

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

May 7, 2017



Elora United Church come celebrate our church family with snacks and refreshments **after worship next Sunday May 14<sup>th</sup>, Christian Family Sunday**. Children's Worship will be hosting this fellowship time.



**Greg and Barb will be on study leave May 1<sup>st</sup> – May 7<sup>th</sup>.** In case of pastoral emergency you can contact Rev. Donna Mann (519-831-9621) or Rev. Marion Loree (519-835-8605)

Did you miss the worship service, April 2, when the Toronto Team led worship and shared some of their stories? **Come worship God with the Toronto Team at Melville United Church** in Fergus on **Sunday, May 21 at 11 am**. This team of youth and adults has some great stories of where they met Jesus on the streets of Toronto and where Jesus is leading them now as God's servants.

We will shortly be ordering some more **nametags** for folks at Elora United. If you need a nametag – never got one, it's lost or worn out – please let the office know.



**Kid's Camp Craft Needs:** Can you help us out? We need empty paper towel or toilet paper rolls, large paper clips (trombone style - not binder clips), pieces of cardboard, red and blue watercolour paints, baking soda, cornstarch and coloured duct tape. Please look for the Crafts Donation Bin in the EUC Welcome Centre. Bethany - please pass on your contributions by giving them to Greg.

**Hero Central Kids Camp** at Elora United Church. **Tuesday, July 4 – Friday, July 7** (9 am – 12 noon). For children who have completed JK – Grade 5, \$20/child. Youth Grade 6 through high school can be youth leaders. We will also need lots of adult leaders! Come be part of this super fun week, as we discover our strength in God! Registration available in May. For more info, connect with Barb ([barb\\_sy@sympatico.ca](mailto:barb_sy@sympatico.ca), 519-846-2542)



## **Annual Congregation Meeting Follow Up**

Thank you to those who were able to join the Congregational meeting last week. If you were unable to attend, this is an update on our conversations and next steps to deal with our looming deficit. As you likely know we are forecasting a near \$13,000 deficit this year and need to have a plan in place to deal with this by December.

At the meeting, Council shared the process we will following to explore how we can thrive as a congregation and live within our financial means. Starting immediately, council is striking four Task Groups that will take 4 - 6 weeks to explore a specific issue that council believes will be part of our sustainable future. Grounded in our current Mission, the Task Groups will look at:

**Property:** This group will look at what our EUC building needs, how viable our current structure is, how we can make better use of it and what potential redevelopment opportunities might look like.

**Staffing:** This team will explore our current staffing needs and through a Joint Needs Assessment (JNAC) will work with our sisters and brothers at Bethany to think about future staffing needs for the church.

**Income:** This team will look at possible new revenue sources.

**Partnerships:** This group will look at partnership possibilities with other congregations including specific projects, areas of ministry, sharing staff, sharing buildings, amalgamation and ecumenical sharing of ministry.

By end of June each Task Group will report back to council on its findings. Over the summer council will reflect on these findings and through discussion, reflection and prayer will confirm what step(s) we will need to take. These suggestions will be brought to the congregation in early September for approval so specific actions can start as early in the fall as possible.

While this is an aggressive timeline, we believe this is an opportunity for Elora United to deal with our financial challenges AND find the best we can follow God's calling for our church. We aren't sure what the future holds but we are confident this process will help us get there with clarity, grace and hope.

The property, staffing and income task groups are inviting congregation members to join the conversations. Committees will have 5 members each with someone from the Mission or Resources boards acting as chair of each committee. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please fill in the survey at [elorauc.org](http://elorauc.org) by end of day on Sunday May 7. Yes that's today! Committee chairs will be in touch early next week to arrange a time for first meetings.

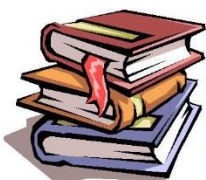
As our Task Groups start their work to reflect on the future of our property, staff, income and partnerships, they want to hear from everyone at EUC. Your ideas and suggestions will help us clarify our priorities and identify what we should bring back to the congregation in September. Thank you for taking time to share your thoughts at [EloraUC.org](http://EloraUC.org). This survey will stay open until June 15/17

Look for more updates as the Task Groups begin their work. In the meantime, thank you for keeping Elora Untied in your prayers as we follow God's calling for our next adventure.

## Looking Ahead

Sun	6:00-8:00pm	Compassion Games for Gr.7 – High School Youth at Melville United Church
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Mon	7:30pm	Bethany UCW
Tue	7:00pm	Elora Mission & Resources Board
Wed	7:00-9:00pm	Love Your Muslim Neighbour (Wednesday Group)
Fri May 12	2:00-4:00pm	Love Your Muslim Neighbour (Friday Group)
Sun May 14	12:15pm	Children hosting fellowship hour
Tue May 16	7:30pm	Bethany Board Meeting
Wed May 17	2:00-4:00pm	The Reconciliation Journey: A Learning Circle
Thu May 18	1:30pm	Elora UCW
Sun May 21	11:00am	Toronto Team at Melville United Church
Sat Nov 11	2:00-3:30pm	Remember and honour our veterans and fallen in drama and song

## In the Community



**2017 Elora Book Sale at Elora Curling Club.** Fri May 5<sup>th</sup> 5:00pm-9:00pm (\$5 admission), May 6<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-5:00pm (free admission), May 7<sup>th</sup> 9:30am-4:00pm (free admission). In support of The Elora Festival and The Elora Festival Singers.

**Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm “Take a Mother to Lunch”** at Knox Elora Presbyterian Church. Roast Pork lunch by Steve Truchan. Tickets \$12 call (519) 846-0680 to reserve, seating limited.



Bridgeport United Church, 40 Bridge St W, Kitchener invites you to their annual **Mother and Daughter Banquet** on **Friday, May 12, 2017 from 6pm to 8pm**. Tickets are \$15 Adults / \$5 Children (5-10) available at the door or in advance call 519-745-0931 or email [BUCL@bellnet.ca](mailto:BUCL@bellnet.ca).

### 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

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