To access a link in this newsletter, please press CTRL + mouse click on the highlighted link.

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| [View this email in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/35706904c6ec/pastoral-letter-from-president-gary-clark?e=%5bUNIQID%5d)Next Deadline for Regular Newsletter: TBA[Sign up for our newsletter & forward this one to friends.](https://wowrcucc.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b&id=65ceaaaf22) |

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| *****Dear Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council,**********please see the pastoral letter below from the desk of**********President Gary Clark.***** |

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| ***Blessed Eastertide, beloved. Remember: Christ is with us.****A recent Easter letter sent to people who have previously given gifts to Mission & Service was written very early in January and mailed before we knew how COVID-19 would affect everyone's lives. Apologies, and thank you for taking the time to watch this message.*[*Download a transcript of the videotaped message. Alleluia!*](https://www.united-church.ca/sites/default/files/resources/transcript_followup_to_easter_appeal.docx) |

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| ***Greetings Sisters and Brothers,*** |

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| ***I***f you are like me than I am sure you also feel the strangest of this time. We walk by churches, schools, coffee shops and playgrounds that are silent where once children ran, elders smiled at old friends and we felt surrounded by the familiar. We are really getting in touch with just how much these public gathering spaces mean to us and the how important they are to feed our souls. Even folks who profess no faith at all know that there is something essentially absent in this time of upheaval. It is a spirit that resides in a community. A spirit that hovers and enlivens when two or three are gathered. So, in search of that feeling and in need of refreshment for our souls we are cast on a journey of discovery. |

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| ***B***ut wasn’t Easter an adaptive change? That early fellowship knew that they could never go back to having the physical body of Christ there to guide them. The leadership structure and enlarging the mission of Jesus beyond the borders of Israel are nowhere to be found in the four gospels. It was an adaptive change.Could we be at the beginning of such a change and should we be afraid? I guess we are like first time parents. We know that the child about to be born will change our lives in ways that we can’t imagine. If we are wise we should be fearful of those changes but at the same time wisdom comforts us and says “it’s going to be alright because love will also blossom in ways you can’t imagine guiding you through the changes to come.” And Easter, what a time to be have faith in the love of God who will comfort and guide us in these coming changes.I am reminded of the song ‘Ocean’ (My Feet May Fail) sung by Hillsong United (Australian, not Canadian). The first verse goes: |

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| ***You call me out upon the watersThe great unknown where feet may failAnd there I find You in the mysteryIn oceans deepMy faith will stand*** |

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| I don’t know where we are being called but at its heart the change must continue to feed of hearts and souls in the context of community. I have faith, my friends, that God is calling us upon the chaotic waters of change where, yes, we might fear failure, but I am comforted that with the love of God we’ll never drown. To mix a metaphor, “who knows what new things God is sewing together for us?" |

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| May Easter find you well and safe!Blessings, Rev. Gary Clark,President[Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council](https://wowrcucc.ca/) |

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| **The Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council newsletter welcomes submissions of upcoming events, regional news and educational opportunities. This is also the place to keep up-to-date on information from the regional office.** |

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| ****Connecting, Supporting, Transforming**** Western Ontario Waterways Regional CouncilThe United Church of Canada |

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