

THE SUNDAY NEWS

October 15, 2017

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

At Elora United

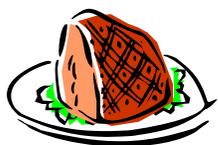
- Your Greeters are Eoin & Eleanor Hall.
 - Our Music Leaders are *Exploding Church Fury*, the Praise Team, and Inkyoung Lee.
 - Reading Scripture for us today is Tricia Hosking.
 - Our time together continues after the service with refreshments and conversation downstairs.
- Your Hosts are Norma Wallace & Bonnie Norris.

Celebrating in Worship . . . **October 22** *Congregational Anniversaries* (Elora UC is a venerable 182 years old, while Bethany UC is a spry 174!) . . . **October 29** *the Protestant Reformation's 500th anniversary* . . . **November 6** *All Saints Memorial* (those for whom we are grieving) and *Remembrance Sunday* . . . In **Advent** (December) our theme will be *Stepping Into the Waves: When God takes us Over Our Heads!*



The Elora UCW will be meeting **this Thursday October 19th at 1:30pm** at Elora United Church. Members are requested to **bring a short poem, verse from Scripture, or from a hymn**, which has been meaningful to them through their life. If it's humorous all the better!

Bethany Foodgrains Project. Let's give thanks for this year's harvest! **Saturday, October 21, 2:00-4:00pm**, at the home of Ken & Elizabeth Musselman.



Bethany Ham Supper is **Saturday November 4th** with continuous seatings from 5 pm to 7 pm. Adults \$15, Children (5-12) \$7 and children under 5 free. Call Pat Davies (519-846-0247) for tickets. Wheelchair accessible.

Community Dinner, Friday, November 3, 6 pm at Knox Presbyterian Church. This month it is prepared and served by Elora United Church. We have some dedicated adult volunteers doing most of the food prep and the youth will do the serving. So how can you help? We need **6 people to each make 1 pan (9 x 9) of brownies**. You can also **serve by sitting and enjoying the meal with others in our community**. This dinner is always the first Friday of the month. It is free and open to everyone to attend. For more info connect with Barb Smith-Young (barb_sy@sympatico.ca, 519-846-2542).



Potluck Dinner



Potluck and Praise, Sunday, November 12 at the Weavers' home. Come enjoy potluck supper with others at **6 pm**. Join us at 7 pm for an informal worship time with music and scripture. The Weavers live at 31 Emily St. N. Elora. All ages welcome. For more info connect with the Amy, Ryan, Emily, Jamie Weaver or Barb Smith-Young.

Praise

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?

Continues This Wednesday October 18th

2pm-4pm

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

Hosted at Elora United Church



Remember the Veterans & Honour the Fallen



A community-based production that features

personal accounts and memories of WW I and WW II

This program also features singing and music of the era's iconic
Vera Lynn

November 11, 2017 2:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Elora United Church, Geddes Street

Free Will Offering - Proceeds to the Canadian War Amps



Music Night at Bethany UC, November 18th at 7:30pm.

Come hear the No Name Band and the Hayes Sisters perform.
Freewill Offering. Light Refreshments.



Elora UC Task Groups Update and Staffing Changes

As you know, the Elora UC boards are continuing to work around building short and long-term plans to deal with our budget shortfall. We will have a full written update for the congregation in early November.

Since the summer we have taken a number of actions and decisions, some of which have been very difficult. The hardest has been the decision to merge our Treasurer and Secretary staffing positions into one. Based solely on the need to reduce our payroll expenses, the board has made the decision that starting on November 1, our current administrator Beverly Bond will take on our treasurer responsibilities, and our current treasurer Kim Saunders will no longer be employed by Elora United. Rolling the two positions into one will result in significant cost savings.

This was a very hard decision for the board and is no reflection on the hard work that Kim has shown our congregation over the past 11 years. We are grateful to Kim for all that she has done for us as a member of our staff team. She and her accounting skills have been a gift to our church. We will have the chance to formally thank Kim later this year. We are also grateful to Bev for taking on this additional work and responsibility.

The scope of this decision reflects how committed we are to finding a way to keep Elora United viable for years to come. While there is no magic wand to our financial pressures, this decision along with other steps should have us in a better position at year-end than our original forecast. We will share those details in our next written update.

Our thanks to all staff and congregation members for their dedication and commitment to Elora United.

-The Mission and Resources board

Elora UC welcomes and celebrates all couples who wish to be married within our church-community

This decision was made this week by Elora UC's Mission Board,* approving a change to our marriage policy. (In the past, we have held what might be called a "traditional" understanding of marriage as between a man and a woman.) The Board decided to review our policy, part of continuing to seek the way of Jesus.

Thanks to all those who shared their thoughts and held us in prayer through our discernment.

Many among us will celebrate this decision. Others among us will be pained by it. We are a diverse congregation. While we share our trust in God and desire to live as God's people, we often disagree about how this looks in particular situations. That's okay! Faithful community is about holding to each other in the midst of disagreement. It is God's gift.

What does it mean to welcome and walk together within the diversity of our sexual orientations and gender identities?

Our 'marriage decision' is not the end. It is another step along the way discerning how we authentically follow Jesus in our time and place. In the next while, look for opportunities we'll be having to learn and explore together.

As always, our ministry team (Barb or Greg) is glad to talk with you about your thoughts and concerns.

Looking Ahead

Sun	6:30-7:30pm	Grade 3 – 7 Youth Group at Melville United Church
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Tue	7:30pm	Bethany Board Meeting
Wed	2:00-4:00pm	The Reconciliation Journey: A Learning Circle – BR
Thu	1:30pm	Elora UCW- BR
Sat Oct 21	2:00-4:00pm	Bethany Food Grains Project – at Ken & Elizabeth Musselman's home
Thu Oct 26	7:00-8:30pm	Handel's Messiah Group – BR
Fri Nov 3	6:00pm	Community Dinner at Knox-Presbyterian Church
Sat Nov 4	5:00-7:00pm	Bethany UC Ham Supper
Sun Nov 5	2:00 – 6:30pm	Grade 7 – 12 + Youth Group to U of Guelph for Campus Worship and more
Sat Nov 11	2:30-4:00pm	Remember and honour our veterans and fallen in drama and song
Sun Nov 12	6:00pm	Potluck & Praise – at the Weavers' home
Sat Nov 18	7:30pm	Music Night at Bethany UC
Sat Nov 25	9:00-1:00pm	Elora UCW Craft and Bake Sale - FH

In the Community

Proclamation 2017!

The Canadian Bible Society

The public reading of the Holy Bible has been happening in many communities across Canada, and is happening in ours NOW! A great opportunity for praise, prayer and drawing close to the Lord through the reading of the Scriptures.

Friday, October 27 7:00am to 7:30pm
Wellington Terrace Chapel

Saturday, October 28 7:00am to 8:30pm
Highland Manor Retirement Lodge Recreation Room

Sunday, October 29 12:30pm to 7:00pm
St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church

All are welcome to come at anytime, to read or listen. To sign up for a reading beforehand, please contact Ruth Sproule (ruth.sproule@sympatico.ca; 519.821.1978) or John Agar (johnfourjc@gmail.com; 519.820.7964).

Climate Change: The Burning Issue, Facts, Impacts & Actions. Wednesday Oct 18, Oct 25, Nov 1, Nov 8 at 7:00pm at Dublin Street United Church, Guelph. Free Public 4-Evening Speaker Series organized by the Justice And Outreach Committee of Dublin Street United Church. Oct 18 The Science Facts with Kent Moore, Oct 25 The Impacts with Barry Smit and Alexandra Sawatsky, Nov 1 Community Actions with Kirby Calvert, Nov 8 Household & Personal Actions with Evan Ferrari.



Oct. 21, 10am-3pm, Fall Festival, Melville United Church, Tower and St. Andrew, Fergus. Lunch and snacks (delicious soups, bacon/pulled pork on bun, chili, pies, cakes, desserts and drinks), baking, Melville's famous frozen meat pies, books, vendors, Christmas corner (soups in a jar), attic treasures, crafts, silent auction. For more information please call Lorna 519-787-0570.


RIDING OFF IN ALL DIRECTIONS

the telling of lies

Nov 10, 11, 16, 17 & 18th at 7:30pm Nov 12th at 2:00pm "Riding Off In All Directions" at the Maja Prentice Theatre, 3650 Dixie Rd., Mississauga. This musical written by Daniel Bratton, directed by Colin Fox, with music by Peter Skoggard is based on a speech given by Timothy Findley about Stephen Leacock & Mazo de la Roche and takes you on a whimsical journey into the past. **Bus transportation and a lunch at Benares Museum is available for the Nov 12th matinee.** Admission is \$30 or \$25 for Seniors and \$5 for Students (at the door) Call 519-846-2551 or go to <http://bit.ly/TellingLies> for more information.