

December Messenger/Weekly Update: November 27, 2019 (Copy 01)

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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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December Messenger/Weekly Update: November 29, 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".

A blessed Advent to you! This Sunday we begin the first of four Sundays that mark the start of the Christian year, leading through these weeks to the birth of Jesus on Christmas Eve. Throughout history, these four weeks are for preparation to welcome the newborn Christ, making ourselves ready to receive his spirit among us anew.



We'll hear in worship the message of prophets who proclaimed such a Savior would come, and here are a few other ways we invite you to prepare your heart for Christmas. We're offering a free daily Advent devotional from the United Church of Christ—just stop in and pick one up while supplies last. We'll also be posting daily prompts for reflection on [the church's Facebook page](#). Finally, we're offering a "reverse Advent calendar" where each day you're invited to give something away to our hungry neighbors at VEAP or donate to support the purchases that keep people fed throughout the year. See below for more details about our worship, spiritual and service opportunities throughout the season. Happy Advent!

Sunday Worship Service - December 1, 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
- **Child Care Provider:** Nicole Martens
- **December Ushers:** Chuck Clay, Brad Gangnon, Sarah Gednalske and Diane Halpin
- **December Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke

During Worship

- Lighting of the First Advent Candle
- Communion by Distribution
- Loose coins collected in December go to [Meals on Wheels](#)
- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Nursery Care available
- Sunday School for grades K-5 (Fellowship Hall)

After Worship

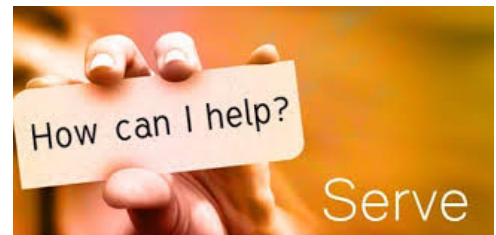
- Coffee and Community (Gathering Space)
- Second Hour: Immigration Sanctuary Conversation (Sanctuary)

In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members, friends and circumstances in our prayers:

Time and Talent Offering - December 1, 2019

I am able to **team teach Sunday School** (PreK-5th grade)
with Susan on: December 8 December 22



I am/we are interested in a meal-serving opportunity (ages 16+) with Chef Pachelle and the kids at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on **Monday, December 2nd** from 3:30-6:30pm.

I/we are interested in helping with the **Advent Workshop on Sunday December 8th** by:
setting up during Second Hour on 12/8 clean up starting at 5:15

I/we are interested in helping with the **Carol Festival from 4-5:30pm on December 22nd** by
distributing flyers in the community helping host on the 22nd providing cookies

I am/we are interested in **joining Edina Morningside Church** in January, and/or would like to attend an upcoming Membership Meetup to learn more.

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

Second Hour this Sunday: Immigration Sanctuary Conversation



This Sunday, our Second Hour will be a conversation led by Pastor Oby on the faith-based movement to offer sanctuary to immigrants. Grab a coffee and treat, then head back into the sanctuary at 11:30 to join in the discussion.

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 |

Monday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach** (St. Louis Park)

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** (Meeting Room)
- 7pm **Show Up for Vista 44** (Hopkins City Hall)

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 **Trustees** (Meeting Room)

Saturday

Saturday

- 4pm **Parents Night Out/Preschool Babysitting Night** (Fellowship Hall)
-

December Worship Preview

December 1st: On the **First Sunday of Advent**, we begin four weeks of preparation for Jesus' birth with the lighting of our first Advent candle, symbolizing Hope. Come to hear the words of Jeremiah's call for justice and righteousness, be fed with communion in the pews, and stay afterward for a conversation about the sanctuary movement for immigration reform.

December 8th: On the **Second Sunday of Advent**, we continue our seasonal practice of weekly Advent candle lighting. Our scripture focus is Isaiah 40, with its familiar opening: "Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God." After worship, our Second Hour is prep for the Advent Workshop.

December 15th (10am): The **Third Sunday in Advent** brings us a "Pop-Up Pageant" that welcomes voices of all ages to share in telling the Christmas story! Together, we'll offer "cloth for the cradle" of Christ's birth. Following worship, all are invited to join in the Bake Sale and Cookie Walk in Fellowship Hall.

December 15th (7pm): We gather for a warm and centering **Taizé** worship in the sanctuary. This 30-minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is followed by a simple soup supper in the Meeting Room.

December 22nd: We begin worship on the **Fourth Sunday in Advent** with Advent candles, share in baptism of the latest son born to Doug and Lara Hamm, and hear the prophesy of Jesus' birth sung by the priest Zechariah (Luke 1). After worship, we prepare what's needed for the Carol Festival in Fellowship Hall.

December 24th: Our **Christmas Eve services are at 4pm and 10pm**, with candlelight singing at both, child-friendly liturgy at the afternoon service, and choral music at the evening service. Bring family members and friends to join in this worldwide celebration of Christ's birth!

December 29th: On the **First Sunday after Christmas**, we begin an extended exploration of the life of Jesus as told in the gospel of Mark. Mark 1:1-20 opens with John the Baptist's declaration, then Jesus announces the kingdom and calls the first disciples.



Faith Formation News

Faith Formation Dates to Remember for December Sunday School for Pre-K - Grade 5:

- Dec. 1 (we'll return to worship in time for communion)
- Dec. 8
- Dec. 15 (Christmas pageant during worship, no Sunday School)
- Dec. 22 - No Sunday School
- Dec. 29 - No Sunday School



Bagel Bunch (Grades 6 - 12)

- Dec. 8
- Dec. 15 (Christmas pageant during worship)

Youth Group (Grades 6 - 12) meets Wednesday, Dec. 18, 6 - 8pm

Families are also encouraged to participate in the Advent Workshop on December 8, the Carol Festival on December 22, and Christmas Eve services.

Christmas Program News

Please plan to attend the Christmas Program during worship on December 15th. This year, we'll be presenting "The Chaotic, Yet Charming, 'Everyone's In' Edina Morningside Community UCC Christmas Pageant" as part of the service.



EMC children and youth will lead worship that morning, and they will be featured during the pageant. However, there are non-speaking roles available for all who wish to participate. On Sunday, December 15th, come prepared to take on the Christmas pageant role of your dreams! Costumes will be available, but feel free to bring your own, if you wish. All ages are encouraged to participate. No rehearsal necessary for non-speaking roles.

Please note: A Saturday, December 14, morning rehearsal (10:00am to noon) will be held for those with speaking parts.

If your child would like to participate, please contact Director of Faith Formation, [Susan Weston](#).



Advent Love of Neighbor Opportunities

Perspectives Outreach, December 2nd

There is an upcoming outreach opportunity at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on **December 2nd from 3:30-6:30pm**. Help others by preparing a meal with kids of low-income families. You'll love the kids, and no prior cooking experience is required. 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. Please use this [SignUpGenius link](#) to learn more and pitch in!



Merry Christmas VEAP!

For the first 24 days of December, Women's Fellowship (WF) has developed a special Advent Calendar and each day has a grocery item assigned to it. WF is challenging the congregation to purchase all the items and bring them to church for donation to VEAP. Laurie Cory took the list and shopped for all of the items and they can be purchased for the month for \$50. There are several ways to participate:

Merry Christmas to VEAP

Each day add the "item of the day" to a box at home.
Each Sunday bring the contents of that week's box to church to add to the congregation's box & we will donate it all to VEAP!

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Dec. 1 Box of Cereal | Dec. 2 Peanut Butter | Dec. 3 Stuffing Mix | Dec. 4 Boxed Potatoes | Dec. 5 Macaroni & Cheese |
| Dec. 6 Canned Fruit | Dec. 7 Canned Tomatoes | Dec. 8 Canned Tuna | Dec. 9 Diapers | Dec. 10 Jar of Applesauce |
| Dec. 11 Canned Sweet Potatoes | Dec. 12 Cranberry Sauce | Dec. 13 Canned Beans | Dec. 14 Box of Crackers | Dec. 15 Package of Rice |
| Dec. 16 Package of Oatmeal | Dec. 17 Package of Pasta | Dec. 18 Spaghetti Sauce | Dec. 19 Chicken Noodle Soup | Dec. 20 Tomato Soup |
| Dec. 21 Can of Corn | Dec. 22 Can of Mixed Vegetables | Dec. 23 Can of Carrots | Dec. 24 Laundry Detergent | MERRY CHRISTMAS! |

1. Purchase all the items for a week and bring them to church each week.
2. Purchase all of the items for the month and bring them to church all at once.
3. Write a check for \$50.00 (or \$25 for a half-share) and donate it to VEAP through the church (Make the check to EMC and show VEAP in the memo space.)
4. Donate whatever food or money you are able.

This should be fun and a way to help people who really need it. Copies of the actual

This should be fun and a way to help people who really need it. Copies of the actual calendar with items are in the Gathering Space. We would like to collect everything and take it to VEAP by December 24th! Any questions, please contact [Pam Delaittre](#) or [Laurie Cory](#).

hats&mittens Collection

Each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Edina Morningside Preschool chooses a service project to participate in. It is a great time of year to talk with children about giving to others.



This year we will be collecting items again for Hats & Mittens. Hats & Mittens, an all-volunteer 501c3 organization was founded in 1996 with the goal of ensuring that the children of our community have access to warm hats & mittens during the cold Minnesota winters. If you would like more information about this organization, [check out their website](#).

From December 3 - December 17 we will be collecting hats & mittens for children and youth ages 3-18. If possible, waterproof mittens are greatly appreciated. Gently used hats & mittens are accepted, too! There is a collection box by the door to the preschool classroom. Thank you for considering donating to this worthy cause.

Mitten Tree

For the month of December, Women's Fellowship is bringing back the Mitten Tree. We are collecting all sizes mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, and items donated upstairs will go **Community Emergency Services**. The tree will be up in the Gathering Space where you can hang your contributions. Let's cover the tree with things to warm the hands, heads and hearts of the CES clientele! Thank you!



December Birthdays



December 1 Brent Nelson

December 4 Carol Weidt
December 5 Svea Gennrich
Noelle Fries
December 6 Bruce Fisher
December 10 Norma Stout
December 11 Matthew Coddington
Joey Miller
Mia Miller
December 14 Larry Williams
Pete Haugen
December 17 Karin Miller
December 19 Jeff Beyerl
December 23 Oby Ballinger
December 24 Andrew Ramierez
December 27 Mary Engelke
Denise Cochran
December 29 Charlie Green
December 30 Darlene Clay

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

Preschool Babysitting Night

December 7th, 4-7pm



The **Preschool Board** hosts their annual **babysitting night** on **Saturday, December 7th, 4-7pm**. Children ages 1-9 are invited to join in on the fun while parents have a few hours to shop or spend time together. The suggested freewill donation is \$5 per hour per child (proceeds benefit the scholarship fund). Contact co-directors [Jessie and Destiny](#) to reserve your spot(s)!

There will be art, games, slide, blocks and outside play, weather permitting. **Friends are most welcome too!**

Advent Workshop

Come to church for our **Advent Workshop!** On the afternoon



Come to church for our **Advent Workshop!** On the afternoon of **December 8th from 3-5pm**, Edina Morningside welcomes the neighborhood and congregation to our Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of crafting. Dreaming of snow globes and luminaries? Reindeer and elves? Houses made of sugar? Frosted sugar cookies?? Celebrate this season of togetherness with conversation, smiles, and lots and lots of glue.



Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group:

Monday, December 9, 6:30-8:30pm



On Monday, December 9th 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](#)

Christmas Bake Sale & Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 15th (Same day as The Christmas Program)

After church come down to coffee hour and pick out some tasty holiday treats to buy for home or for friends and family. It's the annual Women's Fellowship Christmas bake sale and Cookie Walk!



Baked and pastry donations are welcome - just bring them to Fellowship Hall before worship on the 15th or arrange to drop them off at the church during the week!

Use one of ours or bring your own container for the Cookie Walk.

Questions? Contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#)



Carol Festival

December 22nd, 4pm

"O Come, All Ye Faithful!"
for song and simple circle dance
holiday goodies!

Sun, Dec 22, 2019, 4-5:30p
Fellowship Hall

Bring yourself, some neighbors and friends,
and a treat to share, if you'd like (though we'll have
some too!)

Daylight Update



It was preschool graduation day at Daylight. Read more about these amazing 5 year old's in this month's update [linked here](#).



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!

United Church of Christ December Giving



Medical Debt Relief

The United Church of Christ has recently made headlines for a Chicago effort that retired millions of dollars in medical debt, and now we are taking that movement national, in partnership with [RIP Medical Debt](#). RIP Medical Debt's mission is to abolish personal

medical debt by raising \$14.4 million, going to the debt buying market, buying \$1,000,000,000 (yes, BILLION) of this debt, and ABOLISHING it. Want to learn more? [Watch this video!](#)

Plan now to join the national UCC campaign to support RIP Medical Debt on Giving Tuesday, December 3rd. [Read more about the UCC campaign](#) and [donate here](#). Thank you!



Special Offering to Benefit the Christmas Fund

We will be collecting a special offering on **December 22nd** for the **Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**. [The Christmas Fund](#) has been a tangible expression of God's love. It provides UCC congregations and members an opportunity to help those who have so faithfully served our Church, and who now find themselves facing unexpected financial needs.

Thank-you for considering this giving opportunity, and follow the link above if you'd prefer to make a donation online.

December Calendar



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

Member and Community Happenings

Show up for Vista 44

Tuesday, December 3rd, 7pm

Hopkins City Hall, 1010 1st St S, Hopkins, MN 55343

On Monday, November 4, members of the Hopkins City Council voted 4-1 to table the land use application for the homes at Vista



voted 4-1 to table the land use application for the homes at Vista 44. Beacon was disappointed in the council's decision to postpone a vote on Vista 44 despite recommendations from city staff and the Hopkins Planning and Zoning Commission to approve the application. **We just heard from the council that they'll be voting again on Tuesday, December 3 at 7 p.m. We need you standing with us: [please sign up today](#) to say you'll be there.**

Bloomington Chorale Winter Concert (Incl. EMC's Molly Cox)

"Home for the Holidays"

Friday, Dec. 13 7:30pm & Saturday, Dec. 14 4pm

The Schneider Theater, Bloomington Center for the Arts

1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington

[For more information and tickets](#)

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 Washington Ave S., Eden Prairie, MN 55344.

They are donation based classes and everyone is welcome!

Partners & Spouses Support Group Meets in Falcon Heights

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is sponsoring a support group specifically for partners or spouses of someone who lives with a mental illness. The Partners & Spouses support group meets on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8:00 p.m., at Falcon Heights United Church of Christ, 1795 Holton Street (Holton & Garden), in Falcon Heights. For more information, call Melissa at 651-354-0825 or Sara at 763-350-6502.

we count mn

CENSUS 2020

There is a packet of materials provided by the Edina Census 2020 Complete Count Committee in the EMC Gathering Space. It provides lots of useful information about the upcoming Census and it's impact on the community. You can also [check out their website](#).

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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