

THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 11, 2016



TODAY! Carols and Cider an event for all ages. Come for potluck supper at 6 pm and/or Carols and Cider at 7 pm. Invite your friends and neighbours to this fun, informal evening. This is a family friendly event. **We are meeting at the home of Amy, Ryan, Emily and Jamie Weaver, 31 Emily St. N., Elora, between Elora and Salem, 519-846-0598.**



Meet Nahed Al Housarya and her sons, Majd and Fares!

They'll be joining us for Elora UC's after-worship fellowship time.

Sunday, December 18th (starting at about 12:15).

After suffering unspeakable tragedy, Nahed led her family from their home in Homs (a major city in Syria, similar to Hamilton). They found temporary refuge in the neighbouring country of Jordan in 2012. Now, Nahed has brought her sons to Canada! (Her daughter, now married, is living in Ottawa.) Project Welcome, a community-wide group supported by Elora United Church, has been pleased to sponsor them. Please join us in welcoming them to our community!

Muslim Love Your Neighbour

Jesus tells us to act with love toward our neighbours. To love them well, we need to learn about them. This includes the more than 1 billion Muslims in the world, and the increasing number of Muslims within our local communities. Who are they? What do they believe? How do they live their faith? What do we have in common? What are our differences? How can we live together, acting with love? We'll be exploring these questions from a Christian perspective, yet all are welcome.

What to bring?

Your questions. Your open mind. Your open heart.

We'll be hosting 2 separate learning groups.

Each will meet monthly.

You are welcome to come to whichever works best for you.

Wednesdays

7:00-9:00

Continuing on the
1st Wednesday of each month.

Starting January 4

Fridays

2:00-4:00

Continuing on the
2nd Friday of each month.

Starting January 13



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.** As of Friday, between Bethany and Elora, we had **around 90** cans of fruit collected, almost there!



On Sunday, December 18th, the children of Children's Worship and the ECF band are going to lead a **Christmas song in worship.** We will be practicing the song during Children's Worship today and on Dec. 11th. On December 18th the children will gather downstairs at 10:30 am for a final practice.



Parents/Grandparents: Check out the table downstairs with some resources from our parent discussion a few weeks ago "Reaching Wider...Helping Our Children Have Generous Hearts for Others." There are also Advent/Christmas resources on the table.

TOUCHSTONES IN ADVENT: "How are things with you?"

So many opportunities to meet or be in touch:

- * *enjoying the Sunday canticles service*
- * *coming to Carols and Cider tonight at Weaver's*
- * *attending 7 pm Christmas Eve service*
- * *taking part in Christmas morning communion*
- * *sending friendly e-mail greetings*
- * *chatting during coffee time after church*
- * *making a phone call or walking together*

We joyfully greet each other in the spirit of the tiny Christ Child born in a stable.



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.

Special Baptism Service at Bethany UC. Saturday, December 17th at

11:00am. All are welcome to this half-hour long service.



Looking for an alternative Christmas gift option for someone?

Make a donation to Elora United Church's Toronto Team. Your donation will help the youth and adults on the team learn about issues faced by those living in poverty, hear their stories, and learn what it means to serve and be served. The team will be in Toronto from March 10 – 13, 2017. Help us "reach wider and share blessings with our neighbourhoods and beyond."

For your donation, you will receive a card that you can then give as a gift to someone else. *You can receive a tax receipt from Elora United Church, for your donation.*

Toronto Team members will have this alternative gift option available throughout December.

For further information contact Barb Smith-Young 519-846-2542



Another Christmas gift alternative is the **Gifts With Vision** giving catalogues arriving soon at both Bethany and Elora churches or choose gifts online at giftswithvision.ca



Need some Christmas baking?



Many varieties of cookies and squares available today and Dec 18th after worship. Packaged in ½ dozens, you can mix and match for your own desire. This is a fundraiser for Arden Irish and Melanie Weinstein who are participating in Two Countries One World (TCOW), a Waterloo Presbytery youth learning and service opportunity in Columbia, March 2017. Cookies and squares are available for a cash donation to TCOW.

(You can also support Melanie and Arden by donating to TCOW anytime. Please make cheque payable to Elora United Church, memo-TCOW 2017.)

Getting Ready for Jesus: Spending Advent with the Canticles

A canticle is a song found in the Bible. Canticles have often been given a title that is their first word in Latin. Luke's account of Jesus' arrival includes some well-known canticles. This advent season, we'll be listening as these canticles draw us closer to the Saviour.

Nov 27 Zechariah's *Benedictus* and the Candle of Hope Luke 1.5-25, 57-80

Dec 4 Elizabeth's *Ave Maria* and the Candle of Peace Luke 1:26-45

Dec 11 Mary's *Magnificat* and the Candle of Joy Luke 1:26-56

Dec 17 Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* and the Candle of Love 2:25-40

Christmas Season Worship

December 24th Christmas Eve Celebration

5:00pm Bethany UC

7:00pm Elora 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

No Services



Looking Ahead

Sun	6pm/7pm	Potluck supper/Carols & Cider – at the Weavers' home
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Thu	7:00pm	Elora UC Adult Choir practice
Thu	8:15pm	Elora UC Praise Team practice
Sat Dec 17	11:00am	Special Baptism Service at Bethany UC
Sun Dec 18	12:15pm	Meet Nahed, Majd and Fares Al Housarya
Sun Dec 18	6:30 – 7:30pm	Grade 3 – 6 Youth Group (at Melville United Church)
Thu Dec 24	5:00 pm	Christmas Celebration at Bethany UC
	7:00 pm	Christmas Celebration at Elora UC
	11:00 pm	Communion Service hosted by Elora UC
Wed Jan 4	7:00-9:00pm	Love Your Muslim Neighbour
Sat Jan 7	9am – 4:30pm	Emergency First Aid and CPR (sign up with Barb)
Sun Jan 8	6:30 – 8pm	Grade 7 – High School Youth Epiphany Party (EUC)
Fri Jan 13	2:00-4:00pm	Love Your Muslim Neighbour