

October Messenger/Friday Update: September 27, 2019 (Copy 01)

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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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October Messenger/Friday Update: September 27, 2019

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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".

Last night a group of us from Edina Morningside Church attended the fall Congregation Convening of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, which works with partners to finance, build and operate supportive housing in the Twin Cities. Clients of Beacon's housing are those who have the greatest difficulty finding



housing: homeless young adults, formerly incarcerated men, multigenerational families, and those who are among the poorest of our neighbors. This interfaith collaborative brings together people of deep religious commitment who believe God wants us to keep people from being homeless, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey.

Beacon is justifiably proud of the nearly twenty housing communities they've created for thousands of families, and last night we celebrated more that are in the works. However, what I found most challenging, visionary and faithful from last night's event was the insight that it's far more efficient to subsidize housing costs for people who currently have homes, rather than try to build homes for them when they're evicted for not being able to pay the rent. We are at the beginning of a years-long campaign for a Minnesota version of "Section 8" housing, since under the current woefully-inadequate funding, only one in four people who qualify for subsidized housing are able to get it. (Imagine if only 1/4th of qualifying

recipients of food stamps were able to get them!) In order to secure a statewide response at a scale equal to the current housing crisis, people of faith will need to find our voices within a broad coalition calling for government to act in order to achieve affordable housing for all. This will invite us to continue not only directly serving meals with people who are homeless through "Families Moving Forward" and other initiatives, but also to call for state policies that support affordable housing.

It can feel more challenging to advocate for policy change rather than directly serving the person right in front of us, but I find it helpful to remember, as religious philosopher James K.A. Smith says, "Policy is how we love our neighbors, and purity [from politics] doesn't release us from the Great Commandment. The illusion of being nonpolitical is a luxury of privilege that only leaves the vulnerable exposed." I hope that we'll continue being the sort of church that cares both for those who need direct service now--and those who would be helpful more in the long term by policy changes that better reflect the love of God for all people. I'm glad we're a church with hearts big enough to embrace both kinds of needs with the grace and love of Christ!

Sunday Worship Service - September 29, 2019

Before Worship

- Rehearsal with worship participants
- Fill out prayer request slips

This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Music Director:** Conie Borchardt
- **Readers:** Paula Kostel and Jill Schons, Doug and Mary Engelke, Tim and Emily Goldthwaite Fries, and Barb Green
- **Child Care Provider:** Nicole Martens
- **September Ushers:** Cathy Baldwin, Diane Halpin and Janet Preston
- **Offering Counter:** Cathy Baldwin

During Worship

- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Nursery Care available
- Sunday School for K-5
- Loose coins collected in September go to [Daylight Center and School](#)

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After Worship

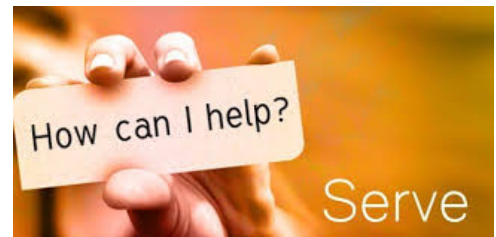
- Coffee and Community
 - Usher Training w/Pastor Oby in the Sanctuary
-

In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers

Time and Talent Offering - September 29, 2019

I/we are able to **help with clean up** after the baked potato lunch next Sunday, October 6th.



I am/we are interested in a meal-serving opportunity (ages 16+) with the kids at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on Monday, October 7th, from 3:30-6:30pm.

I /we are interested in attending the **Simpson Housing Services Tour** on October 8th starting at 3pm.

I/we are interested in **joining the Front Porch Friday Group** on a visit to the Bell Museum Planetarium and lunch **on Friday, October 11th** (meet at EMC at 10am to carpool

[Please email the office](#) if you are interested in any of these opportunities--thank you!

Second Hour: Usher Training

Have you ever wanted to ring the church bell?? Are you willing to be on-call to serve as an usher if needed, or join one of our usher teams to serve on a few Sundays in a given month? Ushers greet our



guests and members, count worship participants, receive the offering, tidy up the sanctuary, and respond to last-minute or emergency needs. In short, ushers help make worship happen--every week! If you're willing and eager to join the ranks (or if you're an usher but haven't been to a training in the last several years), plan to stay for Second Hour this Sunday for an usher training session in the sanctuary, led by Pastor Oby!



This Week at EMC

| | | |
|-------------------------------|------|--------------|
| Church Office Hours: | M-Th | 10am-3pm |
| Pastor's Office Hours: | T-Fr | appointments |
| Faith Formation Hours: | T-Th | encouraged |
| Preschool Hours: | T-Fr | 9am-1pm |

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** (Meeting Room)
- 6:30pm **Pursuing God with U2** (Meeting Room)

Wednesday

- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship** (Meeting Room)
- 5:30pm Hand of AA (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:15pm **Morningside Bells** (Sanctuary)
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir** (Sanctuary)

Thursday

- 7pm **MTC Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

Saturday

- 9am **MTC Rehearsal** (Sanctuary)

October Worship Preview

October 1st - 10th | October 11th - 19th | October 20th - 27th | October 28th - 31st

October 6th: On **World Communion Sunday** we remember the vastness of our global Christian connections around the central ritual of the communion table. Communion features various types of bread from around the world, and the one cup of our common identity in Jesus Christ. We reflect on the Ten Commandments, as described in Deuteronomy 5:1-21 and 6:4-9, and also receive the Neighbors in Need special mission offering.

October 13th: Our Scripture focuses on Ruth, a foreigner who finds belonging among God's people and eventually becomes the grandmother to the great King David. We are a people of extravagant hospitality, and God works through unlikely "outsiders" to bless the whole community.

October 20th: This Sunday, we hear how David becomes king over all Israel. He brings the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem with song, making Jerusalem a place of worship (2 Samuel 5:1-5 and 6:1-5; Psalm 150). We are a people of authentic, joyful worship, which informs our community and witness to the world.

October 27th: Our scripture focus is 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29, the story of King David's grandson Rehoboam and the need for servant leadership. The kingdom of Israel is divided in his time because he fails to recognize that the privilege of power is to serve the needs of others.

Faith Formation in October!

Youth Group

Calling all youth in Grades 6 – 12! Please join Pastor Oby and Faith Formation Director, Susan Weston, for PIZZA, conversation and fun next Wednesday, October 2nd.

Where: The Loft (top floor) at
Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC
4201 Morningside Road, Edina, MN

When: Wednesday, October 2, 6:00 – 8:00pm



Family Sunday: October 6

There will be no Sunday School on October 6th. Instead, we invite children to remain in worship as we celebrate World Communion Sunday. Sunday School will resume on October 13th.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) Orientation Oct. 16th



This year, **Edina Morningside Community Church will be holding classes in human sexuality for youth in grades ten, eleven, and twelve.** *Our Whole Lives* is a comprehensive, secular



curriculum created by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations and the United Church of Christ for use in congregations, schools, or other community settings. It provides accurate information in a framework designed to teach young people how to clarify their own values and engage their whole lives—emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, and physically—in making

decisions about intimacy. *Our Whole Lives* classes provide a place for young people to get questions answered and to satisfy their age-appropriate curiosity without relying on hearsay, the Internet, or experimentation.

We will register no more than 15 students for the class. To register a child, parents must attend an orientation session on **Wednesday, October 16th from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at the church.** Coming to the session does not obligate you to register your child. **Please RSVP to the [church office](#)** so that we know how many chairs to set up. You will get to meet this year's OWL teaching team: Lisa Lally, who was a school health educator for over 30 years, and Rev. Frank Bennett. Both are certified OWL facilitators.

We look forward to seeing you on October 16th!

Sunday School Volunteers Needed

Adult volunteers are needed to help us remain faithful to our new Safer Church Policy, which calls for two adults to be present when working with children. With Sunday School being offered every week, we need 4 - 5 volunteers every month. Susan (Director of Faith Formation) will have materials ready and lead the lesson, so no advance preparation is needed by the volunteers.

SUNDAY SCHOOL
HELPERS NEEDED!



We have a wonderful group of children participating in our Sunday School program who would love to get to know YOU better. Please consider volunteering a time or two this fall. Contact the [church office](#) or [Susan](#). Thank you!

Neighbors in Need



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ 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 this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct

variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC 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. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

EMC will receive the NIN offering on **October 6, 2019** as part of our World Communion Sunday observance. NIN contributions can be made on-line at any time [here](#).

Pursuing God with U2!

Do you love the music of U2? Have you ever thought about the lyrics, and their connections to faith? **There is still time to join** us in this six-week series about the many spiritual themes in the music of the legendary rock band. (Read and hear more in this [recent story from NPR](#).) Larry Williams and Pastor Oby Ballinger will convene the conversation and listening party—all are welcome. **“Pursuing God with U2”** is on Tuesday nights at 6:30 until Oct 15th. [RSVP with Pastor Oby](#) to let him know of your interest (or [use the Facebook event](#)), and bring friends!



October Birthdays



October 1 Jane Williams
October 2 Madeline Krebs

October 4 Kyle Eidsness
October 5 Cathy Baldwin
Gina DeLong
Lisa Lally
October 7 Constance Fantin
October 9 Tyson Engelke
October 13 Bill DeLaittre
October 15 Joe Fritz
October 18 Jordan Engelke
October 20 Natalie Preston
October 23 Laura Benson
Kristen Coddington
Michael Coddington
Kaylee Jasper
October 25 Christopher Schons
Emily Neuhaus
October 26 Connor Williams
October 27 Tim Fries
October 30 Matt Peterson

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

Baked Potato Lunch



BAKED POTATO LUNCH is almost here! **Next Sunday, October 6th**, Women's 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 now on sale. Please sign up in advance for "take out", let us know what toppings you want on each lunch, and we will have them ready for you. We want to be good stewards of the earth, so this year we are

changing to compostable containers. Please help us with this change by donating an additional dollar for each take out meal. Any questions, please contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#). If you are able to help with clean up please contact the [church office](#).

Front Porch Friday

Our next outing will be to the Bell Museum



Planetarium on Oct 11, meeting at the church at 10 AM and carpooling to the museum. Lunch will be at the Finnish Bistro in St. Paul. A count of people planning to attend is needed so that tickets for the show can be purchased. The show will be at 11:30 and



the costs are: museum is \$10 for seniors ... \$7 for the planetarium only, and \$14 for a combined ticket. Add \$2 to each for the regular price (under 65).

Indicate your interest by contacting [Laura Simonson](#) or use the sign up sheet in the Gathering Space at church.

Women's Social Evening



Time to gather again! On **Friday, October 11th at 7:00 PM in the Meeting Room/Gathering Space** 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. Questions?? contact [Pam DeLaittre](#). See you there!

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group:

Monday, October 16th, 6:30-8:30pm

On Monday, October 16th at 6:30pm, the monthly **Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group** gathering will take place for those seeking information and resources in caring for those with dementia. This gathering will take place in the EMC Meeting Room, facilitated by Frank Bennett and Mary Lenard.

[For More Information](#)





The "Green Team" (garden/landscaping team) was formed this past year to "provide stewardship for EMC's piece of creation", focusing on the design and maintenance of gardens and plantings around EMC. The aim of our ministry is to use practices that create and sustain a healthy environment for our church and our community. We want to create a welcoming church presence in the neighborhood. This past summer we have focused on two areas: redesigning the corner area around the EMC sign (new plantings and flagstone path) and beginning a small vegetable garden (planters near patio fence with beans, carrots and tomatoes) to grow produce for VEAP. Lollie Edisness has kept our large flower planters looking great (thanks!). The next major project is developing a plan for re-landscaping the east side lawn, with a focus on water stewardship, aesthetics, and accessibility for EMC and the community. We are planning bike racks. And perhaps some more color on the north side next year. Plans continue to develop. Current co-leaders of the group are Barb Green and Megan Gratzek. If you interested in joining the team, let us know!

August Financial Report

| | August | Year to Date |
|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Budgeted Pledges | \$14,684 | \$139,500 |
| Actual Pledges | \$11,215 | \$160,052 |
| Difference | (\$3,469) | \$20,552 |

Keep Your Shirt On - Last Sunday to Donate!



How many times have you heard that, or "Keep your britches on"? This usually means to stay calm and have patience. But what if you don't have a shirt or britches – in this case an undershirt or underpants – to "keep on"? Beacon's Families Moving Forward program leaders tell us that one of the biggest needs of families in their program is new underwear – undershirts, underpants, bras and panties, socks - ALL SIZES - for men, women and children.

Women's Fellowship is offering a challenge to our congregation to collect as many "underwear items" as we can, **by the end of September**. Here is what's needed:

- Men's t-shirts – all sizes

WOMEN'S CLOTHING - all sizes

- Men's boxers – all sizes
- Men's crew socks
- Women's crew socks
- Women's bras – all sizes
- Women's underpants - all sizes
- All children's underwear

Next time you are at Target, Costco, Sam's, etc. or online, think of the families who could use your help. Look for the laundry basket in the Gathering Space to drop off donations! Pastor Oby may have a surprise for you, too... :) Any questions? Contact [Pam DeLaittre](#).

Volunteer at Perspectives, October 7th

Perspectives, an award-winning human services agency in St. Louis Park is one of the six community organizations supported by EMC, and the recipient of our August loose coin collection. Since 2017, church members have been helping kids create healthy dinners once a month. 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 from 3:30-6:30 and will start on **October 7th**. Please use this [SignUpGenius link](#) to learn more and pitch in!



Simpson Housing Services Tour: Tuesday, October 8th, 3pm



365 days a year, Simpson Housing's emergency shelter hosts volunteer groups who plan, purchase, prepare, and serve dinner at our shelter for 110 shelter guests and shelter alumni. This is a great opportunity to learn a bit more about the shelter and homelessness in Minneapolis, get to know Simpson Housing, and have fun making a healthy meal with friends, coworkers, or family! If you would like to join a group from EMC for a tour, join us at **Simpson United Methodist Church, 2740 1st Ave S, Minneapolis at 3pm on October 8th**. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity and joining the tour, please contact [Becky Phelan](#) or the [church office](#).

VEAP Update

As you enjoy your garden and CSA produce in the coming weeks, remember that VEAP will take any extra veggies you have and distribute them to clients. **There is a blue bin inside the main door to the church building where we are collecting donations.** Barb and Charlie Green and Pam DeLaittre will deliver produce to the VEAP warehouse as needed. Thank you in advance for sharing every good thing!



Music Ministry Update from Conie Borchardt

Greetings everyone! It's hard for me to believe I've been with you four months now. Over this time I've been getting to know your score libraries, the UCC hymnal, the people in Morningside Bells and Chancel Choir, the instruments here, and you in the pews. Wheee! Here's a little more detail about what's vibrating around.

Chancel Choir - Been in rehearsal for just over a month now, getting to know the singers and the choir music, and refreshing my skills in running a weekly choir rehearsal. It's a great group of folks with a plethora of basses, skilled tenors, delightful altos and darling sopranos. Join us when you're able, Wednesdays at 7:30pm!



Morningside Bells - Just finished our third rehearsal together this week (Wednesdays at 6:15pm) and settling into our groove of new and experienced ringers. We're looking forward to ringing in worship at the end of October.

The Moeller Organ - Two years ago EMC made a commitment to repair and improve the organ. Earlier this month I started my communications with our contractor, Grandall and Engen, getting to know the specs the church had agreed to, and tending to a unplanned repair that silenced the organ. I'm happy to say the organ is singing again with a temporary fix and my review of the contract shows your care to update the instrument with good

people. Immediately after the holidays, the organ will be removed and some basic changes will happen with chancel pews to accommodate the organ when it returns in March.

I'm looking forward to three other things this fall and winter. One is having a social time with the choir and bells folks to get to know them outside of rehearsal. Another is sharing a deeper experience and conversation around paperless singing at 2nd Hour on Oct 27. Lastly, I'm excited to have a **community Carol Festival before Christmas** where we sing and dance the carols. Yes, I said dance. The Merriam-Webster dictionary lists one definition of carol as "an old round dance with singing." And that's what we'll do. Folks will line the room, hymnals in hand, to sing while others gather in the center to learn simple circle dances that I will teach. A great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors for a joyous celebration of being together. More details coming soon.

In song, Conie

October Calendar



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

Creative Arts Ministry



EMC Morningside Theatre Company: Rehearsal are under way for our upcoming production of *As It Is In Heaven*. Set in a Shaker community circa 1838, this poignant, often humorous piece follows a group of Shaker women as they wrestle with the clash between old ways and new styles. We have 11 women participating (9 church members and 2 community members). 2 Performances: Friday, November 22nd and Saturday, November 23rd at 7PM in the

Sanctuary. A freewill offering will be collected at the shows to defray costs. Thank you to the Minnesota Conference for the \$500 Ashley Grant to kickstart this project! **Do you like to sew?** We'll be having a Shaker Potluck/Sewing Circle on October 27th from 6-8PM to work

on our costumes. We'll eat a bit, sew a bit and sing a few Shaker Hymns. Let Jane know if you have a machine you could bring. "Come dance and sing around the ring, live in love and union".

Morningside Theatre Camps. Registration for our 3-Day Winter Workshop for children in 2nd-5th grades *opens* on Tuesday, October 2nd, via the church website. Classes are Thursday, January 2nd thru Saturday, January 4th, 8:30-12:30. Saturday performance at 1:30. We'll learn 3 kid-driven Broadway tunes. (Membership has it's privileges: If you are an EMC member and would like to reserve a spot for your 2nd-5th grader, please let [Jane Williams](#) know at. She will also have forms available at church on Sunday, September 29th!)



Designing Women: Plans are under way to create additional banners for the Sanctuary. Thanks to Janet Preston and Jane Chang for leading this endeavor!

From the Archives...

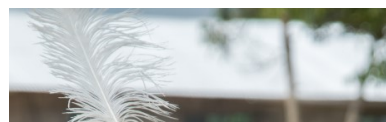


This week the original Morningside Congregational Church, the Old Chapel, at 4003 Morningside Road (Scott Terrace and Morningside Road) was sold to a developer and is scheduled for demolition in the coming weeks. The owner Darlene Brown has lived in the old chapel with her family since the early 1930's, after it was renovated for use by the church as a parsonage for the

families of Rev. Francis T. Price and Rev. Cecil L. Prior. Rev. Price served as Pastor of our church from 1924 – 1926, and Rev. Prior served as Pastor of our church from 1926 – 1931. A small field stone was recovered from the property that is reputed to have been kept by early church members as a memento from the original construction in 1909. The stone is currently in the church archives for further investigation.



Daylight Update



Daylight holds traditional cultural celebrations where students and staff experience the beauty, joy, and rich traditions of nomadic life in northwestern Kenya. Check out the [October Update](#) for more pictures and information.

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!



Member and Community Happenings

2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Twin Cities, MN

Saturday, September 28th

8am Registration, 9:30am Ceremony with Walk immediately after

Target Field, 1 Target Way, Minneapolis

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease! [For more information and to donate.](#)

Heartfelt [CD Release Party](#) (feat. our own Denise Cochran!)

Sunday, September 29th, 3-5pm

Urban Growler Brewery (2325 Endicott St, St Paul)

The Twin Cities quartet [Heartfelt](#) (who have sung at our church) has a CD release party coming up! [Tickets available on Eventbrite for \\$15](#), or \$20 at the door. CD's will be available for purchase at the concert, which also has appetizers and a cash bar.

CarFit

Tuesday, October 1st, 10am -12pm (by appointment only call 612-672-5607)

Edina Fire Department, 6250 Tracy Ave, Edina

CarFit is a FREE, interactive and educational program that teaches participants how to make their personal vehicle "fit" them to increase safety and mobility when they hit the road. Sponsored by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association. [For more information.](#)

Minnesota Walk to End HIV

Saturday, October 12th

Minnehaha Falls Regional Park, Minneapolis MN

9:30 Registration, 10:30 rally, 11:30 walk - 1.2 miles

Together, we can end HIV. The tools to stop HIV exist and we need greater urgency to make it happen. Join us on Saturday, October 12 for the Minnesota Walk to End HIV (the new Minnesota AIDS Walk) at Minnehaha Regional Park in Minneapolis. [Register](#), [Donate](#) or [Volunteer](#)

Yoga With Sally Larson

Morningside community member Sally Larson leads

Chair Holy Yoga every Tuesday and Mat/Flow Holy Yoga on Thursday's from 10-11am at Charis: 7117 Washinton Ave S., Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

They are donation based classes and everyone is welcome!

Hennepin County Commissioner Conversations

ISAIAH will be hosting forums across the districts of Hennepin County with our elected leadership as we build our multiracial democracy where we can all thrive. We will continue to build a co-creative relationship with them as we discuss both our aspirations and our concerns in the areas of Immigration, Criminal Justice and Housing for Hennepin County. If you live or worship in Hennepin County, we hope you are planning to join us.

[For More Information](#)

Comm. Mike Opat, District 1: *Dunamis Praise, October 20th 1:30-3:30pm*

Comm. Irene Fernando & Dave Hutchinson, District 2: *High Praise, Oct. 27th 2-4pm*

Comm. Marion Greene, District 3: *Mayflower UCC, October 24th 6:30-8:30pm*

Comm. Angela Conley, District 4: *Our Saviour's Church, Oct. 12th 10am -12pm*

Comm. Debbie Goettel, District 5: *Dar Al Farooq, October 27th 3-5pm*

Comm. Jan Callison, District 6 & 7: *Mills Church, October 22nd 7-9pm*



Not sure who your commissioner is? [Click Here](#) Also, feel free to attend more than one conversation (where you live, where you worship). EMCC is in District 6.

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

Contact us!

Pastor: [Rev. Oby Ballinger](#) 612-900-3914 (cell)
Director of Faith Formation: [Susan Weston](#) 952-926-6555 (office)
Music Director: [Conie Borchardt](#) 952-926-6555 (office)
Administrative Assistant: [Laurie Eckberg](#) 952-926-6555 (office)
Website: emcucc.org



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