# Mission and Service Stories: October 2025

Mission and Service—helping transform lives, inspire meaning and purpose, and   
build a better world.



The United Church of Canada/L’Église Unie du Canada

Contents

[Welcome to *Mission and Service Stories*! 3](#_Toc208584459)

[October 5: Preparing a Place of Healing 4](#_Toc208584460)

[October 12: Setting More Tables Together 5](#_Toc208584461)

[October 19: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism 6](#_Toc208584462)

[October 26: Healing with Horses: Transforming Through Trust 7](#_Toc208584463)

Writer: Lindsay Vautour



Copyright © 2025  
The United Church of Canada  
L’Église Unie du Canada

 This document is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike (by-nc-sa) Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0. Any copy must include this notice.

All biblical quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.* Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

## Welcome to *Mission and Service Stories*!

*Mission and Service Stories* are for sharing with our faithful supporters to show them the amazing work their gifts make possible.

These stories can be used in services, in newsletters, and in face-to-face conversations. The more they’re shared, the more people will understand just how life-changing Mission and Service is!

For videos of some of the work you make possible, visit the [Mission and Service playlist](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQDu-SgFb3RgRuLXGcT2-DvK8VeECsVdv) on our YouTube channel.

We hope this resource is helpful and inspiring.

As always, we would **love to hear your feedback**. Drop us a line at [ms@united-church.ca](mailto:ms@united-church.ca) and let us know what you like, what we can improve on, and what we can focus on developing.

Blessings,

The Philanthropy Team

## October 5: Preparing a Place of Healing

United Church ministers serving in northern communities will soon gather at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Manitoba for a time of healing and renewal.

The Northern Indigenous Ministers retreat comes at a critical moment. These ministers carry extraordinary burdens: walking alongside communities devastated by loss, often among young people; leading funeral after funeral; and tending to the deep wounds of grief. This year’s wildfires brought further hardship, forcing the retreat to be postponed until October. The need for rest and renewal has only grown.

Because of your incredible generosity through Mission and Service, the retreat will soon take place. Plans are in place for sharing circles where ministers can express what they’ve been carrying, gather for meals that nourish body and spirit, and engage in cultural practices like ribbon skirt making and beading that bring connection and joy. Massages and other healing activities will help restore strength and release long-held tension. Most importantly, ministers will be surrounded by peers, who understand the unique weight they bear and who can hold that burden alongside them.

The outpouring of support from across the church has been remarkable. Your generosity is creating a space where ministers, who are so often the ones offering care, can finally receive it themselves.

Our ministers will soon step away from the constant demands of ministry and into a circle of care, healing, and renewal. And when they return to their communities, they will carry back not only renewed strength but also the reminder that they are not alone.

Your compassion through [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/donate) makes this gathering possible. Thank you.

## October 12: Setting More Tables Together

At Thanksgiving, many of us gather around tables filled with food, and share familiar traditions and prayers of gratitude. In the Bible, food is more than just sustenance: it’s manna in the wilderness, a feast shared among thousands, and a table where all are welcome. Again and again, food is a sign of God’s care and abundance.

But we know that not everyone has the blessing of a full table or loved ones to gather with. Hunger remains a painful reality for far too many. These are not just numbers or statistics: these are our neighbours, making impossible choices between heat and dinner.

Through Mission and Service partners, your generosity is part of God’s response. Together, we are helping farmers in India care for their livestock, families in Zimbabwe grow food in drought conditions, and communities in Northern Canada access nutritious food despite high costs. Across Canada, ecumenical campus ministries and community centres serve weekly dinners where everyone is welcome. These meals don’t just ease hunger, they help reduce stress, support learning, and bring people together where everyone has a place at the table.

This Thanksgiving, may gratitude fill our hearts. May that gratitude ripple outward, becoming generosity that helps set more tables, share more bread, and create more moments of joy. Because when we share what we have, God’s promise of abundance comes to life, not just as a symbol, but as a feast of hope and possibility for all.

Thank you for the difference you make through [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/donate).

## October 19: 40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism

The [40 Days of Engagement on Anti-Racism](https://united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/anti-racism/40-days-engagement-anti-racism) are underway, and now is the best time to join in. Wherever you are on the journey, today is the right day to take the next step. Across Canada and beyond, people are gathering in faith and courage to confront racism, to listen deeply, and to act for justice.

This is not a quick or easy process. The conversations can be uncomfortable. They reveal where racism lives—in systems, in communities, and within ourselves—and they push us to ask: *What does justice look like in real life?*

Every day in this program offers tools to walk this path: prayers that ground us, reflections that shift perspectives, stories and videos that bring lived experiences into focus, and action steps that help turn awareness into change. These resources are created by ministers, lay leaders, educators, and community members—people who bring lived experience, wisdom, and hope.

This work is not just about understanding racism. It’s about dismantling it.

From October 14 to November 28, 2025, the 40 Days include:

* Live online events with dynamic speakers every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. ET
* Weekly short videos with accompanying reflections and action items
* Downloadable resources designed for both groups and individuals

The learning doesn’t stop there. All resources remain available online so that individuals, congregations, and community groups can keep learning, keep talking, and keep acting. Anti-racism is a lifelong journey.

Your [Mission and Service](https://united-church.ca/community-and-faith/get-involved/mission-and-service) gifts make this vital work possible, not just for 40 days, but every day. Through your generosity, the United Church of Canada continues to live into its commitment to becoming an anti-racist church, and to work toward a world where every person is treated with dignity, equity, and love. Thank you.

## October 26: Healing with Horses: Transforming Through Trust

In Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, the Healing with Horses program brings people together to share, listen, and connect with each other, the land, and the gentle strength of the horses guiding the healing journey.

Among them are four Ojibwe Spirit Horses, a rare and sacred breed. At one point in history, they were stolen from the community, but in an act of resilience and reconciliation, they have been returned to the land and the people who have always known and cherished them. Their presence is a living reminder of survival, restoration, and hope.

Supported by your Mission and Service gifts, the program blends equine therapy with Anishinaabe ways of knowing, the Medicine Wheel, and traditional teachings to support emotional, spiritual, and cultural healing. Children learn emotional regulation, adults reconnect with their inner strength, and participants find the courage to speak and be heard.

Watch the video to see how these horses, and the people who work alongside them, are changing lives.

Thank you for supporting the [Healing Fund](https://united-church.ca/donate/healing-fund) through Mission and Service. Your generosity makes this life-changing work possible.