

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 17, 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?*



**Elora UC: TODAY, the children & youth of Children's Worship and Youth Exploring Faith are sharing a skit with us at the end of worship. You can watch the original skit on YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). Search for "Unexpected Christmas". May Jesus surprise us all in unexpected ways this Christmas.**



## Next Sunday Morning, Dec 24th

(9:20 at Bethany | 11:00 at Elora)



### Please join us for an *All-Ages Improv Christmas Pageant!*

No practices required.

No lines to learn.

People who like to ham it up are especially welcome.

Join us to tell the Christmas Story



**A huge thank you** to those who came last Sunday afternoon and put up the Christmas decorations in the Elora UC sanctuary! Everything looks beautiful! Thank you Ink, Young, Harris, Ravenna, Megan, Bonnie, Marilyn and Dorothy.



## Centre Wellington Food Bank Christmas Collection



**THANK YOU SO MUCH TO EVERYONE WHO DONATED TO THE CW FOOD BANK.** We are delighted to let you know that between Elora UC and Bethany UC we raised **\$1,794.10**.



**A big THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the cheer boxes!! We sent out 11 packages in total - eight to students in Ontario, one to Nova Scotia and two overseas to Europe. We have received many emails and texts from the students thanking us for the goodies and, more importantly, for thinking of them at this time of year!



# Special Gifts

The Elora UC Mission Board is proposing the following grants from the Special Gifts Fund:

- a) Lay Pastoral Care workshop – \$494 (Education)
- b) Monthly Music Nights – \$494 (Community Outreach)
- c) Ecumenical Campus Ministry at the University of Guelph – \$494 (United Church Projects)

More information is posted in the Welcome Centre. If you have any questions or concerns about these grants, please speak with Carole Kennedy, Greg Smith-Young or Beverly Bond before January 8<sup>th</sup>.



**Greg and Barb Smith-Young will be on holidays** from Monday, Dec 25<sup>th</sup> through to Tuesday, Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Church office will close at 3:00pm on Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> and re-open on Thursday, Jan 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am.

## Christmas Season Worship

### December 24<sup>th</sup> Regular Services

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

### December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Celebration

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

### Communion Service

11:00pm hosted by Elora United Church

### December 31<sup>st</sup>

No Service at Bethany UC  
11:00am Elora UC



## Looking Ahead

Sun	6:30-7:30pm	Grade 3-7 Youth Group meeting at Melville UC
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Tue	7:30pm	Bethany Board Meeting
Sun Jan 7	6:30-8:00pm	Grade 8 – 12 Youth Group Epiphany Party

## In the Community



### 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!!