

THE SUNDAY NEWS

December 15, 2019

TODAY IS OUR DEADLINE!!



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 15th.** 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 22** 4th 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 worship next Sunday worship. 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 is suggesting the following year-end grants from our Special Gifts Fund:

- a) Project Welcome - \$823 (Community Outreach)
- b) Guelph Ecumenical Campus Ministry - \$832 (UC Projects)
- c) Toronto Urban Poverty Experience - \$423 (Education)

Information is posted in the Welcome Centre. Questions or concerns about these grants? Please speak with Bonnie Young, Beverly Bond, or Greg Smith-Young before January 12th.

Looking Ahead

Sun	12:30pm	Adult Choir extra practice - SANC
Thu	7:00pm	EUC Adult Choir – BR
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 22nd 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.