## Cheri Schwartz Stewardship Moment November 3, 2024

Back in 1993 Bob and I were looking for a small church where we could get married, a second chance for both of us. We were lucky enough to secure this space for our special day. Little did I know that thirty-one years later I would still be here having experienced six head pastors, six interim ministers, a pandemic, and a merger with another church. All of these can and have been pretty challenging.

The one stable factor, and why I am still here, has always been the people who make up the congregation. We are diverse in age, background, interests, and abilities, but we are, at the heart of the matter, a caring and supportive family.

Everyone who comes through our doors will experience a warm welcome from our pastor and a heartfelt welcome from a number of members. That is who we were back in 1993 and is still who we are today.

I am proud of all that our little church has done in the past and will continue to do in the future. I am happy to give my support financially as well as with my time. I see a future for our merged churches where there are opportunities available for each of us to find something that sparks an interest or desire to broaden our reach within our congregation, our community, and beyond.

We are blessed to be a blessing, so let's continue to support St. Croix United Church to the best of our ability. As Pastor Clare says, "God is counting on us..."