

THE SUNDAY NEWS

January 10, 2016

This month, we're hearing about the story of Esther. To get more out of the reflections, you might want to read ahead. Here are the chapters Greg will be covering each week.

January 10 Esther 1-2

January 17 Esther 3-4

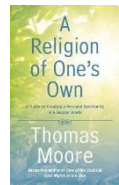
January 24 Esther 5-6

January 31 Esther 7-10

February 7 We'll be having a Purim celebration.

Don't have a Bible? Want to check out a new translation? Ask Rev. Greg! You can also go to www.biblegateway.com, which is a great resource.

The **Book Discussion Group** will begin *A Religion of One's Own* by Thomas Moore starting Sunday January 24th. Speak to Menai Wardle or John Markvart, if you are interested in participating. We will meet at 7:00 pm in the home of Maureen Kay, 0472 South River Road. The discussion will be about the Introduction and Part One.



This is your invitation to come to **Scripture, Song and Faith**. We have muffins and a hot drink with good fellowship and time to look at scriptures and songs based on a theme. We will be looking at Epiphany in January: what is it? when is it? who celebrates it and how is it celebrated? Come join us on Monday, January 11 in the Bissell Room at 10:15 am. We will meet bi-weekly for now. Call Louise Elder for information. Hope to see you there.

We want to know what you know Are you aware of a senior man or woman who is in circumstances where they may have a need? We want to know what you know so that the EUC Mission Board can put together a plan to help in a variety of ways. Please join us in the Bissell Room after worship today. There will be coffee/tea and conversation for those who gather. *Input from all generations is needed.*

Become Part of Project Welcome

We are a community-wide effort to support a refugee family from Syria so they have a smooth immigration experience into Canada. We want them to arrive in our country with the physical, emotional, social, and financial supports in place which they will need to successfully integrate and thrive in their new community.

Want to find out more?

- Speak with Bonnie Norris or Rev. Greg
- Check out our Facebook page, "ProjectWelcomeCW"
- Go to the Elora congregation's website, EloraUC.org, and click on the Project Welcome link.
- Email us at ProjectWelcomeCW@gmail.com

An Afternoon with Ian Evans

In January 2015, as part of a 4-man international expedition, Ian Evans joined an elite group of adventurers by becoming one of fewer than 400 who have skied from the coast of Antarctica to the South Pole. On what has been called “The hardest expedition on earth”, the team took 44 days to cover the 950KMS to the South Pole at 9,300 feet above sea level. Join us as Ian recounts the adventure through images and video. Have the opportunity to check out Ian’s polar gear and stay on for the Q&A session. *All funds raised will be shared by the members of the Centre Wellington Refugee Network (cwrn.ca) -- which includes Project Welcome -- to support the our community-wide efforts to welcome up to three Syrian families into our community.*

Sunday, January 17 2-4pm

The Gorge Cinema

\$20 adults, \$10 youth (Get tickets by going to cwrn.ca, or speak with Curt Hammond, Bonnie Norris, or Rev. Greg)



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.

Women of all ages, you are invited to a special **Women’s Spiritual Potluck** evening on Friday, Jan. 22 at 7 pm at Elora United Church (Bissell Room). Come and be nourished by God as you experience and explore many different ways to connect with your Creator. The sanctuary will be set up with many different Christian spiritual practices. This is a time for you to rest and renew yourself through God. After experiencing the spiritual practices on your own, we will have time to reflect together. For more information talk with Barb (519-846-2542).



Pictorial Directory Our last Pictorial Directory was in 2010 and we would like to create a new directory for the benefit of all. Sign-up for photo sessions will start at the end of January but please feel free to call Judy in the office on



Thursday or Friday and book your session any time. Photos will be taken February 23, 24, 25, 25, 27 (Tues-Sat). Are you a snowbird? There will be one photo session in April, as well. Directories will likely be distributed in June.



Bethany’s Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday Feb 21 at 12:30 pm. Pot luck lunch will be just beforehand – at noon. Please have your reports to the office by Sunday Feb 7th (or earlier!) so that completed Annual Reports can be distributed on Sunday Feb 14th. ♥

Elora’s Finances and Property Congregational Meeting will be Sunday February 28th. Please have your reports to the office by Sunday Feb 14th or earlier. Reports for this meeting will be: Finance, Property, Trustees, Solar, UCW financials.

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 28th, any tax receipts left will be mailed.



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 or (519)843-6144

Looking Ahead

Today	after worship 6:30-8 pm	ECF practise Epiphany Party, Gr 6-9 Youth at Elora UC
Mon	10:15 1 pm	Scripture, Song & Faith – Bissell Room Quilters
Tues	7 pm	Elora Mission and Resources Boards meet
Thurs	7 pm 8:15 pm	Adult Choir Praise Team
Sun Jan 17	6:30-7:30	Epiphany Party, Gr 3-5 Youth at Melville UC
Fri Jan 22	7 pm	Women's Spiritual Potluck
Sat Jan 23	7 pm	High School Youth
Sun Feb 7		Bethany annual reports due
Sun Feb 14		Bethany Annual Reports distributed; Elora Finance and Property Reports due
Sun Feb 21	noon	Pot luck lunch; 12:30 Bethany Annual Congregational Meeting
Sun Feb 28	after worship	Elora Finance & Property Annual Congregational Meeting
Feb 23-26	1:30-8:30 pm	Photo Directory photo sessions
Sat Feb 27	9:30 am- 4 pm	Photo Directory photo sessions



People Helping People

The Four Men are a quartet who enjoy singing together and are passionate about the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada. The Four Men are Michael Downie, Mervin Fick, George Kopulas, and Brian McIntosh.

The quartet sings music inspired by groups such as The Canadian Tenors and Il Divo. They perform at churches as fundraisers for those churches' Mission & Service giving programs.

The Four Men are passionate about connecting people to Mission & Service and sharing the good news of what Mission & Service does in Canada and other parts of the world in partnership.

To date The Four Men have raised \$43,000, \$25,000 of which has been for Mission & Service.

In December 2014, the group released their first CD, *Inspired*, with \$15 of the \$20 price going to Mission & Service.

Verena von Stritzky, manager of the group, says that Mission & Service is very important to the group: "It is all about people helping people. It is what we are meant to do!"

We are truly thankful to The Four Men for their Mission & Service heart. The funds they have raised help many people help other people in loving partnership! Thank you for the music!

Please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith.

*Loving God, we are called to be your colours in the world, to walk with each other,
to share in love through our gifts for Mission & Service.
Guide us to shine brightly in the world. Amen*

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