

August 2017 Messenger (Copy 01)

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The Monthly Newsletter of Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger: August 2017

From the Pastor...

Worship this summer has invited us into new spaces and new practices. We have literally moved from sanctuary to outside patio to Fellowship Hall. We have eaten entire meals before worship, shared communion around outdoor tables, worked on a puzzle, and created artistic expressions of relationship during the service. I've appreciated the flexibility, informality and freedom in these services, though I also look forward to the return of some more familiar practices. I appreciate the chance to hear feedback about which changes have felt like welcome experiments, and which feel more challenging to try out. Our Deacons, Elaine Kirkland, the Pastoral Relations Committee and I have all had chances at various points in recent months to **reflect on how we do worship, and what it means to "do worship well"**.

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One comment I've heard multiple times is some variant of: "It's clear you aren't just changing things to be changing them. It feels like there's a purpose behind doing things in a new way, though I don't always understand what that purpose is." This communicates your trust in me and our worship leaders—thank you!

Let me share (big picture) how I understand **the role and purpose of worship**, and what I believe makes for a powerful, meaningful service. Worship is the time in a week that the greatest number of people gather in our community, and it's when we most directly open ourselves to feel the presence of God. It's the heart of our existence, and what sets the church apart from other worthy community organizations. The best preaching—to use an idea from Saint Augustine—delights, educates and persuades in such a way as God's call becomes more real for this time, place and people. Sermons and services are about connecting the universality of God's presence and the Christian gospel with our own unique particularity, so that when we leave we are better equipped to live each day more like Christ.

To serve in these ways, **I believe the best worship is consistent with the witness of God in Christ, and authentic to human experiences.** We miss the mark if we stray from God's call to us here and now, or if we lie to self, others and God by ignoring what is going on with ourselves, our communities and the world. But if worship becomes a "thin place" where we feel the close presence of this God who loves, heals and calls us, we will be most fully equipped to share the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving.

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In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

What's more, we'll offer something that a pained, withdrawn and cynical culture desperately needs. I believe what Rev. Michael Piazza says: **"If a church can offer 52 passionate, relevant, transformational worship services a year, the world will beat a path to their door."**

Either change or constancy can serve these purposes; what matters are the intentions behind the new or the familiar. There is much treasure in memorized liturgy and shared common prayer, so I don't believe in change for change's sake alone. I admire those who memorize scripture, songs and prayers that they can recall at any time, and consistent liturgy helps with these goals. At the same time, authenticity to human experience sometimes calls for a contemporary poem, a new song, or a reimagined worship practice to better convey ancient truths to living ears. Everything which is now well-loved was also once new, and the still-speaking God may need new words to help us experience Her presence today.

As I and other worship leaders make choices about how best to craft "52 passionate, relevant, transformational worship services a year", these are the tensions at play. I suspect nobody will ever feel 100% satisfied in worship (myself included), and perhaps that's a sign that we will keep growing in our common experiences. Thank you again for your trust and your feedback as we learn together. Most of all, I hope that we experience the Eternal come near in both new and familiar ways, constantly re-forming sacred community in worship and sending us out afterward for the good of God's world.

Pastor Oby

August Birthdays



August 2 -
Julia Lorenzen
August 7 -
Gary Lundgren
August 13 -
Don Dibble
August 15 -
Jessie Holly
August 16 -
Logan Kreun
August 25 -
Mary Rogers &
Cindy Joyce
August 31 -
Joe Toth

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

Daylight Update



This month meet **Jabez - an 8th grade student** at Daylight who wants to be a

August Worship Preview

August 6th: Celebrating God's Presence in the Unexpected ([Psalm 139](#)); ["Betty's Diner" by Carrie Newcomer](#) as special music, communion at the front of the church; welcome back Faith Formation Director Janet Anderson! What unexpected people and places reveal God's presence in your life?

August 13th: Celebrating God's Presence in Threshold Moments ([Psalm 42:1-8](#); [Luke 1:57-80](#)) Rites of passage come in many forms, and they are sacred thresholds into new, uncharted territory. Might we be empowered if we perceived and ritualized these once-in-a-lifetime moments as blessings, anointed and held by God?

August 20th: Celebrating God's Presence in Illness, Loss and Grief ([Psalm 31](#); [2 Corinthians 4:8-10](#)); ["Blessed Are the Ones" by Audre Assad](#) as special music. Too often we consider "blessings" to be just those things that feel "good" to us. What blessing might we find in—and perhaps because of—illness, loss and grief?

August 27th: Celebrating God's Presence in the World ([Psalm 103:1-18](#); [Matthew 5:1-12](#)) Knowing gratitude for the richness and variety of God's blessings, we can't help but extend these blessings to God's beloved world and its people – especially to the oppressed. In so doing, we reaffirm that we are but one part of God's tapestry of humanity and this beloved home, Earth.

Kenyan Hero
someday!

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.

August Calendar



[Click here](#) to see what's happening at EMC in August.

**EMC
Prayernet**



Faith Formation Update...

Welcome Back to faith formation director Janet Anderson, who returns from a three-month writing leave tomorrow. If you missed it in the July 21st Friday Update, Janet [sent a letter](#) recapping her time away and letting us know she will be back in the building on August 1st!



The **Boundary Waters Weekend Adventure** is over - everyone made it home safe and sound! Doesn't it look like a fantastic trip?? You can hear all about it when the youth share about their trip later this fall. Thanks to all for your continued support of our youth with both prayers and finances!

VEAP Back to School Drive!! July 17 - August 14th



VEAP is collecting supplies for the 2017 Back To School Program, to provide the necessary tools for 3,500 students in

If you or a person you know are in need of prayer, PrayerNet is here for you. We are a group of members and friends at Edina Morningside UCC who are called to pray for those in need.

If you wish to have prayers lifted up for those in need of them, please [fill out the request form on the EMC website](#). Your request will be forwarded immediately to the PrayerNet members. Blessings for your faith and willingness to make these requests.

Messenger Deadline

Articles to be included in the **September Messenger**

3,000 students in grades K-12. Your donation of new school supplies is greatly appreciated. Fill a **backpack** with **pens, No. 2 pencils, crayons (24 count), markers, notebooks, pocket folders, composition notebooks, colored pencils, erasers, glue sticks, highlighters, scissors, rulers, pencil boxes/pouches, glue bottles and dry erase markers**, then drop it off in the shopping cart in the narthex. Every child deserves the tools for success in school!

Daylight School Fundraiser: Storytelling Night!



Songs and Stories for Daylight School,
feat. Fathom Lane,

Thurs. August 3rd, Doors 6:30p,
Event begins 7 pm.

The Warming House (4001 Bryant Ave S,
Minneapolis, MN 55409)

Join us for a night of amazing stories of East Africa, and life-changing stories of visiting Daylight. Between stories we will hear music from Fathom Lane. Tickets are \$20, and all proceeds help Daylight School provide food and education during the ongoing drought in Kenya.

should be in the church office on **August 28th.**

Edina Morningsid Preschool



Now Enrolling
for the
2017/2018
school year!
We are a **4-Star**
Parent
Aware Rated
Program.

Our school has a warm, family atmosphere with experienced, loving teachers. We offer creative Kindergarten readiness instruction and activities that foster friendships, empathy, and leadership in a 2, 3 or 4-day morning session.

From the Archives.....

Work progresses in the Archives cataloging church artifacts, historical documents and many, many photos.

New finds long hidden have surfaced recently, including a wonderful map entitled "Morningside Parish" drawn in pencil on parchment paper in the year 1922, professionally drawn by one of the founders relatives, an Architect by trade. The map has been folded for many years, but it is fully recoverable and ready for display in the near future. Once restoration is complete, look for it in an upcoming Messenger!

This month two Bank of England birchwood "Bankers Chairs" (circa 1930) were found in the church -- can you help us understand how they came to us?

Restoration began two weeks ago to bring both chairs back to life. The photo here



shows one chair before and one chair after restoration has been completed.

Stop by your Church Archives on the third floor to discover some of the rich history that began to take hold here in 1902!

Doug Fuerst

morning session
(9–11:30) or
extended session
(9–1 pm) for
children ages 3 to
5. Scholarships
are available. Call
952-926-6555 or
email at
[preschool@
emcucc.org](mailto:preschool@emcucc.org) for
more information.

Contact us

Pastor

[Rev. Oby
Ballinger](#)

**Administrative
assistant**

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

Website

emcucc.org



66West Grand Opening!

66 West Grand Opening:

Beacons's 66 West is a beautiful



facility - 3330 66th Street W, Edina, MN 55435 (across from Southdale)! If you would like a tour, the grand opening is this Thursday, August 3rd from 5:00 to 8:00 PM with a short program at 5:30. Please respond to this RSVP so they know how many will be attending. [RSVP is required to get important event-day details and parking information.](#) Parking will be tight so maybe we can carpool from the church. The event will be held rain or shine. Please dress for the weather.

Blessings, *Pam DeLaitre*

Check out the "Game Boards"

Megan and Kara Gratzek have been busy last week adding to the charm of our finally-dumpster-free side yard. Now available - fun for all!! Thank you Megan and Kara!





Financial Report

	6/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$12,734	\$95,912
Actual Pledges	\$9,965	\$99,002
Difference	(\$2,769)	\$3,090



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