

October Messenger/Friday Update (Copy 01)

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The monthly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger/Friday Update: Sept. 29, 2017

From Pastor Oby

Sap slows this time of year, at least in those plants which will survive the winter. Leaves change color and start to drop from trees, blanketing the earth. The ground itself will soon start to harden with frost, and all living things start to focus more intently on what's needed for life in the next season.

Despite (or perhaps because of) the hustle in our human calendars these days, I've noticed a similar focusing tendency in our regular schedules. Javen and I periodically enter "a season of no", which means we decline good opportunities for new commitments because we feel "overgrown" in our schedules. I just unsubscribed from the lists of many worthy

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organizations because I became overwhelmed with the sheer number of emails I received. We all occasionally do what we must for long endurance, letting go of some things to focus our energies, as trees release their leaves and adjust their forms for the winter.

Mindful of this, I shared at a recent Cabinet meeting that I'm seeing some of our church outreach efforts retracting a bit. The Halloween Party will be on hiatus this year, Families Moving Forward is seeking a new "point person" following Janet's need to focus more on faith formation, and we're tenuous in volunteer recruitment for a dinner shift at Perspectives each month. While this is sometimes challenging because we want to maintain what we've "always" done, I think it's healthy for the church and its members to refocus our energies at times. This is as normal as the changing seasons.

At the same time, I also see our members taking on some joyful new activities. I marvel at the commitment you show in creating worship visuals and dramas, planning a joint venture to co-create this year's Christmas pageant, checking out Second Hour activities each week after worship, and showing up to our new Bible study on Tuesday mornings at 10. While our commitments take different forms at various times, we continue to grow and be stretched, proving that life continues.

Throughout our seasons—and wherever you find yourself this October—let me leave you with the touchstone verse I often come back to from Second Corinthians: "God loves a cheerful giver." Whatever form our activities take, my hope is that they will always arise

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from a deep well of joy at the adventure of this faith we are called into. We come into church in one form, but the processes of time, community and change do not leave us the same. As our activities grow anew or slow with the seasons, I trust that our steadfast God will continue to fill us from the deep streams of abundant, eternal, joyful life.

With gratitude,
Pastor Oby

Family Sunday Service - October 1, 2017

Scripture reading: [Exodus 3:1-15](#)

Before Worship

- Rehearsal of service parts
- Work on puzzle in Narthex
- Fill out Prayer Request slips

This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts:**
Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Song Leader:** Lisa Lally
- **Readers:** Nicole Chidester, Pam DeLaittre, Olivia Krebs, Mia Miller, Esther Putzier, Catriona Ray, Luke Sorensen, Annabell Sorensen
- **Ushers:** Alan Eidsness and Jim Olson
- **Nursery Attendant:** Laurie Eckberg
- **Offering Counter:** Laurie Eckberg

During Worship

- [November Messenger Deadline](#)
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In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

October Birthdays



Oct. 1 -

Jane Williams

Oct. 2 -

Madeline Krebs

Oct. 4 -

Kyle Eidsness

Oct. 5 -

Cathy Baldwin

Lisa Lally

Oct. 7 -

- Nursery Care available
- Boundary Waters youth trip video
- Homily by Janet Anderson
- October Loose Coin offering for [TreeHouse](#)
- Communion by intinction at the front of the sanctuary

After Worship

- **2pm - Second Hour:** Blessing of the Beasts

Neighbors in Need



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry(CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need offering.

Constance

Fantin

Oct. 9 -

Tyson Thomas

Oct. 13 -

Bill DeLaittre

Oct. 18 -

Jordan Thomas

Oct. 20 -

Natalie Preston

Oct. 23 -

Laura Benson

Oct. 25 -

Emily Neuhaus

Oct. 26 -

Connor Williams

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

Second Hour: Baked Potato Lunch



BAKED POTATO LUNCH is almost here! On **Sunday, October 8th**, Women's

We will receive the Neighbors in Need offering **this Sunday** as part of our World Communion Sunday worship. NIN contributions can also be made online at any time [here](#). Thank you for your consideration and generous support!

Second Hour: Blessing of the Beasts



Plan to join a later Second Hour this **Sunday, October 1st**, at **2pm** for a **Blessing of the Beasts!** This is a fun chance to meet the animal members of our families. Bring friends of all kinds! We will be in the church yard at 2pm – in case of rain, service will move indoors.

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours Tu W Th F 10am-2pm
Pastor's Office Hours: Tu, W, Th
Faith Formation Hours: M, W, Th
Preschool Hours Tu, W, Th, F 9am-1pm

Monday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach, SLP**
 - 7pm MNA Steering Committee
-

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 are on sale now. 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](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#)

October Calendar



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

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study (Library)**

Wednesday

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

October Worship Preview

October 1st (10am): Moses—Equipped by God ([Exodus 3:1-15](#)); Family Sunday, video of youth trip to the Boundary Waters; homily by Janet Anderson, special offering for [Neighbors in Need](#), communion at the front of the church

October 1st (2pm): Blessing of the Beasts ([Genesis 1:20-25](#)); Welcoming our pets, sharing what we've learned through them, and blessing them to joyful life in God's creation

October 8th: God Provides Gifts from Above ([Exodus 16:1-18](#)); Experiencing ourselves in the desert with Hebrew migrants, overhearing conversation between a grumpy Israelite and Moses, discerning what "manna from heaven" looks like today

October 15th: Listening for God's Call ([1 Samuel 3:1-21](#)); Guest preacher Rev. Grant Stevensen brings greetings from faith-based community organization ISAIAH. Where are we invited to notice—in attentive and responsive ways—the call of God in our communities today?

Daylight Update



While students had the month of August to be with their families and friend helping out and relaxing, workers were busy finishing a new classroom for the grades 1-3. [Read and see pictures](#) of this amazing work for these amazing kids!

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

Prechool News



October 22nd: God Looks on the Heart (1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 51:10-14); Healing Service; God calls us—like God—to look on the heart, offering care with/to those who have hidden and/or chronic illnesses.



October 29th: God's Call to Build the Temple (1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13); Celebrating 500 years of Reformation, we consider what sort of faith community God calls us to build for the next 500 years

We have had a great start to the school year. We currently have 25 children enrolled in our preschool program. We still have a few openings if you know of any families still looking for a preschool. Our program is a little different this year. We no longer have a morning and afternoon session. Instead, we have a morning session that runs from 9-11:30 with the option to sign up for an extended day session and stay until 1:00. Another change this year is staffing. Jessie Holly, who has been at EMPRE for 2 years, and Destiny Rock, who has been at

Faith Formation Update

Family Sunday, October 1st



The first Sunday of this month brings much to celebrate. Joey Miller has put together a video featuring images from this past summer's EMC youth trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. We have a new confirmation class that spent a weekend at the church, getting to know each other and putting together a children's gathering time. As we celebrate World Communion, we recognize some of the people in our congregation who open themselves to others by learning to speak their languages. Join us at 10:00 a.m. for worship featuring leaders of all ages, a story by A.A. Milne, the dazzle of a burning bush, reflections on this wonderful world, and conversation about how to do

God's will, not by resisting what is evil but by being what is good. (Nursery care will be available. There will be no Sunday school.)

Faith Formation Classes

Grades K-5: Sunday school will be in session this month on October 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th during the 10:00 a.m. hour. Students will be studying some of the seminal Old Testament stories: the Garden of Eden, Noah and the ark, the Tower of Babel, and the tale of Abraham, Sarai, and Lot.

Grades 6-8: Sunday school will be in session October 8th and 22nd for middle-schoolers, who will continue their unit on the Bible. Alternate weeks, middle schoolers are encouraged to attend worship or help in the nursery.

Grades 9-12: High school students will have faith formation class on October 8th this month, when we'll be considering life rites. We'll look at writer Jonathan Safran Foer's thoughts on confirmation, then consider marriage and funeral rites, with a little help from the movies *The Graduate* and *Harold & Maude*. High school students are always welcome in worship. They are also encouraged to attend the "Life in a Day" outing on October 14th (see Confirmation.)

Confirmation



EMPRES for 11 years, are the new co-directors. They will continue to be teachers in the classroom as well. In addition, Laura Gennrich has signed on as the third teacher. We are very excited for the all the fun and learning yet to come this school year!

Substitute Teachers Needed



With the addition of Laura Gennrich to our preschool staff, we need to replenish our Edina Morningside Preschool sub list! If you are able to help out in the preschool on days when a



This month's confirmation classroom experience will be on Wednesday, October 4th from 6:30-8:30. Pastor Oby and Faith Formation Director Janet will lead students in a discussion of the Bible and the history of Christianity. October's off-site learning experience will take place on Saturday, October 14th. Oby will take students to a birth unit, the Mid-town Global Market, a nursing home, and a funeral home so that they may experience "Life In A Day." Interested in tagging along? Driving or chaperoning? All ages are welcome. [Contact Oby.](#)

Our Whole Lives: Grades 10-12

We continue Our Whole Lives sexuality program for grades 10-12 on Wednesday, October 25th, when topics of sexual health will include the sexual response cycle (this is enlightening stuff) and self-care, such as breast and testicular exams.

**Come One, Come All:
Make a Joyful Noise!**



The music committee and the board of Christian education have partnered on a plan for the Christmas pageant in which all may take part. Starting later in October, small groups of musicians will be gathering to work

teacher must be absent, please contact [Megan Gratzek.](#) Typically subs would be needed on a Tuesday through Friday morning, from 9am to 11:30am. Thank you in advance for considering this outreach and service opportunity!

November Messenger Deadline

Articles to be included in the **November Messenger** should be in the church office on **October 23rd.**

Women's Social Evening



on one or two pieces of music to be shared during worship on December 17th. At the same time, little bands of writers will be meeting to put together traditional or fresh takes on the story of Christmas. Together, we will present that story in music and words in shared worship. Our goal is to invite intergenerational relationships—and fun!—in our small rehearsal groups, and to create something big together as each of us shares our modest talents.

Absolutely ALL abilities are welcome to participate- dust off that instrument in the closet or retune that guitar from the attic! Our hope is to make this as inclusive, communal, and joyful as singing Christmas carols! We'll be working on music with our K-5 students in Sunday school. Final rehearsals will take place on Sunday, December 10th and Saturday, December 16th. Want to be a part of it? Contact Elaine Kirkland if you want to play an instrument (including voice) and Janet Anderson if you want to write or act in a story.

Janet Anderson
Director of Faith Formation
Edina Morningside Community Church

Front Porch Friday



Time to gather again! **Friday evening, October 20th 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.

So we can plan, **please RSVP to the [church office](#) by Monday,**

October 16th – 952-926-6555 or ...or just come! If childcare is needed, please let Laurie E. or Pam know as soon as you can so we can make



Here is a picture from the September 22 Front Porch Friday expedition up the Mississippi River.

Our pilot/host was full of information and stories about the bridges we passed under, and the lock we passed through. The fall colors were just starting along the park (river) ... inside in the air conditioning, outside in the sun or shade, amazing vistas.

VISIT THE BAKKEN!

Front Porch Friday will visit the Bakken Museum October 20. We will meet at 10am that Friday to carpool from church. The Bakken Museum takes it's name from Earl Bakken, the local inventor who founded Medtronic. Housed in a mansion overlooking Lake Calhoun, the Bakken is a small gem of a museum. It's focus is science - with emphasis on Ben Franklin and Frankenstein. It is surrounded by lovely gardens - some medicinal. Cost for entrance is \$8 for seniors, \$10 full price. We will have lunch in the area - and are open to suggestions for a place. Please RSVP by [contacting the church office](#) or on the sign up posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

Financial Report

	7/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$15,319	\$124,271
Actual Pledges	\$9,190	\$128,831
Difference	(\$6,129)	(\$4,560)

arrangements.
Looking forward to seeing you there!

Questions?
contact [Pam DeLaittre](#)

Hurricane Relief



The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal to help with long term recovery following hurricanes this season. Please follow this link to find out more about the UCC [Emergency USA Fund](#), and how to donate to recovery efforts.

Halloween Party Update

Families Moving Forward Monday, October 16th 5:30-7:30pm



Edina Morningside has a commitment to serve Families Moving Forward dinner at Parkway UCC, 3120 Washburn Avenue North in Minneapolis, on Monday, October 16th. 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. There is a sign-up by the church office, or [email us](#).

We are also in need of a volunteer to be the point person to organize volunteers for our continued FMF service. This would entail being in contact with Parkway UCC about the specific needs of a volunteer date, ensuring we have enough volunteers to serve and helping to plan the children's activity for the evening. The upcoming dates EMC volunteers are: **October 16, February 12, May 7 and August 6**. Please [contact the church office](#) if you are interested in serving as this point person.

Member and Community Happenings



After several months of seeking leadership for the annual Halloween Party but finding folks already well committed to other ministries, the Board of Christian Education is **suspending the Halloween Party** for this year. Thank you for your help with the Halloween Party in the past, and with all our other neighborhood outreach efforts!

Contact us

Pastor

[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

Administrative assistant

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

Website

emcucc.org



Walk For Hope

September 30th, 8-11am

**Bunker Hills Regional Park, Pavilion #3,
Andover**

Walk or Run to Raise Funds for Alexandra House, whose mission is to empower victims of domestic and sexual violence, and inspire social change, through education, advocacy, and support. You can walk, run and/or raise funds in support of Alexandra House and the Walk for Hope. To find out more and to register go to [AlexandraHouse.org](https://www.AlexandraHouse.org).

Rivers of Racial Justice (co-organized by Pastor Oby)

September 30th, 12:30-5:30PM

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, New Brighton

3000 5th Street Northwest, New Brighton, MN
Please join us for an afternoon of workshops, fellowship, and worship at this free multi-faith event to support racial justice, organized by the Minnesota Conference Racial Justice Team. Workshops include explorations of black hymnody, immigration, social transformation, and the UCC curriculum White Privilege: Let's Talk. At the worship service, Rev. Danny Givens will be preaching and Robert Morris will lead music. [RSVP via Eventbrite](#).

**Sacred Places, Sacred Stories: A
Reclamation Journey into Healing Justice**
October 7th, 12pm - October 9th, 11am
Various Twin Cities Locations

Sacred Places, Sacred Stories is an opportunity to both name the context of colonization--of bodies, land and stories--that White Supremacy has wrought and tell the stories of successful healing, resilience and

resistance. [Click here for more information or to register.](#)

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



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