

THE SUNDAY NEWS

February 26, 2017



Join Us At the Congregational Meeting TODAY.

We have accomplished much in 2016. Together we are seeing God through the important work we do. Gathering for weekly worship; joining in prayer, conversation and learning; supporting the Al Housarya family as refugees from Syria and nurturing the discipleship of children, youth and adults. All ways we have served God and our community. And while this work is good and needs to be celebrated, we must be aware of our worsening financial position.

In 2016 we fell short of our giving goal by \$14,000; our largest gap ever. And while we started 2016 with an accumulated surplus of \$9,200 that was down to a mere \$1,800 by the end of the year. What this means is that we have eroded our financial cushion and we are left without any buffer for budget shortfalls. Simply put, we are out of wiggle room and have some big decisions ahead of us in 2017.

Our Annual Congregational meeting today is going to be the start of those bold and hopefully invigorating conversations about what changes we need to make to live within our means. We'll also be electing a new member to the Trustees. We hope you will join us downstairs after the service for a free will offering lunch and a detailed update on the financial crisis we are expecting in 2017. **Childcare will be provided for all ages.**

Discovering Jesus on the Roads through Lent

with Rev. Donna Mann

You never know around what corner you'll find Jesus. He might be sitting on the edge of a well in a forbidden country, climbing through the thicket on his way up the hill, or walking a well known road. Come and join me in a walk through Lent.

Two groups for you to choose from:

Wednesday Mornings (10-11:30)

Wednesday Evenings (7-8:30)

March 8 to April 12

Contact Donna for more info (ddmann@bell.net or 519-846-5204) to confirm your interest for sufficient resources. (No study book to buy). There will be opportunity for a collaborative study, where participants can contribute to the content.

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? While we'll be exploring these questions from a Christian perspective, all are welcome.

What to bring?
Your questions.
Your open mind.
Your open heart.

We're hosting 2 learning groups
Come to whichever works best for you

1st Wednesdays
of each month
7:00-9:00

Jan 4, Feb 1, Mar 1
Apr 5, May 10, Jun 7

2nd Fridays
of each month
2:00-4:00

Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 10
Apr 7, May 12, Jun 9

Elora United Church

Church & Geddes
(beside Shoppers Drug Mart)

519.846.0122 elorauc.org
elorabethanyuc@bellnet.ca



World Day of Prayer 2017, "Am I Being Unfair to You?", March 3rd at 2:00pm at Melville United Church, Fergus. Speaker Ruth Cooke. There will be fellowship time following the service. All our welcome.



Elora UCW ♣ Shamrock Supper ♣ will be **Saturday March 18th** from 5-7 pm! This is our famous Beef Stew and Ham buffet. Adults \$12 and children (under 12) \$3. Tickets available at the church office or at the door.



Elora 2016 Tax Receipts: All tax receipts will be available for pick up at the church **TODAY**. After today, any tax receipts left will be mailed.

We invite you to consider signing a petition to support Community Living in their bid for emergency funding. Ted Arnott will be reading the names on the list at the Legislative Meeting in Mid March. Please speak with Norma Wallace for further information.

Melanie Weinstein and Arden Irish would like to thank everyone who have supported them through their fundraising. They are part of the TCOW team (Two Countries One World), a Waterloo presbytery learning and serving experience for youth. They are travelling to Columbia March 10 – 19. Thanks to your donations and support of lunches and coffee sales, almost all of their costs have been covered. Thank you Arlene Callaghan for organizing and preparing the food for the quiche lunch on Feb. 12. Please pray for Arden and Melanie as they learn and serve in Columbia.



The Toronto Team, a team of 10 youth and adults, is preparing for their urban poverty learning experience March 10 – 13. During their time in Toronto they will be meeting and talking with many people in need. You can help the team by donating these items: **socks & underwear (mostly for men), gift cards in small amounts (\$ 5 – 10) for Tim’s, Subway, McDonalds.** There will be a collection box for these items in the Welcome Centre at Elora UC from Feb. 5 – Mar. 5. Thank You! Follow the team’s thoughts and questions on www.TechForGod.ca. Please continue to pray for the team.



Bethany’s Annual Congregational Meeting will be **Sunday Mar 12th** at 12:30 pm. Pot luck lunch will be just beforehand – at noon. We’ll be choosing new members for our Board and Trustees. Please have your reports to the office by Sunday Feb 26th (or earlier!) so that completed Annual Reports can be distributed on Sunday Mar 5th.



Mark your calendars for **Hero Central Kids Camp!** Tuesday, July 4 – Friday, July 7 in the mornings. Come discover your strength in God!

Looking Ahead

Sun	12:45pm	Elora Annual Congregational Meeting
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Wed	7:00-9:00pm	Love Your Muslim Neighbour (Evening Group)
Fri	2:00pm	World Day of Prayer at Melville UC
Sun Mar 5	7:00-9:00pm	Toronto Team Meeting
Wed Mar 8	10:00-11:30am	Discovering Jesus on the Roads through Lent (afternoon)
Wed Mar 8	7:00-8:30pm	Discovering Jesus on the Roads through Lent (evening)
Fri Mar 10		Toronto Team leaves for Toronto/TCOW Team leaves for Columbia
Fri Mar 10	2:00-4:00pm	Love Your Muslim Neighbour (Afternoon Group)
Sun Mar 12	12:30pm	Bethany Annual Congregational Meeting
Sat Mar 18	5:00-7:00pm	Elora UCW’s Shamrock Supper
Sun Mar 19	7:00-9:00pm	Toronto Team Meeting
Fri Mar 24	7:00-9:00pm	Women’s Spiritual Potluck (Location TBD)
Sun Mar 26	6:30-7:30pm	Grade 3 – 6 Youth
Sun Mar 26	7:30-9:00pm	Toronto Team Meeting

In the Community

2017 Ecumenical Week of Guided Prayer and Spiritual Exploration, Feb. 26 to March 4. Presented by the Guelph Ecumenical Guild of Ignatian Spiritual Direction this is an opportunity to develop, deepen and explore your relationship with God, and learn ways to meet God meaningfully. Registration forms are available in your church office and at www.guidedprayer.webs.com and will be accepted until Feb. 19.

VON Falls Prevention Series at Melville United Church. A **FREE** education series presented by Kinesiologist Rachel DeJonge. Tuesdays and Thursdays starting **February 14th to March 23rd** at 11:30am. Refreshments provided.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 28th from 5:00 – 6:30pm at The Salvation Army Guelph Citadel, 1320 Gordon St, Guelph. A fundraiser to support Family Services programs and camps. Adults \$8, Children \$6 or Family of 4 (2 adults/2 children) \$25. Tickets available by calling (519) 836-9360 ext. 230.

Lenten Lunches at Knox Elora Presbyterian Church 12 noon - 1:00 pm. on March 21, March 28, April 4, & April 11. Cost \$10. Please call 519-846-0680 to reserve.



Waterloo Presbyterial Annual Gathering will be celebrating 55 years of UCW on Monday, April 3rd from 9:00am – 3:30pm at the Guelph Country Club, 133 Woodlawn Rd. E., Guelph. Tickets are \$25 and include a continental breakfast at 8:00am and lunch. Please send a cheque made payable to Elizabeth Kocher, noting any dietary allergies, your phone number and email to, Elizabeth Kocher 140 Dinison Cr., Kitchener, ON, N2E 2V2. For further information call 519-578-8248 or email bettykocher@yahoo.ca.



ELORA BETHANY PASTORAL CHARGE The United Church of Canada

Office: 75 Geddes St., Elora, ON N0B 1S0 — 519.846.0122
www.elorabethanyuc.org elorabethanyuc@bellnet.ca

MINISTERS: All the Congregation
Ordained Minister: Greg Smith-Young
Minister for Children and Youth: Barb Smith-Young

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 9-3 & Fri 9:30-3:30 from Sept to June