

UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRY (UCM)

Location: Kawartha Lakes & Brock Townships, Central Ontario

A Collaborative Ministry:

Collaborative ministry is about sharing resources. It is about aligning our interests, passions, and talents so that together we can be and do more.

Website: ucministry.ca

Facebook: United Community Ministry

Youtube: United Community Ministry Brock-Kawartha

Facebook: United Community Ministry

UCM Newsletter May 15, 2025





Member churches:

Trinity- St Andrew's UC, Cannington (*9:30 am)

Woodville UC (*11 am)

Oakwood UC (*9 am)

Cambray Community UC (*10:30am)

**Sunday service times except summer and on Combined service dates*

Clergy: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham



For pastoral emergencies or to arrange a visit please contact:

416- 801-8739 - phone or text

If you would like to meet with Rev. Elizabeth, she will be happy to meet you at a time and location that works for you. Please contact her at 416-801-8739

Rev. Elizabeth will be retiring as Clergy on August 1, 2025.

UCM Clergy Search Team members:

Woodville UC- **Kim Gretton CHAIR**

Trinity-St. Andrew's UC- **Mary Lynn Lanos (secretary, online HUB tech)), Judy Prophet**

Cambray Community UC- **Leigh Tamlin, Linda Shier**

Oakwood UC- **Graham Batty**

Pastoral Care Emergencies (if Rev. Elizabeth is unavailable)

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Cunningham **elizcunningham8@gmail.com** 416-801-8739 (cell)

If you are unsuccessful in receiving a response from Rev. Elizabeth in a timely manner
please contact Jeannette or Phyllis.

Rev. Jeannette Millar: **jeannettemillar4@gmail.com** 705-426-9126

Phyllis Tamlin- **phyllistamlin@cogeco.ca** 705-320-9887 or 705-821-1344

ucministry.ca (UCM website)

Calendar page- shows special events and who is leading worship at which church on any given Sunday.

Newsletter page- provides a link to the most recent newsletter.

If **you know someone who is not on email** and they want to receive the monthly newsletter you can either print it out for them or ask someone from your church's pastoral care team to take care of it.

UCM Joint Services

2025 UCM Joint Worship Services

June 8, 2025 - Pentecost Communion, Woodville at 11 am +
AGM at 10:30 am, Rev. Elizabeth retirement recognition,
Potluck

SUMMER services, 9:30 am, Rev. Elizabeth

June 29- Cambray

July 6- Oakwood

July 13- Woodville

July 20 Cannington

July 27- Cambray (refreshments to honour Rev. Elizabeth's
final service- retirement Aug. 1)

(No Aug services or Labour Day Aug 31)

Thurs Aug 28 - Outdoor Event - Music (5 pm), Indoor Pot-luck
Supper (6 pm), Outdoor Service (7 pm) Woodville

Upcoming Services

May 18

Oakwood/ Cambray- Warden *(change)*

Cannington/Woodville- Rev. Elizabeth

May 25

Oakwood/ Cambray- Rev. Elizabeth

Cannington/Woodville- Bennett

June 1

Oakwood/ Cambray- Warden

Cannington/Woodville- Rev. Elizabeth

June 8, 2025 JOINT SERVICE

Pentecost Communion, Woodville at 11 am + AGM at 10:30 am,
Rev. Elizabeth retirement recognition at AGM, Potluck lunch following the
service

June 15

Oakwood/ Cambray- Rev. Elizabeth

Cannington/Woodville- Bennett

June 22

(final non joint services before Sept.)

Oakwood/ Cambray- Tamlin

Cannington/Woodville- Rev. Elizabeth

From Rev. Elizabeth

(This report will also be in the UCM Annual report that you will receive by email before the June 8 AGM.)

Dear UCM,

I found as I began to write the Minister's Report for the upcoming UCM Annual Meeting, that it became something different from the usual report. With my upcoming retirement, the report covers more than just the work of the previous year but offers my learnings and the collective wisdom gained together from the experience of collaborative ministry. Serving as your minister has been the pinnacle of my ministry. You are champions of handling what 'change' might bring and are leaders in our United Church of Canada by saying 'yes' to innovative ministry. Blessings on your journey!

Rev. Elizabeth

UCM 2024 Annual Meeting Minister's Report

Dear UCM Family,

This is my last report to you as your minister, as I will be retiring this coming summer. And so I

want to leave you with a few of my impressions about the work we've done together, and some insights for the future from gathered wisdom.

The most important learning from being with you in this model of collaborative ministry is that the 'myth' of things staying the same has been shattered. In 2018, you came together as six congregations. Today, you are four congregations. And you have experienced adjustments in the funding formulae as a result and are accommodating any changes this brings to your financial picture.

In 2023, the congregation of St. Andrew's in Beaverton met several times to grapple with their future. It was the most Spirit-led and deeply moving experience to be a part of their struggles, their honest conversations, and the obvious sense that they would make the decision to close and amalgamate with Trinity. Many of the congregation transitioned to their new spiritual home in Trinity United,

Cannington, now known as Trinity-St. Andrew's. And I can tell you how the vibrancy of that move has impacted the Trinity congregation. There are more people in the pews, there are new members in the choir and handbell choir, their leadership team has been enhanced. And the outreach work of St. Andrew's, known as Andy's 2.0, came over to Cannington and continues to thrive as an outreach ministry to provide meals for those in need in Beaverton. Additionally, because of the amalgamation, Trinity had to let go of its Affirming status, one that had identified this congregation for several years as an inclusive, welcoming congregation. But they rolled up their sleeves and got back to the work of doing the Affirming process again, 2.0 version. This coming June 1, that congregation will vote to become an Affirming congregation, and it will be even more beautiful because of the conversations held in the last year, and the celebration of achieving this work together, with your Beaverton congregation.

Peniel's funds from the sale of its building have given Woodville a more secure financial future, and this in time will make its presence known in decisions they make to serve their community, with replenished sources. Oakwood works within its means and continues to thrive as a church within its community, offering dinners, and plant sales and musical concerts. Cambray also continues to do what it loves best, meeting together as family and caring for each other with compassion and joy.

The collaborative garden plot project goes into its 3rd year this summer and will be a budget item for 2026. It is the most remarkable way to demonstrate what a collaborative ministry can do – for when you join together, you can do more. Food banks in your four communities will receive fresh produce that has been planted, watered, and harvested by gardeners from your four churches.

I am disappointed that I have not been with the UCM long enough to see what might happen to the structure of the collaborative if a new church was invited into the collaborative. There would be a shift of energies and relationship, and I believe this would be a good thing for you to experience. We can become closed-minded when we get too used to what we're doing. God is not here to keep us complacent but rather to nudge us forward into what I keep calling, the 'next expression of being church'.

You are on the forefront of this work in our Region. You are indeed a 'success' story if one can grant that label to a collaborative. But your work is not done. It continues to want to move into this next 'expression.' Your geography will change over time. As a church enters in, or perhaps one closes, the 'shape' of your collaborative will be redrawn. And the collaborative will adapt to this change, by *not* saying for example, "Oh, it's too long a drive between points" and shut down the

conversation. You never know what the Spirit is up to, so try saying instead, “Let’s try it and see where it goes.”

And one other observation I’ve been mulling over. If one of the UCM congregations decides to close down and not amalgamate, and they choose a path of existing until the last person out the door turns out the lights, how does the UCM walk alongside this partner church on their journey, that could be called ‘palliative.’ I often think of the UCM as being a ‘living entity’ and I am curious to know how the partner churches would respond to ‘one of its own’ making this journey. How will they walk alongside this congregation? Will they check in and bring the proverbial ‘plate of muffins or casserole,’ or will they just walk by and not look in. Something for the UCM to ponder.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your minister for four years. I have deeply enjoyed my work and friendship with the

remarkable Kerri Jebson, Chair of the UCM Council, whose ‘secret superpower’ is her ability to run *any* meeting in under 45 minutes. And my gratitude for the excellent work and much needed support of the duly unflappable Ruth Fallding, UCM Team Administrator. My thank you to the friendships I’ve found with the LLWLs who anchor the UCM with their worship ministry, faith, and caring to your congregations. The other ‘bulwark’ that is so needed for this collaborative to function as smoothly as it does, is the flexibility and competency of the Secretaries who weekly work with a different worship leader and yet continue to present worship bulletins for you that capture all of the different styles of your worship leaders. And to our musicians, who go with whatever hymns we send them, thank you from the bottom of my heart for going with this stream of variety!

I hope that my legacy to you has been one of consistent leadership and presence, both in your

congregations and your leadership teams. And I know that your next minister will take you to a new place of understanding what collaborative ministry can be about, and that together, you will move into the 2030's with confidence and amazement at what God has done!

I remember when I first saw the posting for the UCM up on Church Hub. My heart literally skipped a beat because it was so exciting to think I could possibly do this kind of ministry. Thank you for giving me this unique opportunity to be a part of what God is up to in 'churchland'. What a wonderful way to conclude my ministry with the United Church of Canada!

Blessings to you all!

With love, Rev. Elizabeth

From UCM Admin: Ruth Fallding:

Email me anytime with any photos/information about a UCM member(s) for me to share in the newsletter.

NEW *Everyone is encouraged to make a special effort to attend the UCM June 8 AGM at 10:30 am. There will be a special recognition of Rev. Elizabeth. Following the AGM there will be a Joint service. This will include celebration of the UCC 100th anniversary. Mark your calendars and bring contributions for a potluck lunch following the service.*

NEW Most Recent Beer& Hymns We are so grateful to Rev. Elizabeth for introducing the Beer & Hymns Event concept to UCM. These events have been so much fun over the past

few years! Here are some photos from our most recent one.









NEW UCM Garden Plot/Food Bank Project:

The UCM Garden will be located at the Woodville Legion Branch, 126 Queen St., Woodville, same location as last year. We no longer have use of the gardens in Beaverton at St. Andrews.

Volunteers met at the garden on May 3 to add some fertilizer and plant early seeds. They will be planting more seeds when the weather warms, near the long weekend in May; the exact date and time will be determined and circulated. Darlene Barker (Woodville UC) will be creating a schedule for those people who are interested in helping with the garden to water, weed, harvest and deliver to area foodbanks, in the same manner as was done last year. Anyone who is interested can contact Darlene and she will ensure they get a copy of the schedule to select the week(s) they are interested in helping. If interested in helping in any way contact Darlene at darlene_barker@hotmail.com







NEW Oakwood UC Plant Sale: Sat. May 31 - 9
am - 2 pm

NEW Congratulations to Valerie Levy (Woodville UC) on the publication of her debut book, a memoir entitled “The Light of Day”. The book traces her story from rural Jamaica to Canada as a young single woman the obstacles she overcame as an immigrant, starting a career as a nurse and expanding her family.

https://valerielevy.com/?page_id=49

Llarian Hider (Trinity-St. Andrew’s, Cannington) is going to Guatemala again in June. See poster below. She has done this trip a number of times and is seeking donations. Note that the donations do not go to her personal expenses but to the mission directly.



On a mission to Guatemala

February 2025

Yes, I'm Guatemala bound!

Having had a relationship and involvement with **The Arms of Jesus Children's Mission** in Guatemala since 2004 has truly been a blessing! Since that time, I have had the opportunity to travel to Guatemala with volunteer teams seven times. With the help of friends from Trinity United Church in Cannington we sewed 28 graduation gowns for the first ever graduating class of AOJ. What a special opportunity!

My time with teams has involved so many different projects. We have constructed houses for families to provide them with a safe, healthy environment, done food distributions, foot washings to provide socks and shoes to children, etc. Another great joy I have had is sewing children's clothes and specialty baby bundles to take and hand out to families in need.

I am now joining a team **June 6-15th** to return to Guatemala. Our projects will be dependent on the funds our team raises. You can have the opportunity to partner with us in making these projects possible.

Ways you can help bless children & families

- Help build a **house** for family: \$2000.00 CDN
- **Food distribution** for needy families: \$1500-2000.00 CDN
- Foot washing-**shoes** for school children: \$2000.00 CDN

Would you help me to impact a family? Your gift would be greatly appreciated. Any questions please contact me.

Llarian Hider llarianhider@gmail.com



The ARMS OF JESUS Children's Mission Inc

PO Box 10 Pickering ON L1V 2R2 905.492.5007 Donations receipts Issued.

www.armsofjesus.org

E-TRANSFERS: donate@armsofjesus.org

or CHECK by mail. Please note funds are for HIDER-Linking Arms team.

From UCM Chair: Kerri Jebson:

**Thurs May 29 at 1 pm - UCM Choir practice
at Cambray**

**"Come and Fill This Place" - Jim Robinson,
Robert White Johnson, Al Denson arr.
Richard Kingsmore**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-
B8freVZ3o4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B8freVZ3o4)**

UCM Clergy Search:

- . Search Team: Judy Prophet, Mary
Lynn Lanos, Leigh Tamlin, Linda
Shier, Kim Gretton, Graham Batty**

- . Team have met by ZOOM with ECORC Liaison Rev Jean Wilson on April 21 and May 7**
- . our Clergy Position is posted on UCC Church Hub using Cannington's Hub account with Mary Lynn Lanos as tech administrator/contact**
 - Kim Gretton is search team chair and Mary Lynn is secretary**

Local PRIDE Events

Youth Pride – June 1, 1-4 pm, Whitby

Pride Durham – June 7 th , Noon, Ajax

Scugog – June 21, Port Perry

Kawartha – July 12, Victoria Park Lindsay

Beaverton – July 12

Uxbridge – August 9

Witness Blanket Awareness Art

**Installation - at Trinity-St Andrew's UC
Cannington**

<https://witnessblanket.ca/>

**The Witness Blanket opening ceremony is
at 2 pm on Sept. 7**

**The exhibit is open every day (except
Mondays), from noon to 8 pm from Tuesday
September 9 to Saturday October 18**

**There will be a ceremony on Truth and
Reconciliation Day, Tuesday Sept 30, time
and details TBD. The closing ceremony
details to come.**



Bear Witness

The Witness Blanket is a powerful art installation created by master carver Carey Newman to recognize the atrocities of the residential school era, honour the children and symbolize ongoing reconciliation.

Inspired by a woven blanket, this cedar-framed artwork is made of hundreds of items from residential schools, Survivors, churches, governments and other cultural sites across Canada. Each item tells a story of loss, strength, resilience and pride.

DISCOVER THE WITNESS BLANKET

Plus The Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Quilt

The Witness Blanket Replica on display for 6 weeks

FREE TO ALL • September 6th to October 18th 2025

Location: Trinity St. Andrew's • 50 Laidlaw St. North, Cannington

For more info. or to book your group contact:

witnessblanket2025@gmail.com

TrinityCannington.ca/witness

 @trinitycannington



CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS
MUSÉE CANADIEN POUR LES
DROITS DE LA PERSONNE



Trinity St. Andrew's
UNITED COMMUNITY MINISTRY MEMBER

* Photo credit: CMHR, Aaron Cohen.

The Witness Blanket is NOT a blanket!

However, much like a family quilt, it is made of various panels, each telling its own story. The many panels bear Witness to the Residential School Survivors. Each of the 889 pieces of history, which make up the panels, was salvaged from Residential Schools all across Canada. A shoe, a bell, a door knob, a braid of hair and more all tell a story. The yellow plastic mush-bowl, from the Mohawk Institute in Brantford, was used as a reminder of food, whether there was ever enough and the quality of the mush/porridge. Maggots and sour milk were often served.

The Witness Blanket is almost 40 feet long (12 meters) and 10.5 feet high (3 meters) made of Red Wood Cedar from British Columbia. Some of the panels weigh over 300 lbs. When assembled, the 13 panels weigh more than 2 tons (1.8 metric tons). Artist, Carey Newman, lives on northern Vancouver Island and made this display as a tribute to his father, a survivor, and as a reminder to all in Truth and Reconciliation.

As we often wrap ourselves in a blanket for comfort, the Witness Blanket is meant to be a reminder that Residential Schools will never happen again and our Indigenous Brothers and Sisters can take comfort in that fact.



Trinity UC Cannington has been approved as a host community venue for the public display of the Witness Blanket (Sept 8 to Oct 15, 2025) that is touring Canada.

<https://witnessblanket.ca/>

Although it is still a distance away, much planning, preparation, and on site volunteer hours go into hosting this work of art. You are cordially invited to join the Planning Team, or come and learn more about it, or express your interest in helping during the hosting dates.

Contact Sharon Woodrow if you would like to know more about the Planning Team or how to help: swoodrow2@gmail.com

from our Neighbours:

**Seagrave United Church
Yard Sale May 23, 6:00 am
start - bake sale starts at
9:00. May 24 start time 7:00
am to 1:00 pm. May 22
donations can be dropped
off. Thank you. Location
21300 Simcoe St, Seagrave.**



LGBTQ+ and Allies

MOVIE NIGHT



Date: May 28, 2025

Time: 6:30pm

Location:

Greenbank United
Church

For ages 13-18

What to Expect:

- A showing of Strange World
- Free popcorn and snacks!
- A fun, safe place to chill, make friends, and enjoy a movie together!

**Bring your friends or come solo —
everyone is welcome!**



Scan this QR code to sign up!





East Central Ontario Regional Council

of The United Church of Canada



<https://ecorcuccan.ca/nominations2025/>

As we celebrate the last 100 years of the United Church of Canada, we also need to spend some time reflecting on the future and how we might shape the next decade. Join us at our Regional Council gathering on May 23rd and 24th as we celebrate, reflect, honour and plan together at St. Paul's United Church and St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church located at 178 Church St, Bowmanville. Our meeting will focus on choosing our leaders, hearing about the

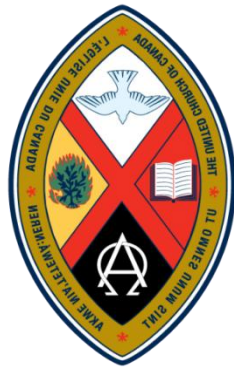
work of the Regional Council over the last year in light of our strategic plan, and responding to the projections of where our church will be in 2035. Any and all members and adherents of the United Church in our region are welcome to join the conversation about the future on the afternoon of May 24th beginning at 1:00pm till approximately 2:45pm.

On the evening of May 23rd, we will have a Celebration of Ministries Service beginning at 7:00pm. For those joining on Zoom, a separate link will be sent out.

For more information and to register, please visit [2025 ECORC Spring Annual Meeting - May 23 and 24 - East Central](#)

Ontario Regional Council of the United Church of Canada. Deadline for registration is Friday, May 16th.

From United Church of Canada



100 Words of Hope Campaign

The United Church is inviting us to share "100 Words of Hope" that draw from deep spirituality to speak to these moments of

**high anxiety and change in the church,
Canada, and the world. .**

A splash at the baptismal font.

A couple blessed.

A life celebrated.

Potluck dinners.

**Neighbours near and neighbours far
supported.**

Prayers offered.

Hymns sung.

Welcome offered.

Human rights protected that all may be one.

Times of laughter.

Times to be serious.

Times to grow in thought and in spirit.

**One Hundred years of constant transition
adapting our faith to a changing world.**

We are proud to be United.

--The Rev. Darren J. Liepold

The 2024 Strategic Plan Report is now live online on [The United Church of Canada website](#), and will be available in French in the coming days on [EgliseUnie.ca](#). Bringing together financial information with overall progress from 2024 on the church's six strategic objectives, it offers testimony to

some of the new things emerging amongst us.

As the second annual report of the General Council Office's 2023–2025 Strategic Plan, it complements more detailed quarterly reports prepared for the General Council Executive and available on the [General Council website](#), as well as the high-level current-time reporting accessible at [Our Call and Vision](#).

As a point of transparency and accountability, we encourage you to [share the report](#) with others. We hope it will contribute to understanding the priorities of the General Council Office, and the work that continues to be supported through both

assessment and Mission and Service contributions. Renewing, creating, and inviting—these are our key priorities, as we seek to deliver strong results in a transparent and accountable manner.

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Attachments area

[Preview YouTube video Come and Fill This Place - Al Denson](#)





[Come and Fill This Place - Al Denson](#)

UCM invited as participant in UCC 100 Tables Project

Thank you to Rev Elizabeth for spearheading our involvement in this project. We will receive a gift card to purchase a picnic table to set up & decorate & move around, in conjunction with our UCM community garden project in Woodville and produce donations to local food banks. Contact Rev Elizabeth if you would like to get creative for this opportunity for awareness and celebration. Video clips of our 'Table'

interactions will be shared locally, and for the UCC storytelling.

Monthly Meal Prep Volunteers

Wanted: please consider this opportunity to serve our local community by helping once a month for about 1 1/2 to 2 hours in preparing approx 12-18 take- out meals for the Andy's 2.0 Outreach program in Beaverton. Surplus food is collected from Lakeview Manor LTC in Beaverton and transformed, using the kitchen at Beacan Presbyterian Church, into take-out meals for local food bank clientele. This program is an offshoot (since 2022) of the original Andy's Crock Pot program at St Andrew's UC Beaverton.

**If interested in helping out please contact
Kathy Davidson at 705-928-6906.**

Upcoming UCM Joint Choir Practices & Services

Thurs May 29 at Cambray at 1 pm

Sun June 8 at Woodville at 10 am - AGM at
10:30; service at 11, followed by pot-luck
lunch

Listening Links:

Pentecost anthem on Sun June 8
(Woodville)- "Come and Fill This Place" -
by Jim Robinson, Robert White Johnson,
Al Denson arr. Richard Kingsmore

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-
B8freVZ3o4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B8freVZ3o4)

REGULAR ACTIVITIES OPEN TO ALL IN UCM

HANDBELL GROUPS at Trinity -St. Andrew's, Cannington - welcome to all including children- no experience necessary1)

Contact Arlene Smith: arlene.smith9@gmail.com for the Monday evening practice group at 7 Contact Mary Lynn

Lanos: mllanos3328@gmail.com for the Thursday afternoon practice group at 4 pm

BOOK CLUB- Book club meets Wednesdays 7pm @ Trinity-St. Andrew's, UC, Cannington, June 4th @ 7 PM "Horse" by Geraldine Brooks

EUCHRE: Progressive Euchre @ Woodville UC. First Friday of the month, 7 pm. Snacks gratefully accepted and admission is by donation. More information call Faye at (705)439-3689 or Sandra at (705)432-3284.

UCM JOINT CHOIR

All welcome to participate anytime for a particular joint service. Singing is done with CD accompaniment. Recording generally available for at home practice. Involves a couple of in-person practices. Contact Kerri for details. kgjebson@gmail.com



Our LLWL Team (left to right)

Evelyn Chambers

Barbara Warden

Phyllis Tamlin

Darlene Hallett

Rev. Elizabeth Cunningham (Clergy)

Nancy Payne

Robert Bennett