



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

October 27, 2017

My Manitou Conference colleague, Will Kunder, texted me the weekend before our Staff Leaders group was to meet in London, Ontario. "I'm in Chapleau for the meeting of Spirit Dancing Presbytery — are you interested in some rhubarb and crab apple juice?"



Mason jars of rhubarb and crab apple juice sold as a fundraiser by Trinity United in Chapleau, Ont.

Of course I was interested. He knew I would be. A year ago I joined up with a meeting of that same presbytery in Timmins, and was introduced to the delicious juice that is the fundraising project of Trinity United in Chapleau. The rhubarb juice and the crab apple juice are separate, not

mixed together. I haven't tried mixing them yet because each of them is so wonderfully tart and refreshing on its own. Will remembered that last year I bought four big Mason jars of the juice in Timmins, but I couldn't take them in my carry-on bag on the plane, so he delivered them to me in Toronto the next time he was down for a meeting.

I love it that a small northern Ontario congregation has come up with a fundraiser that I haven't seen anywhere else, and one that so perfectly celebrates the gifts of God's creation.

As our Staff Leaders group met last week, talking about remit implementation details and tight money and the challenges of leading through change, I had those two jars of juice sitting on the table in front of me. The light caught them beautifully. I found my eyes turning to them from time to time, taking in their rosy glow. I thought about the people in Chapleau, and all the others in faith communities big and small across the country, and how we are all connected in God's work.

The light shines through jars of juice. The life of the church glows through congregations, through community ministries, through youth groups, through governance bodies, through staff, and through all of us whenever we gather to worship God or work to make a better world.

Nora
