

Hello Folks at Trinity Memorial United Church. Our names are Trudi Johnson and Rose Soneff. We are Mission and Service Enthusiasts. Please consider the following **MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES**. If you feel led to donate, thank you for your gift. Information on donations is listed at the end of the stories.

M&S Financial Update

Your generosity towards reaching our goal of \$12,000 for 2025 is very much appreciated. If possible, the easiest way to monitor our goal for M&S, is for donations to be made through TMUC with a note that it is for M&S. Thank you on behalf of the many worthwhile projects that rely on M&S.

Partnership in Bloom



[Image credit: Jelena Safronova]

Spring doesn't arrive quietly. It pushes. It breaks through frozen ground, insisting on life.

That same insistence is at work through Mission and Service partners around the world. And when we give to Mission and Service, we're not simply supporting good intentions. We're strengthening this steady, rooted, courageous work that is already underway.

Our generosity supports partners as they show up, day in and day out, wherever there is need.

When wildfires displace families: they're there to open their doors in welcome.

When food prices rise beyond reach: they're organizing food distribution before cupboards are bare.

When storms wash away infrastructure: they're planting crops in soil made fragile by climate

change.

When isolation presses in on communities: they're creating safe spaces for learning, healing, and belonging.

Every gift we give through Mission and Service is fuel for this response. Our collective generosity becomes groceries on a table, a workshop that shifts harmful beliefs, seeds planted in changing climates, and training for leaders.

This work is not theoretical. It's daily, practical, and faithful. And it grows because, together, we continue to help it grow.

Spring is coming. Let's make sure hope grows everywhere it's needed.

[Give to support Mission and Service today](#); help love take root.

Grandmothers Leading with Love



[Image credit: Lindsay Glennie]

In Kenya's Rift Valley, HIV and AIDS have reshaped entire families. More than 200,000 people in the region live with HIV. Many children are being raised not by their parents, but by grandmothers.

Women in their 60s and 70s are burying their own children and then stepping forward to raise grandchildren. They cook, farm, comfort, and pray—often while facing stigma in their own communities.

In some churches, HIV has been preached as punishment. A sign of sin. That stigma isolates families who are already grieving.

Through partnership with leaders at St. Paul's University in Limuru, Kenya, Mission and Service has helped create something simple but transformative: a space for conversation. Grandmothers and pastors gathered in the same room.

One grandmother stood and told her story. She spoke of losing both her children and described the pain of being judged while loving her children fiercely. She spoke of her grandchildren, and her unshakable belief that God's love does not abandon anyone.

Pastors listened. They asked questions, challenged their own assumptions, and made commitments. They pledged to preach compassion, visit homes, and offer pastoral care instead of condemnation.

That is how change begins.

Through Mission and Service, we're helping to create spaces like these, where learning replaces stigma, and where churches become places of healing again.

When we give, we help grandmothers carry hope and love instead of shame.

Help love have the final word: [make your own commitment today](#) and make a gift for Mission and Service.

A Steady Flow of Care



[Image credit: Silver Spire United Church]

For most of us, a shower is routine.

For someone without stable housing, it can be transformative.

In St. Catharines, Ontario, Silver Spire United Church offers more than access to water. Their shower program offers dignity, relief, and a fresh start to the day—sometimes all in the same hour.

While guests take a private shower, their laundry is washed and dried in the next room. Clean clothes are ready when they step out. Toiletries like soap, shampoo, deodorant are generously donated by the community and is available to all guests. Devices can be charged in the room, and guests are welcome to keep their belongings in the room with them to keep them secure.

It may sound simple, but being able to wash your body and your clothing at the same time changes a day. In the extreme heat of summertime, a cool shower can prevent illness and save lives. In the winter, warm water restores circulation and comfort. Beyond physical relief, something deeper happens: people are reminded they matter.

But programs like this require steady support. Costs for utilities, supplies, coordination, volunteers, and care can mount quickly.

Through Mission and Service, we're helping Silver Spire United Church keep the water running and the program staffed. We're helping ensure that dignity is not an afterthought, but a priority.

A shower should not be a luxury, and clean clothes should not be out of reach.

[When we give, dignity flows.](#)

Local Knowledge, Global Transformation



[Image credit: Asian Rural Institute]

At the Asian Rural Institute in Japan, leadership begins with a simple truth: you are already an expert in your own life.

In 2024, 20 participants from 13 countries arrived as pastors, farmers, teachers, and organizers, carrying questions about food security, climate change, and community resilience.

They planted crops. Reduced plastic use in the fields. Practiced nonviolent communication. Travelled across Japan to meet farmers and activists. Reflected deeply on what their communities need most.

And they left equipped—not just with ideas, but with practical skills they will multiply at home.

Their impact will ripple outward: stronger local food systems, healthier land, more confident leadership.

Through Mission and Service, we're helping make that training possible. We're helping to sustain the farm, the classrooms, and the shared learning that transforms participants into catalysts for change.

[When we give, we're investing in leaders](#) who will nourish communities long after their year in Japan ends.

Let's continue cultivating that future.

Steady Presence on the Northern Landscape



[Image credit: Hillcrest United Church]

In Fort Nelson, BC, where the landscape is vast and the seasons are bold, Hillcrest United Church has been a vibrant presence for more than 60 years.

Rural ministry carries its own rhythm—shaped by distance, resilience, and close-knit relationships. At Hillcrest, that spirit is tangible. Worship blends cherished hymns with newer songs. Faith is lived not only in the sanctuary, but in everyday acts of care and connection.

As a rural church, Hillcrest plays an essential role in community life—offering pastoral presence, encouragement, and a welcoming space where everyone belongs. Accessible and intentionally inclusive, it reflects the strength and generosity that define rural communities across Canada.

Hillcrest offers points of connection beyond Sunday services, inviting the community to Christmas and Spring teas, garage sales, and events peppered throughout the year.

Through Mission and Service, Hillcrest is part of a wider movement of hope. From northern British Columbia, their generosity supports ministries across the country and around the world—and they, too, are strengthened by this shared experience.

Hillcrest reminds us that rural congregations are vital expressions of faith—grounded, resilient, and forward-looking.

When we [give to Mission and Service](#), we are standing with rural communities like Hillcrest—sustaining ministry, nurturing connection, and helping vibrant congregations continue to flourish in every part of Canada.

DONATION INFORMATION:

1. Donate by cash or cheque by designating an amount for Mission and Service on your offering envelope or on your PAR monthly deduction and Trinity Memorial United Church (TMUC) will forward those funds to Mission and service headquarters. Those funds will be reflected on your tax receipt from TMUC. NOTE: When you donate as a pass-through to Trinity Memorial it will also count toward the goal that was set at the AGM for Mission and Service for a total donation from Trinity. When you donate directly to headquarters you will still get an income tax receipt but it will not count toward Trinity's goal.
2. Donate directly to Mission and Service headquarters online;
3. Donate by phone using your Visa or MasterCard:
Local: 416-231-5931 ext. 2738
Toll-free: 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738
4. Donate by mailing a cheque to the Mission and Service:
Philanthropy Unit, The United Church of Canada
3250 Bloor St. West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4