



The Messenger: April 2016  
Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC  
*We are an Open and Affirming congregation*

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**CALL TO MEETING**

***Edina Morningside Church, UCC, Annual Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, April 17. This meeting will include voting on Officers/Boards and Committees, approving the "We Will" Goals of 2016-2017, and receiving 2015/2016 Reports.***

## From Pastor Howard

### *The "Final" Chapter*



At the end of this month - **April 27, 2016**, to be exact - I will complete my one-year contract as Interim Pastor for Edina Morningside Community Church (EMC), United Church of Christ. I am grateful to God and for all the members and friends of EMC for this wonderful opportunity to have served in ministry together for the past year.

However, our time together will not be ending immediately. As anticipated, our time will need to be **extended**. The understanding the church and I have is that I will continue to serve EMC as Interim Pastor until a new Settled Pastor has been called and ready to begin his or her new ministry with you. During April, the Church Cabinet and I will be negotiating an extension of my Interim Ministry contract. I have indicated my willingness to remain in this role on a month-to-month basis for whatever time is required.

The **Pastoral Search Committee** has begun to review Ministerial Profiles of potential candidates for the Settled Called Pastor Position! During April they will have meetings to discuss ratings of the applicants. Over the next few weeks, or even months, they will then be conducting a series of phone, Skype and/or in-person interviews. In-person interview(s) will require agreed upon schedules of the committee and the applicant(s); and could involve making travel arrangements. Discernment of a candidate to be brought before the congregation for consideration of a call involves God, the committee and the potential candidate. This process needs to take **whatever time is necessary** for a successful outcome.

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## *A Vibrant Home*

*Edina  
Morningside  
Church, UCC,  
Special Dinner  
Event  
Wednesday,  
April 20 6:00pm*

Our mission statement calls for Morningside to build "a vibrant home". That's the goal (and

Once the Search Committee has selected a candidate, a weekend will need to be arranged for the candidate to meet the congregation, to lead worship and to preach a Call Sermon. **A vote of the congregation** will follow that service. If a call is extended, a contract will be negotiated that will include the date to begin this new ministry together. That date could require 30, 60, or 90 days if the Called Settled Pastor is currently serving in ministry and notice is required to be given for their current ministry site.

Last month in my pastor's message I wrote about practices that might be used to successfully terminate relationships including this relationship between us. The first required step is to "**set a specific and clear end date.**" I have shared this outline of what needs to happen before we can set such a date. I will look forward to participating in the "termination process" when we are able to set that date following the call of the new settled pastor.

I have also referred to our Interim Ministry Time as like writing a book with twelve chapters and each chapter representing one month. I have referenced - from the beginning - that we might need to consider an epilogue to that book. As I was reflecting on this message, I had **an out-of-season epiphany!** I think we should write a **sequel** rather than an epilogue. The dictionary definition of an epilogue is: "*a section at the end of a book that serves as a comment on or a conclusion to what has happened.*" The definition of a sequel is: "*a published work that continues the story or develops the theme of an earlier one.*" Since we may still have several months together, I am thinking that a sequel offers us a chance to both continue our story and develop some new themes to address specific areas of need for this beloved faith community. I look forward to building on all that we have done and discovering yet new possibilities for our remaining

maybe the name?) of  
our **2017 Capital Campaign** and to get there, we need to start early - setting goals, discussing action plans and commitments.

We hope you will join us for dinner and discussion about improving our vibrant home on **Wednesday, April 20, 6pm**, in **library**. Enjoy a delicious catered meal and play a part in shaping our future.

The discussion will feature **Tom Johnson**, a church architect who has been working with the trustees to provide ideas on our building improvements. He brings a wealth of experience and a wonderful attitude to improving church life. You'll want to hear Tom speak and voice your opinions on which improvements are most important, which

time together.

Please note that I will be on vacation from Monday, April 4 through Monday, April 11. Thanks to **Rev. Molly Cox** for preaching and leading worship on Sunday, April 10.

**P.S.** The **Annual Meeting** following worship on **Sunday, April 17th** offers an opportunity for you to participate powerfully in our **"Sequel"** as well as the beginning of the ministry of the new Settled Pastor. Please prayerfully consider what lay leadership roles might ignite you in the coming year to fulfill your passions. Please email one of the members of the Board of Stewardship by clicking on their name: [Charlie Green](#), [Kathleen Lundgreen](#) or [Gary Lundgren](#) and let them know where you might like to serve or be prepared to say **"Yes!"** when they call you. The Annual Meeting will include voting on Officers/Boards and Committees, approving the **"We Will"** Goals of 2016-2017, and receiving 2015/2016 Reports. Tradition tells me this meeting can happen in just a few minutes prior to Fellowship Time.

**PPS: Sunday, April 17th** is also the **Secret Pal Reveal** during the Announcement Time and "Pals" are invited to sit together during the beginning of worship. Gift exchange and conversation will occur during Fellowship Time. Thanks to all who participated in this wonderful ministry.

**PPPS: Sunday, April 17th** is the inaugural joint UCC choir music event - **Make Me An Instrument** - that begins at **4:00pm** at **Mizpah UCC** in **Hopkins**. (See details in article below.) Alex Heetland and I dreamed up this idea of encouraging our choir to learn and to be

can wait, and how we fund them.

Please RSVP by emailing [Thom Miller](#). Since we are planning the meal, your RSVP is important. Come help make Morningside a vibrant home.

## ***Being Open and Affirming Changes Lives***

*A Celebration of the Open and Affirming Presence in the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ.*

Saturday, April 9  
Workshops: 1:00pm  
Worship: 2:30pm

**Linden Hills UCC,**  
4200 Upton Avenue So.,  
Mpls.

Preaching by **Rev. Lawrence Richardson,**  
Minister for Digital  
Evangelism, UCC

***Michael Kimpur***

able to present more challenging vocal music by combining and collaborating with other nearby UCC Church choirs. We hope this is just an inaugural event. Serendipitously, the music ministry at Union UCC in St. Louis Park were thinking along similar lines and they wanted to hold a combined UCC choir music event as a benefit for UCC Missionaries Tom and Monica Liddle. Thus "Make Me an Instrument was born with Parkway UCC and Mizpah joining in! This afternoon of music will celebrate the extra-ordinary music making we have at EMC, and our new connections to our fellow churches in the conference. I would like to see if we could get **forty (40) EMC folks** to attend! Sign up in the narthex or by emailing the church office [here](#).



***Make Me an Instrument,  
Benefit Concert***

**Sunday, April 17 4:00pm**

***preaching at  
Edina  
Morningside  
Church  
Sunday, April 24***

*Daylight Scholl Director,  
**Michael Kimpur** is traveling  
the US to speak about the  
Kenyan school which EMC  
supports. Come and here  
him preach during  
10am worship and then be  
available for discussion  
during Coffee and  
Fellowship Hour.*

***Adult  
Conversation:  
Faith  
Communities  
and People with  
Mental  
Illnessess  
& Their Families***

***Sunday, May 1  
11:15am in the  
Library***

## Mizpah UCC, 412 5th Ave North, Hopkins

Choirs, directors, and instrumentalists from four area congregations of the United Church of Christ (UCC) will join together for this benefit concert. The combined choirs of **Edina Morningside**, **Mizpah** in Hopkins, **Parkway**, Minneapolis, and **Union**, St. Louis Park UCC Churches will perform music of Ralph Vaughan Williams and a Jazz Mass by Bob Chilcott.

The concert benefits the ministries of **Rev. Tom Liddle** and **Dr. Monica Liddle** who plan to resume their ministry in **East Timor** under the Common Global Ministries Board of the UCC and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve a 4-year term with the **Protestant Church of East Timor (IPTL)**. Local churches and the United Church of Christ Minnesota Conference have joined in various ways to raise funds to support the couple in their unique and challenging ministry.

The title ***Make Me an Instrument***, a reference to St. Francis of Assisi's prayer that calls for peacemaking and healing, was chosen to draw attention to both the ministry of the Liddles and to the work of the musicians in churches. In addition to Vaughan Williams' ***Five Mystical Songs*** with baritone solos by Rev. Rick Wagner, Associate Minister for the Minnesota Conference, UCC; and Chilcott's ***Jazz Mass***, the performance will feature three new short pieces for choirs and congregation written by three of the choir directors.

Leading the choirs will be Edina Morningside's **Alex Heetland**, Mizpah's **Andy Pokel**, Parkway's **Bonnie McClain**, and Union's **Art Clyde**. The ministers of the hosting churches- **Rev. Howard Bell**, Edina Morningside; **Rev. Zoey Kuester**, Mizpah; **Rev. Kathy Itzen**, Parkway; and **Rev. Barbara Martin**, Union will participate with readings and poetry.

We have invited a speaker from the National Association on Mental Health (NAMI), Minnesota Chapter to present to us on this topic: *Learn to increase your understanding of the role faith and faith communities play in recovery for people living with mental illnesses as you increase your understanding of mental illnesses, learn the impact of the associated stigma, and learn about NAMI and its resources.*

*EMC Member, Gwen Williams will also share a bit of her story with us along with a time for questions and discussion.*

## Pastoral Care Update

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There is no admission charge, but a **free will offering** will be accepted on behalf of the Liddle's who will attend. All are invited to a reception following the concert.

## Settled Pastor Update

Greetings again from the settled pastor search committee. Our settled pastor job is posted on both the national and the Minnesota UCC conference web site. We are receiving applications from local candidates, as well as many national candidates. It is an exciting and prayerful time for the committee, as we seek to discern who would be the best fit for our congregation moving forward. Based on the quality and number of candidates, this may take a while to select a candidate. Thank you for your patience as we work through this time of reflection.

Please don't hesitate to talk with any committee member about the process, although due to confidentiality we can't discuss individual applicants.

*Doug Toth* on behalf of the Settled Pastor Search Committee

## Christian Education

### SUNDAY SCHOOL



April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Constance Fantin and Janet Anderson will be talking with all ages of Sunday-schoolers about resurrection as we make seed paper: recycled writing paper

that contains seeds and can be planted. After it dries, we'll give our paper away at the Earth Work Breakfast on April 23<sup>rd</sup>!



Join us in the sanctuary at 7 pm on Sunday, April 24 for our monthly Taize Service. All are welcome. We will share a light soup supper in the library following worship.

## Preschool News



The preschool is excited for April to come. It means spring is here and the weather will warm up. We will be looking for signs of spring outside and in our daily learning at school.

On **Tuesday, April 12th**

April 10: Janet will be on vacation, so there will be no Sunday school for high school students. There will be classes for K-5 and 6-8 grades as usual.

## SECRET PALS

April 17<sup>th</sup>: The revelation of Secret Pals will take place on Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, the date of the annual meeting. We'll give each participant a sticker with his or her number to wear and they will be able to find one another for a chat, or even sit together at the start of worship. Adults, remember to bring your pal something special that day-nothing more expensive than a greeting card. Kids, remember to bring your pal a thank you note. Until then, keep those bags on the third floor rustling with messages and trinkets! And keep using your eyes, ears, and smarts to figure out who your pal is!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL EARTH WORK BREAKFAST



Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Earth Work Breakfast. Neil and Greta Kulevksy return to flip omelets to order starting at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Along with good food and company, we'll have on hand pollinator-friendly seeds, seed paper made by our Sunday-schoolers, and a solar oven made from a cardboard box in which we'll toast some marshmallows. While we wait for our food, youth will be encouraged to recycle old t-shirts by making them into bags: bring your own out-grown T or use one that has been donated. At 9:45, we'll head to Browndale Park with garbage bags and

from 6:30 - 7:30 pm, we will have our Spring Open House. Please feel free to invite friends who are looking for a preschool in the fall. We have several openings in the morning and even more openings in the afternoon.

The Preschool Board will host a **Parent Night Out** on **Saturday, April 9th from 4 - 8 pm.** There will be a sign up sheet for families to register their child or children for this event. Ages for children will be 1-9.

Please keep in mind this a fundraiser for the Preschool scholarships for next school year. Suggest-ed donated amount is \$20 for 4 hours of care. Contact [me](#) for more details.

Summer camp enrollment has started! We will have 5 weeks of camp this summer. Destiny and I will be the summer camp teachers.

The themes for camp are:  
June 6-9, What's Growing?  
June 27-30, Red, White  
and Blue  
July 18-22, Don't Bug Me  
Aug. 1-4, Summer  
Olympics  
Aug. 15-18, Up at the Lake



gloves (bring your own) to pick up litter and check out the edible garden. You'll be done with earth stewardship by 11:00 a.m. Come prepared to meet parents and youth from other TRUST congregations who have been invited to join us. See you there!

### **MORNINGSIDE AFTER DARK**

Monday, April 25 from 7:30-9:00 p.m. is your last chance this season to enjoy the live music and storytelling of Morningside After Dark. This month's theme is "Lost and Found." Gather with church and community friends for hot coffee, belles lettres, belly laughs, and toe-tapping good times.

### **BOCE meets Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Janet Anderson  
Director, Christian Education, Youth, & Family Life

Summer camp is Monday through Thursday from 9am to 12. Noon Join us for \$27 per day or \$93 for 4 days.

Please note that the weeks of July 18th and August 15th are already full!! There are limited spaces available for the other weeks of camp. Please contact me with any questions.

[Melissa](#)

## **April Calendar**

[April Calendar](#)

## **DAYLIGHT CENTER & SCHOOL, KENYA**



**EMC Contact:**  
**Pam DeLaitre**  
[\*\*pdelait@earthlink.net\*\*](mailto:pdelait@earthlink.net)

Follow the link below to read the answers to a few of the questions EMC youth had about Daylight School and its goat "herd".

## **Women's Fellowship THANK YOU**

To everyone who donated bakery items and/or "shopped" at our bake sale and cookie walk on Palm Sunday.

We made over \$400.00 which will be put to good use around the church.

Thank you for your support. We couldn't do it without you. Blessings!

***Pam DeLaitre***

## Daylight Update.

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*



### Welcome to "PrayerNet"

#### Edina Morningside United Church of Christ's Online Prayer Chain

PrayerNet is EMC's new online prayer chain. Pam Olson, the PrayerNet backup person, and I, Kathleen Lundgren, are shepherding this exciting communication piece which will be able to interact with everyone who needs to request a prayer or who chooses to become included to fulfill prayers that have been requested by people like yourselves. Click [here](#) to find simple instructions as to what information your request needs to contain. When you enter this information it will be forwarded to me. I will forward the prayer requests to the PrayerNet group asking them to pray for the person or situation requested. For those without internet connections you will be able to use a mail-in request to the church office which will also be forwarded to me for distribution.

*Kathleen*



### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 3 Julia Eckberg  
April 4 Pam DeLaitre  
April 12 Jim Cory  
April 13 Marjorie  
Wezeman  
April 17 Rev. Joe Clay  
April 28 Corey Green

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

## Messenger Deadline



April 25th is the deadline for articles to be included in the May Messenger.

*"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Amen."*

## FRONT PORCH FRIDAY



*Please join Front Porch Friday on April 29th for a tour of Beacon Interfaith's Nicollet Square.*

*Nicollet Square has 42 studio apartments with supportive services designed for youth ages 16 - 21 who have experience homelessness or are exiting the foster care system.*

*We will have lunch after our hour long tour at the Butter Bakery Cafe, a neighboring business that offers internship opportunities to residents of Nicollet Square.*

*Sign up in the EMC Narthex or email [Molly Cox](mailto:MollyCox@beaconinterfaith.org) or*

## Morningside After Dark



Monday, April 25  
from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

is your last chance this season to enjoy the live music and storytelling of Morningside After Dark. This month's theme is

### ***"Lost and Found."***

Gather with friends and enjoy a Caribou-hosted coffee bar or a springtime mocktail by event sponsor The Twisted Shrub with organic mixed nuts provided by Isadore Nut Co.

We're pulling out all of the stops for our 2016 closing show...don't miss it! Updates on performers available through the Facebook event page under: Morningside After Dark. Thank you in advance to Pastor Howard and all church volunteers who help to bring this event to life! And look for a plug of the event on **Fox 9** on **April 22** at **9:45am!** Thank you.

***Rebecca Bell Sorensen***

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

We are providing you financial information regarding pledges each month in the Messenger. Please make every effort to keep your pledge payments current. Direct deposit is the best way to assure that you current. The form to authorize direct deposit is available on our website. Click [here](#) to access the form.

Messenger Financial Report	February	Year-to-Date
	2016	2/29/16
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,462	\$36,925
Actual Pledges	\$19,133	\$32,056
Difference	\$671	-\$4,869

## Contact Us

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And find archived newsletters and calendar information at our web site:

[Edina Morningside Community Church](#)

