

*But the angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people." Luke 2:10*

Dear Brenna,

These days, it's hard not to be afraid, isn't it? With devastating wars and conflicts around the world, division in our communities, and rising cost of living, many of us carry fear for our neighbours near and far, our loved ones, and ourselves. At this time of year, though, we celebrate the Christmas story, which reminds us that God is born just when things seem their bleakest and scariest.

Brenna, just like the angels appearing to unsuspecting shepherds many years ago, through your service, faith, and financial offerings at Knoxminster United, you have brought good news of great joy to many this year. When hunger threatened to overwhelm our neighbourhood, you made it possible for us to start a breakfast program for local kids. When we learned isolation was growing in our seniors, you made our tech education program possible. When local non-profits lost their meeting space because of increased rent, your offerings allowed us to offer hospitality to several community groups.

Your generosity and compassion have diminished some of the fear in our little corner of the world, and replaced it with the hope of Christ. You can learn more about the impact of all these ministries on the "Outreach" page of our website.

At Knoxminster, we believe this is our calling – to proclaim in word and action good news of great joy for all people. We hope you will consider increasing your regular offering by 5% in 2025 so that we might further God's ministry in our city and around the world. Let me tell you some of the dreams we have for 2025:

- In partnership with our local mosque, a summer camp focusing on interfaith education
- A renovated church entrance that would provide a safe and hospitable way for all people to enter our building
- An ambitious Mission and Service goal of \$40,000 to support the amazing work of healing, hope, and reconciliation the United Church of Canada is doing around the world.

PAR donations can be modified by calling or emailing the church office and completing a simple form.

Brenna, it's impossible to fully eliminate all the fear in the world, but when we combine all these resources with which God has entrusted us – amazing people, a welcoming property, and financial assets – we are beacons of good news together.

With great joy,

Rev. Whoever and the Knoxminster United Stewardship Team