

THE SUNDAY NEWS

May 8, 2016



Next **Sunday, May 15**, we'll be part of a **presbytery-wide pulpit exchange**. Ministers will swap leadership in their congregation. Rev. Mary Elliott will be coming to Bethany, and Rev. John Lawson to Elora. In return, Greg Smith-Young will be leading in their congregation, Three Willows UC in Guelph.

After each worship service, we'll have a **congregational meeting**. It will focus on the Joys and Concerns of, respectively, Bethany and Elora. This will give the presbytery's Mission, Health and Vitality Team a snapshot of our congregations. What can we tell about our life together?

Joys: In the past two years what has there been to celebrate in this congregation? (events, developments in worship, ongoing or new programs, study groups, music, achievements, milestones, innovations in government, creativity, growth in faith or in numbers)

Concerns: In the past two years what has there been that caused concern in your church? Were those resolved? Are you working on them? Can the Presbytery help in any way?

We hope this exchange will help the people of Waterloo Presbytery get to know each other better. Please come and be part of it.



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. **Reports for the Elora Mission & Leadership meeting are now due next Sunday (May 15). Here's an opportunity to tell about how your group is sharing in the mission of our congregation!**

Project Welcome Update

- The Al Housarya family -- Nahed, Majd and Faris -- have successfully completed their interview with Canadian immigration officials. They still need to go through some screening. We are hoping they will arrive in the next few months.
- We had a very successful team meeting on Tuesday. Our guest, Dr. Lamees Al Ethari from the University of Waterloo, who is an immigrant from Iraq, answered questions about Arab culture and what we might expect when our family arrives.
- We also heard letters from the Al Housarya family. They were deeply moving and hopeful.
- We have secured an apartment for them in Fergus.
- A large donation has put us close to our fundraising goal. We are still raising funds to support all the refugee families moving to our community. You can donate through Elora or Bethany UCs. Make any cheques payable to the church, and indicate "Project Welcome" in the memo line.
- Please go to www.ProjectWelcomeCW.ca to find out more.



Grass Cutters Needed at Elora UC No experience necessary. Equipment provided. You buy the gas and the church will reimburse you. Schedule will be set up - you would be required to cut the grass about 4-5 times during the season. If interested, please call Virginia 519. 846-0642 or email Burnsfraelora@hotmail.com

Thank you children and families for your generous donations of school supplies for Faris (13 year old boy of family that Project Welcome is sponsoring). The past 2 weeks our theme in Children's Worship has been "sharing the love of Jesus through serving others." Today we will be serving our church family. We are helping host snack time after worship. **Please come and join us for some yummy treats and good conversation.**



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! This **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.** Questions? Talk with Judy McMullan or Barb Smith-Young or Carole Kennedy.



A message from Fort McMurray First United Church:

Thanks to all who are holding us in prayer. Wildfires and evacuations are very real and so is God's love and care. We have left our homes for safety and refuge in so many scattered places and have been received so generously. Right now many of us do not know the state of our homes; some may know their home is gone; and we do not know the state of our church building. So many have offered help. In time to come, the ways that help can be offered and received will become clear. But as Christ's scattered body we continue to be one in Spirit and deeply grateful for the grace being poured on us.

May God strengthen all who are fighting the fires and for all coming to Fort McMurray to lend their help.

We do not know when we will return and when we will once again worship on Sunday morning or gather for our Messy Church which was to be this week. But we know we will gather again in Jesus' name. Amen.

We know of a family who have fled Fort Mac and are staying with relatives in our community. They need our help. In particular, they need these items: Toiletries for both female and male (and little ones!); Women's clothing (large shirts, 31" pants, sweaters, pjs, etc.); Men's clothing (34/30 pants, large tops, sweaters, pjs, etc); Clothing for boys children sizes 6/7 and 5/6 (pants, sweaters, shirts, socks, etc.); toys of any kind suitable for children under 5 years old; gift cards or donations for groceries. If you can help, please contact the church office.



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. **Registration Forms** for children and youth are now available at Elora United Church or at www.elorauc.org. For more information please connect with Barb (home # 519-846-2542, barb_sy@sympatico.ca)



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



Looking Ahead

Mon	1 pm	Quilters
	7:30 pm	Bethany UCW
Tues	7:00 pm	Elora Mission & Resources Boards
Wed	10 am	Exploring Our Faith Together
Thurs	7 pm	Adult Choir rehearsal
	8:15	Praise Team
Fri	7-9 pm	Creativity evening
next Sun		Pulpit exchange followed by congregational meetings
	5-6:30 pm	Gr 3-5 Youth at EUC

Sat May 28		Gr 6-9 Youth: Service/Outreach overnigher
Sun May 29	7:30-9 am	Bethany Men's Farmers Breakfast
	12:30 pm	Elora UC congregational Mission & Leadership meeting
Sun Jun 5	11 am	Bethany-Elora joint outdoor worship and picnic
Sun Jun 12	11 am	We're Celebrating the United Church's 91st Anniversary: Special Service at Melville United Church

In the Community

Giant Garage & Bake Sale Melville United Church, Fergus continues one more day – Monday May 9 from 8 am – 4 pm.



A Call for Peace and Prayer

A prolonged civil war that began in 1996 has led to extreme violence and human rights abuses in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Women and girls are bearing the brunt of the atrocities, suffering widespread sexual violence and abuse.

Mission & Service partner L'Église du Christ au Congo has issued a "cri d'alarme" to the world highlighting the urgency of the situation. The Rev. Nzeba Kalombo Berthe, General Secretary of the Department for Women and Family of the ECC, says: "This cry of alarm invites us into national solidarity and compassion to assist these innocent victims to recover their dignity—but also to offer them hope as future professional women and honourable mothers."

Supported by L'Église du Christ au Congo, local women volunteer to support and accompany survivors, war orphans, and women's groups. Families receive support to foster war orphans and provide them with a loving and safe haven. ECC also provides funding for school, medical care, and psychosocial support.

The United Church, in partnership with others, is answering a call for prayers and action supporting peace in Congo and an end to the war on women.

We are thankful that our Mission & Service gifts support the women and children of the Democratic Republic of Congo, who seek security, dignity, and healing.

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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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