

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Baptism of Jesus Sunday
January 11, 2026
Rev. Kellie McComb

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by A Song of Faith)

One: Within my body lives a tie to something greater than me.

All: Within me exists a song written by the Creator. I long to sing it.

One: We sing to God, the Spirit moving in the human heart.

All: We sing to God, the Spirit faithful, untameable.

One: We sing to God, the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

All: Let us sing and praise, give and receive.

One: Let us worship God this day.

HYMN: Shall We Gather at the River VU #710

OPENING PRAYER (written by Kate Crawford)

One: Just as Jesus when down under the water to be baptized,

All: So may we immerse ourselves in worship and praise.

One: Just as Jesus did this to fulfill all righteousness,

All: So may we seek to be righteous all our days.

One: Just as the Spirit descended on Christ as a dove,

All: May we know the blessing of the Spirit's presence settling gently on us now and making our intentions holy.

Amen.

RENEWAL OF OUR BAPTISM COMMITMENT (A New Creed) VU page 918

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and
Others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

HYMN: I was there to hear your Boring Cry VU #644

YOUNG AT HEART CONVERSATION

HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine" (*actions*)

v.1 This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

This little light of mine. I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

v. 2 Hide it under a bushel (NO!). I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!). I'm gonna let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel (NO!). I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

v. 3 Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Don't let anyone blow it out. I'm gonna let it shine.

Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Repeat verse 1 Words: African American spiritual. In Public Domain

MUSIC MINISTRY: In the Bleak Midwinter VU #55

SCRIPTURE

Acts 8: 14 – 17

¹⁴The apostles in Jerusalem heard that people in Samaria had accepted God's word. So they sent Peter and John to Samaria. ¹⁵When they arrived there, they prayed for the new believers. They prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶The Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷Then Peter and John placed their hands on them. And they received the Holy Spirit.

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Worship Leader: Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Chris Savory

Luke 3: 15 – 17, 21 - 22

¹⁵ The people were waiting. They were expecting something. They were all wondering in their hearts if John might be the Messiah. ¹⁶ John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I am will come. I'm not good enough to untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His pitchfork is in his hand to toss the straw away from his threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into his barn. But he will burn up the husks with fire that can't be put out." ²¹ When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened. ²² The Holy Spirit came to rest on him in the form of a dove. A voice came from heaven. It said, "You are my Son, and I love you. I am very pleased with you."

HYMN: Christ, Within Us Hidden

MVU #162

MESSAGE: "Touched by the Water"

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING

Offertory: "In the Bleak Midwinter" (v.4)

VU #55

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him - give my heart. Words: Christina Rossetti ca. 1872. In Public Domain.

Offertory Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: I Feel the Winds of God

VU #625

BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

CHORAL BLESSING: God, Be with You (vs. 1)

VU #422

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you, with a shepherd's care enfold you; God be with you till we meet again.



BAPTISM OF JESUS

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.

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UNITED CHURCHES OF NORFOLK are meeting today, January 11 from 2 – 4 p.m. in our church auditorium. All are invited to attend to share ideas.

SOUP SUPPER – Wednesday, January 14 from 5 p.m. All are invited to enjoy fellowship and a hot meal together.

COUNCIL meets on Tuesday, January 13 at 4:00 p.m. All Committee Chairs or a representative are encouraged to attend in person or via ZOOM.

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH is sponsoring “David” at the Strand Theatre in Simcoe on Monday, January 19 (school PA day for students). Show times are 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$10 adults and \$8 for kids. See bulletin board.

FREE CONCERT – Heart and Soul Choir presents “Harmony and Hot Chocolate” on Friday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Come one and all!



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