

COVENANTING SERVICE

between

**REV. KELLIE MCCOMB
WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
HORSESHOE FALLS REGIONAL COUNCIL**

April 26, 2026



Presider: Rev. Ted Smith
Horseshoe Falls Regional Council Liaison: Very Rev. Dr. Richard Bott
Guest Speaker: Rev. Adrienne Robertson
Soloist: Rev. Eva Mezo
Music: Azrael Hackshaw Accompanist: Chris Savory

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

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Minister: Rev. Kellie McComb rev.kellie@gmail.com

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**TODAY'S OFFERING (plate at the back of the sanctuary)
supports the WUC Outdoor Food Pantry.**

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, April 26, 2026

GATHERING and PRELUDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

SMUDGING CEREMONY of Rev. Kellie McComb

WORDS OF WELCOME

Presider: We joyfully gather to mark a new ministry relationship in Horseshoe Falls Regional Council between Rev. Kellie McComb and Waterford United Church. We welcome all who are a part of our wider community. Today we commit to and celebrate how we are the church together.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Come, people of God, let us worship with joy and excitement!

All: **We come together to celebrate God's presence as sisters and brothers in Christ!**

One: Let us sing with enthusiasm, pray with openness, and encounter the presence of the Spirit.

All: **May God's wisdom lead us on the journey ahead!**

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

SING: Where Two or Three are Gathered (2X) MVU 14

Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

Holy One, we come before you this day to enter a covenant with one another. Free us from all that blocks us from trusting You to be our guide in this new relationship. Open us to the new possibilities of ministry as we walk together. (Silent prayer of confession)

Words of Assurance

We are loved unconditionally. We are forgiven abundantly. We are called endlessly. We are commissioned eternally. Thanks be to God. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE: How Deep the Peace MVU #95

How deep the peace, the confidence of those whose wrongs are forgiven.

How deep the peace, the confidence of those whose hearts are healed.

HYMN: I the Lord of Sea and Sky

VU #509

SCRIPTURES: 2 Corinthians 4, selected verses Rev. Adrienne Robertson

MESSAGE: Broken and Beautiful

THE WORD IN MUSIC: The Lord Will Be My Shepherd

THE ACT OF COVENANT

A NEW CREED, AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*together*):

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.

COVENANTING ACTION

Statement of Living Faith Story

Marilyn Antkiw

'Waterford United Church is a welcoming and caring, sustained and inspired through worship, education and fellowship.' Kellie's approach to ministry at Waterford can be described as thoughtful, respectful, sensitive, patient, calm. Her pastoral care is one of 'presence' – she is open, present, available during the week and on Sunday. She makes herself available to meet individually - sometimes just to let us vent, work at and resolve issues. She is an active listener and whether we are in the metaphorical 'cocoon' or 'struggling to emerge' Kellie is there with us, as we forge ahead, seeking God's Will in realizing the vision for WUC. God bless and thank you, Kellie.

Statement of This New Ministry: *Rev. Kellie McComb comes forward.*

Regional Council Liaison: We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Rev. Kellie McComb, Waterford United Church community of faith, and the wider United Church as represented by Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world.

Rick Woloshyn, Chair of WUC Council: After prayerful discernment and the appointment of Horseshoe Falls Executive, we present Rev. Kellie McComb, who has been called to a ministry of word, sacrament, education, service, and pastoral care in Waterford United Church community of faith. We believe that her skills and talents complement our faithful witness, ministry needs, and community context.

Regional Council Liaison: Rev. Kellie McComb, you are here in response to the call of Waterford United Church community of faith and Horseshoe Falls Regional Council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry.

Rev. Kellie McComb, you are about to undertake the ministry of word, sacrament, education, service, and pastoral care in this place. You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join Rev. Kellie McComb in worship, study, prayer, and action.

We, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry. Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:

PRAYER OF FAITH:

Uniting God, you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship:

**to celebrate your presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

Send your Holy Spirit to bind us in full communion so that we may be a uniting church embodying your love for the world.

As one, we proclaim: In life, in death, in life beyond death, you are with us, we are not alone, all glory and power be unto you. Amen.

A prayer for the church inspired by John 17:21 and based on The United Church of Canada's "A New Creed" and The United Church of Christ's "Statement of Faith (in the Form of a Doxology)." Written for the full communion service of these two denominations.

SOLO: "How Beautiful are the Feet" from the Messiah Rev. Eva Mezo

PROMISES OF THE NEW MINISTER

Regional Council Liaison:

Rev. Kellie McComb, do you, in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with Waterford United Church?

Rev. Kellie: I do.

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you accept the guidance of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of Waterford United Church community of faith?

Rev. Kellie: I will.

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

Rev. Kellie: I will.

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

Rev. Kellie: I will.

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

Rev. Kellie: I will.

PROMISES OF THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you join with Waterford United Church in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within Waterford United Church Community of Faith, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and within the wider church?

Members of the Community of Faith: We will.

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you support them as they serve among you in this ministry?

Members of the Community of Faith: We will.

Regional Council Liaison:

Rev. Kellie McComb and Waterford United Church, you have been called by God to work together in this community of faith. Will you promise in faith and obedience to Christ to share this ministry, supporting one another in love and, through your unity of spirit, inspiring all God's people here in their common ministry for Christ?

Members of the Community of Faith: We will.

PROMISES OF THE STAFF:

Regional Council Liaison:

Members of the staff, will you be engaged with Kellie in your various ministries within this Congregation. Will you exercise your responsibilities faithfully and support one another fully.

Staff of the Community of Faith: We will.

PROMISES OF REGIONAL COUNCIL, WIDER CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Members of the wider church and community rise [includes community partners, members of other faith traditions, United Church of Canada members, affiliated partners, as well as members of any other United Church body].

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you, as members of Horseshoe Falls Regional Council and members of the wider community, join with Rev. Kellie McComb and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

Wider Community Members: We will.

Regional Council Liaison:

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

Wider Community Members: We will.

HYMN OF CELEBRATION: Today We All Are Called

VU #507

PRESENTATION OF SYMBOLS:

WATER, TOWEL, AND BASIN *presented by Ted and Tina Robinson*

Presenter: Be with us as one who serves and who baptizes in the name of Christ.

People: **Amen.**

BREAD AND WINE *presented by Lauri Shebec*

Presenter: Be with us as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst.

People: **Amen.**

BIBLE *presented by Dawna Butler*

Presenter: Be among us as one who shares the sacred story in word and sacrament.

People: **Amen.**

PRAYER SHAWL *presented by Margot Fournier and Dexter Fournier*

Presenter: Be among us one who offers care and concern for all ages.

People: **Amen.**

BOOK AND LABYRINTH *presented by Diane Holden*

Presenter: Be among us as one who opens us to discovering and deepening our spiritual life.

People: **Amen.**

SMUDGE *presented by Cori Angus*

Presenter: Be with us as one who leads us with the 7 grandfather teachings, Love, Respect, Humility, Wisdom, Truth, Honesty and Bravery toward truth, reconciliation and healing.

People: **Amen.**

Regional Council Liaison: Rev. Kellie McComb and Waterford United Church community of faith, let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community.

People: **Amen.**

NEW MINISTER'S PRAYER

RESPONSE TO COVENANT

Regional Council Liaison: Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.

OFFERING: *Today's Offering supports the WUC Outdoor Food Pantry.*

Doxology: Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU #541

Prayer of Dedication (together): ***Holy and Beloved God, We dedicate our lives and all that we have to the work of life, love, and peace.***

Receive our gifts and lead us in wisdom and courage. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Uniting God, receive our prayers/response: **And in your love, answer.**
For the ministries of Waterford United Church community of faith, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council, and The United Church of Canada, and our ministry partners around the world who work toward our common vision of a united and uniting church ...

Uniting God, receive our prayers: **And in your love, answer.**

For faithful disciples in our communities of faith who work towards our common purpose of extravagant welcome, proclaiming the gospel, and mending God's world...

Uniting God, receive our prayers: **And in your love, answer.**

For the dreamers, teachers, and prophets who share our common longing to be one in Christ, with creation and with each other...

Uniting God, receive our prayers: **And in your love, answer.**

For those around the world who work towards our sacred message of justice and peace in harmony ...

Uniting God, receive our prayers: **And in your love, answer.**

For the prayers we name to you now in the silence of our hearts
(silence)

Uniting God, receive our prayers: **And in your love, answer.**

We join these prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Beloved Church, we are one in Christ! The peace of Christ, who unites us in love and discipleship, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us greet each other with signs of this peace.

CLOSING HYMN: Creator God You Gave Us Life

MVU #27

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION