

## The monthly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger: October 2016

### Pastor's Message

God did something audacious in me at the end of last year: God planted the idea that I could read through the Bible cover to cover in 2016. Then I did something foolish in exuberant response—I told others about that idea, and invited them to read along too. We formed [a Facebook group called Daily Bible](#) where I promised to post a reflection on a given passage each day so that we could all have a starting point, and then share our insights and questions together. I did so without fully realizing how long the Bible actually is, and how hard it can be to understand in some places! Yet when others know what you intend to do, and they're



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The Facebook group has grown to almost 200 people from across the country! Though it's hard to find time and insight for daily commentaries, this group has encouraged me with their enthusiasm and wisdom. We've now made it through nine months together!

As October starts, the Daily Bible community has finished all of the Hebrew Scriptures, and is turning the page to the New Testament. I'm writing this with the hopes that you will join in this heady adventure for the last three months! From October 1<sup>st</sup> through to the end of December, we'll read from Matthew to Revelation. (Thankfully, Revelation starts after Christmas, and not before. J) To participate, just click on this link to [Daily Bible](#) and ask to join the group. (If you're not on Facebook the reflections I write are also at [my website](#), where you can subscribe to get daily emails with the updates.) You'll soon discover my understanding of Scripture and community: the ancient texts we read now are not infallible—only God is God. However, the Bible does record human efforts to describe God's activity through the centuries. God still speaks today through the Bible, which becomes (holy) Scripture as readers like us find in its pages renewed wisdom for our own time.

That's why I invite and challenge you to join moderator Sonja Martens and other Edina Morningside Church folks in the group, as Daily Bible completes these last three months. Your participation will help reveal further connections between "the word of God" and "the people of God". Plus, you'll

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**Pastoral  
Care  
Update**

**Baked  
Potato  
Lunch**

the best parts of the Bible are these upcoming stories of Jesus and the early church! While this would invite some new commitment (reading an average of 3 chapters each day), it'll be a chance to revisit familiar passages and discover new favorites. Even just skimming if you don't have time to read each word can help each of us learn more of the grand arc of salvation brought about for the world in Jesus Christ. This, after all, is why our church (and any church) exists in the first place.

What I've learned this year through Daily Bible is true throughout the life of faith: challenging adventures that invite us to dare greatly will also yield deeper community and connection with God. This conviction leads us to worship on Sunday mornings, guides our service within or beyond the congregation walls, and calls us to entrust real money to God's use through the church. Whether or not you ever check out Daily Bible, I invite you to continue with others at EMC on this faithful journey of audacious risks and joyful rewards in community. I can't wait to see what God does in us and in you throughout the years to come!

See you in church,  
Pastor Oby

## Faith Formation

Family Sunday



### **BAKED POTATO LUNCH** is

**almost here!** On **Sunday, October**

**16<sup>th</sup>**, Women's Fellowship will serve the annual baked potato lunch with BIG fluffy baked potatoes, all the trimmings, dessert and beverages.

**Tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children and a maximum of \$15.00 for a family.**

Tickets will go on sale Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be taking orders for "take out".

Please sign up in advance and we will have them ready for you.

Any questions, please contact Laurie Cory –

[coryhome@](mailto:coryhome@visi.com)

[visi.com](http://visi.com) or

Pam DeLaittre -



October 9<sup>th</sup> brings our first Family Sunday of the season! We'll be reading the story of the golden calf and thinking about how to practice faithfulness and constancy to God. People of all ages will be leading worship as we tend to and celebrate our relationships with family, friends, and church. There will be no Sunday school, but nursery care will be available.



### Teens Teach: Social Media 101 for Grown-Ups

On Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from  
10:00 a.m. to noon,

Morningside U presents a workshop for adults, led by teens. EMC's tech-savvy teens will introduce you to various social media, explaining what they're all about, how they work, and why you should understand them—even if you don't use them. Bring your phone and our youth will even offer tips for getting started and answer your concerns about kids and social media. Isn't it time to understand all this online stuff? Sign up at [emcucc@emcucc.org](mailto:emcucc@emcucc.org) today!

### Youth Trip to the Science Museum of MN

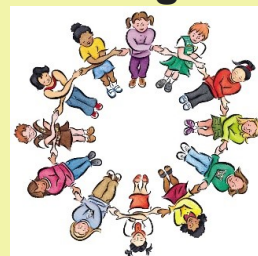
On Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, youth are invited to an exhibit called "Race: Are We So Different?" at the Science Museum of Minnesota. We will leave the church promptly at 9:30 a.m. for the museum and be back at EMC no later than 12:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13/adults and

## October Calendar



[October  
Calendar](#)

## October Women's Social Evening



LIFE IS BUSY...  
and that's good  
but sometimes  
there is a longing  
for some  
"downtime" to  
relax, have a cup  
of coffee or a  
glass of wine,  
some  
refreshments and  
time to get  
together to talk  
with friends. Just  
social time.  
Remember what

have enough drivers, we can also bring elementary school students. Please let me know if you plan to send your child, be a chaperone, or need assistance purchasing tickets. Click here to RSVP. Click here to preview the exhibit.

<https://www.smm.org/race>

### Halloween Party!

Halloween brings one of our annual love letters to the neighborhood in the form of a party to be



held on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00 p.m. We'll have the usual games, fortune-telling, and junk food walk, as well as new story-tellers and hands-on fun with spooky food! Cathy Baldwin and Larry Williams will hold a planning session on October 5<sup>th</sup> for youth to brainstorm third-floor discombobulation. And youth should set aside 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> to prep. Lunch will be served. Adults: we can always use more volunteers—especially if we want to bring back classics like the cauldron of witch's brew. RSVP to Cathy [link] if you can help with third-floor set-up or take-down and to Matt Gennrich [link] if you can volunteer with games in Fellowship Hall.

### OWL Class

gathered? We are doing it again!

**Friday evening,  
October 21st at  
7:00 PM in**

**Fellowship Hall**

we are planning another evening for EMC adult women Members and Friends. We want to continue to get to know each other better.

We will again have materials available to tie blankets for the Park Nicollet Cancer Center.

This is basically a social evening but we would ask you to think about how we can engage ALL members and friends of the church – men included - in other/different (?) fellowship gatherings. Please bring a beverage and a snack to share. This would be



OWL class continues this month on Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> with learning and discussion around sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Class is for registered middle school students and is held from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**BOCE meets on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the church.**

**Please RSVP to the church office by Monday,**

**October 17<sup>th</sup> – 952-926-6555 or [emcucc@emcucc.org](mailto:emcucc@emcucc.org) so we can plan....or just come! If childcare is needed, please let Laurie E. or Pam know.**

Questions: Pam DeLaitre – [pdelait@earthlink.net](mailto:pdelait@earthlink.net),

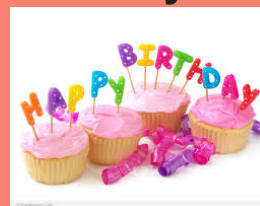
Looking forward to seeing you there. It won't be the same without you!

### Halloween Planning Party!



We will hold a youth Planning and Pizza session for the 3rd floor Halloween extravaganza on Wednesday, October 5th from 6-7:30. RSVP to Cathy 952-994-6431 so we make sure to have enough pizza.

### October Birthdays



10/1 - Jane Williams  
10/4 -

### Preschool Update



The preschool started school on Tuesday, September 13. We have 18 children enrolled in the morning, 5 children in the afternoon and 6 children for Fab Friday. Our theme for September is All About Me. We have been discussing about ourselves and about friends. The children are engaged in earning through play and making new friends.

For the month of October, we will be talking more about friends and curiosity is our social skill for the month. Our field trips for October include: Minnetonka Apple Orchard on October 11, Edina Fire truck visit at school on October 19 and trick or treating at Jones Harrison Center with the seniors.

The preschool is still enrolling for the school year. Please let families and friends know about our great school! The preschool has a giving tree located on the wall by the stairs to fellowship hall. The tree has owls that have supplies that are needed for school. If you would like to purchase items for school, take down the owl, purchase the item and return the owl and items to preschool.

**Thank you for your support!**

***Melissa Clarke***

Cathy Baldwin

10/7 -

Constance Fantin

10/9 -

Tyson Thomas

10/18 -

Jordan Thomas

10/13 -

Bill DeLaittre

10/20 -

Natalie Preston

10/23 -

Laura Benson

10/25 -

Emily Neuhaus

10/26 -

Connor Williams

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

## Front Porch Friday



Join your EMC friends for a casual visit to the Arboretum on **Friday, October 21**. It should be a lovely time of

**Worship Preview for October**

**Sunday** includes a procession of different breads from around the world (led by our children), new music offered by the choir, a sermon by Pastor Oby on Passover as a meal of remembrance (Exodus 12-13), and a unique way of remembering our communion at Christ's table with people throughout the world.

**10/9 (10am):** Our morning service recognizes **Family Sunday**, our chance to celebrate the leadership of youth and adults together. Janet Anderson and Pastor Oby co-lead the worship, around Exodus 32:1-14's themes of faithfulness and staying in relationship.

**10/9 (2pm):** All are invited back to worship on Sunday afternoon for **Pastor Oby's installation!** The service features joyful music, holy communion, and a guest sermon by Rev. Dr. James Gertmenian (Minister Emeritus of [Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis](#)). All are invited to wear red as a sign of the Holy Spirit, and stay afterward for a dessert reception.

**10/16:** Today's worship revolves around the story of Hannah, mother to the prophet Samuel. In 1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10 we learn that Samuel's birth is God's answer to Hannah, who sings of God's care for the needy. We also welcome baby Emily Dearhamer into the Christian faith through baptism, and launch our 2017 pledge drive!

**10/23:** Our exploration of Old Testament heroes continues today with David, the greatest king of Israel. In 2 Samuel 7:1-17,

We will have lunch there. As usual, we will meet at church at 10:00 to carpool. Drive on your own if that is more convenient. Guests are especially welcome! RSVP by signing up or calling the church.

Mark your calendar for next month; on **November 11**, we will meet at the church. Molly Cox will share pictures and stories from her trip to Cuba! For more information, contact Molly Cox or Laura Simonson.

## Preschool Fun-Raiser



**Join the Fun-Raising!**



**10/30:** For **All Saints Sunday**, we lift up those who have showed us an example of faithful leadership throughout the ages, particularly those who have died in the past year. In this same spirit, we consider the faithful actions of a widow who receives (and shows) God's care for those on the margins in 1 Kings 17:1-24.

## Outreach



**Prior Crossing Opens!** After a long wait, Prior Crossing is completed and will finally open its doors so homeless young people can move in to comfortable, safe places of their own!



EMC would like to be part of welcoming these new young residents. In the narthex we will be collecting kitchenware and cleaning supplies through the month of October to stock Hope's Closet (at Prior Crossing), where youth will be able to find some of the supplies they need for their new homes.

**preschool needs 6 new, sturdy gym mats. Please look for our fun-raising efforts this Fall and Winter!**

**Donations are so appreciated as we raise the funds to replace worn out mats for years more of fun and active play.**

**Questions? Contact Megan Gratzek, [mclapsgratzek@yahoo.com](mailto:mclapsgratzek@yahoo.com)**

## Messenger Deadline

Articles for the November messenger due to EMC office on **October 24th.**

## Daylight Center and School



- Paper towel rolls
- All Purpose Spray Cleaner
- Toilet Bowl Cleaner
- Toilet Brush and holder
- Brooms & Dust Pans
- Dish sets (4 plates, 4 bowls)
- Glassware
- Pots and pans
- Laundry detergent
- Kitchen utensils (knives, spatulas, can openers, etc.)

Any questions, please contact Pam DeLaitre  
– 952-881-1883 or pdelait@earthlink.net

The students at Daylight have written a book, click [here](#) to learn more about it!

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**

## Financial Update

**August pledge payments fell significantly short of budgeted amounts. This "down month" is combined with our being almost \$17,000 below budget in July 31 year-to-date payments. Please remember to keep up with your pledge payments even when you not able to attend worship regularly. If you fall behind it creates challenges for you to make up the difference later and for the church and trustees to manage its expenditures. The best option for staying current is Automatic Deductions. Click [here](#) to download the authorization form. Thank you for your financial support along with all the other ways you give of your time,**



## Church Basement Ladies - Rise Up , O Men



**Postponed until Jan. - Feb. 2017**

Messenger Financial Report	8/2016	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$147,701
Actual Pledges	\$15,449	\$127,833
Difference	-\$3,014	-\$19,868

**Pastor**  
[Pastor Oby Ballinger](#)

**Administrative assistant**  
[Laurie Eckberg](#)  
 952-926-6555

**Website**  
[emcucc.org](http://emcucc.org)



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