

THE SUNDAY NEWS

January 31, 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.

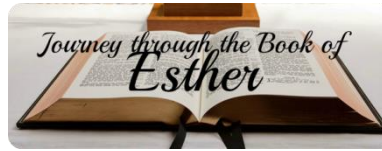
January 10 Esther 1-2

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.



Purim Party!!

February 7 during worship, for all ages

Purim is when Jews celebrate the story of Esther. It's a party, a sort of Jewish Mardi Gras. So let's celebrate! We're going to do our own version of some Purim traditions

... hearing the story of Esther again, complete with sound effects.

Bring noisemakers!

... giving to charity by having a **special offering for Project Welcome!**

... sharing sweets. **Bring some candy to pass around.**

... enjoying special Purim pastries called Hamantaschen (Hamen's pockets)

... dressing up; **wear any sort of costume or mask.**

Exploring Our Faith Together is a new conversation group, meeting **every 2nd Wednesday** from **10am--noon** in **Elora United Church's Bissell Room**. Bring your beliefs and doubts, questions and wonders and let's talk about them together. No experience needed, except the experiences you bring. We'll be using the United Church's *A Song of Faith* as a springboard for our conversations. **Upcoming dates: February 10, 24.** No need to register, just come as you can.

*Song
of
Faith*

Wesley for Armchair Theologians

John Wesley ... started the Methodist church, but remained a loyal Anglican his entire life ... composed treasured hymns, though his brother Charles wrote better ones ... encouraged a spirituality of heart-warmed faith, small-group piety and social justice ... is a spiritual ancestor of both the United Church and the Pentecostalism.

Want to find out about this amazing church-builder, theological thinking and spiritual leader? **We'll be gathering the 1st Wednesday of every month, starting March 2.** We'll meet in Elora United Church's Bissell Room, 7-9 pm. Please register by speaking with Rev. Greg or emailing him at revgreg@bellnet.ca.

You'll need a copy of William Abraham's **Wesley for Armchair Theologians**, published by Westminster John Knox Press. You can get one through Roxanne's Reflections in Fergus. It's also available on Kindle.

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, click on the Project Welcome link.
- Email us at ProjectWelcomeCW@gmail.com

Prayer Vigil



This coming week, a **Prayer Vigil for Peace** is being held in **Syria**. Please join us at St. John's United Church, Belwood tonight, Sunday January 31st, 2016 - 7:00pm. We will be sending Interfaith Peace Prayers uniting our prayers of peace with those being said in Syria. **Please bring a man's used tie for our "Ties of Peace"**



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, 26, 27 (Tues-Sat)**. Are you a snowbird? There will be one photo session in April, as well. Directories will likely be distributed in June.



Potluck and Simple Worship, Saturday, February 13, 6 – 8 pm at the home of Susanne and Colin Thomson (86 Walser St. in Elora). Come enjoy **potluck supper at 6 pm** (bring something to share) and/or come for a **relaxed worship experience at 7 pm**. This is a great event for all ages. Bring friends and neighbours too. Come and celebrate God's Abundant Love! For more info connect with Barb Smith-Young (519) 846-2542, barb_sy@sympatico.ca

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. ♥

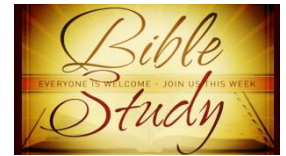


Elora's Finances and Property Congregational Meeting will be Sunday February 28th. Please have your reports to the office by Sunday Feb 14th or earlier. Reports for this meeting will be: Finance, Property, Trustees, Solar, UCW financials.



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.

Scripture, Song and Faith is a Bible Study group that started meeting Monday, January 25th and will continue to meet every two weeks. We invite you to join us in the **Bissell Room at Elora United Church at 10:15 AM**. Our theme is **MIRACLES**. There is no prerequisite training/knowledge required and don't worry if you haven't come to other gatherings. We have great fellowship and discussion time as we browse through scriptures, sing songs associated with our theme and share faith ideas. You will be home in time for lunch! Please consider joining us. Any questions, please call Louise Elder at (519) 846-2643. **Next gatherings: Feb. 8th and 22nd.**



Looking Ahead

Today	7 pm	Book Discussion Group: <i>A Religion of One's Own</i>
Mon	1 pm	Quilters
Thurs	7 pm	Adult Choir
	8:15 pm	Praise Team
Sat Feb 6	1:00-4:00 pm	Seollal (Korean New Year) at EUC
Sun Feb 7		Bethany annual reports due
	5-6:30 pm	Gr 6-9 Youth, Progressive Sport Dinner at Melville UC
Mon Feb 8	10 am	Scripture, Song and Faith Bible Study
Wed Feb 10	10 am	Exploring Our Faith Together
Sun Feb 14		Bethany Annual Reports distributed; Elora Finance and Property Reports due
Sun Feb 21	noon	Bethany Pot Luck Lunch
	12:30 pm	Bethany Annual Congregational Meeting
	6:30 – 7:30 pm	Gr. 3 – 5 Youth Night at Elora United Church
Mon Feb 22	10 am	Scripture, Song and Faith Bible Study
Wed Feb 24	10 am	Exploring Our Faith Together
Feb 23-26	1:30-8:30 pm	Photo Directory photo sessions
Sat Feb 27	9:30 am- 4 pm	Photo Directory photo sessions
Sun Feb 28	after worship	Elora Finance & Property Congregational Meeting

In the Community

COME CELEBRATE KOREAN NEW YEAR (SEOLLAL)



Saturday, February 6, 1-4 pm at Elora United Church. Korean musical performances, games, crafts, costumes and snacks. For all ages. No cost. Ink Lee from Elora United Church is organizing this fun celebration. **For more information:** email inklee@mail.com or phone the church office at (519) 846-0122.



Events at St. John's Anglican Church, Elora (33 Henderson St., Elora)...Please join the St. John's Anglican Church community on Tuesday, February 9th from 5:00 – 7:00 for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. \$8.00 per person or \$22.00 for a family of four - payable at the door. Gluten-free pancakes are available.



MANHATTANS in Guelph presents: **Laura Harp** and **Brad Halls** performing selections from "The Great American Songbook". **Classic jazz by many famous song writers. Sunday, February 27th 8:00 – 11:00 PM. Reservations recommended. (Flyer in Welcome Centre for more details.)**

Events at Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora. Minister: Susan V. Clarke
Call 846-0680 Tues-Fri 9-12 am for more info.

Mondays 7 pm: Women's Bible Study

Tuesdays 9 am: Euchre

Wednesdays 9-noon: Clothes Hamper open

Thursdays 10 am: Adult Bible Study

Fri Feb 5, 6 pm: Community Dinner. Everyone welcome!



Stewardship Second: _____

Each time we welcome any of God's children, we welcome Christ in our midst.



Community Users

Did you know? Elora United Church is home each week to Girl Guides of Canada (Monday evenings), Centre Wellington Singers (Monday evenings), the Community Resource Centre staff (Tuesday mornings), Brownies (Wednesday evenings), Alcoholics Anonymous (Friday evenings) and Elora Cooperative Preschool (Mon – Fri daytime).

Reaching wider to share blessings with our neighbours

ELORA BETHANY PASTORAL CHARGE **The United Church of Canada**

Office: 75 Geddes St., Elora, ON N0B 1S0 — 519.846.0122

www.elorabethanyuc.org elorabethanyuc@bellnet.ca

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