Dates To Remember

Dec.	30	Church office closed Dec. 30 through Jan. 1.
Jan.	5	Epiphany Sunday
	9	Bible Study resumes – 10:30 a.m. (Campbell Room)
	12	Baptism Sunday & Holy Communion
		2019 Annual Report forms are due – or earlier please
	14	Dream Group – 4:00 p.m. (Campbell Room)
	15	Session – 7:30 p.m. (Fleck Hall)

NOTE: Some of these dates and times are subject to change.

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Stewardship Moment – When we think of stewardship we start with the point that everything – even the air that we breathe – is not ours; it is given to us. Mike Graves, professor of preaching



Presbyterian Prayer Partnership - We pray for those God is calling into a life of faith but have not yet found Christian communities to call home, and that God prepares congregations to welcome them.

PWS&D

Empowering rural women - In Africa, women comprise about 60 per cent of the agricultural labour force. And yet, structural barriers and social norms prevent many women farmers from making decisions about agricultural practices on their farms. So that vulnerable communities can rise above hunger, it is essential that women are able to make choices about land, resources and which crops to grow. With the help of PWS&D, this transformation is taking place in Kamisimbi County of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In a place where many farming families struggle to meet their food needs, PWS&D is providing seeds and training in conservation agriculture and encouraging women to take the lead

food security and the improved well-being of households and communities. PWS&D empowers rural women

OUR PURPOSE

in agricultural decision-making. Empowering rural women translates to better

Our mission as a congregation, with the Holy Spirit as our guide, is to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the world, and to fulfill our responsibilities to God and our neighbours.

Information concerning the various groups within the congregation may be obtained by calling the church office - 519-438-3492

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Monday - Friday

111 Elmwood Avenue E., London, Ontario N6C 1J4 Phone: 519-438-3492 Hall: 519-438-3491

Email: contact@elmwoodchurch.ca Website: www.elmwoodchurch.ca



Caring





Christ Sunday, December 29, 2019

First Sunday after Christmas



Minister: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton Today's Worship Leader: Margaret McGugan Director of Music: Lorraine Clark, A. Mus., B.Mus., B.Ed. Organist Emeritus: Bert Van der Hoek, ARCCO

If able, please stand where indicated with an * asterisk.

Organ Prelude: Noel Huron

Denis Bédard

Words of Welcome and Announcements

We Gather To Worship God

Lighting of the Worship Candle

*Congregational Introit: Holy, holy, holy (verse 1)

299

*Responsive Call to Worship:

- L: In this great season of Christmas, we recount the gracious deeds of God, all the praiseworthy acts the Lord has done for us:
- P: Praise God for coming to dwell among us, Immanuel.
- L: Praise God for the good news of Jesus, the pioneer of our salvation.
- P: Praise God for making us brothers and sisters in Christ.
- L: Praise God who is present with us still, lifting us up and carrying us.
- P: God's glory shines in heaven and on earth. Praise the Lord!

L: Let us worship God

*Hymn: In the bleak mid-winter

145

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

P: Christ, have mercy upon us

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

Prayer for the Day

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

L: The Peace of Christ be with you all

P: And also with you

Children's Time: The Carpenter's Tools

*Hymn: The first Nowell # 136

Hear the Word of God

Unison Prayer of Illumination:

Almighty God, in the beginning was the Word;

And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

On this day of discovery and light; we long to hear your holy Word.

Open our ears to the call of your voice.

Open our eyes to the dawning of a new day.

Fill us with anticipation for your future. Amen.

First Reading: **Isaiah 63:7-9** (pgs. 803-r, 726-w, 605-NRSV)

Responsive Psalm: 148 (Refrain II)

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen.

Scripture Readings: **Hebrews 2:10-18** (pgs. 1289-r, 1162-w, 971-NRSV)

Matthew 2:13-23 (pgs. 1036-r. 934-w. 784-NRSV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord.

P: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Sermon: "The Unscripted Pageant"

We Respond in Faith and Service

*Hymn: Angels from the realms of glory # 146

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

L: Lord, in your mercy

P: Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

Offering of our Gifts in Response

G.F. Handel Organ Offertory: Pastorale

*Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow #830

*Prayer of Dedication

*Hymn: Good Christians, all rejoice # 141

*Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen (congregation)

Organ Postlude: Gloria in Excelsis Deo Michael Bedford



Welcome Visitors! - Thank you for worshipping with us today, at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church. You have enriched our community and we hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. Please feel

free to remain after the worship service for Coffee Hour and fellowship in Fleck Hall. You may wish to visit us on the web at www.elmwoodchurch.ca to learn more about us and what opportunities are available for personal spiritual growth and service to others. If you are not an involved member of a faith community, but seeking one, we invite you to return here any Sunday for worship and fellowship.

If you would like to speak to the minister, or have him visit, you are very welcome to be in touch with him. Please contact the church office 519-438-3492.

Listen Again: You can hear recordings of the latest sermons on our website. Visit www.elmwoodchurch.ca/media



Welcome Back Margaret McGugan! – Margaret and her husband, Rob are long term members at New St. James Presbyterian Church. She's an Elder, a choir member, and a bible study leader. She has

lay-ministry certificates from Knox College and Princeton University and recently audited a Homiletics course at Huron College. Margaret enjoys her pulpit supply visits to surrounding churches, preaching the gospel.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Play Area for children aged 0-7 yrs. during the worship service. An usher can direct you there. Please make the necessary arrangements for your children's supervision. Thank you.

Poinsettia Orders – Please remember to pick yours up after the service this Thank you from your Work & Worship Committee morning.

Church Office will be closed December 30 through January 1 and will reopen Thursday, January 2, 2020.

Elmwood Ladies Fellowship - No meetings in January & February, but will resume March 3rd.

Bible Study - will resume January 9, 2020.

Annual Report time is fast approaching. The 2019 written and financial forms are in your committees' mailbox. Completion date is January 12, 2020....or earlier please!



Many thanks to our congregation for their generous MISSION donations!! Due to your enthusiasm we shall continue this format for missions in 2020! Merci!

Notice for January & February 2020 - For our Hospitality Breakfast February 29th, we are collecting hand towels, face cloths, Kleenex, laundry detergent (liquid or pods). Your mission committee