

The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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June Messenger/Friday Update: May 29, 2020

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Through the Lens of Faith, by Pastor Oby

As you may have seen, this week I was active in helping to organize and lead an interfaith online vigil last night, in response to the police slaying of George Floyd on Monday. Our own Conie Borchardt was one of the music leaders there too. I'm proud that our congregation, with others in the United Church of Christ, pulled together a broad group of interfaith leaders from Minneapolis and beyond to lead the vigil, offering opportunities for lament and calls to action. A thousand people gathered consistently throughout the hourlong event (which you can see [on our Facebook page](#)), and together we created this prayer cloud.



A vigil won't bring back George Floyd; nor will a vigil alone restore community trust, rebuild our cities, or stop subsequent police murders. Therefore, the intentions and prayers that hundreds gave voice to in this ritual must spur us to continue "praying with our feet" until justice is done, and a multiracial, participatory democracy is truly a reality. Thank you for the trust and responsibility you place in me as your pastor, to keep shaping and discerning these ways forward. I look forward to all the ways our congregation will extend welcome and service in the coming days, by the power of the transforming Spirit we celebrate this Sunday as Pentecost!



Connecting to our Worship & Activities

Until we can be together in person again, click on the links below to join us for these EMC weekly events via Zoom.

Zoom is preparing for a big update this weekend. You may want to allow for more time to connect to worship and perhaps update your mobile app or computer

application. Another way to connect to these events is to call in and participate by audio. You call in to Zoom as if it's a phone conference call. Dial 312-626-6799 (a Chicago area phone number) and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID. The links and meeting ID's remain the same week by week:

- [10am Sunday Worship and Conversation Time](#) ID 863-036-343
- [10am Tuesday Bible Study](#) ID 564-967-741
- [7pm Wednesday Bell and Chancel Choir](#) ID 511-709-185
- [9am Thursday Morning Coffee and Conversation](#) ID 790-923-497

If you have any questions or would like to have a **one-to-one Zoom practice session**, please call (952-926-6555) or [email Laurie in the church office](#).

Also, videos of our worship services are available "on demand" throughout the week

Holy Spirit Images Requested



There is still time to send us your "Holy Spirit" picture. All are invited to color [in the attached page](#), and send a pic with the colored picture back to us. **It is also suggested—for those who don't care to color—that they send in pictures of fire/flame or "Holy Spirit" in whatever way She shows up!** Please send your contributions [via this Dropbox link](#) by 5pm tomorrow, May 30th.

Pentecost Sunday Worship Service - May 31, 2020

Live [via Zoom](#)

Before Worship

- Sunday School from 9-9:30am (via Zoom, contact [Susan Weston](#) for link)
- Send in private prayer requests via [PrayerNet](#) or "Send Message" on our [Facebook page](#)

This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Communion Co-Officiant:** Conference Minister Rev. Shari Prestemon
- **Music Director:** Conie Borchardt
- **Readers:** Amber, CJ, and Cory Howard
- **Musicians:** Jane & Larry Williams, Barb & Charlie Green, Katelyn Gill, Mark Mironer
- **Digital Producer:** Bob Beyerl

During Worship

- We recall when the Holy Spirit was given after Jesus' return to heaven (Acts 2:1-4), sharing a theme of "**Rooted in the Flood: Tongues of Fire**". 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 reminds us that faith is a principal work of the Spirit, and other spiritual gifts are given for the common good.
- Conference Minister Shari Prestemon brings greetings from the Conference.
- Celebration of Faith Formation Volunteers

- Strengthen the Church Special Offering
- [Donate online](#) through Breeze.
- To give via text, send an amount (ex: "25") to 612-712-3452. You'll receive a text back with a link to register card info. When complete, you'll receive a receipt via email. For future gifts, simply text the amount and it will process automatically. **Adding "coin" to your text gift** (ex: "10 coin") will direct your donation this month to [Beacon](#).

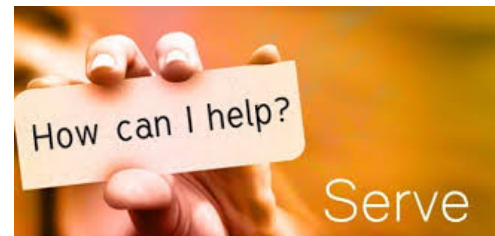
After Worship

- Social time after worship in small groups via Zoom - bring your coffee and treat!
(*Parents: please accompany children in small group time, helping us create a safer church.*)

In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers

Time and Talent Offering - May 31, 2020



I/we are interested in being a **reader for virtual worship** services in future weeks.

I am/we are interested in being a **digital resource** for the life of the church (making/editing PowerPoints, editing the website, assisting with Zoom and/or Facebook Live worship, etc).

I/we can help with **outdoor work around church** - adding mulch and a few more plants, setting up vegetable beds, cleaning up the play yard, and more.

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

Strengthen the Church Offering This Sunday



Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports **youth ministries** and **full-time leaders for new churches** in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. [You can find out more about the current ministries receiving Strengthen the Church support here.](#) Thank you for considering a gift to this special offering! [Donate online.](#)

Congregational Meeting After Worship on Sunday, June 14th



The Vision Council has proposed amending the church bylaws to allow for congregational meetings and votes through electronic means. [Click here to read the proposed amendment to the Church Bylaws on electronic meetings.](#) Congregation members may object to this bylaws change (in writing or electronically to the [church office](#) and [Moderator Lisa Lally](#)) by June 5th, but if the bylaws amendment has fewer than ten objections, it will go into effect on Sunday, June 14th.

Assuming that the bylaws revision will pass, Moderator Lisa Lally has issued the second call for our next Annual Congregational Meeting, to be held on **Sunday, June 14th** after worship. Please plan to attend to hear about and vote on another change in church bylaws that will provide for Morningside Theatre Company as a ministry of the church, and also vote to approve a slate of new ministry team members. The meeting will take place via Zoom, and voting will occur virtually with a secure link. **If you want to participate in the Annual Meeting without Zoom or online access,** please 1) request a paper ballot from the church office; 2) participate by phone in the Annual Meeting discussion after worship on June 14th, and 3) return your ballot to the church office (addressed to the Clerk) so that it arrives by June 19th.

Documents for the Congregational Meeting:

For a copy of the complete EMC Bylaws to be voted on, with proposed changes for electronic voting and Morningside Theatre Company provisions in red, [click here.](#)

For a copy of the complete Nominating Ballot [click here.](#)

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours:	as needed
Pastor's Office Hours:	home office
Faith Formation Hours:	home office

Monday

- 6:30pm **MTC *The Show Must Go On* Read Thru** via Zoom

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** ([via Zoom](#))
- 3-4pm **Drop in Community Care with Pastor Oby**
- 6:30pm **MTC *The Show Must Go On* Activity Day** via Zoom

Wednesday

- 3-4pm **Drop in Community Care with Pastor Oby**
- 6:15pm **MTC Breakout Rehearsals** via Zoom
- 7pm **Bell and Choir Check-In** ([via Zoom](#))

Thursday

- 9am **Morning Coffee and Conversation** ([via Zoom](#))
- 6:15pm **MTC Breakout Rehearsals** via Zoom

Friday

- 10am **MTC Group Song/Choreography** via Zoom
- 2pm **MTC *Urinetown* Cast Meet-up** via Zoom

Saturday

- 10am **MTC Dance Warm Up w/Ella** on Instagram

June Worship and Second Hour Preview



In June we start our summer series, **Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart**. For your copy of an accompanying journal for reflection, and to see all the scriptures for the summer, please [email the church office](#).

June 7th: Worship focuses on **Unexpected Joy and Surprise**, with the story of Sarah's laughter (Genesis 18:1-5; 21:1-7). Our Second Hour is "Zoom and Ministries", where we gather in small groups to guide the hospitality, spiritual and outreach ministries of the church.

June 14th: What happens as we are **Unraveled by Uncertainty**, like the apostle Peter singing in the water (Matthew 14:22-33)? The sermon is presented by Conference staff member, Rev. Abigail Henderson. Our Second Hour is the congregational meeting to consider a bylaws revision and candidates for elected church leadership.

June 21st: In the month of Pride, we consider a story of **Public Grief that Inspires Action**, by seeing how Rizpah mourns her sons (2 Samuel 3:7; 21:1-14).

June 28th: For the **Radical Unraveling of Vocation**, there's no better example than Zacchaeus, the wealthy tax collector enlisted by Jesus (Luke 19:1-10). We also mark Pride Sunday with blessings of joy for those in the LGBTQ community.

Faith Formation Updates

Looking for ways to help others during the COVID-19 crisis? Check out these opportunities from [Doing Good Together](#).



For more ideas and some all-ages fun, try our Virtual Bingo game!

Download the Lovingkindness Bingo Card [here](#). Print it out and play. All you need to do is print the card and cross off and date when you do one of the things listed. Take a picture of your bingo and email it to me (faithformation@emcucc.org). Play individually or as a

comes first.

VEAP Birthday Bags Thank You!

Many thanks to all who donated items for the VEAP Birthday Bags, and a special thank you to the Schmitt family for assembling the bags and to the Greens for delivering them to VEAP!



Sidewalk Chalk Encouraging Words	Participate in a drive-by celebration	Make or provide a mask for someone	Video chat with someone you miss	Make someone laugh out loud
Say thank you with a note or gift to a frontline worker	Send a gift card to someone who is unemployed	SAY A PRAYER	Check in on a single parent	Participate in an online party
Pay for the car behind you in the drive thru	Plant something/ grow some food	Send a card to a teacher	Make art	Pick up trash in your neighborhood
Write a gratitude letter to someone who has helped you	Sit outside and pay attention to the beauty of Creation	Wear a mask while social distancing	Post a cheery image/sign in your window	Leave a gift or Thank You Note for a postal Worker

Faith Formation for Families

Families will receive copies of The SALT Projects “Great and Small’ Guide to the Most Okayest Summer Ever!” The introduction to the booklet states, Here’s what we’re offering: a touch more connection. A sprinkling of faith. A little more summer, and maybe a little more God. Here’s to a summer that, even if it’s not the most amazing ever, can still be pretty okay. If you’d like an e-version of the resource, [you can download it here.](#)

Sunday School, 9:00am, for children in PreK - Grade 5, offered every week, with the exception of June 7, August 30 and September 6. Susan will email a link each week. If you aren’t currently on the Sunday School email list and would like to be, please [contact Susan.](#)

Wednesday Time with Children, 4:00pm, for children in PreK - Grade 5, offered every week, with the exception of June 3 and September 2 and 9.

Summer Youth Events for youth in Grades 6 - 12:



Due to the pandemic, the National Youth Event (NYE) is happening online. All events are free to all participants. You can read more about the events [here.](#) The first event is happening this Sunday. We encourage all youth to participate! You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the events.

Sunday, May 31, 3:00 PM CST Loving Your Neighbor In Quarantine, a live NYE video premiere and chat on the United Church of Christ’s Facebook page. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the film. [Watch here.](#)

premiere and chat on the United Church of Christ's Facebook page. [Watch here.](#)

Mon. - Wed., June 29 - July 1 Youth Camp for youth in Grades 6 - 12. This event is offered online and free of charge. See article below for more information.

Friday & Saturday, July 24 & 25 Unite Through the Extraordinary, a culminating interactive NYE experience. Details TBA.

Wednesday, August 12, 6:00 PM Multi-church Youth Group Details TBA.

MN Conference UCC Youth Camp is ONLINE!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are moving this summer's Youth Camp online! Join us for a time each morning and afternoon, June 29 – July 1, to re-connect and support each other as a community.



This year's youth camp is about RESILIENCE: What is resilience? What does it look like? What if you feel un-resilient? (Hint: That's normal!)

The [Theater of Public Policy](#) is collaborating with Conference staff and volunteers to help create virtual spaces using the Zoom platform to ask important questions, explore skills around resilience, support authentic emotional expression & just connect.

Each day of camp will include:

- Live music
- Games and creative activities with the Theater of Public Policy
- Small group projects
- Spaces for processing and sharing in small groups
- Virtual camp fires

All youth currently enrolled in grades 6-12 are invited to participate in this event. Register [HERE](#), and contact [Rev. Sheri Nelson](#), Outdoor Ministry Program Director, with questions about the online youth camp experience. We hope to see you on Zoom!

Show Up for Prairie Point on June 2nd

Show up for Prairie Pointe at the crucial Shakopee City Council vote!

On Tuesday, June 2 the families who hope to call Prairie Pointe home need your help.

[Register today](#) to say you'll be there for them!

For Prairie Pointe to keep moving forward, we need to make sure the Shakopee city council



That is why supporters from Shakopee and across the collaborative are coming together to show up in support, either in person or through a virtual event. And we need YOU as part of it. Our first priority is to keep everyone safe!

If you're joining us in person:

- *You must wear a face mask.*
- *We will be gathering for a rally at Shakopee City Hall (485 Gorman St) at 6:30 p.m. with speakers and more information about how the night will run.*
- *The council meeting starts at 7 p.m.*
- We will keep a distance of at least 6 feet between participants.
- Please wear RED and consider creating a sign to demonstrate your support!



If you're joining us virtually there will be a link and instructions on how to login included in your confirmation email after you register.

The process to make Prairie Pointe a reality is still in motion, and we can't get through the finish line without you! Thank you for registering to join us either in person and online, to make sure the families who have been waiting to call Prairie Pointe home don't have to wait any longer!

Please take a moment to [register now by clicking here](#). We look forward to seeing you (in person or online) soon!

Justin Lewandowski

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative

Second Hour Next Sunday, June 7th: Zoom and Ministries



Plan to attend our monthly ministry conversations after worship next Sunday! We're adapting to an online format, but will still have opt-in breakouts if you want to share in **conversation about our Generous Hospitality, Spiritual Life, and Faithful Service ministries**. Or, you may wish to continue to build community in a less structured small group. Either way, plan to stay and join us for "Zoom and Ministries" after worship.

In worship on Sunday, use the Rename function within your Zoom screen to add some initials to your name, indicating which break out you would like to be in by using the abbreviations for Spiritual Life (SL), Generous Hospitality (GH), Faithful Service (FS), or

If you are unable to use the Rename function, you can also use the online chat to let the service hosts know what group you would like to participate in. The chat function is at the bottom of the Zoom screen. Thanks for helping us adapt to this new format, and for adding your voice to guide our ministries!

Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group

Monday, June 8th 6:30pm via Zoom

On Monday, June 8th at 6:30pm, the monthly **Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group** will take place for those seeking information and resources in caring for those with dementia. This gathering will take place via Zoom and be facilitated by Frank Bennett and Mary Lenard. [Contact Mary for more information.](#)



Heart Songs - Monday, June 8th

Gather for an informal singing time to re-center our hearts in community. Simple songs will be led paperlessly/taught by ear by Conie Borchardt, other song leaders, and you, if you'd have a song to share.

Join us. Bring friends.

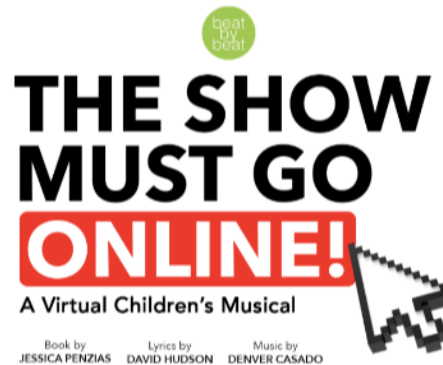


This will be held every other week and the next gathering is Mon, June 8th starting at 6:30pm. We'll be using the [Zoom platform](#) ID number is 431-161-455.

Songs will be about the human experience and in that way, spiritual in nature, but not specifically religious.

This is a space intended for self-care, however that shifts for you in every moment. Bring water. Come and go. Sit in a chair, lie on the floor, or stand as you need to. Simple songs will be taught by ear by Conie and other Twin Cities song leaders.

Below is a listing of our virtual summer opportunities at this time! With the exception of *The Show Must Go Online*, all virtual gatherings are being offered free of charge. Freewill donations to MTC will be greatly appreciated and accepted via this link (choose Morningside Theatre Company from the scroll): <https://emcucc.breezechms.com/give/online>



THE SHOW MUST GO ONLINE: A VIRTUAL MUSICAL FOR COMPLETED 2ND-6TH GRADERS

Created specifically for these times, *The Show Must Go Online* will be performed in the comfort of your own home, or cabin, or tent! Wherever there's wifi! Ella and Emily will be leading the casts (we can accommodate 4 separate casts of 20 students each), directing and teaching music via Zoom rehearsals. Kids will later record and upload their individual work, and then we will piece them all together for a premiere viewing on YouTube via a shareable link. Click this link for dates, further info and registration form. REGISTRATION: <https://forms.gle/coyAyhjWGcn1nMET9>
Tuition: \$50.00 (payable on Breeze)

—
Session A: FULL!

Session B: Few spots remain!

Session C: OPEN!

Session D: OPEN!

—
Playful Pets Meet-Up: (Thursday June 18th, 2-2:30pm) One Day Wonders with Katie and Ella! We welcome our completed K-1st grade children who were registered for our *Playful Pets* class to join us on Zoom for 30 minutes of song and stories!

—
Frozen Kids! Cast Meet-Up: (Monday June 15th, 2pm) We can't let this show go just yet! Join us on Zoom, see some friendly faces and learn a few dances to songs of *Frozen Kids!*

—
Willy Wonka Kids! Cast Meet-Up: (Wednesday June 17th, 2pm) Calling all Oompa-Loompas! Log on to our virtual meet up to learn some choreography to *Willy Wonka Kids!*

—

–
Urinetown Cast Meet-Up: (Friday June 5th, 2pm) Inviting our fearless-fourteen to a Zoom call to check in and talk about the future of our production.

–
FRIDAY REUNION SHOW MEET-UPS: Past cast members

Drop in to Zoom and get together with former cast mates from some of our most beloved shows. We'll play some games, and sing and dance to our favorite songs! Starting Fridays in June at 2PM: **6/12 Annie Kids**, **6/19 Legally Blonde Jr**, **6/26 Frog and Toad Kids**, **7/10 Seussical Kids** (10AM), *Shrek Jr* (2PM)

–
SATURDAY MORNING DANCE WARM-UPS: 2nd grade and up

Beginning Saturday June 6th, Ella will be live on Instagram every Saturday morning at 10AM to lead you thru our traditional dance warm-up, to the beat of *You're So Beautiful (Original Version)*. Follow us at: @morningsidetheatreco – <https://www.instagram.com/morningsidetheatreco/>

–
IN THE WORKS: We are still working on additional offerings. We will notify you when we add new workshops to the calendar. And if the climate and state-of-the-state allow, we hope to have some late summer sing-alongs on the patio.

–
Zoom links and RSVP asks, will be sent out via email a few days before each scheduled session.

–
We hope you'll join us (virtually) this summer!

Let's Celebrate our Class of 2020!

Help us celebrate the class of 2020--graduates from high school, college and beyond!! **We will recognize graduates at our June 14th worship service.** Graduates (or parents), if you haven't done so already, please email [Pam DeLaitre](mailto:Pam.DeLaitre) a digital picture of yourself, where you are graduating from, plus a sentence or two about what's next!



This update compares budgeted pledges and actual pledges through the month of April. The May comparisons will be in the July Messenger.

	April	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$23,089	\$79,528
Actual Pledges	\$21,388	\$80,644
Difference	(\$1,701)	\$1,116

Also, a note on giving through Breeze:

Thank you for all who are mailing checks to the office, or have moved your church pledge payments to recurring donations on [Breeze](#)! For your information, we pay a small percentage of donations to Breeze for the service, averaging 1% for bank transfers (ACH) and 3% for credit/debit cards.

While these fees are a small portion of the revenue that this service empowers, consider mailing your contribution to the church office if you want to assure that a full 100% of your gift will go toward the ministries of the church. Whatever practice is right for you, please know how grateful we are for your faithful generosity!



Edina Morningside Preschool News

On Wednesday, May 27th the preschool had a goodbye parade. The teachers, Pastor Oby and Laurie Eckberg (who volunteers as the preschool librarian) stood outside the school to wave to students. We have missed all of our students very much and it was nice to see many of them drive, walk or bike by. The teachers have been busy this past week with end-of-year cleaning to wrap up the school year. We don't

know what school will look like next year but we do know of a couple of changes that will be happening. **First, our dedicated teacher Laura Gennrich has decided to leave the program after this year so she can focus more on caring for her mother who has cancer.** She will be greatly missed! Second, due to increased state regulations and compliance needs, it will serve our program better to adopt a new staffing model with a Director who can fully focus on program oversight, supporting a team of Teachers who will lead daily classroom activities. **Over the summer we will shift to that structure. Jessie**

June Birthdays



June 3 - Amber Washington-Howard

June 5 - Greta Kulevsky

June 7 - Jim Gratzek

Patty Strickler

June 8 - Charlotte Beegle

June 10 - Kristen Peterson

June 13 - Emily Goldthwaite-Fries

June 15 - Lily Kulevsky

June 16 - Hsien-Hsin Chang

Diane Sowden

June 18 - Doug Engleke

June 20 - Darla Young

June 21 - Diane Halpin

June 22 - Nicole Chidester

June 23 - Mary Lenard

June 24 - Doug Hughes

Greg Martens

June 26 - Chuck Clay

Donella Neuhaus

June 27 - Dan Jurgens

Thom Miller

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

Church Archives

Work in the church archives on phase 2 cataloging of historic lantern and 35mm slides, reel to reel film, other mixed media and 4x6 photos was completed in late April bringing the total for this phase to 2,251 objects added to the cloud based collection management system .

A final report was submitted to the Minnesota Historical Society(MNHS) shortly thereafter summarizing the work completed during the months of January, February and March this year and now after cleaning up the work area the task of preparing a phase 3 funding request begins to catalog an additional 900 4x6 photos and various/random non standard sized photos)

MNHS has stated that the Covid 19 crisis has dramatically impacted the ability of those seeking additional funds for their projects this year as the states sales tax revenue used to fund the Legacy Grant program has been severely depleted. They have also alerted those planning to apply for additional project funding that this will be their last opportunity for a grant during 2020 and possibly the first 2 quarters of 2021. Current MNHS projections forecast a possible return to normal funding levels by 3rd quarter 2021 allowing funding once again to resume.

The archives is close to having the capability of providing online access to those that would enjoy seeing the progress that has been made so far with the church collection - more information will be made available in a future Friday Update.

Doug Fuerst
Church Historian

Daylight Update



This month's Daylight update is the story of Merv Miller's first visit to Daylight in January of 2020. Merv and his wife have been sustaining supporters of Daylight for over 6 years and he currently serves as Chairman of the Daylight USA Board of Directors.

Click [here](#) to read about the people the Millers met and how those folks support Daylight every day.

Daylight in your prayers.

Blessings!

Pam



June Calendar



Click [here](#) for the latest EMC June Calendar. It is based on the premise that most gatherings will be via Zoom, with limited activity in the church building for the entire month. If you have any questions, please [contact the church office](#).

Member and Community Happenings

Charlotte Beegle turns 99!!

Charlotte, a longtime EMC member, will be 99 on June 8th!

Let's shower her with love and cards!

Charlotte Beegle

3663 Park Center Blvd - #110

St. Louis Park, MN 55416



April 1 was Census Day, when, once every ten years, we count everyone living in the

community. Population determines how funding for public health, public schools, food assistance, hospitals and highways is allocated. We all need a full and fair count.

If you already have completed the Census, thank you!

If you have not completed it yet, please take 10 minutes to do it now online.

Here is how:

1. Go

to: <https://2020Census.gov/> OR my2020census.gov

2. Click on "Start Questionnaire."

3. Enter the Census ID number you received in the mail from the U.S. Census Bureau OR

4. Click on "If you do not have a Census ID, click here" and enter your street address AND

5. Answer the Census questions for your household.



If you prefer to complete the Census by telephone or need help completing it online, please call toll free 1-844-330-2020. If you prefer to complete the Census on a paper questionnaire, please check your U.S. Mail. Forms were mailed in late April.

For more information about the Census process and timeline, please visit a League of Women Voters website at (for Edina) www.LWVEdina.org or (for the state league) www.LWVMN.org.

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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4201 Morningside Rd, Edina

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