

# ROOTS & SPROUTS

*Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving, Serving - Together in Christ*

**May 2023**

## The Young Adults Group



Just a few of our young adults at the April 23rd games day.

**Join us for our next meet-up on  
Sunday, May 21, 12:00-3:00  
for a Hike, Lunch, and Movie**



Grace, Leticia, and Bella,  
looking festive in their  
Easter fashions. More  
Easter photos on page 4.



### Mission

*To awaken the Christ light  
in each other  
and shine it in the world*

### Bedrock Beliefs

*Through Jesus Christ our  
Savior, we believe:  
God's Love: Unconditional  
God's Power: Miraculous  
God's Vision: Peace  
God's Grace: Forgiveness  
God's Assurance: Hope  
God's Ways: Mysterious  
God's Help Line: Prayer  
God's Promise:  
We Are Not Alone  
God's Hands: Us!*

### Core Values

*Offer friendship and  
fellowship to all  
Joyfully engage in regular  
spiritual practice  
Uphold honesty and integrity  
Reach out and serve others  
with kindness  
Care for the earth and all  
creation  
Give generously of our time  
and talent  
Seek and give forgiveness  
Embrace diversity  
Speak out for justice*

# NOTICES/UPDATES

We wish all of those with birthdays in May a most blessed celebration.

*Membership Committee*



### TIME, Talent & Treasure Auction

The Handy Bryans & Sams & Daves

### Indoor or Outdoor Help at your Home

"God gave us time, talent and treasure and asked us to share them."

We will help move your furniture, down-size, do yard work, clean or paint! Try us out!

Minimum Bid/ Donation:  
\$10 Per hour / Per helper

Contact:  
Brian Hershey  
519-658-6405



Brian Hershey will be collecting old Broadview/ Observer magazines to donate to prisons. Please drop them off at the church or give to Brian directly. Thank you.



Our volunteers are the best!



Join Us For Board Game Café  
Friday, May 12 - 7:30 - 11:30 pm  
\$5 Admission for UNLIMITED play  
Snacks available for purchase.

## Many Hands and a ton of Heart!

The games cupboard was built many years ago by Dave Booth as part of the Board Game Café outreach project. Last year Heather and the youth started the job of painting the cupboard and it is now completed!



## Spring News from Stone Church Bookstore

We are open most Sundays in May from 12 noon until 2pm with the **exception** of May 21<sup>st</sup> due to the holiday weekend.

**May 14<sup>th</sup>** Book Sale Sunday

**Good News:** We are also **open Tuesday May 16<sup>th</sup>** from 5pm until 6:30 pm

Visit the Mobile Food Market at Trillium Church first, on May 16<sup>th</sup>, and receive a coupon for a free paperback at the Bookstore

May 16<sup>th</sup> is also 2 for 1 day for paperbacks

**Volunteer opportunities** – see Bookstore staff

**Note:** We are ready to receive your previously loved books on the first Sunday of each month beginning on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Drop them off during Bookstore hours.



**TIME OUT TOGETHER (TOT)** - Our Tuesday morning program has many participants. The parents and children enjoy their time together at Trillium. Join us on Tuesday, 10-11:30am.





Easter morning was filled with excitement as the youth hunted for treats in the sunshine. Thanks to all the people who helped make this possible.

The beautiful fashions worn by many brightened Trillium.



**Easter Colour!**

Susan, Ivone, Elita Grace, Sarah, Elma



**Call as needed:**

- Earlene Peshnak 519-653-1553
- Sheila Matthews 519-653-1286
- Joanne Sarkisian 519-653-3955
- Brian Hershey 519-658-6405
- Sandra Daoust 519-219-0381
- Harold Matthews 519-653-1286
- Doug Stuart 519-653-0514

**Interested in joining our prayer team? Call one of our members for information.**



**Cambridge Food Bank**

## Mobile Food Market

**Fresh Produce Baskets in Your Neighbourhood Every Week!**

Subsidized Rate \$5.00  
**CASH or TAP to Pay**  
Donations over \$10 allow us to keep the Market affordable for everyone

**Trillium United Church  
450 King Street East  
Every Tuesday  
5pm- 6:30pm**

Weekly basket preview on our social media

    @Cambfoodbank

**Everyone Welcome**

For more information contact:  
Patrick 519-622-6550 ext 206  
mobilefoodmarket@cambridgefoodbank.org

Mobile Food Market runs every Tuesday, 5pm to 6:30pm. Remember, \$5 buys you a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables. This is run by the Cambridge Food Bank and anyone can participate. You can pay 3 ways; \$5 for your order; \$10 to cover food bank costs or \$20 to pay it forward.

We have approximately 50 people coming these days to purchase delicious food! Join in the benefits.

We look forward to seeing you there.



**Community Support Connections**

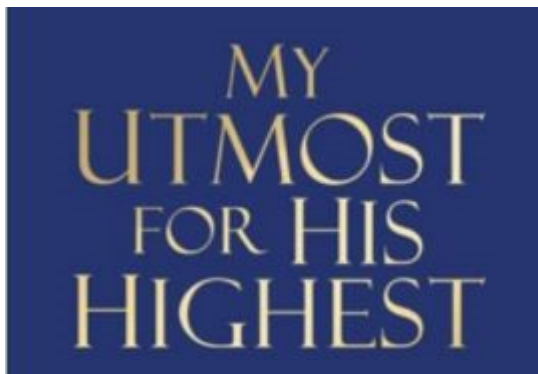
## In Person Monthly Caregiver Support Session

Trillium United Church  
450 King St East  
Cambridge  
Come in the side door

To register please contact  
Linda Fleming  
519-503-8155 or  
lindaf@cscmow.org

**FIRST TUESDAY  
OF THE MONTH  
FROM  
1 PM - 3 PM**

Share caregiver challenges and joys. Learn about self care and much more



Join us as we discuss and reflect upon the popular daily devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*

**Thursday afternoons, 4:45pm to 5:45pm**

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/120237085>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Canada: [+1 \(647\) 497-9373](tel:+16474979373)

## **Garage Sale Raised \$2,915!**

A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped in some way with the sale!

It was a wonderful effort by so many people that it is risky to thank individuals. However, Neil Hammond, Shirley Bish, and Neil's brothers Karl and Ray were truly essential to making it happen. We very much appreciate all of their hard work. Jen Ubele and her crew in the kitchen put on another wonderful Trilli-Yum Cafe that raised over \$400.00. Brian Hershey brought out several of the youth who helped both Friday and Saturday. There were so many people who worked hard over the course of the 3 days that we can't thank them all here but please know that if you were part of the effort, you really helped to make it a success!

Submitted by Liz Reed and the Garage Sale Team



**Proceeds will go to:**

**Fire Safety Upgrades: \$1,000**

**Roof Fund: \$1,000**

**Support of 3  
World Vision Children: \$915  
(Already sponsored by Trillium)**

## **Special Easter Offering**

SC&O team is pleased to report the results of Trillium's Special Easter Offering. Many thanks for your support.

### **Life & Work of Trillium:**

Updating Fire Alarm System - \$715.00

### **Outreach:**

Monthly Dinners for Kiwanis Building - \$650.00

Submitted by: Social Concerns & Outreach





The Gentle Exercise Class, organized by Community Support Connections on Wednesday afternoons at Trillium, is always well attended.

This is a photo of the group that gathered on April 26.

Many thanks to the group members for the collection they took in appreciation for the exercise program. Their donation was split between Community Support Connections (organizer of the program) and Trillium. The \$47.50 donation to Trillium will be deposited to the Building Fund.



Community Support Connections

Exercise

### Stay Active, Build Better Balance!

Join our FREE Gentle Exercise Classes



Drop in: No Registration Required  
Bring Your Running Shoes and Water!  
Everyone is Welcome, No Experience Necessary!

Wednesdays  
at 1:00 PM  
Starts November 30

Trillium United Church  
450 King St E  
Cambridge

Seated class options  
and standing  
balance to reduce falls!

## Blessing Bag Ministry

Help! Our Blessing Bags need your continued support.



A big **THANK YOU** for all the donations to the Blessing Bags.

As we are entering spring there is still a need for hats, gloves, scarves & new socks. We continue to require travel-sized personal hygiene items, lip balm, conditioner, protein bars, individual packages of raisins, nuts or cookies along with crackers, bandages, wipes, and hand sanitizer to fill the bags.

Please take some bags and hand them out. God Bless, bch (Brian Hershey)



# Social Concerns & Outreach

At the Water Event that was held at Trillium in February, Bob Burt donated \$200 from the sales of his book *Water: Our Sacred Trust*. One of the charities he suggested is called 'Water First'. SC&O has decided that this would be the most appropriate place for this donation.



## Clean Water: A Call to Action in the Truth and Reconciliation Report

Safe water needs skilled people. Sustainable access to safe, clean water in Indigenous communities continues to be a pressing issue in Canada.

The water crisis in Indigenous communities is complex. For some communities, the challenge is infrastructure. For others, it's source water quality. And for many communities, it's the lack of skilled water operators and technical support staff.

Water First programs support participants in developing technical skills to go on to employment or further education in water science fields. They build confidence in themselves and a passion for making positive change in their communities.

These programs also support sustainable, long-term solutions that increase knowledge and skills — leading to lasting results.

What do lasting results look like?

Young people are inspired to pursue further education or employment in water science.

Drinking Water Internship graduates are trained to provide safe, clean water for their communities.

Communities strengthen technical capacity to manage water resources independently — and thrive.

## About Water First Education and Training:

Water First has been rated 5 Stars by Charity Intelligence (Ci), an organization that conducts assessments of charitable organizations to promote transparency, accountability and a focus on results in the charitable sector. Ci's rating is based on financial transparency, results reporting, demonstrated impact and need for funding.

The main office of Water First lies within the traditional territory of the Petun and the Anishnaabeg, which consists of the Odawa, Ojibwe, and the Potawatomi nations. The region has been a site of human activity for approximately 15,000 years, with Indigenous peoples being the sole inhabitants until as recently as 500 years ago. Water First is located on the territory covered by Lake Simcoe-Nottawasaga Treaty No. 18, of 1818. Today, this area is still home to many Indigenous peoples from across Turtle Island. Water First is grateful to have the opportunity to work with the community in this territory.





## Blessing of the Quilts



It was with delight the Knotters Group was able to share with the congregation on Sunday, April 23rd the finished quilts of our labours which we have been working on each Tuesday morning at the church hall from last October. Looking around in the church, one was reminded of a flower garden or rainbow of many colours. This year's enthusiastic group of knotters were as follows: Rose Hayashi, Helen Martin, Earlene Peshnak, Sandy Daoust, Jean Schnaeringer, Joan Joyce, Donna Bernard, Sheila & Harold Matthews, Carol Fleet, Laurine Ziegler, Marilyn Armstrong, Don Creighton, Cathy Button, Sarah Brinker, Heather & Eric Goulet and finally our dear Hazel Sitler, one of the founding members of our group.

Some interesting facts for people to digest: Are you wondering how long it takes to make one of these quilts? We have calculated it takes 15 1/2 hours....and if we were to think in terms of dollar value at a rate of \$15.50 (today's minimum wage) the cost in labour of making just one quilt

would be \$240.25 and that's not even including any costs for materials used!

These quilts are distributed throughout the year to individuals and groups who would benefit from this outreach program such as Lutherwood Child & Family Foundation, Marion Residence Retirement Home and Argus Residence for Young People.

We would be remiss at this point to not thank the dedication of all of the loyal individuals who devote to this project of love their time and talent, and also to those who support us with financial donations, yarn, and fabrics. Just like each person is unique, each quilt we make is unique. Our group and the quilt recipients will be forever grateful for Trillium's generosity and sharing spirit found here within these church walls.

Heather Goulet  
Group Co-ordinator



## Community Wellness Project

The Health and Wellness Team has been busy organizing another event for the Community Wellness Project.

On April 19, the team held the first *Personal Care Clinic* at Trillium, offering foot care and haircuts on a pay-as-you-can basis. The clinic offered six appointments for foot care and six appointments for haircuts. All appointment slots were filled including five people from the community (outside Trillium membership) who accessed one or both services. Feedback from participants was very favourable.

Sally White, our Parish Nurse, was present to engage newcomers, take their blood pressure, and to offer her assistance.

Much appreciation to the volunteer organizing team: Linda Pitcher, Joanne Sarkisian, Wanda Brain, and Ruth Thompson. Many thanks to Liz Reed and Sheila Burt for helping at the event.

The next *Personal Care Clinic* will be held Thursday, May 25. By appointment only. Contact 519-653-6601 Ext. 4

### Project Funding

The Community Wellness project relies on a grant from Embracing the Spirit, a United Church of Canada funding program, Trillium's Seniors Fund, and a bequest received in 2022. The project also raises some funds through pay-as-you-can payments for foot care and haircuts.

To fully fund the project, two other grant proposals were submitted to other United Church granting programs in April. The additional funds would support more hours for the Parish Nurse, the purchase of an AED defibrillator, and so we can provide lunches to accompany *Wellness Talks* slated for June, September and November.

### EMPTY PANTRY



Our pantry is bare. There is absolutely no food in our upstairs cupboard. Many people rely on this service to help sustain them. So, the next time you are buying groceries, perhaps you could pick up some items to help fill the shelves and in turn fill some bellies. Canned meats with pull open lids are great as well as small bags of mixed nuts.

Thank you to everyone for your support.

# The Generosity Update



April 28, 2023

Dear Friends

Trillium's Vision is quite simple: to become a Faith in Bloom community. The blooming of a plant is a sign of health. A healthy plant is one that is growing and thriving. For churches there is also the extra ingredient of service. A healthy church is a growing, thriving, serving community and always under the guidance of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our full Vision is:

*Faith in Bloom  
Growing, Thriving, Serving  
Together in Christ*

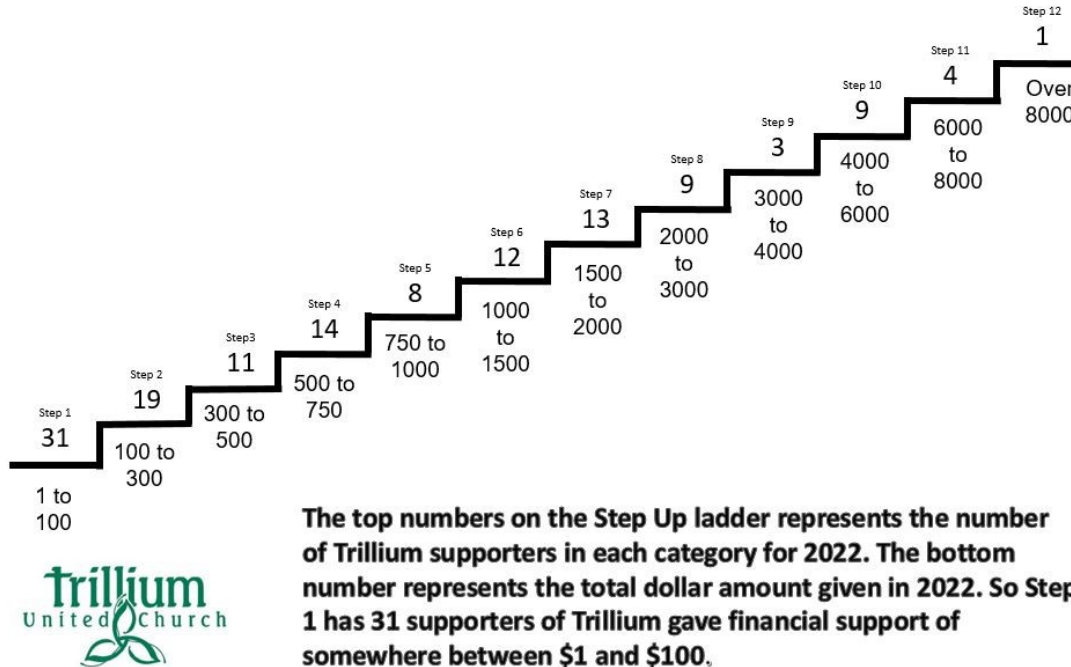
Our common commitment at Trillium is to build the Faith in Bloom community. There are many signs of abundant life at Trillium. Just listen to the announcements each Sunday and savour all the ways Trillium is active in the world. An amazing energy at Trillium can be felt. It is almost as if all the rehearsals for being the new church of Christ have been finalized and we are ready to go on the main stage of life to fulfill the original purpose we came together for. Trillium is ready to grow, thrive and serve in new ways that powerfully impact our community. In fact, it is already happening. Look at our Community Wellness Project or the Mobile Food Market for instance.

Our 2023 Spring Step Up Campaign begins as of May 1, 2023. As in past years we are asking our members and friends to take one or more flowers from the Step Up Board and place the amount on the flower into a special offering envelope. Only with your extra generosity can Trillium carry forward our Vision to be a vital, alive and impactful community in Christ.



Your Generosity Team

# 2022 Trillium Step Up Ladder



At the 2023 Annual Meeting, Trillium committed itself to an ambitious fundraising goal. The primary purpose of this goal was to provide Trillium with the necessary means to be a Faith in Bloom community without continuing to use its reserve funds. There was a commitment to be an awake, vibrant, life-giving presence in the world and it needs to be done with Trillium standing on its own two feet.

We kindly ask that you prayerfully consider the possibility of making a commitment for 2023. Trillium's Step Up Ladder has 12 steps. Would you be open to advancing up one step on the ladder? For instance, if you are currently on Step 4 (\$500-750), would you consider moving up to Step 5 (\$570-1000)? If you are currently on one of the lower steps, would it be feasible for you to take a leap of two steps up?

The Generosity and Finance Teams recently participated in a four week stewardship program run by the United Church. The point of the program was to build a powerful spirit of gratitude and generosity in local churches, something that Trillium has been working on for many years.

One of the challenges that Generosity and Finance came to understand was that the kind of support needed from Trillium members and friends has not been well communicated. There is a desire at Trillium to be a high energy, impactful community. That means Trillium requires high energy, impactful generosity from its members. This includes volunteering as well as direct financial support through donations.

Here are a few bits of information we have recently learned from our participation in the stewardship program that we'd like to pass on to you:

The Median donation to Trillium was \$325 per year. The Median number means the middle number and it represents the middle point in the distribution of a series. If you have three numbers 1, 3 and 14 the average is 6 (18 divide by 3) but the median is 3 (because 3 is in the middle between 1 and 14). For Trillium, it means half the congregation was below \$325 in their financial support for Trillium and half the congregation was above \$325. This is a relatively low number for the median donation in a typical church. The good news is that we have lots of room to grow.

If you look at the **Step Up Ladder** above you can see the distribution of donation levels from Trillium members and friends. We have a large cohort in Step 1 and Step 2 and then some significant numbers in Steps 7, 8 and 9.

In the United Church, money is generally not talked about and when it is talked about it is done with great reluctance. That means the typical United Church congregation rarely provides any guidance on how much a member or friend should consider financially contributing to the life of the congregation. The Generosity Team wants to change that.

We were reminded that PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) is a wonderful tool for financial support of Trillium. Churches that have strong support through PAR tend to have overall stronger financial support from the congregation. Many of our members and friends support Trillium by using PAR. Would you considering joining our PAR program? There are forms in the church and on-line ([www.trilliumchurch.ca/give](http://www.trilliumchurch.ca/give)). It is very easy to use, modify and withdraw as your situation changes.

We often don't think about increasing our PAR donations. If you haven't done so recently, would you consider raising your monthly donation to Trillium in 2023? It is easy to do. Send Mandy an email at [trilliumfinances@gmail.com](mailto:trilliumfinances@gmail.com) and tell her what amount you wish to move to.

Financial generosity is a spiritual practice. It is something that we can learn to embrace and love. Remember, this is always about extending God's love in Jesus Christ to the world. There is nothing more remarkable or lifeworthy than being part of a community of love.

Through your generosity, a vibrant and inclusive community is being formed. Whether it is through volunteering our time and talents, offering reliable, meaningful financial support, or celebrating the presence of God in our worship services, we are being called by the Lord to a generous life. When we live out our best selves - our God created selves - we make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. That is a live worth living.

Your Generosity Team

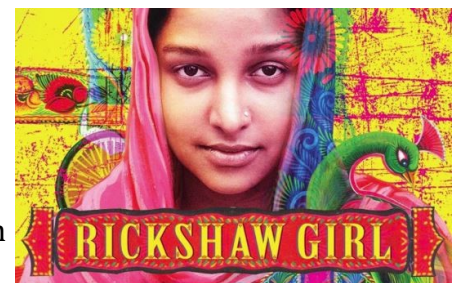
## Adult Spiritual Growth

### Faith in Film @ Trillium

For movie buffs who like spiritually significant films.  
Watch the film and talk about its messages in our faith journey.

**Saturday, May 27 @ 7pm, Trillium Sanctuary**  
***Rickshaw Girl, 2020***

A daring Bangladeshi teenager must disguise herself as a boy so she can drive a rickshaw and earn money to help support her family.



**FREE!!! ALL WELCOME!!!** Optional: Bring movie snacks to share.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**A special Faith in Film presentation on World Immigrant Awareness Day**

**Tuesday, June 20 @ 7pm**

***Peace by Chocolate, 2019.*** A Syrian refugee struggles to settle into his new small-town life in Canada, caught between following his dream and preserving his family's legacy. Based on a true story.

## Pastor Mark's Musings

Dear Friends,

It seems that we live in a time when simply talking about issues is becoming harder and harder. So many facets in our culture today seem to be polarized into two warring camps with little ground in between. That has turned many social issues into political struggles. It means trying to find common ground between people is becoming more difficult.

Common ground can only come about through dialogue and conversation. If dialogue becomes difficult or impossible it means finding common ground between people becomes a hopeless task. When people lose hope in meaningful conversations, they can easily turn to other remedies to resolve their concerns.

Part of the problem is that many of our major issues today are being cast as existential crises. Once something is an existential crisis it easily becomes an all or nothing proposition where varied points of view are not welcome. I think we first came across this challenge in Canada around issues like capital punishment and abortion. Today, we see it in issues like Climate Change, Gender Identity, First Nations relations and even in Public Health (aka. Covid regulations.)

I wish we could talk about the important issues of our day at Trillium. Yet, they are so politically fraught that I am reluctant to go there myself. It feels too risky to me to attempt meaningful conversations around pressing social issues. I wonder though if we are failing ourselves as followers of Christ when we shy away from these difficult conversations?

There are some interesting conversations to be had. Think about Gender Identity. The proposal being presented today is that we move from an understanding of gender rooted in biology to an understanding of gender rooted in psychology. I realize that for some people this a very personal conversation but it also has societal implications. We really do need to talk about it because it impacts on many facets of human identity. For instance, what does it mean to be a man or a woman?

It would be so helpful for all I think to be able to talk about it and think through some of the implications of this new approach without potentially risking our communion with each other in the process. How we answer the question of gender identity has major anthropological and theological implications?

The Bible says in Genesis 1 that  
*So God created humankind in his image,  
in the image of God he created them;  
male and female he created them.*

From a Biblical perspective male and female are fundamental characteristics of being human. They are God given and not socially constructed.

At the same time Paul says in Galatians 3:27-28  
*As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Paul is stating the binary characteristics that have so powerfully given shape to human identity such as race/ethnicity, class and sex/gender have been superseded by the New Creation in Christ. From a New Creation perspective, the characteristics of male and female are no longer relevant in a spiritual understanding of what it means to be human. I take both points of view in the Bible seriously. How do we resolve, as Christians, what seems to be two different ways of understanding the purpose and goal of being fully human?

What would need to change at Trillium for you and I to be able to converse, as followers of Christ, about the challenges of our time. I think we would need to know in advance that there is low risk of losing the communion or connection with each other. Is that possible? If the love and trust were high enough and our commitment to each other was strong enough I think we might be able to manage it.

Part of creating a safe space for challenging conversations would be knowing that we are united by a deeper truth. I think Paul in the Galatians passage above gives us an important key in building the cohesion for challenging conversations. Paul talks about you and I being "one in Christ." I think if we were to understand and embrace that there is a deeper truth uniting us together that is greater than any of the divisions of this world, we could manage more challenging conversations. We can disagree on a host of issues and still be bound together by Jesus' love for us. We could embrace a diversity of views on a variety of topics because we have already committed ourselves to the practice of offering friendship and fellowship to ALL as an expression of Christian hospitality.

A church that was rooted in the love of God could then become a salutary place of peace in a world that keeps sharpening the divisions. Our peace would allow Trillium to be a beacon of civil and respectful conversation, something that I think the world desperately needs. Imagine a Trillium where weightier and deeper conversations about a multitude of issues take place. Do you think it could work?

Your Friend in Christ,  
Pastor Mark

## TRILLIUM UNITED CHURCH

Our Mission: *To awaken the Christ light in each other and shine it in the world!*

Pastor: Mark Rutledge  
Youth & Outreach: Heather Margerison  
Parish Nurse: Sally White  
Office Administrator: Jo-Anne Hennig  
Bookkeeper: Mandy Townsend  
Custodian: Steve Vargas

450 King St. E., Cambridge, ON N3H 3M9  
Telephone: 519-653-6601

Web: [trilliumchurch.ca](http://trilliumchurch.ca)

Email: [office@trilliumchurch.ca](mailto:office@trilliumchurch.ca)

Bookkeeper: [trilliumfinances@gmail.com](mailto:trilliumfinances@gmail.com)

You Tube: [youtube.com \(trilliumunitedchurch\)](https://www.youtube.com/trilliumunitedchurch)

### OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday - 10 am to 3 pm

Our Vision: *Faith in Bloom: Growing, Thriving,  
Serving - Together in Christ*



## Members of Church Council

- **Chairperson:** Paul Reeve
- **Secretary:**
- **Adult Spiritual Growth:** Ruth Thompson
- **Children & Youth Ministry:** Brian Hershey
- **Financial Liaison:** Kevin Uebele
- **Generosity:** Co-Chair - Pam Noël
- **Ministry & Personnel:** Phil Hankins
- **Property:** Co-Chair - David Reed
- **Social Concerns & Outreach:** Brian Hershey
- **Staff:** Pastor Mark Rutledge, Heather Margerison
- **Worship:** Pauline Demelo

## Other Teams

- **Board of Trustees:** Paul Mundy
- **Children & Youth Ministry:** Interim Chair - Brenda Higgins
- **Generosity:** Co-Chair - Karen Atkinson
- **Golden Years Worship:** Earlene Peshnak
- **Health & Wellness Team:** Interim Chair - Sally White
- **Membership:** Joan Joyce
- **Property:** Co-Chair - Steve Jennings
- **Social Concerns & Outreach:** Co-Chairs - Liz Reed & Susan Balfour
- **WOW:** Doug Stuart & Bobbi Stewart

## ROOTS & SPROUTS

*ROOTS & SPROUTS* is produced monthly from September to June by:

Trillium United Church

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Editor: Jo-Anne Hennig

Send articles to: [office@trilliumchurch.ca](mailto:office@trilliumchurch.ca)

The deadline for the next issue of *ROOTS & SPROUTS* is

**May 24**

The next issue will be available on June 2, 2023.