mission and Service. So now you have my contact information to share with anyone who works in those areas at Waterford. My whole job is working directly with communities of faith, so never be concerned about reaching out. I'm literally just waiting for the phone to ring! You or others can **learn more about our stewardship education here:** <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/community-faith-stewardship/encouraging-generosity-your-community-faith>

Next, I'll share some links that might be interesting or helpful to those who promote or donate to **Mission and Service**, like your Outreach team.

Directly on this page: <https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/mission-and-service> there is a new video for the Centennial highlighting the history of Mission and Service in the United Church. It's really interesting! There are also links on that page to worship resources, a "Did you know" section that can help clarify some of the most common M&S questions. And all the way at the bottom is our new impact report that shows how funds were used in 2024.

Last, here's a **direct thank you** from me:

A huge thank you to the generous community of Waterford United Church! In 2024 you gave \$15,406.58 to Mission and Service. Your generosity has made it possible for us to serve partners both in Canada and around the world. Just within Horseshoe Falls, grants were given this year to congregations and ministries working toward faith formation for young people (Cave Springs Camp, McMaster Ecumenical Chaplaincy, and The HUB for example), and creating food security (like Wesley Urban Ministries, Food for Life in Georgetown, and Silver Spire Community Kitchen). Internationally, your gifts have supported refugees fleeing war torn areas and made it possible for farmers in areas impacted by climate change to gain new skills and resources. What a huge impact we can make together!

Thank you, too, for setting an ambitious Mission and Service goal in your 2025 budget. If I can ever be of support in reaching those goals, please reach out. We are so thankful for the Deep, Bold, Daring ministry of Waterford United!

Rev. Brenna Baker (she/her)
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