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

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| [View this newsletter in your browser](https://mailchi.mp/af5c2666784b/pastoral-letter-from-president-young-president-elect-lawson?e=612eec0948)Next Deadline for submissions: March 10 (March 15 Issue) |

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| **Hello Friends,** |

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| Earlier this week, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council President, Kate Young, sent us a pastoral letter asking us all to **join with the Anglican Church** in Canada and recognize the **First Anniversary of the Pandemic** during our services this Sunday. |

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| As we reflect the tragedy of the Pandemic, one of the most sobering aspects of it, is the way that the Pandemic has exacerbated many of the injustices in our society. And yet, because the Pandemic has given us permission to focus on our own individual fear and anxiety, it has been easy for **many to turn a blind eye to the many injustices** that the Pandemic has revealed.  |

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| ***We are discovering that the lofty sounding term‘essential workers’means poor, marginalized, young and racialized.*** |

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| Those with drug and alcohol addictions have had difficulty getting help. Those with emotional and mental challenges are struggling. Homeless people are finding shelters closed and meal programs difficult to access. The deeply systemic ageism at the root of our society has been revealed, as well as the many ways that our First Nations people have been left behind with regards to healthcare and access to treatment. Because many people have lost their jobs, food bank usage is skyrocketing. Women are being forced back into traditional roles because of school closures. The abuse of women in the home is increasing. Racism is taking a new and virulent forms. We are discovering that the lofty sounding term ‘essential workers’ means poor, marginalized, young and racialized. And, on top of all this, homophobia and transphobia are increasing. |

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| This Sunday, in addition to remembering the Pandemic, our Moderator has asked us, as the body of Christ, to celebrate P.I.E. Day – a day when we can consider what it might mean to be ***Public***, ***Intentional*** and ***Explicit*** with regards to LGBTQIA+ people and their continuing struggle. |

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| Watch this short video of Moderator Richard Bott inviting us tocelebrate this day with a piece of pie.  |
| https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/video_thumbnails_new/5d114acf3a47ee26a06f9d52cf4661e5.png |

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| SAVE-THE-DATE of **6 June**, for the regional council’s online AFFIRMING MINISTRY CELEBRATION, details to follow. |

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| We are, of course, also called as Christ’s Church to continue to **recognize Lent** this Sunday in preparation for **Good Friday and Easter**. We certainly have a lot to juggle with this Sunday. ***Is it too much?***Well, it certainly is a lot. If you find this overwhelming, join the club!Last Friday, Michael Blair, General Secretary of The United Church of Canada delivered the Gandier Lecture at Emmanuel College. He addressed issues of racism, with a particular emphasis on the ***beloved community*** as articulated by the Rev Martin Luther King Jr. He reminded us that becoming the beloved community involves the costly and difficult, but ultimately rewarding task of entering into ***relationship with all of humanity***, not just those who are like us (view the [recording](https://united-in-learning.com/index.php/webinars/recordings/380-emmanuel-college-gandier-lecture-2021) courtesy of United-in-Learning). |

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| ***During Lent, we are called to imaginethe beloved community that Christ so loved,and that he was willing to die for.*** |

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| We are called to seek ways to repent and reconcile, so that we can make Christ’s vision a reality. We are asked to do what we need to do so that the beloved community that God and Jesus so spectacularly inaugurated on the cross, can truly rise up. **There are a lot of pieces in the pie** that we need to address in order to do this – racism, misogyny, homophobia and transphobia, white privilege, poverty, ageism, homelessness, mental and emotional conditions, the problem of drug and alcohol. And yes, it is a tall order.  |

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| But, if the pandemic has made these issues worse, then they are related. And, if they are related, we need to realize that they are interconnected.  |

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| This Sunday, as you eat your pie, consider all the pieces. When that gets a little overwhelming, maybe take a step back. Consider the whole, how all the pieces fit together. Imagine how they might fit together in a better world. When we do so, we are celebrating Lent. It is precisely what we should be doing this Sunday. Amen |

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| Your brother and sister in Christ, Pastor Robert Lawson, BA, mDivPresident Elect, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council&Rev Kate Young, BA, mDivPresident, Horseshoe Falls Regional Council |

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| ~ [**Click here to download the Pastoral Letter**](https://mcusercontent.com/ee15470ca4eab124ea964929b/files/cf98287f-0c5c-4b58-ae69-49278b72e965/Pastoral_Letter_to_HFRC.docx) ~ |

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| The Horseshoe Falls 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. Check out the https://mcusercontent.com/3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b/images/cab77de6-f20d-465d-bca4-5af8cefd0b43.png page and the https://mcusercontent.com/3430c44e426848fe31d8afb4b/images/114af828-242c-42b9-a93f-07bc3a02816b.png channel! |

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| ****Supports, Connects, Empowers********Communities of Faith**** Horseshoe Falls Regional CouncilThe United Church of Canada |

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| [SUBSCRIBE!](https://mailchi.mp/adbd57d173e1/antler-river-watershed-regional-council-newsletter-sign-up) |

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