



Elizabeth Brown

From the first moment I stepped into Wilmot United Church in Fredericton, NB, back in 1985ish I have always felt warmly welcomed and included; that the United Church was a place to call home and that God's amazing spirit was here. As I explored my call to ordained ministry from Maritime Conference, and chose to go to McGill University and United Theological College in Montreal, I discovered the wider church community. Internships at First United in Ottawa and Stanley Pastoral Charge in NB (along with a CPE unit at Dr. Everett Chalmers Hospital in Fredericton), taught me more about multipoint (5 points!) rural church folk, hospital chaplaincy, and downtown city ministries. Settled in Massey – a three-point rural pastoral charge – in northern Ontario, Manitou Conference, and given a manse to live in was a blessing for me as a single parent and my family. We thought the settlement committee had given us the very best gift ever! After a call to overseas ministry didn't work out, I found a new call to First United in Lethbridge, AB and discovered opportunities to learn new skills and develop gifts and talents. Answering a call from Trinity United in Winnipeg was another learning opportunity and a discovery that this ministry was indeed another blessing and gift for my ministry and life. Making the decision to retire back to northern Ontario to the "home" of my partner Tom is the right and good next step on my journey. Each step has taught me so much; each step reminded me of that amazing spirit of God; each step a new and exciting time with wonderful people along the way. Although all the things I mentioned from my faith and life journey seem all good, there were always learning and growing challenges along the way. These make up our faith stories!