

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 18, 2016

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

They'll be joining us for Elora UC's after-worship fellowship time around 12:15pm.

*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**



**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.



**CW Food Bank Christmas Hampers. Thank you** to all who brought canned fruit for the Food Bank Christmas Hampers. We have exceeded our goal. The cans of fruit have been packed up and we thank Ink Lee, Youngik Song and John Bird for helping transport it to the Sportsplex.



### ***Need some Christmas baking?***



**Many varieties of cookies and squares available TODAY 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.)



**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](mailto:barb_sy@sympatico.ca), 519-846-2542) **by December 23<sup>rd</sup>** to sign up for the course.



**Greg and Barb Smith-Young will be on holidays** from Monday, Dec 26<sup>th</sup> through to Monday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Church office will close at 3:30pm on Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> and re-open on Thursday, Jan 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.



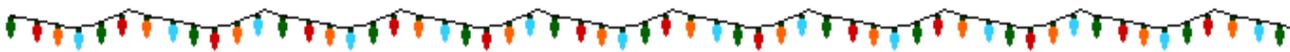
## **Looking for an alternative Christmas gift option for someone?**

**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.

**This is the FINAL SUNDAY the Toronto Team members will have this alternative gift option available.**

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



Another Christmas gift alternative is the **Gifts With Vision** giving catalogues or choose gifts online at [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca)

## **Music Leadership at Elora UC**

Betty Weinstein will be leaving her role as Elora UC's music director at the end of this month. We are saddened by this, and supportive of Betty as she balances her various commitments to family and work. In January we will be having a “farewell” time for Betty . . . and we are very glad that she and her family will continue to be part of our congregation's life.

The Mission Board will lead us in thinking about the sort of music leadership that will best serve us. We need to take into account the availability of people with the range of gifts that Betty has; we wonder if there are many like Betty out there! We also need to be mindful of our financial limits. Rather than rush into things, we want to take the time to find out more and talk together. Look for opportunities to be part of these conversations in the new year.

For the next few months, we plan to use different accompanists to support our singing in worship. We already have some people lined up, including Betty, Brad Halls, and Inkyoung Lee. Do you know of others who might be able to accompany our singing? Please speak with Greg asap. We'll also be working with our Adult Choir and Praise Team to see how they may continue to help with our worship.

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

### **Christmas Season Worship**

#### **December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Celebration**

5:00pm Bethany UC

7:00pm Elora UC

#### **Communion Service**

11:00pm hosted by Elora United Church

#### **December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day**

11:00am hosted by Elora United Church

#### **January 1<sup>st</sup> New Years' Day**

No Services



## **Looking Ahead**

Sun	12:15pm	Meet Nahed, Majd and Fares Al Housarya
Sun	6:30 – 7:30pm	Grade 3 – 6 Youth Group (at Melville United Church)
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Thu	7:00pm	Elora UC Adult Choir practice
Thu	8:15pm	Elora UC Praise Team practice
Sat 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