

# THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 8, 2019

## DEADLINE NEXT SUNDAY



### 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 "Centre Wellington Food Bank". **Deadline for Donations is Dec 15<sup>th</sup>.** A collection box can be found at Bethany UC and at the back of the Sanctuary at Elora UC.



### **Project Welcome**

### **Supporting Refugees in Our Community**

Please consider supporting Project Welcome's work with our refugee family, Emad & Suzan Al Housarya and their 3 children. You can give a cheque made out to "Elora United Church" with 'Project Welcome' in the memo line. You can also give by credit card at ProjectWelcomeCW.ca. Thank you!

## Worship for Advent & Christmas



- Sun, Dec 1** 1<sup>st</sup> of Advent
- Sun, Dec 8** 2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent
- Sun, Dec 15** 3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent, including Children's Worship Skit
- Sun, Dec 22** 4<sup>th</sup> of Advent, cantata Heaven & Nature Sing, Gloria!
- Tue, Dec 24** 5:00pm Christmas Eve Celebration at Elora UC  
7:00pm Christmas Eve Celebration at Bethany UC  
9:30pm Christmas Eve Communion at Elora UC
- Sun, Dec 29** Carols Service
- Sun, Jan 5** Epiphany Sunday



**Sing Together for Christmas!** Our choir is getting ready for Sunday worship Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. We'll be singing the cantata *Heaven & Nature Sing, Gloria!*. The rehearsals are on Thursday. But if you are not able to make it on Thursday, or if you feel it's not enough, there are extra rehearsals on Sunday afternoon at 12:30 (in the Sanctuary).

### Reusable Cloth Gift Bags are still available!

- They are at the entrance to the Sanctuary.
- By Donation – suggested amount shown on each bag.
- All funds raised for The United Church of Canada's Mission & Service Fund.



### Mystery Friends Sign Up (see sign up box downstairs) **Nov. 24 - Jan. 5**

For all ages in our church family. People of different ages are paired with one another to exchange letters, drawings, "penny-gifts" etc. Sign up by Jan. 5. Starting Jan. 12 there will be a "Mail Centre" board set up. Over the next month this is where you will leave things for your mystery friend and where they can leave things for you. Feb. 23 will be the big reveal!

### Special Gifts Fund Grants

The Elora UC Mission Board will be considering grants from our Special Gifts Fund at its meeting on **December 10<sup>th</sup>**. It invites proposals under the following areas: **Education (\$423 available)**, **Community Outreach (\$823)**, and **Projects of the United Church of Canada (\$823)**. Copies of the fund policy and application forms are available at the back of the sanctuary, as well as from the church office. **DUE TODAY.**

### Resilient Faith: Sexual & Gender Diversity in the Church

#### Sundays after worship (12:30 – 2:00pm) in the Elora UC Bissell Room

Barb and Greg Smith-Young will be leading a 5-part learning and conversation time. We'll be using a resource called Resilient Faith. It features the voices of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered Christians. Each segment unpacks important aspects of the faith conversation. Here's the schedule and topics:

	Dec 8	Hopes for the Church
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Come to whichever ones you can. All are welcome!

### Weekly Wednesday Gatherings

#### Every Wednesday 11:00 – 2:00pm in the Elora UC Bissell Room

This is a great time to connect with other people over lunch, conversation and shared activities. Please feel free to drop-in anytime and stay for as long a time as you like.

## Celebrating Abundance A study for Advent

**Mondays at 7:00pm, November 25 – December 16. at Knox Presbyterian Church**

Come and share in this engaging and meaningful conversation about what it really means to get ready for Christmas. To "prepare for Christmas" in our society is to be sucked into a swirl of indulgence, from decor to gifts to calorie-rich foods. Layer upon layer of tinsel, lights, and wrapping paper create the illusion of abundance, disguising the feeling of emptiness in our souls. The arrival of the Messiah, by contrast, is true abundance disguised by the impression of scarcity. Training our eyes to see through the rough stable, the adolescent mother, and the anxious escape to Egypt, we can see in that poverty and powerlessness the wonder of God's abundant life and grace coming down to dwell among us. **More Info?: 519.846.0680 or [minister@wightman.ca](mailto:minister@wightman.ca)**

### Looking Ahead

Sun	12:30–2:00pm	Resilient Faith – BR
Sun	6:30-8:00pm	Grade 3 - 6 and 7 - 9 Youth Group (Elora UC)
Mon	7:30pm	Bethany UCW – at Arlene Hall's
Tue	7:00pm	Mission & Resources Board - BR
Wed	11:00–2:00pm	Weekly Wednesday Gathering – BR
Thu	7:00pm	Good & Beautiful Good Group – The Hulley's
Thu	7:00pm	EUC Adult Choir – BR
Thu Dec 19	12:00pm	Elora UCW – at Norma's - potluck
Sun Dec 22	11:00am	EUC Choir - Heaven and Nature Sing, Gloria!
Tues Dec 24	5:00pm	Christmas Eve Celebration at Elora UC
	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Celebration at Bethany UC
	9:30pm	Christmas Eve Communion at Elora UC

### In the Community

#### **The Alma Community presents: Journey to Bethlehem, Dec 20 & 21, 6:00-8:00pm at Alma Community Centre & Wallace-Cumming Park**

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, we invite you to come, pause and reflect on the first Christmas. Enjoy the busyness of the marketplace. Listen to the exciting news the angels will share. Join the shepherds and wisemen in search for the King. Reimagine that holy night and reflect on the birth of the baby who came to change the world, and what that might mean for you today. **FREE ADMISSION.** Your interactive journey begins inside the hall, that heads outside for an exciting walk through the park, finishing back inside to warm up with hot chocolate and cookies. The journey runs approximately 30 mins. *Remember to dress for the weather.*

#### **Hope for the Holidays Worship Service**

Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 325 St. George St., Fergus)  
The Christmas Season can be difficult for many, especially those who have experienced losses. Memories of family and friends bring sorrow when others are celebrating. Losses of what was or what might have been, put a damper on the joy of the season. This quieter Christmas service allows us to give our sorrows and losses to the Christ Child and there find hope. Refreshments to follow. This service is open to all – Community members are welcome.