

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH
Sunday, April 19, 2026
Rev. Kellie McComb
EMERGE: LEAVING COMFORTABLE PLACES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHT THE CHRIST CANDLE

SING: Where Two or Three are Gathered (3X) MVU 14
Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.

PREPARING FOR NEW LIFE

Leader: “And the day came when the risk to remain tight in a bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.” This quote by writer Anaïs Nin speaks profoundly to our current theme in worship, “Emerge.” A caterpillar forms a chrysalis and stays inside for a time while the magical process of metamorphosis occurs. And a day comes when that protective shell is too constricting — the butterfly within must break free! Today we gather to encourage one another out of our comfortable places so that we may truly bloom.

QUESTIONS FOR METAMORPHOSIS

One: Safe in our cozy cocoons we wondered...
All: ...does anything really need to change?
One: While the world rushed on around us, we wondered...
All: ...what if I’m just not ready for whatever comes next?
One: When we fold our true selves down in order to fit inside the old container, we wonder...
All: ...am I truly honoring myself by staying in this shape?
One: When our worldviews are painfully challenged by new information, we wonder...
All: ...could this discomfort indicate an opportunity for growth?
One: Then the love of the Divine reminds us,
All: “You too are my child. You can emerge to renewed life. Again and again.” Amen.

OPENING SONG: Great Is Thy Faithfulness VU #288

SHARING GRATITUDE: Share With Your Neighbour

YOUNG AT HEART

HYMN: In the Bulb There is a Flower VU #703

SCRIPTURE READING:

As ever-emerging spiritual creatures, we cannot contain ourselves — the selves God has created us to be. Coming out as people and as a church from what we have known into a new identity is filled with anxiety and unknowing. Emerging will take effort and surrendering to “the assurance of things hoped for” even though we cannot yet see what the future holds. *From Hebrews 11: 1 – 3: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.*

THE WORD IN MUSIC: Azrael Hackshaw

MESSAGE: Preparing to Emerge

CONGREGATIONAL CANDLE PRAYERS OF 2025 AND HOPE FOR 2026

Light a candle for those who died, born, married, baptized, joined the church, celebrations to remember in 2025 and prayers of hope for 2026.

PRAYING WITH JESUS:

Liberating God, in whom is heaven, may your name be lifted in the chambers of our hearts. May the joy of transformation come, may your plans for us be unfurled here on earth as it is in the flight of heaven’s glory. For the strength we need, feed us. For the forgiveness we desire, and need to give, invite us. Save us from the temptation of all that would keep us from you, and deliver us from those things that seek to harm. Unwrap your perfect kinship of love, power, and glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

Doxology:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word and Spirit one.

CLOSING HYMN: Lord of the Dance

VU #352

DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

Now go into your lives,
ready to break free from stasis
into the vibrant, fluttering possibilities
that await beyond this comfortable place.

And may the assurance of the God who created you,
the Christ who is raising you,
and the Spirit that will unleash you,
be with you now and always.
Blessed be.
Amen.



WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

April 19, 2026

Worship Leader: Rev. Kellie McComb

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – TODAY, April 19 following the Worship Service. Please plan to attend this important meeting. **THE ANNUAL REPORT 2025** has been distributed via email and a few hard copies are at the back of the sanctuary if required. One per family please.

COVENANTING SERVICE for Rev. Kellie – Sunday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m.
NOTE there is NO morning service that day.

PRAYERS

Please keep Lisa and Scott Marr and family in your thoughts and prayers as they grieve the loss of Lisa's Mom, Lesley Grace. Also, please hold Ray and Val Jolley in your hearts and prayers as they mourn the passing of their grandson, Jonah.

BOOK STUDY – The Worship and Faith Committee is planning a book study "Everything Happens for a Reason" written by Kate Bowler to be led by Rev. Kellie on Thursday, May 7 at 1:00 p.m. The book is available for purchase through Amazon. If you need help accessing the book, please speak to Kellie.

COFFEE HOUR – volunteers are needed to help with coffee hour after Worship each Sunday. Please see Carol Goff for information and "training". Coffee is made for you and we just need people to bring/serve snacks and cleanup. A signup sheet is on the bulletin board.

FREE CONCERT – The Haldimand-Norfolk Concert Band will present their spring concert in the church sanctuary on Friday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m. Light refreshments follow. Please come and bring a friend!

LITTLE PANTRY – please remember to continue to support the Little Pantry with your non-perishable food items. A collection box is located in the auditorium.

THE LYNN VALLEY VOICES presents their "Musical Eras Tour" this afternoon in the sanctuary at 3 p.m. Donations gratefully received.

Spring 2026 Waterford United Church Givings Letter

April 15, 2026

Dear Supporter of Waterford United Church:

"From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see."

These are words from one of our favourite Easter season hymns. We are living in that 'mystery' time right now in our church, with efforts underway to define our potential paths into the future.

In the meantime we need to celebrate all we are and do here at WUC, a congregation that has praised and worshipped our Creator at this site for over 200 years. Struggles and uncertainty, delight and joy have all been part of this community of faith's journey throughout the years. We are grateful for the faithfulness of generations before ours.

We are especially grateful for the many ways each one of you supports the good work we do. Thank you for your generosity of spirit, offerings and contributions.

Our church operates primarily on your generosity, and rental income. We are now operating at a considerable deficit, currently being financed by a fairly significant amount of investments, thanks to the stewardship of many members in the past. Our expenses are subject to inflation, which according to Statistics Canada has been 19.3% over the last 5 years or an average of 4% annually.

Today we are asking you to review your financial gift to WUC and, if you are able, to increase your gift.

Giving to Waterford United Church is easy:

- You can give via eTransfer to wucdonations@gmail.com
- Better yet, sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) to ensure our church receives your donation each month, all year long. PAR is easy to sign up for and encourages us to be intentional about sharing our resources. Many of us are on PAR and feel good about supporting our church community in a consistent manner, whether at Sunday worship or not. Why not join us?
- If you already give through PAR, can you consider even a modest increase?
- Of course, there is always the offering plate during Sunday morning worship. Cash and cheques are always welcome.

If you would like envelopes or to give through PAR or to increase your PAR donation, please contact Diane Holden, our office administrator - wucsecretary@bellnet.ca

With heartfelt thanks for your generous support.

WUC Finance Committee