

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 6, 2015

## Advent Theme: When We Centre on Christ . . .

What difference does it make when we find Jesus at the centre of our lives? This Advent, we'll be exploring how the Baby in a manger changes how we see everything.

November 29 Advent 1 . . . We see **God** differently.  
Philippians 2.1-11

**December 6** Advent 2 . . . We see the **World** differently.  
Colossians 1.11-23

December 13 Advent 3 . . . We see **Humanity** differently.  
Hebrews 4.12-16; Romans 5.12-21

December 20 Advent 4 . . . We see **Love** differently.  
Romans 5.1-11, 1st Letter of John 4.1-21

## Missed a service?

Audio copies of most services are available. Just ask at the office.

Printed scripts of Greg's reflections are online: <http://elorauc.org/worship/sermons/>



**Do you like to decorate for Christmas?** Come join the team at Elora United Church, **today from 2 – 4 pm**. We will decorate the sanctuary. Lots of jobs for lots of people of all different ages. Hot apple cider and snacks will be provided. Come and join us at 2 pm!



The children of **Children's Worship** (PreK – Grade 5) will be learning a song they will sing in worship on December 20. They will sing in the beginning of our worship time and then go out for Children's Worship. Parents, children will learn the song Dec. 6 and 13. We will also have a short rehearsal at 10:30 am on December 20.



**Scripture, Song and Faith** is a Bible Study group which will be meeting for Monday mornings throughout Advent. We have great fellowship time and discussion time as we browse through scriptures, sing songs associated with our theme and share faith ideas. We start about 10:15. You will be home in time for lunch! Please consider joining us next Monday and throughout Advent. Any questions, please call Louise Elder 519-846-2643.



**CW Food Bank Christmas Hampers.** Thanks to all who brought syrup for the Food Bank Christmas Hampers. We have exceeded our goal. The syrup has been packed up for transport and we thank Jim Dickinson for bringing it to the Sportsplex.

**Carols and Cider** an event for all ages. **Saturday, Dec. 12** at the home of Susanne and Colin Thomson (86 Walser St in Elora). Come for potluck supper at 6 pm and/or Carols and Cider at 7 pm. Invite your friends and neighbours to this fun, informal evening. This is a family friendly event.



**Lessons & Carols** evening with Elora United, Melville United and Belwood choirs. **Sunday Dec 13<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm at Melville United Church.

## Christmas Eve Worship

### Celebration Services

5:00 Elora UC

7:00 Bethany UC

### Communion Service

11:00 hosted by Elora United Church

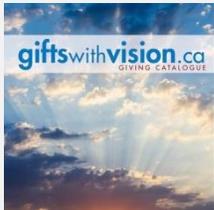


**Observer Magazine** Renew your subscription or begin a subscription to the United Church of Canada's award-winning magazine. Regularly \$30/year. Those in Elora United's group subscription pay **only \$25**. (This is a price increase for the first time in many years). Look for Observer envelopes on the table in the upper lobby or simply mark "OBSERVER" on any envelope from the pews; then place your envelope on the collection plate. For more info, call Judy in the office. *Bethany's Observer subscriptions are renewed in June.*



**2016 Church Calendars:** if you would like a 2016 calendar, please let the office know. Calendars are \$7 (with tax and shipping) and will come in at the beginning of January.

The United Church's gift catalogue, **Gifts with Vision**, is here. Here's what the United Church has to say about the catalogue:



Alternative gift giving has become increasingly popular as people grow tired of receiving more and more "stuff" on special occasions like birthdays, Christmas, and anniversaries.

"People appreciate the thoughtfulness of a gift, but many would prefer to give rather than receive," says Cheryl Curtis, a staff person with the church's Philanthropy Unit. Curtis says she's heard

of some families who stuff a *Gifts with Vision* catalogue in everyone's stocking on Christmas morning and each family member then gets to spend time deciding which gift they want to choose.

The booklet has ideas suitable for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, graduation and more.

**January Worship: The Story of Esther**

*An orphan in exile becomes the most powerful woman in the empire. A condemned man becomes prime minister. A hateful fool does himself in. A humiliated and endangered minority comes to be saved and respected. It's all in the Book of Esther! Here's an invitation to read through this tale of intrigue and rescue. We'll be focussing on this story in January, and celebrating the zany Jewish festival of Purim on February 1.*

**Looking Ahead**

<b>Today</b>	after worship	Exploding Church Fury rehearsal
	2-4 pm	Christmas decorating, cider & snacks
	6:30-7:30 pm	Grade 3-5 Youth at Elora United
<b>Mon</b>	10:15	Scripture, Song & Faith – Bissell Room
	1 pm	Quilters
<b>Tues</b>	7:00 pm	Elora Mission & Resources Boards
<b>Thurs</b>	1:00 pm	Elora UCW Christmas Tea at the home of Norma Wallace: bring a gift for Shut-ins
	7 pm	Elora Adult Choir
	8:15 pm	Praise Team
<b>Sat</b>	6 and 7 pm	Carols & Cider evening at the home of the Thomsons
<b>next Sun</b>	4 pm	Healing and Reconciliation Service at Elora UC
	7 pm	Elora/Melville/Belwood <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b> at Melville UC

**ELORA BETHANY PASTORAL CHARGE**

**The United Church of Canada**

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**MINISTERS:** All the Congregation

Ordained Minister: Greg Smith-Young

Minister for Children and Youth: Barb Smith-Young

Music Coordinator: Betty Weinstein

Office Hours: Rev. Greg Smith-Young is usually in the office Tues-Fri mornings.

Contact Barb Smith-Young via the office or at 519-846-2542

Administrator Judy McMullan is in the office Thurs & Fri 10 to 4:30 from Sept to June