

January Messenger/Friday Update: December 27, 2019

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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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January Messenger/Friday Update: December 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".

Merry Christmas!! As this season of celebration for the incarnation continues for twelve days, I hope you continue to enjoy the season in relaxing, joyful ways. We also look ahead at this "hinge time" of the year, anticipating new possibilities in 2020.



I've been looking ahead to Bible passages in the coming year, and I'm excited for some time with Jesus in the Gospel of Mark! Starting this Sunday and continuing until Easter, we read through most of Mark's gospel in worship. Mark is the earliest gospel written—perhaps twenty or thirty years after the resurrection—and it provides a key literary source for Luke and Matthew. The gospel proceeds at breakneck pace through the story of Jesus: Mark's preferred description for anything that happens is "immediately". Mark's Jesus keeps his identity as "Son of God" a secret, and he gives less explicit teaching in order to emphasize miracles. Mark's multiple endings reveal different perspectives on the resurrection—which we'll consider on Easter morning.

If you're a visual learner, watch a brief [overview of Mark's gospel](#) from The Bible Project. If you prefer to read it, you can get through the whole book in just an hour or two. Check it out now, and join us this Sunday as we start "immediately"!

Sunday Worship Service - December 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 Borhardt
- **Acolyte:** CJ Howard
- **Readers:** Joyce and Roger Fitzgerald, Paula Kostel, and Jill Schons
- **Child Care Provider:** Nicole Martens
- **December Ushers:** Chuck Clay, Brad Gangnon, Sarah Gednalske and Diane Halpin
- **December Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke

During Worship

- Carol Sing
- Loose coins collected in December go to [Meals on Wheels](#)
- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Nursery Care available

After Worship

- Coffee and Community - Bring leftover Holiday Goodies to share (Gathering Space)
 - Second Hour: Chancel Pew Removal (Sanctuary)
-

In Our Prayers

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

Time and Talent Offering - December 29, 2019

I am/we are interested in helping to **update the EMC website** & can attend a training session at 6:30pm on Thursday night, January 2nd.



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, January 6th** from 3:30-6:30pm.

I am/we are interested in advising/guiding the creation in 2020 of a new **Board of Directors for Morningside Theatre Company**.

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: Chancel Pew Removal

This Sunday, our Second Hour will be removing pews in the chancel in preparation for the organ repair work that starts in January.

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours:	M,T,Th,Fr	9am-2pm
Pastor's Office Hours:	T,Th,Fr	appointments
Faith Formation Hours:	T,Th	encouraged

Preschool Winter Break, no school

Wednesday

- 5pm **Hand Of AA** (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday

- 8:30am **Morningside Theatre Company Winter Workshop** (Fellowship Hall)
- 9am **Organ Removal** (Sanctuary)
- 6:30pm **Website Meeting** (Meeting Room)

Friday

- 8:30am **Morningside Theatre Company Winter Workshop** (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday

- 8:30am **Morningside Theatre Company Winter Workshop** (Fellowship Hall)
- 1:30pm **MTC Recital** (Fellowship Hall)

January Worship and Second Hour Preview

January 5th: On **Epiphany Sunday**, we continue along “The Way of Jesus” in Mark’s gospel with examples of his **healing authority (Mark 1:21-45)**. Sunday school resumes and we celebrate communion by intinction at the front of the sanctuary. Our Second Hour is our monthly (snack) **Potluck and Ministry**, sharing community, food, and ministry input around tables in Fellowship Hall.



January 12th: In the gospel story for the **First Sunday after Epiphany**, Jesus heals a paralytic man and eats with tax collectors, causing controversy (Mark 2:1-22). Bagel Bunch resumes for our middle- and high-school youth, and the Second Hour is a creative intergenerational activity led by Susan Weston in Fellowship Hall.

January 19th (10am): Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend brings a perfect opportunity to celebrate the African American spiritual tradition. Our gospel passage from Mark 4:1-34 conveys the ways of faith in parables of the sower and of mustard seed. The Second Hour is a **Safer Church Training** for all church members and friends in Fellowship Hall.

January 19th (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.



January 26th: Worship considers the church's call in response to daunting homelessness and mental illness, inspired by the story of Jesus' healing of the "Gerasene demoniac" (Mark 5:1-20). We'll convene a **congregational meeting** to vote on the proposed 2020 church budget. Second Hour is a **Taco Lunch fundraiser** for Families Moving Forward by Women's Fellowship!

Faith Formation: A Look Ahead to the New Year



Sunday School resumes January 5th. Children in Grades PreK - 5 meet downstairs in Fellowship Hall following the Time with Children in worship. On Communion Sundays (the first Sunday of each month), children will return to worship in time to celebrate communion with their families.

We will continue to follow the Narrative Lectionary, so families are exploring the same stories each week in both worship and Sunday School. Remember to pick up a children's bulletin to continue the conversations at home or in the car!

Volunteers are needed each week in order to meet the "two adults" guideline set in our Safer Church Policy. If you're willing to help a time or two, please [let Susan know!](#)



Bagel Bunch for youth in Grades 6 - 12 meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month. Join leader, Sonja Martens, upstairs in the Loft for bagels, fellowship, and a time to reflect on the Narrative Lectionary readings introduced in worship. Bagel Bunch begins following the Time with Children during worship. Join us next on January 12th!



Youth Group The Multi-church youth group, open to students in Grades 6 - 12, meets from 6 - 8pm at Edina Morningside Church. We begin upstairs in the Loft, then head downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for pizza, fellowship and fun! Friends are always welcome! Our dates for 2020 so far are: January 22, February 19, March 25, April 22 and May 27.

Our Whole Lives continues to meet once a month on Mondays, from 6-8pm. Remaining dates are January 6, February 3, March 2 and 30. The group is led by Lisa Lally and Frank Bennett.

Family Sundays Save the dates: February 23 and April 19! Children and youth are invited to help lead worship on these dates. More info to come!

Acolyte/Candlelighter for worship needed each Sunday. Team up with a friend to light altar candles (and, on non-Sunday School days) carry candles out after worship. Contact [Pastor Oby](#) to sign up!

Second Hour on January 5th: Potluck and Ministries

After worship on Sunday, January 5th plan to join our monthly (snack) **Potluck and Ministries** in Fellowship Hall. We'll have breakouts if you want to share in conversation about our Generous Hospitality, Spiritual Life, and Faithful Service ministries, or continue to build community over the shared food. Bring any remaining holiday leftovers to share!



Perspectives Outreach



There is an upcoming outreach opportunity at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on **January 6th 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!

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Session on January 6th, 6-8pm

All students in grades 10-12 are invited to join our OWL youth on Monday, January 6th, from 6-8pm at EMC, upstairs in the Loft. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive human sexuality curriculum for communities of faith, led for us by Lisa Lally and Rev. Frank Bennett. Contact [Susan Weston](#), Faith Formation Director, with questions or to register.



Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group:

Monday, January 6, 6:30-8:30pm



On Monday, January 6th 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

Front Porch Friday

Join the Front Porch Friday bunch to visit **The Museum of Russian Art on Friday, January 10**. The current exhibit features colorful posters from the Soviet era, a collection of prints and drawings by Marc Chagall and several other artists, and "Christmas with the Czars," featuring gifts given to and by the royal family. There is also a small but thought-provoking exhibit of photos from the Chernobyl recovery efforts.



As usual, we will meet at the church at 10:00 AM to car-pool. There is a guided tour at 11:00 we can join. We will lunch nearby - probably at Wyld Acres on Nicollet. RSVP by signing up, calling the church, or contacting [Molly Cox](#) or [Laura Simonson](#).

January Birthdays



January 1 Kira Engelke
CJ Howard

January 5 Maggie Stevenson

January 10 Janet Preston
Carol Russell

January 11 Michael Toth

January 13 Cory Howard

January 18 Sarah Gednalske
Benjamin Krebs-Boie

January 25 John Sorensen

January 29 Alex Beyerl

January 31 Daniel Toth

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

Women's Fellowship thanks everyone for your participation in the Cookie Walk after the Christmas Program! We raised over \$900 to support Beacon housing initiatives and other efforts to serve in the community. Thank you for your generous baking and buying!



Live Music & Storytelling Series

1.27 BELONGING
MONDAY, JANUARY 27
7:30 - 9 PM

2.24 MY BEST MISTAKE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24
7:30 - 9 PM

4.27 BREAKTHROUGH
MONDAY, APRIL 27
7:30 - 9 PM

EDINA MORNINGSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
4201 Morningside Road, Edina

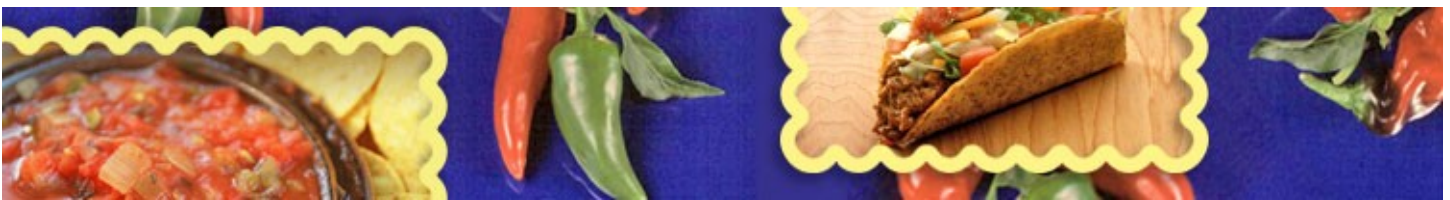
*"At the end of the night, the room felt lifted, and all concerned walked out with something very close to enlightenment."
- Southwest Journal*

MORNINGSIDE
AFTER DARK

Morningside After Dark

The 2020 Morningside After Dark storytelling and live music series will kick off on Monday, January 27th from 7:30 - 9 pm, featuring 6 musicians and 6 writers exploring the theme "Belonging." As always, a coffee bar will be available as we take in these special under-5-minute performances. We hope you can make it! If you would like to volunteer to help tear down the event at 9 pm we will gift you with product! Contact [Rebecca Sorensen](#) to let us know we can count on you there! Save now the dates for our other upcoming shows, February 24th and April 27th. Thanks as always to our amazing church and volunteers for your support!

Women's Fellowship Taco Salad Lunch Fundraiser



Sunday, January 26th - right after worship and the congregational meeting

All proceeds benefit our ministries with Families Moving Forward (FMF) and Simpson Housing Services. This is the main fundraiser for these outreach ministries. Tickets: \$10/adults \$4/children - Plus \$1 for each take-out

Women's Fellowship provides the funding to purchase the food for this meal -- so every cent you contribute goes towards buying the food we serve several times a year at Robbinsdale Parkway UCC in Robbinsdale. **The dates for our FMF dinners in 2020 are February 10th, June 8th and October 26th. The next meal we will provide at the Simpson Shelter will be on January 31st.**

If you are able to donate anything over and above the cost of your tickets, it will be greatly appreciated and put to good use. We are proud that we are able to continue to serve a delicious and nutritious meal to

our guests in need, and we know you will enjoy the meal, too. Tickets go on sale Sunday, Jan. 12th. Please join us on the 26th. It's a great chance to sample the meal we have served our guests several times in the past at Families Moving Forward.

Any question, please contact [Laurie Cory](#) or [Pam DeLaittre](#). See you for lunch!

End-of-Year Tax Reminder



As a friendly reminder The IRS makes it clear that for a contribution to be credited to the 2019 tax year, it must have been received on the church premises, or postmarked, no later than midnight on December 31st. Dropping it into the offering plate on Sunday, January 5, 2020 does NOT qualify. Also, Seniors over 70 1/2 years of age could consider taking advantage of tax benefits related to

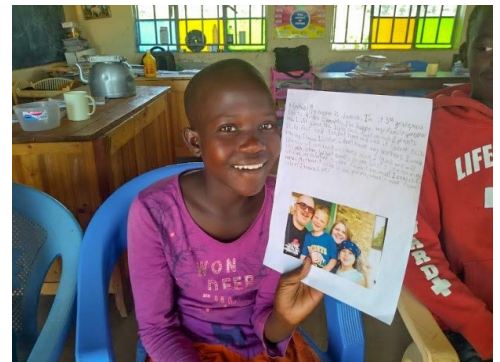
Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from IRA accounts and the charitable donations they allow. Talk to our Generosity Guru [Charlie Green](#) for more information, and thank you for your contributions!

Daylight Update

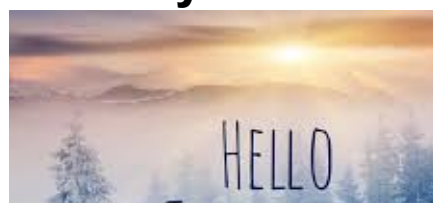


This month's Daylight Update passes along information about becoming a classroom sponsor. If you would like to make a pledge to support Daylight students during the next school year [click here.](#)

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!



January Calendar





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

Member and Community Happenings

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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