

November 2017 Messenger (Copy 01)

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Monthly Newsletter of Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger: November 2017

From Pastor Oby

This summer at the UCC's national gathering in Baltimore, the crowd of thousands in attendance buzzed with anticipation of the next all-UCC focus, [Three Great Loves](#). Our General Minister and President John Dorhauer [introduced this overarching theme](#), which will focus the UCC's collective efforts in local churches, conferences and the national setting from now until the next General Synod in 2019. "The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved and justice is inherent. The 3 Great Loves is the denomination's opportunity to express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world." I've seen such efforts succeed at spurring new outreach and energizing current ones, so

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I'm grateful for the attention this is receiving from the national United Church of Christ (supported by the money we pass on through [Our Church's Wider Mission](#)).

The next six months center on "Love of Neighbor", since Jesus' description of the Greatest Commandment is to "love your neighbor as yourself". I invite you to reflect with me on these questions: How do you individually, and we as Edina Morningside Church, make the love of Jesus real in the ways we seek to love our neighbors? What are the things you and we are already doing? (You can read a few Love of Neighbor [stories from other churches here](#), and submit our own for all to read!) Is there one additional action you or we might take together to show our obedience to Christ in loving our neighbors as ourselves? Some ideas that our Program Staff (Janet, Elaine, Laurie) and I have brainstormed are a basic needs drive with a non-UCC congregation, seeking to understand others across the political spectrum, and house meetings to hear the stories of our neighbors. Any of these that you particularly like? What would you add? [Let me know!](#) Thank you for all you do every day, and your generous gifts of time, talent and treasure through the church, which help us love our neighbors better for the in the name of Jesus Christ.

With gratitude,
Pastor Oby Ballinger

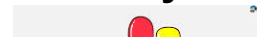
November Worship and Second Hour Preview

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In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

November Birthdays



November 5th: For **All Saints Sunday**, we consider the stories of Elijah's call in the wilderness (1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13), reflect on the saints in our lives, and receive Holy Communion in the pews. Second Hour is an extended choir rehearsal (with lunch and breaks!) of Advent and Christmas music.

November 12th: This Sunday we focus on the forms of **commitment** in our public and Christian life. Church friend Rolf Parsons reflects on the experiences of veterans and their families, we dedicate our pledges for the church's 2018 budget, and we discern God's call for us to be similarly committed to the work of justice and righteousness (Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24). Second Hour is the Meatloaf Dinner by Women's Fellowship.

November 19th: On **Thanksgiving Sunday**, we give thanks for the ways that God's light shines in the darkness (Isaiah 9:1-8), even as we confess the brokenness of the world as part of the Transgender Day of Remembrance. Our Second Hour is a Sermon Talkback conversation, hosted by Larry Williams at a table in Fellowship Hall.

November 26th: This **First Sunday of Advent**, we start a worship series on **Angels Among Us**, considering the heavenly messengers who figure in the Christmas story. Here, the angelic visitation to John the Baptist's father Zechariah (Luke 1: 5-25, 57-80) calls us to prepare for the coming of Christ with hope. Today's Second Hour is "Entering Advent", led by Pastor Oby and Rev. Elaine in the sanctuary.

Faith Formation Update

FAITH FORMATION



Nov. 1 -

**Anthony Fantin
Annabell**

Sorensen

Luke Sorensen

Nov. 3 -

Anna Clay

Nov. 8 -

Kris Kulevsky

Nov. 9 -

Gwen Williams

Nov. 11 -

Wendy Grim

Nov. 14 -

Barb Green

Nov. 19 -

Jayne

Stevenson

Nov. 20 -

Rob Joyce

Nov. 22 -

Molly Cox

Nov. 23 -

Charles Scriver

Nov. 27 -

Ruth Stauffer

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

**Meatloaf
Lunch**

Get Ready for



November 5: Sunday school classes will be held for grades K-5 (Janet Anderson) and 6-8 (Sarah Gednalske).

November 12: Sunday school classes will be held for all grades. K-5 (Kris Kulevsky), 6-8 (Mary Lenard), and 9-12 (Janet Anderson)

November 19: Sunday school class will be held for grades K-5 (Lollie Eidsness).

November 26: No Sunday school classes as we take a time out to thank God for the blessings of our lives.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes are under way! In October, students began putting together a timeline of Christianity that is being posted in the church library. Between confirmation class and their Sunday school class, students have learned how many books are in the Bible, what is meant by “canon” and “apocrypha,” and how the stories in the Bible went from oral recountings to English translations. **This month’s classroom experience will take place on Wednesday, November 1st from 6:30-8:30 p.m.** We’ll be talking about what it means to be part of the body of Christ, a follower of Christ, providing service to God and others in the world. That will be good preparation for the **Urban Immersion weekend that takes place Friday evening, November 17th to Sunday morning, November 19th.** The staff of Urban Immersion in Minneapolis will provide students with service work and information about people in need right here in our community. **We are still in need of one**

**the MEATLOAF LUNCH!!!
Sunday,
November 12th**



Are you hungry again? We hope so! On Sunday, November 12th, Women’s Fellowship will be serving our annual meatloaf lunch after worship in Fellowship Hall. Meatloaf, fluffy baked potatoes with the trimmings, vegetables, jello cups, dessert and beverages! What more could you ask! **Tickets are on sale now:** Adults - \$12.00, Children \$6.00 and a family maximum of \$40.00. The best deal in town!

community. We are still in need of one more adult chaperone. [Contact Oby](#) to get on board!

OUR WHOLE LIVES



OWL classes for high school students continue this month with information about contraception and what to expect at a sexual health check-up, as well as discussion about how to negotiate for delayed sex or safe and pleasurable sex. We'll be meeting after Thanksgiving, on **Wednesday, November 29th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Expect condoms, high spirits, and serious conversation.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's Christmas pageant is an intergenerational meet-and-greet. We've chosen five stories that celebrate the spirit of love that God has shared with us and paired them with five pieces of music that bring us joy. Now, **we invite you to join a song or story group** to bring those artistic expressions to life on December 17th. All abilities are welcome, from squeaky string-players to hammy actors to wee ones who just want to wear some wings. Our goal is to do as the season demands and give each other our gifts. [Connect with Elaine](#) if you'd like to be part of a musical group and [Janet](#) if you'd like to read or act in a story. You'll have informal practices with your small group and participate in full rehearsals on Sunday,

if you would like any takeout meals please, please, please sign up in advance so we can have them ready for you.

Looking forward to seeing you there! Any questions or want to make a reservation?

Contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#).

November Calendar



The [November Calendar](#) - click here to find out what is coming up at EMC.

Taizé



Please join us

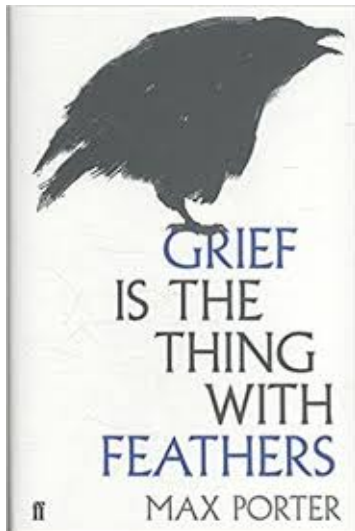
December 10th and Saturday, December 16th. See you in the sanctuary!

ADVENT WORKSHOP PREPARATIONS



At the **All Ministries Night on November 9th**, the board of Christian education will be holding a working meeting to organize the Advent Workshop (scheduled for December 3rd) and the Christmas pageant (scheduled for December 17th). If you would like to take part in either of those events, **you are warmly invited to join us!**

GRIEF IS THE THING WITH FEATHERS



On January 7th, 2018, I will be hosting a Second Hour discussion of the slender novel *Grief Is The Thing With Feathers* by Max Porter. The book is a realistic accounting of the loss felt by a

widowed father and his two, young sons. It is also a fable that allows one to enter in and experience one's own grief. Be prepared to suspend your disbelief; you will never look at a crow the same way after you've read this book. Check it out from the library or purchase it at your favorite bookstore, then

every third Sunday at 7PM during the winter months for a warm and centering Taizé-style worship service in the sanctuary. Our 30 minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is followed by a simple soup supper in the library. Join us in the EMC Sanctuary on **Sunday, November 19th** from for our first **Taizé** service of the program year. All are welcome!

Daylight Update



Read about Isaac, an 8th grade student at Daylight who hopes to be a surgeon

read it on a day when you feel tired and lost.
It is a book that honors and elevates sadness.

Janet Anderson
Director of Faith Formation

Front Porch Friday



Front Porch Friday will meet **Friday, November 17 at 11:00 AM** to attend the exhibit "**Eye-Witness Views**". This is a collection of large-scale paintings of landscapes and cityscapes from Italy in the 18th Century. Rich folk commissioned these paintings to remember their travels and special celebrations - since at that time they couldn't take "selfies"! One of the works is an eye-witness painting of the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius at Pompeii!

We are fortunate to have a tour guide for our visit. My friend and fellow pastor Carol Joyce is an MIA docent, and has agreed to be our guide! We will meet her at the MIA at 12:15, and plan on carpooling from church at 11:00. We will lunch afterward at the **Black Forest German Restaurant**.

Please indicate your interest by signing up on the bulletin board, or [contacting the church office](#). We hope to have at least 10 participants.

Molly Cox

surgeon
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

Save the Date!!



... Economic Justice brunch and caroling on Saturday, December 9th... with details to be determined soon.

Governance Task Force Update

As many of you may recall, a Governance Task Force was

Meet Richard Vik!

Have you seen a trim, hard-working, middle-aged man with a mustache bustling around the church most afternoons? He's often found with gloves on, or behind a vrooming vacuum cleaner, but he moves so fast it's sometimes hard to catch him (even for a picture). He's Richard Vik, our church custodian! This summer our Trustees contracted with the cleaning service [Vik Enterprise](#) on a trial basis, and they decided this fall to make the arrangement permanent. Richard is the owner of this small company and employs several other cleaners, but since he lives in St. Louis Park he's the one who takes care of our building. In the past few months (in addition to maintaining a clean property for church and preschool activities) Richard has also secured an outside railing, washed the inside of the sanctuary windows and all windows outside, patched and painted a section of the Fellowship Hall wall, deep-cleaned the kitchen, applied a sealant on the Fellowship Hall floor, waxed tile floors, and done a dozen other little projects around the building. He's been a willing partner with the Trustees in maintaining the church, and the high recommendations we received from Mayflower Church (where Richard also cleans) have proven true. When you do see Richard, please tell him "thank you" for carrying on the tradition of loving care we've enjoyed for so long in Mary Engelke.

If you'd like to leave information, requests, or other notes for Richard, he welcomes those put in a datebook that's found in the "Custodian" mailbox in the church office. We're also working on a "map" of Fellowship Hall that can be filled out by those requesting

formed in 2016 to examine Edina Morningside Church's governing constitution. This is in recognition of the fact that the current constitution was written many years ago, when were a different and much larger congregation.

Since then, we have been working to construct a constitution and model of governance that better reflects who we currently are and where we hope to go. It's a rather laborious process, but we've made a great deal of progress and hope to have something to show you sometime after the first of the year. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or any of

man that can be hired out by those requesting his help setting up for special events.

From the Archives....

Almost all of us will recognize the sound of the church bell that rings as 10:00 Sunday Service begins in Morningside each week, however, not many of us have had a chance to see what the bell looks like, that is until now.



A week or so ago I climbed up to the bell tower and found the bell to be in a good state of repair for one that is 110 years old. (date stamped: Cast in 1907, Hillsboro, Ohio by The C.C. Bell Company)

The story I've been able to uncover in the Church Archives so far on how this 107 year old bell found its way to Morningside is that in the Spring of 1930, 1 of 3 members of the church congregation heard that a Wisconsin farm family was storing the bell in their barn and was willing to let it go for \$25.00 providing the new owner could move it out of the barn.

So, as the story goes, 3 men of the Morningside Congregation departed for an unidentified Wisconsin farm yard to recover an old bell in a barn suitable for use in a church. The 3 men

asked me or any of the other members of the committee: Sonja Martens, Barb Green, Doug Toth, Jeff Strickler, or Pastor Oby Ballinger.

Sincerely,
Dan Jurgens

December Messenger

Articles for the December Messenger are due in the church office Monday, November 20th.

Contact us

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[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

Administrative assistant

[Laurie Eckberg](#)
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Website

emcucc.org



departed Morningside on a Friday and returned early Saturday morning and commenced to hoisting the bell by hand to the empty church tower competing the task in time for Sunday Service at 9:00AM.



No small feat for the 3 men of the congregation and most likely a group of neighborhood volunteers! Not much more is known at this time regarding this event taking place on the corner of Morningside Road and Grimes Avenue South in Morningside in the Spring of 1930 other than the congregation was pleased with their new church bell and gave thanks.

Calling All Rakes...



The church yard is in need of a fall clean up. If

you have an hour or two to spare in the next few days please consider coming over to help out. There are rakes and cans/bags here in the building but feel free to bring your favorite tools from home.



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