

THE SUNDAY NEWS

November 13, 2016

“Tis the Season”: This Friday and Saturday, November 18th, 7:00pm
and November 19th, 2:00pm



Picture this: a foster family with creative kids; a Christmas tree that won't stay standing; and a community with people in need. Put this together, you have a humorous musical, rap, & script, contemporary production. All proceeds to the Church Window Fund (Fellowship Room and Stained Glass).

Freewill offering.



TODAY! Belonging Together Are you part of Elora UC, but have never formally become a member? This is a great opportunity to learn what membership means. We'll be celebrating each of our stories, learning some of the stories of Elora UC and the United Church of Canada, and seeing how these stories might fit together. *This is an exploration time. Coming does not commit you to anything.* **After worship (1:00-2:30). Please bring your lunch.**



Cheer Box Time Is Here Again

This is the time of year when Elora United sends the post-secondary students connected with our congregation some 'studying love.' Our Cheers Boxes are an annual tradition that we know the students really appreciate. This year we will be sending **8 Cheers Boxes** to students at the beginning of December. You can help by donating lightweight items that will fill a small shoe box such as microwave popcorn, cup a soup, hot chocolate, tea, throat lozenges and gum. Cash donations are also welcome. You'll find a donation box at the back of the sanctuary. **We are collecting until November 26th.** Thank you for supporting this important way for us to continue *drawing closer as a community.* Melanie Anderson melrvanderson@hotmail.com



Christmas decorators needed Today! Some of the sanctuary decorations will be put up early this year, so they can be up for the “Tis the Season” play Nov. 18 and 19. Let Barb know (519-846-2542) if you can help put up some garland, candles and the table top nativity set. We will “dress” the sanctuary **today from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.** There will be a second opportunity to help with setting up the big tree and the large nativity set in December (for those who like that job).



Emergency First Aid and CPR Course at Elora United Church on **Saturday, January 7, 9 am – 4:30 pm.** Cost \$ 85. A great course for any youth or adult to take. Do you know what to do if a child is choking, an adult has chest pain, or someone has fallen and is badly hurt? After taking this course, you will receive a certificate from St. John Ambulance that is valid for 3 years. **Please contact Barb** (barb_sy@sympatico.ca, 519-846-2542) to sign up for the course. Space is limited.

“Reaching Wider...Helping Our Children Have Generous Hearts for Others”.

Parents of children and youth, please join us **Sunday, November 27** for a “Faith at Home” discussion during 11 am worship. We will gather together, downstairs, during Children`s Worship time. The children will be upstairs in the Bissell Room with a movie. This is a great opportunity for Dads and Moms to share ideas, gather resources, and encourage each other as we strive to nurture our children in the Christian faith.





The Elora United Church Women's Annual Bake and Craft Sale will be **Saturday December 3rd from 9 am to 1 pm**. Come and search through the treasures in **Grandma's Attic**. Handmade **crafts** make thoughtful gifts for your loved ones. Special treasures will be in the **Silent Auction**. Take a break with a **muffin** and coffee or have a full **soup and sandwich** lunch. Finish up by taking home baked **goodies**.



☞ The UCW is collecting items for the **Grandma's Attic** sale. Items for the Grandma's Attic Sale may be left in containers in the Welcome Centre or dropped off at the church on Friday Fri Dec 2nd between 4:00 and 6:30 pm. Please no Grandma's attic items on Saturday morning during the sale.

☞ We also need **donations of baking** and we appreciate **crafts**, as well. Please bring baking in on Saturday morning.

☞ We are also looking for VOLUNTEERS to help with **setup on Friday** and VOLUNTEERS to **help on Saturday** and **Sunday**. Please contact Phyllis Waind (519-846-9936) if you can lend a hand.



CW Food Bank Christmas Hampers. Elora-Bethany Pastoral Charge has been asked to contribute **100 containers of canned fruit**. All donations will be brought to the Food Bank on Tuesday, December 13th.

☞ We are looking for a volunteer, from either Bethany or Elora, to bring the canned fruit to the Fergus Sportsplex on Dec 13th between 1-3pm. Please let the office know if you can help.

Financial Update

The Resources Board gave a financial update last week. Some highlights:

Giving trends at Elora United since 2000

- We have 14% few supporting households giving today than we did in 2000 (including a loss of 20+ since 2014).
- The average household annual giving has increased from \$590 to \$1010.
- Year-over-year giving growth is very sporadic which makes our budgeting a complicated process. (some years we have given -2% to while others we have increased giving by+11%).

This Year (so far)

- We are \$8,000 off our plan for givings.
- We have given 7% less than at this time last year.
 - Oktoberfest revenue was lower than budget.
- We are down 4 families on PAG (which will impact givings by at least \$300/month).

Looking to Next Year

- We will be starting the year with fewer supporting households.
- We will be paying a larger portion of our shared expenses with Bethany United.
 - Our surplus will be gone.
- The average 2016 household gift won't be enough to make 2017 budget (by \$100 per household).

We share these numbers so that everyone in our congregation can think and reflect on them. This update comes in the middle of our *Called to Be EloraUC* stewardship conversation. If you have not yet looked over your Stewardship package please do so.

Thank you for bringing back the "Response Form" on November 20, so we can celebrate all the givings of time and resources that we share with the church. (If you can't make it to worship on November 20, please drop it in the mail.)

Look for another update from the Resources board in early 2017. As always thank you for your support and generosity to Elora United.

Let's go to the theatre together TODAY!

Ins Choi -- known from his TV comedy "Kim's Convenience" -- has a one person show called "**Subway Stations of the Cross.**" In this 60 minute solo show, Choi shares about his life leading up to a divine encounter with a homeless man on a subway station platform. Comedic storytelling and spoken word poetry combine to create this unique performance of a highly personal story. A Q&A session will follow the performance.

Date: Today, Sunday November 13th

Time: Carpool leaves Elora at 6:30. Get back about 11pm? (depending how much of Q&A we stay for)

Location: Redeemer University College, Ancaster (where Phil teaches)

Cost: Free! that's right, it's free!

Sign Up: contact Phil Irish. philirish@wightman.ca, or 519-846-2256



Christmas Season Worship

December 24th Christmas Eve Celebration

5:00pm Elora UC

7:00pm Bethany UC

Communion Service

11:00pm hosted by Elora United Church

December 25th Christmas Day

11:00am hosted by Elora United Church



January 1st New Years' Day

Services to be decided

Called to Be **EloraUC**

How can we equip Elora United Church with what it needs, so together we can serve God, one another and our community?

A conversation about stewardship, **Called to Be EloraUC** is an opportunity for us to reflect and pray together. Please be part of this.

Worship Themes (Elora United Church)

- October 9 Called to Be Thankful: The Life of a Steward
- October 16 Called to Be EloraUC in our Local Neighbourhoods
- October 23 *Celebrating EloraUC's 181st Anniversary*
- October 30 *All-Saints Memorial Service*
- November 6 Called to Be EloraUC in the United Church of Canada
- November 13 Called to Respond
- November 20 Called to Celebrate

Miss a week? Materials from the service will be posted on our website soon afterwards. Please have a look at elorauc.org and click on the *Called to Be EloraUC* logo.

Looking Ahead

Sun	1:00pm	Tis the Season practice – Full Cast – Chancel
Sun	1:00-2:30pm	Belonging Together, what membership means
Sun	4:00-5:00pm	Christmas decorating at Elora UC
Sun	6:30pm	“Subway Stations of the Cross”
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Thu	7:00pm	Elora UC Adult Choir practice
Thu	8:15pm	Elora UC Praise Team practice
Fri	7:00pm	Christmas Play – Tis the Season
Sat	2:00pm	Christmas Play – Tis the Season
Sun Nov 20	6:30-7:30pm	Grade 3 - 6 Youth Group (at Elora United Church)
Sat Nov 26	3:00pm	Centre Wellington Singers Christmas Concert (at EUC)
Sat Nov 26	6:00pm	Elora Santa Claus Parade (EUC youth will be collecting food for CW Food Bank)
Sun Nov 27	11:00am	Parents gather downstairs to discuss Faith at Home
Sun Nov 27	2:00pm	Refugee Benefit Concert at Elora United Church
Sat Dec 3	9am-1pm	Elora UCW Craft and Bake Sale

In the Community



Elora Festival Singers Christmas Book Sale, Nov 18th 3-8pm, Nov 19th 10am-2pm at Fergus Book Depot, 380 St. Andrews St. W. Gently used, reasonably priced fiction for adults and children. Admission and parking are free. Book donations are welcome at the Fergus Book Depot side entrance.



Celebrating St. Andrew's Day Scottish Dinner Saturday, November 19, 6:00 pm.

At Knox Presbyterian Church 51 Church St. Elora, Ont. N0B 1S0
Tickets: Adults \$15, 8 & under \$7, Call 519-846-0680 to reserve



Centre Wellington Singers present their 20th Anniversary Concert: Candles and Carols at Christmas.

Saturday, November 26th at 3:00pm at Elora United Church. Adults \$15, Children 12 and under \$5. Tickets available from choir members or call David, 519-946-1049.



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 Beverly Bond is in the office Thurs & Fri 9 to 3 from Sept to June