

September Messenger/Thursday Update

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Monthly Newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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September Messenger/Thursday Update: Aug. 31

From Pastor Oby

It's hard for me to believe, but September 6th already marks my one-year anniversary as your pastor! It's been a heady and joyful ride. I'm excited by all that we've seen together over the last twelve months: worship vitality, building repairs, capital campaign, new members, tech enhancements, leadership transitions, weddings, funerals and baptisms. There's much that's new to look forward to in the coming twelve months also: Second Hour activities after worship each week, Divine Design renovations to the narthex and entrance, a monthly All Ministries meeting night (see below for more on that from moderator Jeff Strickler), and new confirmation plans. I'm thrilled to work with our staff and volunteer leaders as together we

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learn what it's like to be the church anew in the 21st century.

Sunday, September 10th is Rally Sunday, when fall programs and Sunday school officially resume. That day in worship, we also begin a *9-month* read through the arc of the Bible! Throughout the fall, we consider selections from Genesis and the Hebrew Prophets. I suspect we'll discover that these ancient stories and biblical characters are not so different from our own times. Then from Christmas to Easter we explore the life of Jesus through John's gospel, and we wrestle with the call of Christ in our lives. In the seven weeks between Easter and Pentecost, we follow the ancient church in transforming the world according to the calling of Christ. I hope you'll join me for the Second Hour after worship this Sunday (9/3) as we take a closer look at the arc of biblical experience in the Hebrew Scriptures. As we navigate ever-changing times, we remain faithful by learning from the God whose ways and people are discovered in the pages of Scripture.

Finally, can I measure your interest in another possible new (old) effort? I love the Bible, and exploring it with folks who wonder about its connections to life in our own day. Would you be interested in joining a weekly or bi-weekly Bible study this coming year? I'm thinking about a Tuesday morning or midday meetup, with coffee or bring-your-own-lunch (with regret that this doesn't fit in the schedule for most working folks). Please tell me if you think this is too much newness right now, or if this would be a meaningful way to help you engage Scripture in future months. I'd enjoy leading the conversations and think they would help us all prepare for the coming

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Sunday, but I also know that sometimes my enthusiasm gets ahead of my schedule. Would you attend, often or occasionally? **Please let me know!** And however you're able to join in any of the activities this fall, know how grateful I am for the opportunity to serve Edina Morningside Church!

Rev. Oby Ballinger

September Worship Preview

September 3rd: Blessings in the Seasons of the Year (Ecclesiastes 3:1-11a); We finish a series on Blessings with the wisdom of recognizing life's different seasons, recorded music by **Carrie Newcomer** and the **Luther College Nordic Choir**, and communion in the pew.

September 10th: In the Beginning (Rally Sunday) (Genesis 1:1-2:4a) We start a three-month season of Bible stories from Genesis to the Hebrew Prophets. Chancel Choir adds joyful music and Sunday school also resumes. After worship, we enjoy an ice cream social and ministry fair!

September 17th: Abraham, Isaac and God's Deliverance (Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14); Isaac is a God-blessed child, so when Abraham tries to kill Isaac as a sacrifice God delivers the boy. On this **Just Peace Sunday**, we take a special offering for the **MN Conference UCC Peace Fund**.

September 24th: Jacob's Dream (Genesis 27:1-4,15-23; 28:10-17) Deceptive Jacob tricks his brother and father to steal a blessing. Despite difficult years that follow God never leaves Jacob, and gives him a vision of Jacob's place in God's salvation.

In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

September Birthdays



Sept. 1 -
Sonja Martens
Sept. 2 -
Esther Putzier
Sept. 3 -
Abbie Baldwin
Laura Gennrich
Sept. 4 -
Tyler Eckberg
Sept. 7 -
Tyler Thomas
Bob Beyerl
Dale Suebert
Sept. 16 -
Scott Herbst
Sept. 21 -
Pam Olson
Sept. 22 -
Marjorie Jamieson
Lois Obert
Sept. 23 -
Don Flinn

Faith Formation Update

Rallying Around Faith Formation



On September 10th, when church programs resume after a summer break, Edina Morningside will be rallying around a renewed commitment to Christian education. We continue to focus on teaching Bible stories, through *Shine*, to our students in grades K-5, whose class will meet most weeks. We will also continue to offer twice monthly classes for students in grades 6-8. The *re:form* curriculum will present them with the basics of Biblical and church history and theology over a 3-year cycle. I will be working with high school students once a month to apply Christian principles to problems in the world. The goal of the board of Christian education is to instill in students confidence in their faith tradition, including offering them opportunities to share and appreciate worship with their parents as they grow.

On Rally Sunday, parents may pick up a folder of faith formation materials applicable to their families. Folders will include calendars of Sunday school, confirmation, OWL, and special event dates, organized by grade levels for easy reference. They will also include sample curricula for children and

**Rev. Elaine
Kirkland**

Sept. 26 -

Alan Eidsness

Sept. 29 -

Becky Phelan

Arch Williams

Rev. Frank

Bennett

Brad Gangnon

Kara Gratzek

Olivia Krebs

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

Substitute Teachers Needed



With the addition of Laura Gennrich to our preschool staff, the need for additions to the preschool sub list increases. If you are able to help out in the preschool on days when teachers are out

youth to peruse, as well as a letter from me about the value of Sunday school.

This September also brings the return of confirmation classes for students in grades 7-8, as well as *Our Whole Lives* human sexuality classes for students in grades 10-12. (See below for more details about these programs.) That means that more EMCers than ever are volunteering to teach. Classroom stalwarts Laurie Eckberg, Becky Phelan, and Megan Gratzek will be volunteering in Sunday school, along with ever amenable Sarah Gednalske and Lollie Eidsness, and we are welcoming new teachers Robert Schumacher and Mary Lenard. In addition, BOCE members Lisa Lally and Larry Williams will be working with Frank Bennett and me in the OWL classroom, and Laurie Chidester will be chaperoning confirmation off-sites. Thank you to all who are or will be working with the children of the congregation this year!

Confirmation Class Begins

EMC offers confirmation classes to students in grades 7-8 on alternate years. This year's kick-off for parents and youth is on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:30 pm, with a lock-in for youth to come on September 23-24. Most months will feature one Wednesday evening class and one off-site learning or service activity. Pastor Oby Ballinger will be working with Faith Formation Director Janet Anderson to present classroom lessons and with Laurie Chidester to present life lessons outside the church walls. Look to upcoming issues of *The Messenger* for news on off-site opportunities that all ages can be a part of!

Hoot If You Love OWL!

please contact Megan Gratzek. Typically subs would be needed on a morning Tuesday through Friday from 9am to 11:30am. Thank you in advance for considering this outreach opportunity.

September Calendar

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

Daylight Update

At the recent Daylight Storytelling Night the poem [How To Build A Classroom In Rural Kenya](#) was shared with those gathered.

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya,



The Board of Christian Education (BOCE) plans to offer *Our Whole Lives* classes in human sexuality for students in grades 7-9 and 10-12 on alternate years. This year, we offer the high school curriculum. Because the program is written to be age-appropriate, texts and activities will be different from what was offered last year. We expect to see a few graduates of the younger OWL class, as well as older high school students who haven't yet had a chance to experience the program. In addition, we have opened the class to teens who attended our Equipping Teens for Life conference in April. This year's OWL instructors are Lisa Lally, Janet Anderson, Larry Williams, and Frank Bennett. Parents who would like to register their children for OWL must attend an orientation on September 13th at 6:30 and provide a permission slip. If this requirement is a hardship, [contact Janet Anderson.](#)

Mark Your Calendars for Family Sunday, October 1

The next Family Sunday sneaks up on us with a turn of the calendar page. We'll be hearing back that day from the youth who travelled to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area this past summer, as well as celebrating World Communion Sunday. Want to offer a reading or a piece of music that day? [Connect with Janet Anderson.](#)

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

Blessings!
Pam DeLaittre..

October Messenger Deadline

Articles to be included in the **October Messenger** should be in the church office on **September 25th.**

From the Archives...

Do you recognize these ?



Janet Anderson
Director of Faith Formation

Sunday Service - September 3, 2017

Scripture reading: [Ecclesiastes 3:1-11a](#)

Before Worship

- Puzzle assembly for those who wish

This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts:**
Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Song Leader:** Darlene Clay
- **Readers:** Chuck Clay and Darlene Clay
- **Accompanist:** Barb Green
- **Offering Counter:** Marge Ellingson
- **Ushers:** Marge Ellingson, Don Patrick,
Janet Preston

During Worship

- Communion by Distribution
- Puzzle assembly for those who wish
- Invitation to share Joy/Concern prayers
- September Loose Coin offering for [ISAIAH](#)

After Worship

- Fellowship in the Library
 - Second Hour: Entering the Bible
-

"Blessings" Focus for Sunday Morning



Searching on Church shelves not often used, Laurie and Doug discovered a stainless steel bowl recently with what looked like some engraving . The bowl was tarnished a dark gray and black color to the point where the engraving was unreadable.

After applying a few coats of cleaning solution followed up by polishing several times, it was discovered that indeed there was some engraving that reads :

Baptismal Font in the Memory of Sarah Chamberlain, 1941 - 1950 .

The Church Archives has no record of Sarah or for that matter

Sunday Morning

Join us Sunday as we consider **Blessings in the Seasons of the Year**. We finish a series on Blessings with the wisdom of recognizing life's different seasons, recorded music by [Carrie Newcomer](#) and the [Luther College Nordic Choir](#), and communion in the pew.



any record of the Chamberlain Family.

Perhaps you will remember Sarah and the family ? If so, please contact the [Archives](#) or [Laurie](#) and let us know what you remember .

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours:

Tu, W, Th, F Appointments

Pastor's Office Hours:

Tu, W, Th Encouraged

Faith Formation Hours:

M, W, Th

Tuesday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach**
- 6:30pm **Governance Task Force Meeting**

Wednesday

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

Friday

- 9:30am **Spiritual Writing Group**

In addition, this week the Church Archives received courtesy of Pastor Oby what we are told is the original Baptismal Font used in the Morningside Congregational Chapel, circa 1909, located just down Morningside Road a few blocks to the East .

It's remarkable not only because it could have survived so long undamaged and because it's made of clear thick glass with facets on the

Second Hour: Entering the Bible



Join Pastor Oby after worship on Sunday for a biblical overview of the fall worship readings and themes, from Genesis to the Hebrew Prophets.

From the Moderator

You'll notice a change in our calendar starting this month: a listing for All Ministries Night. Instead of every board and committee having individual meeting times, on the second Thursday of each month – starting with Sept. 14 – all the boards will meet simultaneously. This will greatly ease coordination among the various groups, as well as enable staff members to interact quickly with them.

We're launching All Ministries Night with a potluck meal to which the entire congregation is invited. It will begin at 6:30 pm on the 14th. At 7pm, the committees will break into their separate groups. Please feel free to stay and sit in on any meeting that interests you. (Reminder: Under our constitution, the meetings are open to any church member to attend, although only the elected board members can vote.)

If you have any questions or feedback you'd

surface and sculpted glass edges only 6" high and 6" wide at the top .

If you have any knowledge of this glass baptismal font used so long ago, please share your story with the [Archives](#) .

Church Archives
3rd Floor
Landing
historian.church@gmail.com

Living Well/Dying Well

Rev. Frank Bennett will be leading a workshop on the topic of **Advanced Care Planning, Filling Out the Paperwork**. All are invited to attend and learn more about this important part in planning for the

like to offer – either before or after the first All Ministries Night – please contact me, Moderator [Jeff Strickler](#).

Member and Community Happenings

Walk to End Alzheimers



September 9th, 7:30am check-in; 9am opening ceremony and walk begins

Target Field, Minneapolis

Join Jane and Hsien-Hsin Chang at the Walk to End Alzheimers, the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Click [here](#) to visit Jane's walk page where you can donate or join her team (Memory Meetup).

"OMF & UNREST", with Bob, Lianne and Jeff Beyerl

September 16th, 1-4pm

[Southdale Library](#), Edina

Open Medicine Foundation® (OMF) is the leading research organization working to end chronic fatigue syndrome and related chronic complex diseases. Following the screening of Jennifer Brea's award-winning documentary, UNREST, OMF CEO/President Linda Tannenbaum will present an update on OMF's revolutionary research and what OMF and others are doing to increase awareness, education and support. [Full](#)

future. The workshop will be held at **EMC** on **September 28th** starting at **7pm**.

Women's Fellowship



Mark Your Calendars! –

The new church year is beginning and we will gather in the church library for our first meeting of the fall on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6th at 9:30 AM!**

Look forward to devotions, hearing about Pastor Oby's trip to Germany, plans for the coming year, and, of course, treats! Please join us!

Any questions contact [Laurie Cory](#)

[information on the flyer linked here.](#)

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

952-933-5863 or

[Pam DeLaittre](#)

952-881-1883.

Contact us

Pastor

[Rev. Oby](#)

[Ballinger](#)

**Administrative
assistant**

[Laurie Eckberg](#)

952-926-6555

Website

emcucc.org

Financial Report

	7/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$17,600	\$115,081
Actual Pledges	\$16,079	\$113,512
Difference	(\$1,521)	\$1,569



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