

THE SUNDAY NEWS

September 10, 2017

Welcome back children, youth and parents after your summer adventures!

Here are some things coming up for September;

- Today: Children's Worship, Toddler Care, Youth Exploring Faith begin for the school year. Come celebrate with us! ICE CREAM SUNDAES AFTER WORSHIP.
- Today (6-8pm): Grade 7 through High School Youth Outdoor Volleyball at Elora Public School, followed by a campfire at the Weavers
- Sep 17 (6:30-7:30pm): Grade 3-6 Youth Campfire and Games at 130 Chalmers Street, Elora
- Sep 22-23: Shantytown Fundraiser for The Door Youth Centre (overnight activity for older youth and adults)

For more information on Children and Youth Ministries, connect with Barb (519-846-2542, barb_sy@sympatico.ca)

“Let us sing of greater things” An Exploration of *Messiah*
Join us this fall for lively learning and conversation about Handel's masterpiece



Some said it was too sacred to perform in a theatre! Others, that it was too theatrical to perform in a church! Perhaps neither were correct. Handel's great composition will not be confined to the sacred or the secular, nor will it be barred from either space. Maybe that's why *Messiah* continues to stir so many souls. Its subject is the Messiah Jesus, though his name is never mentioned nor his words quoted in the text. *Messiah* explores the profound and world reshaping meaning of Jesus, using only words from sacred Scripture. It does so with music that enlivens us, pouring out emotions of sorrow and delight.

Thursday evenings (every 2nd week)
7:00pm to 8:30pm
6 sessions: Sep 28; Oct 12, Oct 26, Nov 9, Nov 23, Dec 7
Elora United Church's Bissell Room

Questions? Please speak with Greg Smith-Young.

God is continually calling the church to practices of faithful discernment. As part of living out that call, **Elora UC's Mission Board will be reviewing the congregation's marriage policy.** The current policy (from 2006) has an understanding of marriage that includes only opposite-gender couples. We will be prayerfully considering whether this should be changed to include same-gendered couples too. If you have thoughts you'd like the Mission Board to consider in its discernment, please send them to the church office, by mail or email, **no later than October 1** (elorabethanyuc@bellnet.ca or 75 Geddes Street, Elora ON, N0B 1S0)

TOUCHSTONES IN SEPTEMBER



On **Sunday, September 17th** after church, there will be a Kabob and Cones lunch.

There will be chicken and veggie skewers and rice, with ice cream cones for dessert

We invite all Touchstones and others who are interested in the concept of:

“Building Community by Staying in Touch”

We would welcome your participation in this easy-going informal group.

Questions? Speak to Bonnie Young or Arlene Callaghan

519-846-6633 or 226-370-0388

The Reconciliation Journey: A Learning Circle

What happened in the Indian Residential Schools?

What role did our churches play?

What has this meant for survivors, families, communities, and our country?

Is reconciliation possible?

What can we do?

Starting again Wednesday September 20th

2pm-4pm

We'll continue gathering monthly on the 3rd Wednesday.

Hosted at Elora United Church

A budgeting and task group update

The Mission and Resources boards have been hard at work exploring ways we can deal with our budget short fall this year. Since our last update in May we have

- Been monitoring our finances monthly and ensuring that our spending is at or below budget
- Supported and received reports from our four task groups: Property, staffing, income and partnerships
- Held a retreat in early July to reflect and think about the suggestions from the four task groups
- Took immediate action on a number of recommendations (details to follow later this fall)
- Under the guidance of our property Task Group, we have started to work with EDGE from the United Church to better understand the opportunities around our building and property
- Will be looking at more specific and actionable recommendations at our September 12 meeting to formalize a tactical plan for a fall that we hope will bring us closer to a break-even point and then focus our efforts in 2018 on larger more strategic conversations.

We are grateful for the support, prayers and encouragement we have received from the congregation. Look for a more robust update in early October.

With many thanks,
The Mission and Resources Board



Shantytown Fundraiser for The Door Youth Centre, Friday,

September 22. There are multiple ways you can support the ministry of this Centre Wellington youth centre:

- attend as a participant, fundraise, and sleep in a cardboard box (sign up with Barb)
- attend the public BBQ (bring a cash donation) at 6 pm behind the Sportsplex in Fergus (speaker at 7 pm)
- donate to a participant

Sunday, Sept. 17, EUC youth and adult Shantytown participants will be available after worship to receive donations.

Or contact Barb to make a donation – 519-846-2542, barb_sy@sympatico.ca

Homecoming Weekend At Knox Presbyterian Church

Sat., Sept. 23rd & Sun. Sept. 24th, 2017

HOMEcoming WEEKEND! This year, Knox-Elora is celebrating our 180th Anniversary! On Saturday, Sept. 23rd, 2017, we are planning a "Homecoming Weekend" which will include - a Victorian Tea at the home of Steve Truchan (originally the home of Dr. Savage - Elora's first doctor). Tickets for the "Tea" will include a tour of this beautiful home followed by "high tea". Later, in the evening, a concert is planned at Knox church (details to follow). The following day, Sunday, Sept. 24th, Knox will host a Homecoming Lunch, (after Sunday Service), where we look forward to welcoming back former and current members with great food and wonderful fellowship. Don't forget to mark this weekend on your calendar (Sept. 23rd & 24th, 2017)! Everyone welcome! Contacts: Dorothy Hayes - 519-846-9548, dorothyhayes@wightman.caor....Anne Curwood - 519-846-5812. More information and ticket details for the Victorian Tea and evening Concert will follow. Hope to see you there!

Looking Ahead

Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Mon	7:30pm	Bethany UCW
Tue	7:00pm	Elora Mission & Resources Board - BR
Thu	7:00pm	Property Task Group Meeting - BR
Sat Sep 16	2:00-3:30pm	November 11 Tribute Practice - SANC
Sun Sep 17	12:00pm	Touchstones Kabob & Cones Lunch - FH
Sun Sep 17	6:30-7:30pm	Grade 3-6 Youth Campfire and Games at 130 Chalmers St, Elora
Tue Sep 19	7:30pm	Bethany Board Meeting
Wed Sep 20	2:00-4:00pm	The Reconciliation Journey: A Learning Circle - BR
Thu Sep 21	12:00pm	Elora UCW at Norma Wallace's Home
Fri Sep 22		Shantytown Fundraiser for The Door Youth Group - behind Fergus Sportsplex
Thu Sep 28	7:00-8:30pm	Handel's Messiah Group - BR
Sat Nov 11	2:00-3:30pm	Remember and honour our veterans and fallen in drama and song

In the Community

ANNUAL HARVEST TEA: Wednesday, September 20th, 2-4pm in the Butterfly Garden at St James Church, 171 Queen St E, Fergus. Come and enjoy an afternoon with tea, desserts and fellowship. Tickets \$8 each on the door. All proceeds go to Famine Relief in South Sudan through PWRDF.

ELORA BETHANY PASTORAL CHARGE The United Church of Canada

Office: 75 Geddes St., Elora, ON N0B 1S0 — 519.846.0122
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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