

THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 3, 2017

THIS ADVENT "STEP INTO THE WAVES"

When have you 'stepped out' of your comfort zone? Was it taking a new job? Moving? A change in life circumstances? Helping someone? Was it by choice, or were you forced to? At the time, could you see God in it? Thinking back, can you see how God was in it? This December, our Advent theme is "stepping into the waves." We'd love to include your "snapshots" of these experiences in the service, something you could share for about 2 minutes. Please tell Greg your stories.



TODAY, Dec 3rd from 2 – 4 pm come help us decorate for Christmas! Come join the team and decorate the Elora United Church Sanctuary. Cider and snacks provided.



Centre Wellington Food Bank Christmas Collection

This Christmas, the Centre Wellington Food Bank has asked that we collect financial donations to allow the Food Bank to purchase food vouchers from Freshco. This will allow families the dignity of selecting those food items which best suit their family's needs. Freshco will also donate an additional 10% of all donations to the Food Bank. **Our Elora-Bethany Pastoral Charge target is \$500.00.** Donations can be either cash or cheque made out to Elora United Church. Please note on the cheque "CWFB donation". **The deadline for donations will be December 10th.** A collection box can be found at Bethany UC and at the back of the Sanctuary at Elora UC.



Come enjoy an evening of Carols & Cider on Sunday, Dec 10th at 7:00 pm at the home of Amy, Ryan, Jamie and Emily Weaver (31 Emily St. N., Elora). Everyone welcome. Invite your friends and neighbours to this fun, informal evening. Come and sing!



Sunday, Dec 17th the children of Children's Worship will be sharing with us in worship. More details will be emailed to parents soon.



Special Gifts

The Elora UC Mission Board will be considering grants from our Special Gifts Fund at its meeting on December 12. It invites proposals under the following areas: Education (\$494 available), Community Outreach (\$494), and Projects of the United Church of Canada (\$494). Copies of the fund policy and application forms are available at the back of the sanctuary, as well as from the church office. **We can only consider proposals that use the application form.**

Christmas Season Worship

December 24th Regular Services

9:20am Bethany UC
11:00am Elora UC

December 24th Christmas Eve Celebration

5:00pm Elora UC
7:00pm Bethany UC

Communion Service

11:00pm hosted by Elora United Church

December 31st

No Service at Bethany UC
11:00am Elora UC



Looking Ahead

Sun	2:00-4:00pm	Christmas Decorating in the Sanctuary
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Tue Dec 5	7:30-9:30pm	Joint Official Board Meeting at Elora UC
Thu Dec 7	7:00-8:30pm	Handel's Messiah Group – BR
Sun Dec 10	7:00pm	Carols & Cider at the Weavers' home
Mon Dec 11	7:30pm	Bethany UCW Meeting – Cookies for Shut-ins
Tue Dec 12	7:00pm	Elora MR Board Meeting
Thu Dec 14	1:00pm	Elora UCW Christmas Tea - at Norma Wallace's home - bring gifts for shut-ins
Sun Dec 17	6:30-7:30pm	Grade 3-7 Youth Group meeting at Melville UC
Tue Dec 19	7:30pm	Bethany Board Meeting

In the Community

The Chancel Choir of St. John's United Church, Belwood, will present **"Love's Pure Light," a Christmas Cantata by Lloyd Larson, at 7pm on Sunday, December 10th.** A free-will offering will be taken. St. John's: 28 Queen St., Belwood. 519-843-1227.

The Elora Singers present Handel's Messiah, December 10th @ 3:30pm, St. Joseph's Church, Fergus. An annual winter rite in Elora, Handel's Messiah is one of the most cherished choral works for the Christmas season. With his own distinct interpretation, conductor Noel Edison brings this score to life! Tickets: www.elorasingers.ca or [519-846-0331](tel:519-846-0331). At door ticket purchases on December 10th also available.



A message from Big Brothers Big Sisters

With the recent community losses that we have experienced over the last few months we are hearing people asking what they can do to help. **Right now we have almost 25 children on the waitlist, waiting for that special Big Sister or Big Brother.** If you can spare 2-4 hours weekly or bi-weekly to spend time with a little boy or girl to make a difference in their lives, please contact us. If you would like to be involved but don't have that much free time, that is ok too! If you are available during the school day from September-June, you can become an in-school mentor, working with a child for 1 hour/wk. Does this sound like too much of a commitment? Are you between the ages of 18-30 and still want to be involved? Contact us for more information about our Go Girls and Game on program for boys and girls in grade 7 and 8. This is a time commitment of only 7 weeks for one hour per week during the school day! If you still cannot commit to that then that is ok too. There are still plenty of opportunities to volunteer within our organization so please contact us. **Our posters will be posted on the community board with all of our contact information.** We look forward to hearing from you!!