

The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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April Messenger/Friday Update for March 29, 2019

Through the Lens of Faith, by Pastor Oby

What's happening in the world and the church, as it relates to God's purpose for Edina Morningside Church: "Sharing the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving".

This Sunday, we say farewell to our Faith Formation Director, Janet Anderson, and bless her for her next work at the [Minnesota Conference](#) of the United Church of Christ. Over the last four years, Janet has established deep relationships with our children, youth and adults; recruited and resourced Sunday school teachers each week; organized and preached for numerous Family Sunday services; helped create the Equipping Teens for Life conference with Peggy Orenstein that we offered in April 2017; arranged for numerous other "Morningside U" classes taught by church members for the community; led a Christmas program each year (including two that she fully scripted herself); co-taught two confirmation classes; assisted and co-taught several small-group adult education series; led Economic Justice meals to bring people and money to the North Side; and helped advance creation-justice and safer-church initiatives. This is in addition to her regular participation in faith formation work beyond our church (principally by serving on the board of the [Resource Center for Churches](#)), and her "first love" of creative writing. We've tried a number of different Sunday morning models for faith formation,



honor of history, searching openness to new possibilities, and a deep passion for authentic spirituality which is received from tradition and reborn in new ways with each generation. I have marveled at Janet's skills and insights from our first conversations about having Joey Miller shoot a movie for the Christmas program in 2016, to her thoughtful care while preaching on Ash Wednesday earlier this month. I will greatly miss working with Janet, and seeing her sweet dog Santiago. I know that our children and families will miss her even more.

Even as Janet takes her leave from this role, and steps into full-time work with the Minnesota Conference, we hope to see her at Conference events and other activities in the future. We also have work to do as a church, discerning what sort of skills we will look for in our next Faith Formation Director, refining a job description, and recruiting our next successful candidate. [Please let me know](#) if you're interested in helping with any part of that effort--I expect that we'll start in earnest after Easter and continue into the summer. In the meantime, I hope you will join us in worship this Sunday to thank Janet for the ways she has offered her many gifts to us over these years, and to bless her for what lies ahead. God has been with us together, and God will continue to accompany us into the futures that we are invited to create, with the ever-fresh, ever-new Holy Spirit!

Sunday Worship Service - March 31, 2019

Before Worship

- Fill out prayer request slips

This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts:** Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Faith Formation Director:** Janet Anderson
- **Readers:** Laurie & Jim Cory, Pam DeLaittre and Doug Engelke
- **Song Leaders:** Darlene Clay, Barb & Charlie Green, Wendy Grim, Lisa Lally, Catriona & Steve Ray
- **Nursery Attendant:** Cathy Baldwin
- **Ushers:** Lollie Eidsness and Donella Neuhaus

During Worship

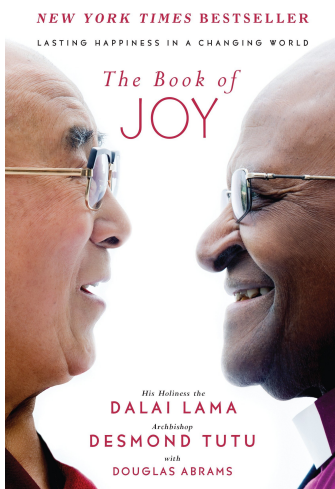
- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Nursery Care available
- Honoring Janet Anderson
- Time with Children, followed by "Story and Service" for youth with Barb Green
- Loose coins collected in March donated to [Daylight Center and School](#)

After Worship

In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

Second Hour: Book of Joy Discussion and Practice Groups



How can we find greater joy? How can we encourage it in others, and in the world? This year for Lent, EMC gains insights on joy from Christianity, Buddhism and science. There are 2 weeks left to join one of the small group discussions. In addition to the Second Hour group on Sunday there is a Monday evening group at 6:30pm and a Tuesday morning group at 10am. Copies of “**The Book of Joy**” are available at EMC (purchase price \$16).

Click [here](#) for a reading schedule, or pick up a bookmark in the Gathering Space the next time you are in the building. See you soon, joyfully!

INVITATIONS TO FAITH FORMATION



Story & Service

It's the fifth Sunday of the month, so we're doing something of service. One of the uses that Barb Green, co-chair of the Green Team, has envisioned for church grounds is planting vegetables to be donated to VEAP. This week, Megan Gratzek, also co-chair of the Green Team, will invite children to plant seeds for that purpose.

Do You Really Wanna Make Me Cry?

I have not yet been capable of thinking about the transformative experience my work at EMC has been for me, and what it means to say goodbye to it. But I look forward to expressing my gratitude to you this Sunday, as I prepare to work full-time at the offices of the Minnesota Conference of the UCC. If you can't be in church on Sunday, look for my words of thanks here next week.

Janet Anderson, Director of Faith Formation

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours:	M-Th	10am-3pm
Pastor's Office Hours:	Tu, W, Th	appointments encouraged
Preschool Hours:	<i>Preschool Spring Break</i>	

Monday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach** (St. Louis Park))
- 6:30pm **Book of Joy Discussion Group** (Meeting Room)
- 7pm MNA Steering Committee (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday

- 10am **Book of Joy Discussion Group** (Meeting Room)

Wednesday

- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship** (Meeting Room)
- 5:30pm Hand of AA (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm **Youth Group** (EMC)
- 6:15pm **Morningside Bell Rehearsal**
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

Thursday

- 6pm **ISAIAH Core Team Meeting**

Saturday

- 9am **MN Conference Committee on Ministry**
-

April Worship and Second Hour Preview

April 7th: For the **Fifth Week in Lent**, we consider Jesus' parable about sheep and goats (Matthew 25:31-46). What really matters in life—as Jesus and *The Book of Joy* emphasize—is showing compassion and generosity. We share communion in the pews, and Second Hour

April 14th: Palm Sunday--see below. Our Second Hour is the Women's Fellowship Bake Sale and Cookie Walk downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

April 18th (7pm): Maundy Thursday and **April 19th (1pm): Good Friday**--see below.

April 21st: Easter Sunday—see below. No Second Hour.

April 28th: On the **Second Sunday in Easter** we recall how the risen Christ meets the first disciples in Galilee, commissions us for worldwide service, and promises to be with us "to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20). Rev. Frank Bennett leads worship.

Holy Week Worship

April 14th: Palm Sunday welcomes us into Holy Week with a palm procession and reminder of Jesus' public witness to God's reign of peace.



April 18th: Maundy Thursday worship at **7pm** invites us to remember Jesus' service to his disciples at the Last Supper (Matthew 26:17-30). With growing darkness and extinguishing lights, we observe the night of Christ's betrayal and desertion by his closest disciples.

April 19th: Our **Good Friday** worship is a meditative time to contemplate the crucifixion of Christ. The service will be in the sanctuary at **1pm**, with Scripture readings and musical reflections.

April 21st: Easter Sunday—Christ is risen! We celebrate with a **7am** sunrise worship outdoors at nearby Browndale Park (followed by breakfast at Perkins), and with our festive **10am** sanctuary service, complete with Easter lilies and special music.

VEAP's March Food & Fund Drive



So far EMC has collected over 63 lbs of food, plus diapers and toilet paper for the youth service project.

Our plan at this year has been to focus each week on certain foods, so by the end we have a good variety. We have a few suggestions below, but feel free to bring others.

- March 31 - Personal care items - soap, toothpaste, laundry detergent - or anything else you want!!

AND of course, [financial donations](#) are always most welcome. VEAP can stretch dollars further than we can. VEAP can feed one person for one week for \$1.50, which means just \$78 will feed one person each week for a year!

So let's work to bring in both food and funds for VEAP this March!

Lenten "Love of Neighbor" Opportunities

One Great Hour of Sharing: March 31st Special Offering

The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place. Thank you for your generous contribution. [Click here to donate online.](#)



Perspectives: April 1st, 3:30-6:30pm



Since 2017, EMC members have been helping kids create healthy dinners once a month at Perspectives, an award-winning human services agency in St. Louis Park. This volunteer opportunity is open to everyone 16 and older—even if you barely know your way around a kitchen. We serve on the first Monday of every month during the school year - and there are only 2 left! Please use this [SignUpGenius link](#) to learn more and pitch in!

Music Director Candidate Rehearsals This Sunday, March 31st!

We have had many qualified candidates apply for the EMC Music Director position. After interviews, the search committee has narrowed the field to three applicants.

They each have the opportunity to lead Bell and Chancel Choir rehearsals in the Sanctuary this Sunday afternoon, March 31st from 1-4pm. Please plan to participate (or watch via Facebook Live) if you want to offer feedback on the selection process. Thank you for your continued prayerful support!



Easter Flowers: Order by April 1st

Dear EMC Families and Friends:

Once again it is time to order your Easter flowers for the sanctuary, as well as for our homebound members. We are pleased to have available several types and colors of potted flowers for you to choose from, and you can dedicate them in honor or memory of loved ones. After the service on Easter Sunday, April 21st, you may pick up your flowers to enjoy them for weeks afterward. Thank you for your order that makes our sanctuary “bloom” with joy. Click [here](#) for an order form. Orders will be taken through Monday, April 1st. Please put your order with check attached (note it is for Easter flowers) in the offering plate or the office. Questions?? Please contact coordinator [Laura Simonson](#).



April Birthdays



April 7 - Amanda Sicoli

April 14 - Pam DeLaittre

April 12 - Jim Cory

Jeff Strickler

April 13 - Marjorie Wezeman

April 14 - Pam DeLaittre

April 17 - Joe Clay

April 21 - Sebastian Birchard

April 28 - Corey Green

Please [let us know](#) if we missed your big day!!

Palm Sunday Bake Sale and Cookie Walk



Women's Fellowship Palm Sunday Bake Sale and Cookie Walk – Sunday, April 14th - after Sunday worship in Fellowship Hall.

We know it is hard to believe but blessed Easter will soon be here! That means that the Women's Fellowship Palm Sunday Bake Sale & Cookie Walk cannot be far behind. This is the perfect opportunity to buy those luscious Easter sweets to serve to you guests and family...or to munch down yourself during coffee hour. We will have our famous "cookie walk" so come prepared with your own container or use one of ours. If you would like to contribute baked or pastry goods to the sale, please bring them to Fellowship Hall before Sunday worship. If you would like to bring them earlier and put them in the freezer that's fine, too. Just be sure they are marked for the bake sale and let us know they are there. ENJOY! Any questions, please contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#).

Legislative Forum for a Caring Economy and Inclusive Democracy: Sunday, April 14th, 1-2:30pm



Edina Morningside Church prays that God's way is done "on earth as in heaven", and so we care that our elected leaders serve God's priorities with policies that serve an economy and a democracy for everyone. Join us for a

less-fortunate neighbors. Working with ISIAAH (an interfaith organization for racial and economic justice), we'll call on our leaders to adopt laws that promote a caring economy and a democracy that honors every person's dignity.

Rep. Steve Elkins (Edina/Bloomington area) and Rep. Heather Edelson (Edina) have confirmed their attendance. Sen. Melisa Franzen has tentatively accepted as well. Can we count on you to be there?? Save the date, RSVP via the church's [Facebook event](#), and stay tuned!



You can find out more about ISIAAH, the issues we are pursuing this legislative year, etc. at www.isaiahmnn.org. You could also talk to either Bruce Fisher (612-309-5965) / brfisher49@comcast.net or Pastor Oby.

Daylight News



Daylight
Center & School



Fridays at Daylight are a sight to behold. The [April Update](#) is full of photos from a typical Friday - Enjoy!

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the staff and children at Daylight, and the dedicated people who support Daylight in your prayers. Thank you!

Lenten Fundraising Challenge

WE DID IT! As of March 17th, through your generosity we have reached our goal of \$2,400 to support the salaries of two Daylight School teachers! Thank you so much!

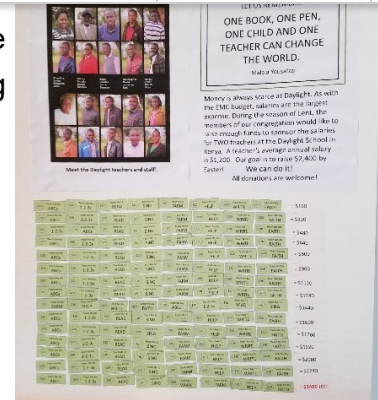
How about trying for a THIRD teacher?! That would mean a new **stretch goal of \$3,600**. There

extend the chart in the Gathering Space so we can keep track. There are special Daylight envelopes in the pew racks. Or, if you are writing a check, note "Daylight" in the memo spot.

Blessings, *Pam DeLaittre, Daylight Contact*

Let us remember: One book, One pen, One child and One teacher can change the world.

- Malala Yousafzai



Morningside After Dark



[Facebook Page.](#)

Don't miss the final installment of **Morningside After Dark** on Monday, April 29th from 7:30 - 9 pm (doors open at 7 pm) with the theme "Grace". Featuring musicians and writers from the neighborhood and beyond. Location: Fellowship Hall. Bring a friend and enjoy a night of local storytelling and live music to brighten spirits in the darkest of winter months ...even in April! For more updates visit the [Morningside After Dark](#)

April Calendar



Click [here](#) to see what is happening at EMC in the coming month!

Youth and Adult Summer Retreat Opportunities through the Minnesota Conference of the UCC

Sunday, July 28 @ 4:00 pm - Thursday, August 1 @ 11:30 am

Improvisation is an important metaphor for the spiritual life, and life in general. This year's youth camp week invites youth to learn some fundamental tools of improvisational comedy – being present in the moment, deep listening, building trust, and saying “yes, and” – and see how these same skills help deepen and enrich our spiritual lives and relationships. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Men's Retreat 2019****Friday, August 16 @ 4:00 pm - Sunday, August 18 @ 11:30 am**

Humans have deep connections to the physical landscapes and geographies that shape our experience of the world. This retreat is designed to provide you an opportunity to use metaphors, images, poetry, and music evocative of physical geography to explore aspects of your unfolding inward and outward journey of life. Join men from around Minnesota for this weekend that will provide space for rest, renewal, reflection, and time to simply be. [Click here for more information.](#)

Women's Retreat 2019**Friday, September 13 @ 4:00 pm - Sunday, September 15 @ 11:30 am**

Please make plans to participate in this year's women's retreat. Our retreat facilitator will be Julie Neraas. Julie is an educator, writer, spiritual director, public speaker, and retreat leader. An ordained Presbyterian minister and Spiritual Director for more than thirty-five years, Julie has a particular interest in helping busy people find regular spiritual practices. [Click here for more information.](#)

Member and Community Happenings

Unbreakable**Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus****March 29-30, 8pm**

Ted Mann Auditorium, Minneapolis

The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus exists to build safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people through music. March 29-30th at 8 pm, TCGMC presents a concert highlighting the stories of LGBTQ heroes called UNBREAKABLE at Ted Mann auditorium in Minneapolis. For more information or tickets click tcgmc.org or call the U of M box office at 612-624-2345.

**Voice Beyond the Wall Screening****Friday, March 29th, 5:30-10pm**

Voices Beyond the Wall tells the story of how Spencer Reece, an award-winning American poet and Episcopal priest, taught poetry to girls at Our Little Roses, an orphanage in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and how the girls found their voices through poetry. [For more information and tickets.](#)

QPR - Suicide Prevention Class

Wednesday, April 3rd, 5:30-6:30pm

Thursday, April 25th, 12-1pm

NAMI Minnesota, 1919 University Ave. W., Suite 400, St. Paul

QPR is a free, one-hour presentation sponsored by NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) that covers the three steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide - Question, Persuade and Refer. Just like CPR, QPR is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. QPR is the most widely taught gatekeeper training program in the United States, and more than one million adults have been trained in classroom settings in more than 48 states. For information or to register call 651-645-2948 x198 or see "classes" at namimn.org.

Understanding Depression in Older Adults

Thursday, April 11th, 6:30 - 8pm

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church (Hospitality Hall), 4537 Third Ave South, Minneapolis

Join NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for a free class in Minneapolis on April 11 to talk about risk factors, warning signs, stigma, treatment, recovery and resources for depression in older adults. For registration or information, contact Sherri at 612-823-8205 or [sstella@stjoan.com](mailto:ssstella@stjoan.com)

VEAP Gala

Friday, April 26th, 6pm

Radisson Blu, Mall of America

2100 Killebrew Dr, Bloomington

For more information and to register [click here.](#)

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Saturday, April 27th, 8:30am - 5:30pm

Progressive Baptist Church, 1505 Burns Ave, St. Paul

The course is designed to teach participants the risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adolescents, build understanding of the importance of early intervention, and teach individuals how to help a youth in crisis or experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge. Participants will also learn a five-step action plan to support an adolescent developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or emotional crisis. To register (required) or get more detailed information, please contact NAMI Minnesota at 651-645-2948 or see "classes" at namihelps.org.

Union UCC, 3700 Alabama Ave, St. Louis Park

Create & expand a love of Creation, grow abilities for a smaller environmental impact and learn how inner peace and satisfaction come from relationships not ownership. [For more information](#)

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

Contact Us

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[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

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