



***The Messenger: December 2015***  
***Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC***

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The Moderator has issued a first call for a ***Congregational Meeting*** at **11:15 a.m. on *Sunday, December 20, 2015***, for the purpose of approving the annual budget for the 2016 calendar year. Please plan to attend.

## **From Pastor Howard**

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***A Message from Interim Pastor, Rev. Howard K. Bell***

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## The Race that is Set Before Us

*"Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight...and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..." (Hebrews 12:1 - 2a)*



In the seven months that I have served in Interim Ministry with you, I continue to feel blessed by each of you who give so faithfully of your time, talent and treasure to serve the mission of this beloved faith community. I have heard very few complaints from anyone about the multitude of demands that have been placed on all of us to fulfill both our normal responsibilities of church engagement and leadership, but also to take on the additional interim tasks. I find the author of Hebrews' word so applicable: *Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.*" Thanks be to God that Jesus is the pioneer and perfecter of our faith! Thanks be to God for the cloud of witnesses that have preceded us at Edina Morningside Church and for all those future witnesses for whom we now persevere!

The interim tasks we have already accomplished in these past seven months include a review of church history, the evaluation of music and worship ministries, and our identification of specific ways we might consider for living into our Mission and Vision. All the various Boards and Committees - with strong coordination from the Church Cabinet and Moderator, Sonja Martens - have been most diligent in their ministries while keeping one eye focused on current and future interim tasks. We have a new website, a new church database, deeper community engagement through Morningside U. and other uses of our church facility by the community; more consistent marketing/messaging to the community, a strong Christian Education and intergenerational outreach program, a highly engaged and

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## Pastoral Care

## Taize Worship



Join us in the sanctuary at 7 pm on Sunday, December 20th, for our monthly Taize Service. All are welcome. We will share a light soup supper in the library following worship.

inspirational music program; outstanding, ongoing vital ministries of the Board of Deacons and the Board of Women's Fellowship; and we are nearing completion of the Church Profile by the Settled Pastor Search Committee. The Board of Trustees have also developed building repair and upgrade plans for consideration by the congregation early in 2016. This has truly been a full and rich seven months!

All of you have recently shown a remarkably deep faithfulness and commitment to the vital future of Edina Morningside Church through your 2016 pledges - both your financial pledges and your pledges of time and talent. **Thank you!** The financial pledge campaign will continue through the end of year, but the Board of Stewardship reports that, as of the end of November, 33 of the 55 financial pledges received have increased the amount of their pledges this year from 2015! **Thank you!** We look forward to announcing a final total in time for the December 20th Congregational Meeting.

Each Sunday during Advent we are singing a verse of the familiar Advent Hymn, "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" The word "Emmanuel" means "God With Us." May God's Spirit be present within this community during Advent and during the coming year. This hymn's second verse reads as follows:

*"O Come, O Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show, and help us on that way to go. Rejoice!"* (New Century Hymnal #116) What

more beautiful prayer could we share together than these words? There are many commitments that our community will need to make during the remaining months of our Interim

Ministry Time: successfully completing the 2016 Stewardship Drive; approving the 2016 Budget; approving repair and upgrade recommendations for our church building; approving a Capital Campaign to fund those projects; supporting the Church Cabinet in determining strategic goals to "live into" our Mission and Vision; and aligning our governance with the identified goals. This ambitious agenda will require wisdom from our high to order all things far and nigh. May each of us individually and communally, ask God to show us the path of knowledge and help us in that way to go. And may we rejoice together each

## VEAP UPDATE



*Meeting Basic Needs.  
Building Stronger Communities.*

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### Holiday Toy Drive

VEAP will be looking for toys, games, and winter clothing to be collected by December 12. VEAP's goal is to provide one toy, one book, and two winter wear items per child and one game per household for low income families in Richfield, Bloomington, Edina, and south Minneapolis. All donations must be NEW items. In an effort to be equitable, VEAP will only distribute items valuing \$10-\$20. Click [here](#) for detailed list of needs.

**And don't forget that the food shelf can always use donations, at any time of the year. Let's fill up our narthex grocery cart!!**

[Barb Green](#), Deacons

## Moderator's Corner

by Sonja Martens

Happy Winter! I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We went to Nebraska and saw a lot of family - it was truly a blessing. It made me think about our church family and how lucky we are to have each other. As we move into this Christmas season, let's all make it a goal to let someone in our church family know how much they are appreciated. Call someone you haven't seen or heard from recently and touch base. Let's see if we can't connect with all our members and friends for Christmas.

We have a lot of other things to be thankful for here at Edina Morningside Church too! If I listed them all, I would miss the Messenger deadline (the problem with being out of town for Thanksgiving), so I will keep this short.

If you haven't checked out the new website, be sure to do so. It is fabulous! (Thank you to Steve and Robin Ray, Karin Miller and Charlie Green for all your hard work on it!!!!) Be sure to click on "login" and request access so you can get into the members and friends portion of the website. There will be lots of information posted, including minutes from committees, so you can keep track of what is going on. Also, fill out your profile - soon you won't need to look for that little directory, the information will be online for members and friends and you can make changes as your information changes.

We are finishing the Stewardship drive for 2016. If you haven't returned your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. We will be voting on the final budget for 2016 at a Congregational meeting on December 20. This is earlier than in past years, but there are so many exciting things going on, including with the pastoral search and plans to repair and make our building a more welcoming space, that we need to be ready for the new

## Women's Fellowship

For the month of December we are bringing back the **Mitten Tree.**



We will be collecting all sizes mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for Community Emergency Services. There will be a tree in the narthex where you can hang your contributions. Let's cover the tree with things to warm the hands, heads and hearts of the CES clientele. If you are unable to get items for the tree, the December loose change offering will go to CES so there is another opportunity to participate. Blessings!

year with a final budget.

Thank you to everyone for all the work and energy you have put into the church this year. You are helping make it a time of growth and excitement for our community! It is a gift we should remember to be thankful for this Christmas.

Have a wonderful, merry Christmas and may we all have a blessed New Year.

Blessings, Sonja



## HOLIDAY BAKE SALE & COOKIE WALK

Sunday, December 13

After church come down to coffee hour and pick out some tasty holiday treats to buy for home. It's the annual Women's Fellowship Holiday bake sale!

Baked and pastry donations are welcome - just bring them to Fellowship Hall before worship or arrange to drop them off at the church during the week!.

Use one of ours or bring your own container for the Cookie Walk.

Questions? Contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaitre](#)

## Christian Education

### Advent Workshop,

Sunday, December 6, 3 - 5 pm



An annual tradition is back, this time under the umbrella of Morningside U. We'll be inviting the community to make crafts that celebrate the season, each available for the cost of the change in your glove compartment. Come meet church friends and neighbors, and put a twinkle in your eye by making a sugar house or a tree ornament with someone you love.

### Families Moving Forward

Monday, December 7, 5:30 - 7:30 pm



Edina Morningside will provide dinner and fun at Parkway UCC in North Minneapolis for families transitioning out of homelessness. We'll serve the taco salad supper that we've made for Loaves &

Fishes and bring over a winter craft from our Advent Workshop. If you would like to shop, cook, serve, or play with the kids, contact Janet Anderson.

### **Economic Justice Brunch...and Carolling!**

Saturday, December 12, 11:30-2:00

We'll head to [Victory 44](#) in North Minneapolis for a winter brunch at 11:30, mindful at this season of giving to bring our money to communities that can use it. At 1:00, we'll wipe our mouths and walk to Victory Memorial Parkway to spend an hour caroling. I'll bring candy kisses and candy canes to hand out to passers-by. No knocking on doors, just camaraderie and the spirit of the season!

### **Christmas Pageant**

Sunday, December 20

This year's Christmas pageant will be performed Sunday, December 20th during worship. All ages of children are encouraged to participate. Pre-k through 12 students are rehearsing during Sunday school, and a final rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 19th from 10:00 a.m.-noon. It's not too late to get in the cast, and even adults are welcome. (Also, we haven't yet found our baby Jesus...) Contact Janet if you would like to participate as an actor, set designer, or bringer of rehearsal cookies...



### **Women's Prison Book Project**

Sunday, January 3, noon-2:00 p.m.



## **Birthday Blowout**

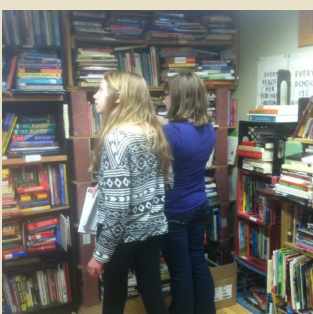
### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Dec 4	Carol Weidt
Dec 10	Norma Stout
Dec 14	Larry Williams
Dec 14	Pete Haugen
Dec 14	Kathleen Lundgren
Dec 16	Richard Jamieson
Dec 17	Karin Miller
Dec 25	Jeff Rice
Dec 27	Mary Engelke
Dec 27	Chris Eckberg
Dec 29	Charlie Green
Dec 30	Darlene Clay

*Please let us know if we've missed your big day!!*



## **PRESCHOOL NEWS**



Middle and high school students are encouraged to put on their calendars a visit to Boneshaker Books after church on Sunday, January 3 to pick and mail titles to women in prison.

**Date Change:** A reminder that the next BOCE meeting will be held on December 3rd at 7:00 p.m

[Janet Anderson](#)

Director, Children, Youth & Family Life

## Settled Pastor Update

Greetings from the Settled Pastor Search Committee.

Just a quick update on the settled pastor search: we have completed the initial draft of the church profile! Last Sunday, Barb Green presented a summary of the Church Finances section. Look for other committee members to present more information during the next few weeks of Advent.

Each search committee member is pulling together information on these areas of the profile:

Local Search Profile: Laurie Cory

Church Finances: Barb Green

Financial Support of Ministerial Leaders: Doug Toth

Community Characteristics: Karin Miller

Congregational Life: Larry Williams, with support from Cathy Baldwin and Don Patrick

Wider Church Connections: Cathy Baldwin

Relationship with Ministerial Leaders: Martha Phelps

General: Jeff Strickler

The Preschool had a great Thanksgiving feast. The children made pumpkin muffins, butter and applesauce as cooking projects. On the day of the feast, the children set the table, prepared the food and sang songs to the family and friends who attended the feast. There were over 100 people who came!

The month of December will be a busy time for preschool! Our theme is Celebrations and Music.

We will be learning about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas.

We have two preschool events happening in December. On Monday, December 7th, we will have our Preschool Open House from 4 - 5:30 pm. We have open enrollment starting in January for the 2016/17 school year. Anyone who is interested in Preschool come join us at the open house!! On December 15th at 6:30 pm we have our Holiday Program. We will be singing Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Christmas songs in the EMC sanctuary followed by a cookie reception

We remain on schedule:

- 1) Have a draft of the Church Profile completed by the end of 2015.
- 2) Post the job opening in February and conduct phone/skype interviews as the candidates apply.
- 3) Hold in person interviews for the final candidates in February and March.
- 4) If all goes well... present the final candidate to the congregation in April for a May start date.

We are planning a Congregational information meeting about the profile following worship on **January 31, 2016**. Hope to see you there!

We also recently completed a survey to gather some information about our church. Thank you for responding - this is vital feedback for the search committee.

Resources: UCC Video about the search process:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3xGJyjiloM>

Information about the church profile: click [here](#). The Church Profile is essentially the marketing booklet that we send out to applicants. It contains a lot of information about the church, our history, mission/vision, outreach programs, finances, and staff.

Please let me or any committee member know if you have any questions, comments or concerns. We appreciate all your thoughts and prayers as we work through the settled pastor search process.

Doug Toth, chair on behalf of the Settled Search committee members Laurie Cory, Barb Green, Karin Miller, Larry Williams, Cathy Baldwin, Don Patrick, Martha Phelps and Jeff Strickler.

in fellowship hall.

The preschool board ordered new chairs for us! If you would like to own a piece of preschool history, the old chairs are for sale.

We are asking \$10 per chair. There are a total of 18 original chairs from at least 1969 and 10 newer chairs for sale. The money raised from the chair sale will be used to buy new equipment for the Preschool.

The preschool board will host a Parent Night Out on Saturday, December 5th from 4 - 8 pm. The cost is \$5 per child, per hour. Come join the fun with other children! Bring a bag dinner, stay for a good time playing, outdoor excitement and a movie with popcorn. Ages 1-9 are welcome!

Melissa Clarke

## Community Events

December is full of opportunities to get out and support the talented folks here at Edina Morningside. See below for some of these events:



# DAYLIGHT CENTER & SCHOOL, KENYA



## EMC Contact:

Pam DeLaittre

[pdelait@earthlink.net](mailto:pdelait@earthlink.net)

Daylight is striving to break the cycle of extreme poverty in the families they serve. For more information click [here](#) or look for the Daylight update in the narthex at church.

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the dedicated people who support Daylight, and the staff and children at Daylight in your prayers.

Blessings!

*Pam*

## Chorales and Canticles

December 10, 2015 | 7:30 PM

Hamline United Methodist Church

1514 Englewood Ave, St Paul, MN 55104

For his advanced degree recital EMC music director, Alex Heetland will conduct the University Chamber Singers and University Singers at this concert in selections by Monteverdi, Bouzignac and Puccini. Kathy Romey and Matthew Mehaffey will also conduct on the program.

## Antigone

Valley View Middle School Theatre department is busy preparing for their upcoming show Antigone. Amélie Fantin is playing the role of Antigone's nurse. Click [here](#) for show times.

## Families Moving Forward Holiday Concert Benefit

Friday, December 4, 2015 - 7:30pm to 9:30pm | Colonial Church of Edina

6200 Colonial Way, Edina, MN 55436

Annual concert performed by the talented Lake Wobegon Brass Band®

## Financial Update

### October 31, 2015 Update on Status of Pledged Income

Pledge Income	Month of October	YTD October 31
Budgeted Pledge Income	\$16,185	\$161,850
Actual Pledge Income	\$8,615	\$143,690
Variance	-\$7,570	-\$18,160

Preliminary November results are encouraging. However, it is most important for everyone to be current in their giving as soon as possible, but no later than by December 31, 2015. Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministries of this church.



## Community Emergency Services

In December we will be collecting mittens and loose coin offering to benefit **Community Emergency Service (CES)**, 1900 11th Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404, CES is a non-profit crisis relief and empowerment ministry that extends God's love to those in the inner city of South Minneapolis. Inspired by the philanthropy of Russell Lund, Sr. (of Lund's Foods) and the vision of Pastor William Berg, CES was organized in 1971 as an outreach of Augustana Lutheran Church of Minneapolis. It began with the purpose of offering a one-stop, personal approach for crisis aid for the inner city's poorest residents. CES staff and its 1,000 volunteers are on the front lines of providing hope and compassion to our multi-generational, multi-cultural, low-income clientele.

## Front Porch Friday



Please join Front Porch Friday on Dec 18 for "A Nordic Christmas" at the American Swedish Institute. We will gather at 10:00 at Edina Morningside and carpool to the Institute, 2600 Park Av. S MPLS.

benefitting our Families Moving Forward program. It's free to attend and an offering will be taken for Families Moving Forward. For more information please check the calendar on the [Beacon Interfaith website](#).

**The Great Northern Union Chorus** (featured by MPR with a live broadcast from the Minnesota State Fair this past summer) is joining with the City of Lakes Chorus to present "Homeward Bound," a holiday show for families of all ages. Come and enjoy the music of two of the top choruses in the world of acapella music. Three shows will be presented at Hopkins High School on Saturday, December 12 and Sunday, December 13.

Edina Morningside Church is represented in both choruses...Charlie Green currently sings with the GNU, and Skip Carlson, Kathleen Lundgren and Barb Green are all alumnae of City of Lakes. Tickets can be purchased [online](#). A senior discount is available, and student tickets are half-price.

**The Wizard of Oz**

Cost is \$10, no reservations needed.  
Lunch will be at the Black Forest Inn.  
Signup in the EMC Narthex, or email:  
[Laura Simonson](#) or [Molly Cox](#) by Sunday, December 13

Excerpt from the Star Tribune:



When winter darkness shrouds the lakes and forests of the North, trolls or tomte brighten the landscape with magic and mischief. Each of the Nordic countries -- Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Finland and Sweden -- has its own gnomes, trolls and fairy-tale characters. This year they will be joined at the American Swedish Institute by Grandfather Frost and Snow-Maiden, who traditionally deliver holiday gifts to Russian children."

There will be a life-size elf house, bonfires in Holiday Square, "glogg tours" from the Institute's restaurant; music; performances, talks about Nordic myths and legend, and a holiday market.



EMC's own Ella Williams is currently part of the cast in the Children's Theatre Company production of the Wizard of Oz. This fantastic show runs through Jan. 10. Click [here](#) for information on show times and to purchase tickets.

## December Calendar

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[December Calendar](#)

## Messenger Deadline

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December 28th is the deadline for articles to be included in the January Messenger.

## Contact Us

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Church Office,  
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Interim Pastor  
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Edina Morningside Community Church is Open and Affirming.

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