(Winter scene of farm and fields outside of Lakefield, Ontario Canada)

GOD'S FIELD, GOD'S WORK, GOD'S SERVANTS

"For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building." 1Corinthians 3:9

As I look out my window, all I see is snow—snow and more snow. January has been bitterly cold, with one snowstorm after another. Well, that's Canada for you. And anyone who knows me knows I'm a two-season person: spring and summer.

So here I am, writing this prayer letter in February, with the fields still covered in white. And yet, beneath all that snow, the fields lie dormant—not dead. Beneath the frozen ground, there is hope. The hope of a new season. A season when new life will soon begin to unfurl.

The apostle Paul offers us another image of a field in his letter to the church in Corinth—an image of the church itself, and of who is called to tend it: us.

Paul's words come at a moment of tension and division. People were comparing themselves, arguing over whose leadership mattered most, whose gifts carried more weight. Paul doesn't dismiss leadership, but he does reframe it. He shifts the focus decisively back where it belongs—on God.

"We are God's fellow workers," Paul writes. Not competitors. Not owners. Not the point. The emphasis in the Greek is unmistakable: *God's*. God's work. God's field. God's building. The church does not belong to its leaders, nor do leaders belong to themselves. All of us are caught up in something larger, something living—something God is already doing.

This image of God's field speaks deeply to the ministry of all who serve within the life of the church. Farming is patient work. It requires attentiveness to what is needed in the moment—planting here, watering there, tending quietly where growth is slow or unseen. No single task produces the harvest. No one worker controls the outcome. Growth comes from God alone.

Shared ministry lives precisely in this grounded, faithful labour. It notices hunger, loneliness, injustice, and weariness in the soil of daily life. It responds not with attention-seeking, but with faithfulness—meals prepared, visits made, systems challenged, compassion lived out**.** Some plant seeds of hope. Some water with advocacy or care. Some simply keep the ground from hardening. Every act matters, yet none seeks the spotlight.

Paul reminds us that leaders, congregations, and ministry beyond the church walls are all held together in this relationship—co-workers and field, servants and community, labour and grace. The church flourishes not when roles are ranked, but when each calling is honoured and offered back to God. We who serve do not stand above the field, or outside it. We work within it, trusting that God is at work even when results are not immediate or visible.

In the end, we are invited into both humility and freedom. We are responsible for faithfulness, not outcomes. No matter where we are in the world, we do not work alone. And we remember—especially in seasons that feel frozen—that the field is God's: beloved, growing, and sustained by grace beyond our making.

Closing Prayer

Gracious God,
you are the source of all life and growth.
You call us to serve—not as owners, but as faithful co-workers in your field.

When the ground feels frozen and the work seems hidden,
give us patience and trust.
Help us to tend what is before us with care,
believing that beneath the frozen soil, you are still at work.

We place our hands, our hearts, and our hope in you,
through Christ Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

By Rev. Ann Blane, Order of Diaconal Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Member of the DOTAC Board and 2nd Representative to DWF Executive Committee

February 2026