



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

4201 Morningside Road, Edina, Minnesota 55416 (952) 926-6555
emcucc@emcucc.org www.emcucc.org

From Pastor Howard

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Behold! We are Doing
New Things!

*"Behold, I am doing a
new thing; now it springs
forth, do you not perceive
it?"*

*I will make a way in the
wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah
43:19)*



In last month's message I suggested that - in April - we, together, were writing the "Final Chapter" of our book titled "EMC Interim Ministry Time". However, the "Final Chapter" does not mean that I am finished as your Interim Pastor. I completed my one-year contract on April 30, 2016. The Church Cabinet and I have agreed to renew my contract on a month-to-month basis beginning May 1, 2016. This contract will extend until the Congregation has called a new settled Pastor and a date has been set for the beginning of their new ministry with you.

I also suggested last month that - in May - we, together, would begin writing a **sequel**. I have now titled that sequel: **"Behold, We are Doing New Things!"** I am taking this title from verse 19 of the 43rd chapter of the Book of Isaiah.

(see above.) Isaiah invites us to perceive what is springing forth. Isaiah is prophesying new things that God is about to

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Pastoral Care Update

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

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

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*

do for the people of Israel. I am "prophesying" that God is about to do new things for Edina Morningside Community Church, United Church of Christ (EMC). We have made our way through the wilderness of *Interim Ministry Time* where we looked back on our history, evaluated ministries, and determined goals for our community to live into in the coming year and beyond. During the writing of this sequel, let us make a way in the wilderness, let us go down by the river, let us be refreshed, and let us see the path that God intends for us to follow.

The April 17, 2016 Annual

Congregational meeting was a significant marker in the life of EMC. We approved five "**We Will**" statements as goals for the coming year and beyond. We elected a new [slate](#) of board members. We re-elected **Sonja Martens** as Moderator for 2016- 2017. We elected **Jeff Strickler** as an Associate Moderator. *(This is a new church officer position approved by the church Cabinet at their March meeting.)* We received a report from the Board of Trustees that they had appointed **Mark Lorenzen** as a new volunteer Treasurer replacing **Cindy Joyce**. We will also be hiring a paid bookkeeper to assist Mark. We received the [2015 Annual Report](#). Thanks to everyone *(staff and volunteers)* who served during the past year and for the excellent reports provided. If you have not had the opportunity to read these reports in April, I

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.



Join us in the sanctuary at 7 pm on Sunday, May 15th for our final Taize Service of the program year. All are welcome. We will share a light soup supper in the library following worship.

Tho

Spring

strongly encourage you to do so in May.

They are highly informative and indicate the high level of ministry activity, commitment and energy which we all have experienced during the past year.

As for May 2016: "*now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?*" Here are some of the "springs":

- All of us will be guided by the approved "**We Will**" Goal Statements.
- Monday, May 16, I will be facilitating a **Leadership Training** session for all new and continuing board and committee members.
- Our newly elected **officers** begin their new terms at the beginning of the Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, May 24.
- The **May meetings** for each EMC board and committee serve as a transition into a new year as they each elect a chair, a secretary and a person to represent them on the Church Cabinet.
- Our **confirmands** will be in retreat on May 6 and 7. Please be in prayer for them as they write their statements of faith and as they determine whether or not they choose to be confirmed and whether or not they will join EMC. Confirmation Sunday will be celebrated on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th.
- The **Southwest Corner** of our church building will be undergoing repair

Workday



Please join us for Spring Workday, 9:00am, Saturday May 21. As they say: Many hands make for light work. It's amazing what we accomplish during this 1/2 day each season. We'll have lots of jobs: some heavy, some light, some short, some long, some inside, some outside. Please join us for lunch afterwards as well.

A Vibrant Home

About 35 of our congregation recently enjoyed dinner and discussion surrounding our 2017 Capital Campaign.

Tom Johnson, church architect, joined us and presented his rationale for investing in church improvements. Tom's suggestions were originally

beginning on May 20th.

- In anticipation of a new pastor, the Church Cabinet approved a new **Pastoral Relations Committee**. They will also have a May organizing meeting.
- The Moderator will be appointing an Ad Hoc **Governance Committee** to both review how to govern ourselves more efficiently in the future and to consider a possible re-write of the church constitution. This group will begin in May and will continue for as long as it takes - maybe even a year or more. A change in church governance requires time for discernment and review by the full congregation.
- An Ad Hoc **Personnel Committee** will meet to begin reviewing staff job descriptions and updating personnel policies.
- We kicked off planning for a **2017 Capital Appeal** with a dinner on April 20th. The committee will be finalized in the coming weeks and months. The campaign is anticipated for February to April 2017.
- The **Pastoral Search Committee** has begun the selection process for a new settled Pastor. They will continue interviewing applicants in May and until such time as they arrive at a consensus candidate to bring to the Church Cabinet, who will then vote on whether or not to bring that candidate

given to the Trustees almost two years ago and provided a framework for our current planned improvements. His perspective on such improvements can be summed up this way-that instead of thinking about how we can improve the building for ourselves, we need to focus on improvements that will welcome the community around us. One of Tom's best phrases is that if we're not outward focused, ***we can love ourselves to death.*** If we don't reach out and bring others in, our church will slowly diminish and go away. We look forward to tackling this challenge with our capital campaign and would like you to be a part. If interested, please contact

Trustee
[Thom Miller.](#)

Preschool News



to the congregation for a Call.

I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that all of us will experience as we nurture these emerging "springs"; as we seek to discern God's will in all our ministries; and as we seek to "*make a way in the wilderness*" and "*rivers in the desert.*" **Behold, the new things that we are doing!**

Moderator's Corner

1. We will develop a 5-year strategic plan to create goals, priorities, focus and governance structure for our financial, membership, outreach and church building ambitions. This plan will imagine new definitions and measures of success.
2. We will build on our already strong ministries of worship, music, the arts, education, fellowship and care for one another, to deepen the engagement of our spiritual community.
3. We will continue to use and expand our marketing resources to spread the good news about all that EMC has to offer.
4. We will deepen our understanding of the root causes of injustice and increase the impact of our outreach work by partnering with other churches and justice ministries.
5. We will host four congregational events a year - just for fun - to get to know one another better.

On April 17, as part of the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Congregation adopted these five "We Will"

Welcome May! We can't believe is is the end of the school year. The children have learned and grown so much in past 9 months. It has been a privilege to be a part of each child's learning experience at Edina Morningside Preschool.

This month our theme at school is animals far and near. We will celebrate our Mother's Day tea on Thursday, May 5. We will honor our Mothers, Grandmothers and Special Friends with homemade treats to eat and sing special songs. The children will give their mothers a handmade gift and card. Our end of year family party will be on Tuesday, May 17 at 6 pm. We will share a potluck dinner with families and enjoy an evening together. The teachers will recognize the children attending kindergarten next year.

The preschool classes will be going to Como Zoo on Wednesday, May 18 for our last field trip . We will

statements as goals for the next year. I look forward to working with all of you to accomplish these goals as we continue to move toward living into our Mission and Vision for Edina Morningside Church.

We also approved a slate of great candidates for the various Boards. Our biggest problem at the meeting related to this action - we ran out of ballots and had to print more! That is a problem I sincerely hope we face regularly at future meetings! Of course, we can still use your help, either as a member of a Board or Committee or as a volunteer helping those groups to implement their programs. And we are looking for volunteers to host all or a portion of a coffee hour this year. There is help available to run the coffee machine and to walk you through the process. Let Laurie in the office know if you are interested - or be willing to say yes if you are asked.

If you were unable to attend, the Meeting minutes and the Annual Report are both on the website. If you haven't gotten a Log-in ID and password yet, just go on the site (emcucc.org) and request it. You can then log in to see these items as well as the budget and minutes from Cabinet and other Boards and Committees. It is a great way to know what is going on in our EMC community. If you are not computer-savvy, contact the office for a hard copy. The Annual Report makes fun reading!

We closed on the repair loan from Cornerstone this week. Work on the Southwest corner is scheduled to start May 20. The Trustees are working with the contractor and a structural engineering company to clarify the extent of the work needed on the East wall - stay tuned for more information. And rails were installed this week on the steps in the chancel - hopefully this will be a gift to all of us with aging knees, myself included!

Finally, I want to say that it has been a true privilege to serve as your Moderator this past year and I am looking forward to continuing that work this coming year, with the assistance of our new Associate Moderator, Jeff

identify different types of animals and eat a picnic lunch together. The last day of preschool will be on Thursday, May 19 and the last day of Fab Friday will be on May 20.

There are still a few openings for summer camp. For the weeks starting June 6th and July 18th, we have room for one more friend. For the week starting August 1st, we still have room for two friends. The remaining two weeks are full. We are looking forward to an exciting summer!

[Melissa](#)



MAY BIRTHDAYS

**May 9 Art Downey
May 24 Bil Obert
May 28 Skip Carlson
May 29 John Stout
May 31 Ann Merrill**

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

Strickler. There are still a lot of "to dos" on the list but we have done an amazing amount this last year and I look forward to continuing that progress this coming year. As always, any input is more than welcome! Happy Spring!

Sonja Martens

Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We will have three Sunday school class periods this month. Children are invited to be in worship for Confirmation Sunday. See the schedule below:

May 1: Separate classes for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12

May 8: Separate classes for grades K-5, 6-8, 9-12

May 15: No Sunday school. All ages encouraged to be in worship as we welcome new confirmands.

May 22: All ages together in Sunday school for a celebration.

May 29: Memorial Day Weekend. No Sunday school until **Rally Sunday on September 11.**

OUTREACH

Act On Faith: Thursday, May 12, 7:00-8:30,
St. Mary's University Center, Minneapolis

Howard and I will be attending Act On Faith: an initiative of Beacon Interfaith Housing

Collaborative. Beacon will be requesting financial support from state officials for projects to support housing for homeless youths, as well as people locked out of shelter due to having criminal records. If you would like to be part of the faith

Messenger Deadline



May 23rd is the deadline for articles to be included in the June Messenger.

Women's Social Evening



What a wonderful time we had!

On Friday, April 22nd, 22 EMC women gathered in Fellowship Hall for an evening of relaxation and an opportunity to get to know each other better as we sipped wine, other beverages and munched on snacks. Patty Strickler brought the materials and some women tied a fleece blanket for patients at the Methodist Hospital Cancer Center.

community that stands up for these projects, join us. Registration is required. See Howard or Janet for more information.

Families Moving Forward:

Monday, May 23
5:30-7:30,
Parkway UCC,
Minneapolis



One of Beacon's Projects is Families Moving Forward, which helps people with children to transition out of homelessness. Women's Fellowship is planning to serve taco salad, and all are welcome (and needed!) to help shop, cook, serve, clean up, and play with kids. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex.

BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The board of Christian education will meet on the third floor on Thursday, May 19th at 7:00 p.m. The entire board would like to thank Becky Phelan for her tireless work over the past three years providing good guidance and strong values as a board member, Sunday school teacher, Halloween party-planner and more. We have deeply appreciated your help, Becky!

COMING IN JUNE!



On Thursday, June 2, Economic Justice returns.

Others shared their thoughts for the expansion of the EMC Fellowship Network. All in all, it was the perfect way to end the week and the consensus was that we should do it again. Stay tuned for more information.

Pam DeLaittre

May Calendar

[May Calendar](#)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"EDINA GIVE AND GO"
Needs Your Assistance

At Give and Go our priority is making sure that students have access to life and learning opportunities in academics, arts, and athletics. In academics, we supported multiple students with ACT testing fees, ACT online prep kits, and home internet access. In athletics, we made it possible for several students to join the Nordic Ski Team, and helped equip the new Yoga Calm Center in both middle schools (Valley View and South View). In arts, we have launched one-on-one

The Capri Theater in North Minneapolis will be screening 12 Years A Slave at 7:00 p.m. Put it on your calendar and plan to join church friends in watching an important and Academy Award-winning movie in the theater where Prince played his first solo shows. Tickets are \$5 at the door and the film is rated R.

Janet Anderson

DAYLIGHT CENTER & SCHOOL, KENYA



EMC Contact:

Pam DeLaitre

pdelait@earthlink.net

Follow the link below to read about Tom Gillaspay's 2nd trip to Kenya and the amazing 8th grade students at Daylight.

[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

music lessons in coordination with Saturday School so that students in need can participate fully in band and orchestra. We look forward to connecting with and supporting more students as the school year continues.

This program is currently collecting equipment for the participating students, in particular band and orchestra instruments and athletic equipment. These are costly items that families don't usually have the resources to purchase for the students. If you can round-up items that your children no longer use, have outgrown, or that have been replaced with new instruments or athletic equipment, please contact either [Gary Lundgren](#) or John Ford, the current director of the program at john.ford@edinaschools.org or 952-848-4215.

Gary Lundgren

**Minnesota
Conference UCC,
Annual Meeting**



College of St. Benedict, St.

Joseph, MN

June 10 - 12, 2016

Click [here](#) to register.

Pastor Howard

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

"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."

Jambo, Daylight Partners!



Sunday morning, April 24th, found Michael Kimpur, Kenyan Director of Daylight Center and School, in our pulpit talking to our congregation about the importance of the 4 gigabyte word LOVE in dealing with people every day and healing the world's issues. During coffee hour Lenny Snellman and Joel Jensen, members of the Daylight Board, shared stories about their visits to Daylight each year and Michael answered questions about life at Daylight. Michael and Daylight are so excited about the cow and the goats that we purchased for the school. The milk they provide will make a big difference in Daylight's ability to feed the children. We sent Michael on his way home Monday with our blessings and the hope we will see him again soon

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	March	Year-to-Date
	2016	3/31/16
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$55,388

Actual Pledges \$15,877 \$47,933

Difference \$2,586 -\$7,455

Contact Us

Church Office,
emcucc@emcucc.org

Interim Pastor
pastorhoward@emcucc.org

Christian Education
ce.youth@emcucc.org

Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC
952-926-6555

Edina Morningside Community Church is Open and Affirming.

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

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