

Monthly Newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger: June 2017

From Pastor Oby

Besides Christmas and Easter, my favorite holiday of the church year is Pentecost, a rollicking festival of the Holy Spirit. Coming **this Sunday, June 4th, Pentecost is a great chance to wear red** and drape the church in red, so we'll do just that! I can't wait to see children and youth lead our Family Sunday worship with new red paraments up front, and I hope to see you there too. But Pentecost is more than just a day—it's a whole season. In fact, it's the longest season of the church year, extending from now until Advent starts in December! That means this whole summer and fall are chances to celebrate joyful new possibilities wherever we see God at play in the world right now.

Mindful that **God is always doing a new thing**, my colleague Emily Heath has suggested these [five ways we can live out the promise of Pentecost as a church](#): 1) Evaluate our social media presence, to make sure we're communicating well in the native "languages" of all generations. 2) Get out into

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the community, like we plan to do with outdoor worship and volunteering at [Perspectives](#) this July. 3) Let your pastor out into the community, which is why you'll see *me* outside the church a lot this summer. 4) Translate insider language (like “narthex”—a word used nowhere else!), and make sure bulletins are easy to understand for first-time guests. 5) Finally, “be willing to keep being transformed”, because the new energy and new possibilities of the Holy Spirit (along with the new people She sends our way) will challenge “the way we’ve always done” church. Thank you for helping us grow in these ways, so that we can be a church that lives into Pentecost 365 days a year!

Finally, please note that I will be **away for an extended vacation and continuing education** starting June 9th. Javen and I have the good fortune of traveling to Germany for a Martin Luther tour on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, then spending time at a family reunion of his Swedish cousins. Following that, I'll be back for several office days (June 27-28) and then attend the UCC General Synod in Baltimore with a learning cohort of younger-pastor colleagues. Worship will be led by EMC's other three clergy members (Frank Bennett, Elaine Kirkland and Molly Cox), and I'm already looking forward to hearing how they start our first summer worship series, *Ties That Bind* (see below for details). Molly Cox will also provide pastoral care during my time away—please reach out to her (cell: 952-564-7847) so we can offer you the best care possible. I'll be back to lead worship on Wednesday night July 5th, refreshed from the downtime and the new ideas that these

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In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

June Birthdays

opportunities will provide. Thank you for the time to connect again with the Spirit at loose in the world. Happy Pentecost!

Pastor Oby

June Worship Preview

June 4th: Pentecost Sunday gives us a chance to celebrate the Holy Spirit, God's creative spark that's constantly "doing a new thing" in the world. This is also Family Sunday, where worship will be especially family friendly and youth led. We thank Sunday school and OWL teachers, celebrate graduates, share communion, and receive the Strengthen the Church special offering.

June 11th: Today we begin a 6-week summer worship series, **Ties that Bind**, naming how we are formed, in-formed and trans-formed by relationships with the Holy and with each other. Consider the differences between the ties that bind us up—hindering healthy connections—and the ties that bind us together in community. Rev. Frank Bennett leads worship around Isaiah 64:8-9 and the theme of **"Shaping"**. All are created, gifted, formed, and given life by God, like clay in the potter's hands. We open ourselves to be re-shaped as needed, and celebrate our common connections as God's children.

June 18th: Our next Sunday in the series, led by Rev. Elaine Kirkland, considers the creation in Genesis 1 and the theme of **"Weaving"**. God created the world, and creates all humans in God's image. We are woven together in harmony with all creation. To harm oneself or another harms the whole fabric. The **Ties that Bind** call us to care for self and for all.

Happiness is
a June Birthday!



June 3

Amber
Washington-
Howard

June 4

Matt Grim

June 5

Greta Kulevsky

June 6

Pat Strickler

June 8

Charlotte Beegle

June 15

Lily Kulevsky

June 16

Diane Sowden

June 18

Doug Engelke

June 20

Darla Young

June 21

Diane Halpin

June 23

Mary Lenard

June 25

Charlie Preston

June 26

Chuck Clay &
Donella Neuhaus

June 27

Dan Jurgens

*Please let us
know if we*

June 25th: We read Ephesians 4:25-5:2 and Rev. Molly Cox leads us in worship around a theme of **“Pouring”**. Jesus was God’s love poured out for us; and Jesus poured out Love, forgiving others again and again. Jesus invites us into to that same Love, to receive forgiveness and to respond to his call to pour out Love and compassion into the world: creating the **Ties That Bind** us to one another in Love.

*Remember that **in July Sundays move to Wednesdays**, so our first worship in July will be in the evening on Wednesday, July 5th, starting with a simple community dinner at 6pm.*

Service Opportunities

**Families Moving Forward:
Monday, June 26th, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**



Edina Morningside has a commitment to serve Families Moving Forward dinner at Parkway UCC, 3120 Washburn Avenue North in Minneapolis, on Monday, April 26th. We’ll meet and set up dinner at 5:30, serve at 6:00, then play with kids and clean up between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. This is an intergenerational service opportunity that provides a lot of satisfaction. If you haven’t participated in the past, maybe now is the time to try it out. Women’s Fellowship will provide the meal. Can you bring a child-friendly craft? Commit to playing with sidewalk chalk and balls outside the church? There is a sign-up by the church office, or [email us](#).

Perspectives: Volunteer in July

*missed your
big day!*

Daylight Update



Daylight School has been growing along with its students. Read all about it in this [month's update](#).

If you're interested in a summer 2018 mission trip to Daylight (for which youth scholarships may be available), there's an info session this Saturday, 1pm at Linden Hills UCC (4200 Upton Ave S). [Contact Pastor Oby](#) if you have questions or plan to attend!

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the dedicated people who



Since March, EMC volunteers have been helping to prepare dinner once a month at Perspectives, a family-focused St. Louis Park nonprofit. In the summer, we're signed up to volunteer three Thursday nights in July (7/6, 7/13, and 7/20), 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m., in Ainsworth Park (7700 W. 28th Street).

As a volunteer, you might register participants; help out with basketball, kickball or yoga; set up crafts; hand out snacks; or clean up afterwards. In addition, on July 20, we are sponsoring the dinner, bringing about 150 all-beef hot dogs and buns plus fruit or chips for about 150 people.

EMC adults and kids can participate—in fact, all are welcome. Teen volunteers are particularly invited to volunteer on July 6; Pastor Oby promises an ice cream outing afterwards for teen volunteers. To sign up, contact the [church office](#).

Morningside Theatre Company

support Daylight, and the staff and children at Daylight in your prayers.

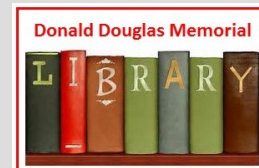
Blessings!
Pam DeLaittre

June Calendar



Click [here](#) for the EMC June Calendar

Librarian Needed



Now that the East wall is almost finished and we are restoring order in the library, we need your help. The wonderful Donald Douglas Library sorely needs

Morningside Theatre Co. Summer Camp Presents

Disney
101 Dalmatians
KIDS

GODSPELL
JR

Disney
Aladdin
JR

101 Dalmatians Kids
Fri. June 16 ~ 7 pm
Sat. June 17 ~ 10 am

Aladdin Jr.
Thu. June 22 ~ 7 pm
Fri. June 23 ~ 10 am
Fri. June 23 ~ 7 pm
Sat. June 24 ~ 10 am

Godspell Jr.
Fri. June 30 ~ 1 pm
Sat. July 1 ~ 1 pm
Sat. July 1 ~ 7 pm

Tickets
\$5 General Admission

Tickets
\$5 General Admission

Tickets
\$10 Adult General Admission
\$5 Student General Admission

Doors open 30 minutes prior to curtain
Find us: [facebook.com/MorningsideTheatreCompany](https://www.facebook.com/MorningsideTheatreCompany)



**MORNINGSIDE
THEATRE CO.**

Edina Morningside Community Church
4201 Morningside Road, Edina
emcmtc@emcucc.org

some TLC to re-shelve books and enter new books into the card catalogue. If you love books and like to organize, perhaps you are just the person we are looking for to become our librarian. Even if you have no experience...or better yet if you do...please contact the [office](#) to let Laurie know you are interested. After the library is organized it will take only a few minutes once in a while to keep it up.

Click to download the [2017 MTC Flyer](#).

"Divine Design" Success!



"Because we're all fixer-uppers..."

We celebrated the official completion of our \$800,000 capital campaign, "A More Divine Design", on Sunday, May 21st in worship, followed by a community lunch! We announced that we had surpassed our goal to \$877,000, and generous pledges

July Messenger

Articles for the July Messenger need to be submitted to the church office by June 26th.

continue coming in from church and community members alike. For pictures and to watch the "**Impossible Becomes Possible**" announcement, click [here](#). You can learn more about the campaign--and still make a contribution to help widen our welcome--[on the church website](#). Thank you for **all** the ways you help us share the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving!

A task force is now forming to help design and see-through the capital building projects for the next several years. Please contact the [church office](#) if you would like to serve on the Building Task Force.

Faith Formation

Janet Anderson continues her leave of absence and is busily working on a book of short stories. She will be back at church on August 1st to begin preparing a fall schedule, including: 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.

**Meals on Wheels
Needs You!!!**

Living Well, Dying Well



Our Community Minister, Rev. Frank Bennett, has given several presentations already about one of his passions: graceful care and preparation at the end of life. Now he's begun a blog about that topic, "Living Well, Dying Well". Check out his first [blog post](#), reflecting on family graduations and the final "graduation" of his mother's passing.

Front Porch Friday





Drivers are needed

to deliver meals to seniors and qualified others in the Edina area. Think no one in Edina needs help? Drive for MOW and find out! Edina Morningside Church is committed to delivering meals on the second Monday and the fourth Thursday of each month, and the fifth Wednesday-which happens about once in three months. There is a team of volunteers who regularly deliver for us. Recently the need for MOW has increased, and we need more drivers. With summer approaching, vacation schedules make finding drivers more difficult. Can you help?

Our volunteers pick up the meals at the Methodist Church of Peace, 6345 Xerxes Ave. [the one with the Dove on it!] We arrive by 11:15, check in, get our bags of food and our delivery list, then deliver the meals. We return the empty bags to the church by 1:00. Many thanks are due to our current loyal volunteers: Laurie Eckberg, Carol Weidt, Sonja Martens, Pam and Jim Olson, Jim and Jan Tyson and Bob Schumacher. Our substitutes include Laurie Cory, Art Downey, Jane and Hsien Hsin Chang, Marge Ellingson, Megan Gratzek, Barb and Charlie Green, Douglas Boie, and Molly Cox

If you can help - or would like more information, call Molly Cox [952-925-2114] or contact the [church office](#).

The next Front Porch Friday will meet on June 23rd and will tour the newly restored Minnesota State Capital Building. We will meet at church at 10AM and car pool to St. Paul. There is a sign up sheet posted in the narthex or contact the [church office](#) to let us know you are coming.

Contact us

Pastor
[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

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

Website
[emcucc.org](#)



Preschool News



We experienced an unexpected change in Preschool staff last month with the resignation of Preschool Director Melissa Clarke. Our teachers (Destiny Rock and Jessie Holly) and talented substitute Laura Gennrich, stepped up immediately to make sure that our high-quality programming and care continued without interruption for the final two weeks of the year.

Despite the transition, the Preschool had a wonderful end to the school year. There was one last field trip to Wooddale Nature center, Mother's Day teas for the morning and afternoon classes, a family potluck and a day of fun at Kojetin Park. It was a busy month of May!! The teachers are busy this week cleaning toys and preparing for the first week of preschool summer camp.

This summer, Destiny will co-teach five weeks of Preschool Camp, alongside either Jessie or Laura Gennrich depending on the week. The Preschool Board meets tomorrow night, and we anticipate their swift attention to finding our next permanent Preschool Director. Our summer and fall programs will proceed as scheduled, and we welcome your continued help inviting other young friends to join in!

Financial Update

	4/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,565	\$66,096
Actual Pledges	\$12,526	\$66,977
Difference	(\$6,039)	\$881

Mary Engelke is Retiring!



As you likely have heard already, Mary Engelke is retiring as our custodian, and today is her last day! Mary has served as custodian since June 1993, and she has served with exemplary care for all the 24 years since then. We know that it'll be impossible to replace her skills, and Mary assures us that her love for the church building continues. Mary and Doug look forward to more traveling time together in

retirement, and of course we'll see her continue to care in all the *other* ways that Mary serves as a church member. We've had a couple chances to share our appreciation with Mary during and after worship, but stay tuned for a more official reception to show our gratitude in September or October, before or after she and Doug spend a few weeks in Europe. A million thanks, Mary, with all our love!



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Our mailing address is:

4201 Morningside Road, Edina MN 55416

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