

The Monthly Newsletter/Weekly Update for Edina Morningside Community Church

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May 2017 Messenger/Friday Update

Women's Social Evening *Tonight*



Time to gather again! **Tonight at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall** we are planning another relaxing social evening for EMC adult women Members and Friends. Please bring a snack and a beverage to share if you are able (not required). We will again have materials available to tie a blanket for the Frauenshuh Cancer Center - Park Nicollet. Looking forward to seeing you there!
Questions: contact [Pam DeLaittre](#)

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From Pastor Oby....

Despite a full spring calendar at EMC, I'm grateful for all the ways we continue to encourage and support each other, demonstrating the caring community we want to be as the Body of Christ. The church is stronger for the ways we show up with one another in times of trial or hardship. We do so in our weekly prayers, through one-on-one conversations, with personal visits, or in caring messages on Facebook (to name a few possibilities). Our Community Minister Rev. Frank Bennett and I continue to regularly visit our homebound folks, bringing with us communion, worship bulletins and sermon printouts (for help with insomnia). I hear time and again how grateful our longtime members are for these reminders that they are not forgotten or alone.

Church members who are "temporarily able-bodied" and can attend worship also have needs. Surgery, chronic pain, falls, hearing loss, and mental illness are just some of the medical needs that present short- or long-term challenges. I hope you will continue to include us on your "care team" in such circumstances! I'd like to know as soon as possible when there's a medical need in your family. (Please know that we assume the information is private unless we hear otherwise.) You'll see space to share news of sickness or health concerns on the redesigned "Friendship Pads" that are in the pews. When Joys and Concerns are shared in worship, Pam DeLaittre helps me by writing them down so we can follow up after worship. If you're willing, please also include the

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In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and

we'll receive updates of health developments as soon as possible.

Your spiritual and physical health--inextricably linked--matter to me and to all of us at Edina Morningside Church. Even though we can't snap our fingers or say a prayer that guarantees an immediate return to health, studies suggest that being part of a wider caring community is one of the ingredients to lifelong wellness. We're grateful to offer that to each other, in Jesus' name. Thank you!

Pastor Oby

MADark 5th Anniversary Show

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the 5th Anniversary of Morningside After Dark such a success (especially Pastor Oby, Doug and Mary Engelke and everyone who helped put chairs away at the end of the show--couldn't do this without you!)

We again had standing room only and enjoyed performance by 18 amazing local and national talents. The mini acts went from personal to political to spiritual, with voices representing Muslim women,

This Sunday's Service

Scripture reading: Acts 6:1-7

This Week's Leaders

- **Preaching:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Leading Music:** Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Acolyte:** Luke Sorensen
- **Usher:** Chuck Clay
- **Reader:** Dale Seubert
- **Musicians:** Chancel Choir
- **Sunday School Teacher:** Janet Anderson
- **Nursery Attendant:** Art Downey
- **Fellowship Hosts:** Deacons
- **Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke

During Worship

- 3rd grade Bible Presentation
- Blessing for Janet Anderson's leave of absence

After Worship

- Capital Campaign Ways to Give Workshop
- Capital Campaign Executive Team Meeting
- Music Committee Meeting (music office)

May Worship Preview

May 7th: Acts 8:26-39, communion in the pews, welcoming three new families into membership, Now Testament for the Capital Campaign

May 14th: Music Ministry Sunday, musical Now Testament by Jane and Ella Williams

May 21st: Celebration Sunday to highlight successful completion of the Capital Campaign, with special participation by honored guests Rev. Shari Prestemon (MN Conference Minister), and Rev. Joe and Kay Clay; community party to follow in Fellowship Hall

May 28th: Memorial Day Weekend; Galatians 3:1-9, 23-29 (One in Christ)

Faith Formation

Sunday School Wraps Up!



different genres,
and more.

Thumbs Cookies hosted a delicious cookie tasting while Caribou brewed the coffee. The Whole Truth Booth storytelling app encouraged attendees to share their story with the audience. People absolutely loved the experience!

Before the show, Mary Engelke was encouraged by one of our performers to write a sign at the donation table "Suggested Donation \$10" because of the top-notch talent in the program. We agreed to try it and Mary was thrilled to report a nice \$1K brought in with donations. Next year we will revisit pricing and

thank the 2016-17 Board of Christian Education, and a teaching team of Matt Gennrich, Laurie Eckberg, Sarah Gednalske, Kris Kulevsky, and Megan Gratzek, as well as parents and students, for engaging in a successful year of faith formation under a new structure. Thanks also to Lollie Eidsness and Becky Phelan who were substitutes on the rare occasions that we needed them. Curious about teaching next year? Talk to this year's teachers about their experiences!

May 7: Sunday school class for K-5, Laurie Chidester teaching

May 14: Music Ministry Sunday! Younger children are encouraged to join in making music in worship. Megan Gratzek is heading up a ministry trip to the Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery for up to five youth.

May 21: Last day of Sunday school. There will be a celebration for K-12 students, headed up by Laurie Eckberg and Megan Gratzek, during worship.

Family Sunday is coming on June 4th! Want to participate in the service? **Contact [Jane Williams!](#)**

Leave of Absence



I am deeply grateful to the Board of Christian

that charges \$10 for a ticket with a suggested donation of \$20 as is done with similar events to make the most of the fundraising opportunity of the show. Edina TV taped the event and we will share the taping schedule and online footage when it is available.

Pastor Oby welcomed the crowd and people were impressed. A few asked if he might consider reading at the show next year.....what a wonderful idea! What do you think Oby?

*Rebecca Bell
Sorensen*

Thank-you!

me a leave of absence that begins May 1st and concludes July 31st. I will be working on a book of short stories, already in progress, as well as a book of essays about walks with my beloved dog, Santiago. I am excited to have this opportunity to focus in an undistracted way on my creativity outside of the church--an aspect of my life that is both financially and spiritually important to me. I am also looking forward to being back at church on August 1st to begin preparing a fall schedule to include: OWL classes for youth in grades 10-12; confirmation classes for students in grades 7-9; Sunday school classes; youth outreach to follow up on the Equipping Teens for Life conference; and new opportunities in adult faith formation. **Thank you, and I'll see you in August!**

Janet Anderson



You've Done It Again! Thank You! Through your generosity, 38 Daylight students will be cozy and comfortable in their new bunk beds in the new dormitory. Our Congregation donated funds to purchase **38** bedding packages! Thank you so much!

Pam DeLaittre

Preschool News



May is our last month together before summer break! We have had an amazing year of learning and friendships. This month, we will be celebrating the wonderful world of Nature. We will focus on flowers, animals and nature. Our field trip will be to **Westwood Nature Center** in St. Louis Park on

May Birthdays



May 1 Sarah
Engelke
May 2 Marit
Gennrich
May 3 Suzanne

animals are awake." Next, we will go on a nature walk and end our field trip looking and touching animals and animal artifacts.

We will honor mothers and other special people with a **Mother's Day Tea on Thursday, May 11.** The children are making surprises, as well as serving tea and dessert and providing a small singing show. It is always a great show stopper put on by the children!

Our last day of library with Ms. Laurie will be on Wednesday, May 10th. We would like to thank Ms. Laurie for coming in every Wednesday to be our librarian and help out with the lunch bunch. She is a wonderful support person for our preschool! The children love library time and love having Ms. Laurie spend time with them.

Teacher appreciation week is May 8-12! Please take a moment to thank a teacher and show your appreciation.

Our **end of the year potluck** will be on **Tuesday, May 23 at 6PM.** We will celebrate together with students and their families another great school year with food and fellowship. Preschool has been very fortunate to have another successful year with them!

We are looking for friends to join us for summer camps! We have openings for 5 weeks of camp! Please consider signing up your preschool child for a few weeks of summer fun! Please let us know ASAP, so we can get staffing in place.

We are **thankful for Edina Morningside Church**

Downey
May 20 William
Phelan
May 24 Bill Obert
May 29 John
Stout
May 31 Ann
Merrill

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

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is comprised of Cathy Baldwin, Laurie Cory, and Larry Williams. We meet quarterly with Pastor Oby to provide a sounding board for him on how he feels things are going and to act as liaisons from the congregation about issues that you, the

great care of the preschool, the children and their families. Please know that we always look for volunteers to come and spend time with us!

Melissa

This Week at EMC

Church office hours: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri
(10am - 2pm)

Pastor's office hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs

Preschool: Tues, Wed, Thurs (9am - 3pm)
| Fri (9 - 11:30am)

Monday

- **Pastor Oby's Planning Day (out of the office)**
- 7pm MNA Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday

- **Perspectives Outreach**

Wednesday

- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship**
- 5:30pm The Hand of AA meeting
- 6:15pm **Morningside Bells Rehearsal**
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday

- 7pm **Preschool Board Meeting**

Saturday

there are any concerns or things that you would like to have shared, please bring them to one of the members of the committee who will treat the information with complete confidence and bring it up at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is set for the second week in July.

May Calendar



[May Calendar](#)

Daylight Update



Meet Mildred a 7th grader at Daylight. She's a serious student

- 6pm Private Party, fellowship hall

O & A Celebration



Tomorrow, April 29, 2017, the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ (UCC) will offer workshops and celebrate in worship with the Open and Affirming ministry settings from across Minnesota. The **2017 Minnesota Celebration, "Open and Affirming as Beloved Community,"** will be held at Hazel Park Congregational UCC, 1831 Minnehaha Avenue East in Saint Paul. The day will include workshops at 11:00 AM, a time of kinship over lunch, and worship at 1:30 PM.

Lunch is provided free of charge. Child Care will be provided at no cost during workshops and worship with advanced notice. Any questions can be sent via email to [Pastor Oby](mailto:pastor.oby@uccmn.org).

Morningside Theatre

Countdown to our summer theatre camp has begun! Jane, Jim and Basil met on Tuesday for a planning session to discuss sets and lights and auditions. We will be very busy this June, with the addition of our Teen Intensive Camp. Rehearsals will be in session both mornings and afternoons this summer.

laugh. Click [here](#) to read more.

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 DeLaittre

Messenger Deadline

Please have articles for the June Messenger to the church office by **May 24th**.

Contact us

Pastor
[Rev. Oby](mailto:rev.oby@uccmn.org)
[Ballinger](mailto:ballinger@uccmn.org)

Administrative assistant

Our Elementary Camp production of 101 Dalmatians is full and carrying a full waitlist. The Youth production of Aladdin Jr. is full and the waitlist has begun. We still have room in our one-week Children's Camp for completed K-1ST graders, and we have a few spots left in the Teen Intensive of Godspell Jr., for completed 9th-10th graders. Spread the word!

Boxes needed: We will be collecting empty, bagless cereal boxes through June 11th. 13 oz size is best, but up to 17-18 is okay, too. Please, no family size boxes. A collection box will be in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall. Thank you all for your continued support!

Website

emcucc.org



From the Archives

See below for a lighter side of E. Dudley

Parsons, Sr., son of Rev. Henry W. Parsons and Sarah Bennett Parsons, two of the founders in 1909 of The Morningside Sunday School*, a Branch of The Linden Hills Congregational Sunday School and shortly thereafter in 1910-1911, The Morningside Congregational Church on Morningside Road. (With the 1934 merger of The Morningside Community Congregational Church and the Edina Union Congregational Church, we are now known as Edina Morningside Community Church.)

*The original Sunday School is still visible and good shape, albeit serving a different purpose these days as a garage . You can see it from Morningside Road, just a few lots North on France Avenue South . (For a better view of the Sunday

E. Dudley Parsons, Sr. who served the church in many capacities throughout the formative years, had a penchant for writing mixed with a sense of humor and was never want for a conversation or opinion about matters of the day--national or international--including those matters that concerned his beloved Village of Morningside. The attached writings are from "The Morningsider", a column that appeared in The Hennepin County Review, primarily a Hopkins newspaper that also served the communities of Edina and St. Louis Park as well in the early years.

[Writing 1](#) [Writing 2](#) [Writing 3](#) [Writing 4](#) [Writing 5](#) [Writing 6](#)

I've also included a [scanned photo](#) of E. Dudley Parson, Sr. and Clara Dickey Parsons, taken in front of their home, which still stands at 4210 Alden Drive.

[Doug Fuerst](#), EMC Historian

Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report

	3/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$15,744	\$47,531
Actual Pledges	\$19,087	\$54,450
Difference	\$3,343	\$6,919

Member/Community Events

Sport Quest Skating Academy (incl. Nicole

Parade Ice Garden, Minneapolis
Friday 4/28 7pm; Saturday 4/29 2pm and 7pm
Adults \$7, Seniors \$5, Students \$5,
4 and under Free

[Check it out for more information.](#)

Braemar City of Lakes (incl. Julia Eckberg)

2017 Annual Ice Show - Skating with the Magic
Braemar Arena, Edina
Friday 4/28 7pm
Saturday 4/29 7pm
Adults \$7, Seniors \$5, Students \$5

Bloomington Chorale (incl. Molly Cox)

2017 Spring Concert - 'Celebrating 35 Years of
Music'
Schneider Theater, Center for the Arts
98th St & Logan Ave S, Bloomington, MN 55431
Friday, May 19, 2017 7:30pm
Saturday, May 20, 2017, 4:00pm

[Adults \\$16, Seniors \\$12, Students \\$12](#)

Do you have events or news to share? [Please email us](#) the information by Thursday for inclusion in the next Friday Update email.



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