

THE SUNDAY NEWS

February 7, 2016

This month, we're hearing about the story of Esther.. 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.

Ash Wednesday service will be this week at St. John's Anglican Church in Elora at 6:30 pm. Greg Smith-Young will be preaching.

Making a Scene in Scripture

Get into Bible stories in a new way. Imagine how a story can be "staged" during worship. Discover the drama. Uncover the characters. Find the humour. See new meanings. Share the joy. No acting or Bible experience necessary, at all! We'll be meeting this Lent season, every Saturday morning beginning with February 13. We'll go from 10 am to noon. Join us in Elora UC's sanctuary. (Talk with Greg S-Y to find out more.)

Song of Faith **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.

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.

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.**



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



Pictorial Directory Our last Pictorial Directory was in 2010 and we would like to create a new directory for the benefit of all. **Photos will be taken February 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 (Tues-Sat).** We would like to have a picture of everyone from



our two congregations! You will be given a free copy of this very useful directory. You will also have the opportunity to buy a copy of the photos created *but you do not need to purchase anything.*

If you know you are interested in buying a new family portrait and would like to have a photo taken which includes something like a pet or your lacrosse racquet then please bring them along. The photographer can include other types of portraits in your sitting. For more info, contact Judy in the church office.

While the photos will be taken at Bethany on Tues/Wed and Elora on Thurs/Fri/Sat, *you may have your sitting at either church* and your family's photo will be in the appropriate part of the directory. So choose the day that suits you best. 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

simple
worship

Mark your calendars for **Kids Camp 2016** at Elora United Church, Tuesday, July 5 – Friday, July 8 (mornings). All children who have completed JK – Grade 5 are invited to join in this super fun week. Grade 6 and up can be leaders.

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 today so that Annual Reports can be completed on Thursday and 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.



Looking Ahead

Today		Bethany Annual Reports due
	5-6:30 pm	Gr.6-9 Youth – Progressive Sport Dinner at Melville UC
Mon	10:15 am	Scripture, Song and Faith
	1 pm	Quilters
Tues	7 pm	Elora Mission and Resources Boards
Wed	10 am	Exploring Our Faith Together
Thurs	7 pm	Adult Choir
	8:15 pm	Praise Team
Sat	6 pm	Potluck dinner and simple worship at the Thomson's
next Sun	after worship	ECF practise
Sun Feb 14		Bethany Annual Reports distributed
		Elora Finance and Property Reports due
Thurs Feb 18	1:30 pm	Elora UCW
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
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
Sat Mar 19		Elora UCW's Shamrock Supper

In the Community

Friends of Elora Water Protecting the Water Resources of our Community

7-9 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, ELORA LEGION

Along with many in our community, we are worried about the long-term health and stewardship of our water resources. Nestlé's take-water permit application would allow this multi-national to take vast quantities of water from our community's aquifer. Please consider attending this important community meeting. You can find out more at saveourwater.ca.



Keeping the Clock of Life Ticking

At the end of 2015, thanks to support from United Church Women, Mission & Service partner Morogoro Women's Training Centre had provided maternal health worker training to over 500 women working as traditional birth attendants, or midwives, across Tanzania. Collaborating with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health, this program is part of a national objective to reduce mother and infant deaths in Tanzania.

The training builds on existing skills and expertise for women already working as traditional birth attendants. For many it is their first formal training. Some learned their skills from mothers, aunts, and grandmothers, and many others through lived experience. All are deeply committed to caring for mothers and infants and improving the outcomes of deliveries.

One of the women, Molen Abdul, has been delivering babies in her village for more than 47 years. During that time she has encountered many challenges and is happy to learn more about how to manage potential crises for the benefit of mother and child. Molen says, "This is very important to me. It is like it keeps the clock of life ticking."

Norah Robert Mallya has helped deliver babies in buses, churches, and all the surrounding villages. She is happy to have received training that will improve her skills and knowledge.

We are thankful for our gifts for Mission & Service that support our partners to make a real difference in the lives of women and children in Tanzania.

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

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