

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 20, 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/>



**Greg and Barb Smith-Young will be on holidays** from Monday, Dec 28th through to Sunday, Jan 3rd. The Church office will close at 3 pm on Dec 24th and re-open on Thursday, Jan 7th.

**Wheels of Hope** had another busy season collecting bikes. Our fourth container, in partnership with St. Bart's in Brampton shipped November 30th and should arrive in Namibia February 1st, 2016. Our Namibian partners have been busy not only delivering bikes but delivering food to the most vulnerable as the country is experiencing a very severe drought.



As funding is always the most difficult part of our project, Wheels of Hope will not be collecting bikes presently and in 2016 will explore ways to support Bicycles for Humanity.

**Milk Bag Mats** will also cease for the present time. These mats were shipped along with the bikes to Namibia. In the New Year we will look at other organizations that might benefit from these mats. Until then, we have lots of milk bags and will not require any more until further notice. Thanks to all who donated.



**Prayer Shawls** are available for those needing warmth, love and prayer. Additional shawls are available during office hours. We will try to leave at least one available at the back of the sanctuary. We just ask you to record the shawl in our registry book.

For more information, contact Bonnie Norris, [bnorris8864@gmail.com](mailto:bnorris8864@gmail.com) or (519)843-6144

Our **Children's Worship Leaders** are very dedicated and passionate about serving the children and families of Elora United Church. Please take a moment to thank them, Lisa Miller, Sheila and Brendan Keane, Janet Weinstein, Kim Saunders and Susan Wilson. Please also thank the parents of very young children who care for the nursery children each week.

**Children's Worship will resume on January 10** with the story of Queen Esther. December 27, there will be colouring pages for children, and Barb will be available to help care for children. Jan 3, there will be care for children downstairs.



**Piano** Elora's older, upright grand piano – currently in Fellowship Hall – will be repurposed in mid-January. If you would be interested in this piano, please speak to Music Director Betty Weinstein as soon as possible or contact the office.

## Christmas Eve Worship

### Celebration Services

5:00 Elora UC

7:00 Bethany UC

### Communion Service

11:00 hosted by Elora United Church



**Pictorial Directory** Our last Pictorial Directory was in 2010 and we would like to create a new directory for the benefit of all. You will see an insert in your worship bulletin today. Sign-up sheets for photo sessions will



appear in January. Photos will be taken in February. Are you a snowbird? There will be one photo session in April, as well. Directories will likely be distributed in June.

**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.*

THE UNITED CHURCH  
**OBSERVER**

**Elora 2015 Tax Receipts:** All tax receipts will be available for pick up at the church on Sunday, February 21 and Sunday February 28. After February 28<sup>th</sup>, any tax receipts left will be mailed.



### 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>Mon</b>	10:15	Scripture, Song & Faith – Bissell Room
	1 pm	Quilters
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	5 pm	Christmas Celebration at Elora UC
	7 pm	Christmas Celebration at Bethany UC
	11 pm	Communion Service hosted by Elora UC
<b>Sun Jan 3</b>	6:30 - 8 pm	Epiphany Party, Gr 6-9 Youth at Elora UC
<b>Sun Jan 17</b>	6:30-7:30	Epiphany Party, Gr 3-5 Youth at Melville UC
<b>Fri Jan 22</b>	7 pm	Women's Spiritual Potluck
<b>Sat Jan 23</b>	7 pm	High School Youth

## 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  
The office will close at 3 pm on Dec 24<sup>th</sup> and re-open at 10 am on Jan 7<sup>th</sup>.