

THE SUNDAY NEWS

April 17, 2016

Greg Smith-Young will be away this week, from April 18-24. He'll be attending a conference and taking a few days of vacation for Caleb's Ontario Basketball Championship tournament in London. If there is a pastoral care emergency, you can contact

Rev. Kate Gregory in Belwood: 519-843-1227

Rev. Marion Loree in Fergus: 519-843-1781

Barb Smith-Young is on study leave this week.

The **'Tis the season** cast is invited to a "Meet & Greet" time to read through the play, next Sunday (Apr 24th) from 1 – 3 pm. Please bring a bag lunch.



Sunday, May 29: Elora UC will be having a **congregational Mission & Leadership meeting**. This is a great opportunity to celebrate what God has been doing through us this past year, and look forward to the year ahead. We'll also be choosing some new people for our leadership team: at least 2 for our Mission Board and 2 for our Resources Board. The meeting will be after worship, starting with a light deli sandwich lunch.

Parents, please make sure you get a yellow handout today (or read it by email).



On May 1 and 8 the children of Children's Worship will be sharing the love of Jesus through serving others. On May 1 we will learning about Project Welcome and the Syrian family that we are planning to sponsor. The children are bringing in items for a school backpack for Faris (who is 13 years old). Please see the list and bring in those items by May 1.

On May 8, the children will be helping to host snack time after worship. Please bring in cookies or squares on May 8 and help us celebrate Christian Family Sunday.



Creativity Our God is a creative God. We are made in the image of God. We are creative too. Come celebrate the God-given creativity in you! **Friday, May 13 from 7 – 9 pm** at the home of Carole Kennedy (42 Gilkison St., Elora, 519-831-5491). This is an event for *everyone* (men and women of any age, youth, children). Bring your creativity resources with you. Perhaps you like to draw, or write, or colour, or knit or make music. Don't think you are creative? Come and enjoy the evening with others. We will have some group options to work on. (A note to Women's Spiritual Potluck – we will be joining in on this event). Questions? Talk with Judy McMullan or Barb Smith-Young or Carole Kennedy.



Community Dinner On the first Friday of most months, Knox Presbyterian Church is host to a Community Dinner, in cooperation with the CW Food Bank. The May dinner will be prepared & served by Elora United Church. **All are welcome!** Friday May 6th at 6 pm at Knox.

(Volunteers still needed – speak to Barb.)



Guelph-Wellington 20,000 Homes Campaign
*The time has come to stop managing homelessness,
and start ending it.*
Let's dedicate ourselves to take action!

On any given night in Guelph Wellington, approximately 130 individuals seek out emergency shelter while many more go undocumented sleeping rough, couch surfing or occupying otherwise unsafe or unfit spaces.

Guelph-Wellington has joined 28 other communities from across Canada as part of the 20,000 Homes Campaign, a powerful nationwide campaign that aims to permanently house 20,000 of Canada's most vulnerable homeless people by July 1, 2018. This is a grassroots movement powered by community volunteers and we need your help.

Check out its website: <http://www.gw20khomes.ca>

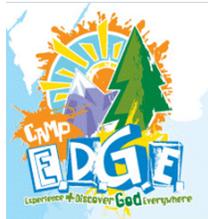
Help out: April 25-27, the Food Bank and the Door youth ministry will be hosting a time for local homeless people to fill out surveys. These will help us to understand and prioritize local housing and service needs. We are looking for volunteers to help people with the surveys. You can take a morning or afternoon shift on one or more days. There is also a training session this coming Wednesday night. If you can help, please go to the website and click on "Get Involved."

April 24th is **Camping Sunday** when we celebrate the ministries of United Church Camps. Many folks here at Elora United Church, children and adults, have been blessed by being part of summer camps. Here are a few websites of United Church Camps not too far away. **Silver Lake Camp**, near Kincardine, (silverlakecamp.ca) is where most children and youth from our congregation go. **Ryerson Camp**, near Port Dover, (ryersoncamp.com) is where Jocelyn Abraham directs Wilderness Camp (Jocelyn was a former youth here). **Camp Bimini**, near Stratford, (campbimini.ca). Connect with Barb (barb_sy@sympatico.ca) if you need more information.



What are your kids, grandchildren, neighbours, nieces and nephews doing this summer? **Silver Lake United Church Camp** registration has begun! Silver Lake Camp offers programs for children ages 6 – 18. For more information visit www.silverlakecamp.ca

Silver Lake is looking for volunteers to help clean, wash, chop, repair, build..... Saturday May 28th from 9 am to 3 pm with a hot lunch at noon. Can't come to the work bee but would still like to help out? For service project inquiries, please contact Walter Grose: walter@huskyfarm.ca



Camp EDGE (Experience and Discover God Everywhere) is our **Kids Camp** theme for **July 2016**. Come join us for a super fun, morning day camp **Tuesday, July 5 – Friday, July 8**. All children who have completed JK – Grade 5 are invited to attend. Youth finishing Grade 6 and older are invited to be Leaders. We also need lots of adult leaders. Leadership Training will be on Monday, July 4. Registration forms for children and youth will be available at www.elorauc.org by June 1. If you want to know more or offer to volunteer, please connect with Barb (home # 519-846-2542, barb_sy@sympatico.ca)



Pictorial Directory One more date has been scheduled for families from Bethany and Elora who were not able to have their portrait taken. This will be Tuesday May 3rd in the afternoon and evening. If you missed out, please contact the office and schedule your sitting Photos for either congregation will be taken at Elora United. Directories will likely be distributed in June.



Elora Council in brief ① There will 2 vacancies on the Mission Board and 2 vacancies on the Resources Board. The Leadership congregational meeting will be May 29th ② The search committee for a new administrator needs 2 more people. ③ A fund raising dinner is being planned for Sept 17th. ④ The windows in Fellowship Hall will be replaced later this year. ⑤ meeting the needs of Seniors continues to be explored ⑥ we will continue growing relationships with local churches and community groups

Elora UC Financial Summary to end of March

	Mar 2016	Year to Date	YTD 2015	Plan	YTD Variance to Plan	YTD Variance to 2015
Envelope/PAR	\$ 9,954	\$ 25,648	\$ 34,975	\$ 32,220	\$ (6,572)	\$ (9,327)

Looking Ahead

- Today** after worship Acorns and Oaks lunch (youth and those invited)
6:30-7:30 pm Grade 3-5 Youth at Melville United Church
- Mon** 1 pm Quilters
- Thurs** 1:30 pm Elora UCW
7 pm Adult Choir
8:15 pm Praise Team
- Sat** 7 pm Water Concert
- Mon Apr 25** 7:30 pm Bethany Board
- Sun May 1** Gr 6-9 Youth group meets (location TBA)
- Fri May 6** 6 pm Community Dinner by Elora United at Knox Presbyterian Church
- Sun May 8** after worship Elora Children's Worship will be helping to host coffee and snack time
- Fri May 13** 7-9 pm Creativity evening
- Sun May 29** 12:30 pm Elora UC congregational Mission & Leadership meeting

In the Community

Water Music Join host Peter Skoggard for a benefit concert for SaveOurWater.ca and the Aquifer Defence Fund. Music by James Gordon, Nick Gush and more. Sat Apr 23rd at 7 pm at Elora United Church. \$20.

Centre Wellington Singers 20th Anniversary concert *Come Fly With Me* will be Sat Apr 30th at Elora United Church at 3 pm. Adults \$15 Child 12 & under \$5. Tickets available from choir members or Dave Dougherty 519-846-1049.



Syrian Refugees

The humanitarian crisis in Syria continues to grow exponentially. In April 2015 Mission & Service partner ACT Alliance reported 12.2 million people urgently needed basic assistance like shelter, food, and water. About 7.6 million people have been internally displaced in Syria, fleeing their homes to try to escape continuing violence. Over 3.9 million Syrian refugees have fled to neighbouring countries, 1 million to Lebanon alone.

In Lebanon the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service, part of Mission & Service partner the Middle East Council of Churches, is looking beyond basic humanitarian needs and developing programs that will help refugees when they can hopefully return to Syria.

One of those needs is ensuring Syrian children can still receive an education. Refugees are not able to attend Lebanese schools, and for those in higher grades this interruption to their education can compromise their future. The Joint Christian Committee for Social Service has begun working with grades 9 to 12 students in particular, using Syrian curriculum, textbooks, and teachers. Students are then able to take Syrian school exams. One young woman, Nowar, who passed her exams, had lost two years of schooling because of the conflict. As a result of this program she has now graduated from high school and plans to attend university.

We are thankful for our gifts for Mission & Service that, in partnership with others, are creating a more hopeful future for young Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

Please join 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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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