

THE SUNDAY NEWS

January 21, 2018

MONDAY EVENING: Anxiety and Depression Seminar

Twenty-three years ago, Michael Glugosh was a hostage to his fears and depression. In time, Michael found cognitive behavioural therapy and completely recovered from his anxiety and depression. Since 1993 Michael has given over 1800 seminars and counselled hundreds of people with stress, anxiety and depression-related issues. If you or someone you know struggles with stress, anxiety or depression, we encourage you to attend his free seminar.

Monday, January 22 7:00pm Elora UC

"Thanks, Sorry, Please...Leading Our Children in Prayer". Sunday, Feb 11th during 11 am worship at Elora United. Parents, join us for a "faith at home" discussion time. Let's encourage each other as we nurture our children and youth spiritually. We will meet downstairs when the children/youth move from family worship to Children's Worship and YEF. The children and youth will watch a movie in the Bissell Room. Toddler Care will be provided while we meet. **All parents are encouraged to attend.**



The **Fish Fry Planning Group** will begin meeting in late January to plan the 2018 EUC Fish Fry for **Good Friday: March 30, 2018**. We welcome anyone interested in working on this project to join the fun. **Please speak with Carolyn or Tom Skimson (519-846-5635) if you wish further information.**

Resilient Faith: Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Church

Barb and Greg Smith-Young are leading this learning and conversation time. We are using a resource which features the voices of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Christians. This is an important follow-up from Elora UC's decision to celebrate same-sex marriages equally.

Sundays at Lunch (12:30-2:00)

Continues January 28; February 4, 11, 18 Elora UC

(Can't come to all of them? Don't worry. Come when you can.)

Music Leadership in Elora UC

Moving into this new year, Betty Weinstein and Inkyoung Lee will be sharing our music leadership responsibilities. They will usually alternate weekly. Betty will also lead our choir. Brad Halls will continue to be help-out when needed (and when he's available). We're going to try this until the end of June, and see how it goes. We are very grateful for the leadership these people are giving us, along with the adult choir, praise team, and *Exploding Church Fury* youth band.

Elora UC: An Update for the New Year

As you know, since our Annual Congregational Meeting in February the Mission and Resources Boards has been looking at ways to deal with our \$13,000 forecasted deficit. As we get ready for our Annual Congregational meeting on February 25, we wanted to update you on our progress.

First the very good news: thanks to your continued support of our congregation (including your financial support), a very successful Fish Fry, the hard work of staff, some hard decisions by the Boards and our revenue remaining consistent, our deficit for 2017 will be around \$1,000. This is something we can all be proud of! This means our short term 'crisis' is behind us for now. The longer and perhaps more difficult conversation about what is next, remains and that is where much of our focus has been this past year.

As you recall, we set up four task groups to explore specific topics that were impacting our future: income, staffing, property and partnerships. Each group has put a lot of time and energy into look at practical ways we can grow sustain our congregation financially and otherwise. Here is an update on each of the task groups:

The income task group had many good conversations about how to increase money coming into the church. Not surprisingly, there is no magic bullet to increasing revenue. In addition to maintaining our current givings, rentals were identified as a way to generate small amounts of income and build relationships with our community. Serious rental income won't happen without investment in the building and additional staffing. Based on what happens with our property and partnership conversions we may come back to this topic to explore more.

Staffing: This team explored our current staffing needs and after much reflection and discernment, made the difficult recommendation to the Boards to merge our treasurer and administrator roles. This resulted in significant short and long term savings. Also, rather than find a new music director, we used a variety of leaders. This decision was for many reasons, not just financial. It did, nonetheless, save us some money. Ideally there will be no additional staffing changes in 2018.

Property: The property team has engaged the support of EDGE a United Church ministry with experience in church property renewal and especially property evaluation. The goal of this process is to use the process that EDGE has developed to help us see and understand trends around our givings, attendance and our building. We are well on the way with the introductory phase of this process and have learned much already. This research might result in us having enough information to consider options or lead to a much longer (up to 2 year) process to consider future uses for our property.

Partnerships: This group is looking at partnership possibilities with other congregations including specific projects, areas of ministry, sharing staff, sharing buildings, amalgamation and ecumenical sharing of ministry. These conversations have been engaging and positive, but are just getting started. This year, we look forward to seeing what sort of traction might come from them.

In summary, we have accomplished a lot in 2017 thanks to the support and hard work of many. And while we have been able to deal with our immediate financial crisis, the fact remains that our givings, regular attendance and volunteer time continues to decrease. With the gift of a more stable foundation we can continue our conversations in 2018 about how best we can serve God, our community and one another. We look forward to this conversation with you at our AGM in February.

- The Mission and Resource Boards

Looking Ahead

Sun	6:30-7:30pm	Grades 3 – 7 Youth Group Epiphany Party
Mon	1:00pm	Quilters
Mon	7:00pm	Anxiety & Depression Seminar – BR
Sun Jan 28	12:30-2:00pm	Resilient Faith - BR
Tue Jan 30	7:30-9:00pm	Joint Official Board Meeting at Elora UC
Thu Feb 1	7:00pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal - BR
Sun Feb 4	5:00-6:30pm	Grade 8-12 Sports Themed Dinner – EUC
Sun Feb 25	12:30pm	Elora Annual Congregational Meeting - FH

In the Community

Waterloo Presbyterial UCW Meeting Monday February 5th at 9:30am at Forest Hill United Church, 121 Westmount Rd. E., Kitchener. **Guest Speaker Rev. Paul Miller on “Challenging Changes: Where do we go from here????”** Join us for coffee and muffins at 9:00am. Worship and Fellowship. **All welcome.**

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 & Fri 9:30-3:30 from Sept to June