

The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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August Messenger/Friday Update: July 31, 2020

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Through the Lens of Faith, with 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".

As we enter this final month of gorgeous summer weather, Edina Morningside Church is inviting us all to take an extended Sabbath at the end of August. The Vision Council has discussed and unanimously approved that we suspend worship and most other activities from August 17th-30th. This allows our staff and regular volunteers time to rest before fall activities, and encourages church members to attend other services on a Sunday morning. Think about it as a worship "Choose Your Own Adventure"! We invite you to worship with a congregation whose worship or culture is dissimilar to our own, or perhaps with a restful morning cup of coffee and God in the world.



Please plan to rejoin us on Sunday, September 6th, bringing reflections on what you've observed about worshipping in alternate settings. We'll have a simpler service on Labor Day weekend (including time to discuss what we did in the time away), and then have a fuller "Rally Sunday" experience again on September 13th. Be sure to check the calendar for those weeks at the end of August as most activities will be on hiatus, and enjoy this late summer break before fall programs begin.



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. 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

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 on our [Facebook page](#). You don't need a Facebook account to see these (just click the link to see the video directory), and new videos are posted every Sunday afternoon.

Sunday Worship Service - August 2, 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
- **Music Director:** Conie Borchardt
- **Faith Formation Director:** Susan Weston
- **Readers:** Lollie and Alan Eidsness
- **Digital Producer:** Mark Mironer

During Worship

- Worship focuses on the story of the disciple Thomas, whose **Doubts Unravel** in an encounter with Jesus right after the resurrection (John 20:19-29).
- Share prayer requests in the chat thread on Zoom, which will then be woven next week into our "Unraveled" prayer loom!
- Community Communion--bring your own food and drink!
- [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 "change" to your text gift** (ex: "10 change") will direct your donation to this month's Community Change ministry partner, [Perspectives](#).



After Worship

- Second Hour: Zoom and Ministries - 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



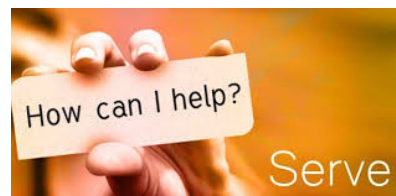
Second Hour on Sunday, August 2nd: Zoom and Ministries

Plan to attend our monthly ministry conversations after worship on Sunday, August 2nd! We have adapted 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.



Time and Talent Offering - August 2, 2020

I/we would like more information on being an **EMC volunteer host** for **Primary Day**, August 11, 2020. In order to accommodate social distancing for voters, the main level of our church building will be the polling site for Edina Precinct 4 during the 2020 election cycle.



[Please email the office](#) if you are interested in this opportunity-thank you!

This Week at EMC

Pastor Oby will be away for vacation August 6th-13th. For pastoral care emergencies while he is away, please contact Rev. Frank Bennett on his cell: (612) 940-3372

Church Office Hours: as needed
Pastor's Office Hours: Tuesday -Wednesday, as needed
Faith Formation Hours: home office

Monday

- 10am **MTC Super Happy Awesome News Rehearsal** (via Zoom)
- 6:30pm **Heart Songs** ([via Zoom](#))

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** ([via Zoom](#))
- 10am **MTC Super Happy Awesome News Rehearsal** (via Zoom)
- 3-4pm **Drop in Community Care with Pastor Oby**

- 7pm "**Seeing Racism in Our Lives: Towards Abolition**" **Film Discussion Series** (via Zoom)

Wednesday

- 10am **MTC Super Happy Awesome News Rehearsal** (via Zoom)
- 3-4pm **Drop in Community Care with Pastor Oby**
- 4pm **Kids Club** (via Zoom, email [Susan Weston](#) for more info)
- 7pm **Bell and Choir Check-In** ([via Zoom](#))

Thursday

- 10am **MTC Super Happy Awesome News Rehearsal** (via Zoom)

Friday

- 10am **MTC Super Happy Awesome News Rehearsal** (via Zoom)

Saturday

- 10am **Worship Rehearsal** (via Zoom)
- 4pm **MTC Park Meet Up**
- 6pm **MTC Zoom Party**
- 7pm **MTC Super Happy Awesome News YouTube Premier**

August Worship and Second Hour Preview



*In August we finish our summer worship 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](#).*

August 2nd: Worship focuses on the story of the disciple Thomas, whose **Doubts Unravel** in an encounter with Jesus right after the resurrection (John 20:19-29). We also celebrate communion and offer farewell blessings to beloved church administrator Laurie Eckberg. Our Second Hour is “Zoom and Ministries”, where we gather in small groups to guide the hospitality, spirituality, and outreach ministries of the church.

August 9th: Worship is led by our Community Minister, Rev. Frank Bennett, reflecting on the story of Moses’ mother releasing her threatened young child into the Nile River to float into Pharaoh’s household (Exodus 1:22, 2:1-10). How else are we seeing **Future Plans Unravel** now, and what may God make possible instead?

August 16th: Our Unraveled series finishes with verses from the book of Job (28:12-28), and the overall story of how **Certainties Unravel** for Job (and ourselves). Even though Job’s assumptions about God and the world are changed by suffering, God stays connected and leads Job into new forms of faith.

August 23rd and 30th: We offer these Sundays as a chance for church members, volunteers and staff to rest from leading live worship, and instead to worship in other ways. We invite you to

worship with a congregation dissimilar to our own, or perhaps with a restful morning cup of coffee and God in the world. Please plan to rejoin us on Sunday, September 6th, bringing reflections on what you've observed about worshipping in alternate settings!

August Birthdays



August 2 - Julia Lorenzen

August 7 - Gary Lundgren

August 9 - Robin Ray

August 13 - Don Dibble

August 15 - Jessie Holly

August 24 - Cooper DeLong

August 25 - Mary Rogers &
Cindy Joyce

August 28 - Graham Peterson

August 31 - Joe Toth

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

Heart Songs - Monday, August 3rd!



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, August 3rd 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.

"Seeing Racism in Our Lives: Towards Abolition"

Film Discussion Series

"Seeing Racism in Our Lives: Towards Abolition," a film discussion series, meets Tuesday, August 4th with a continued discussion of ***A Raisin in the Sun***.

Watch one of the film adaptations of the 1959 highly-acclaimed play by Lorraine Hansberry, which follows one family living on the South Side of Chicago in the 1950s: Free to watch on YouTube: [1989 Danny Glover](#) version or [2008 Sean Combs version](#), and available to rent

on [Amazon Prime](#) or [You Tube](#) (1961 Sidney Poitier version), then join our discussion group at **7:00pm on August 4th** led by **Rev. Elaine Kirkland and Larry Williams**.

Questions? Contact Faith Formation Director, [Susan Weston](#).



Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group

Monday, August 10th, 6:30pm via Zoom



On Monday, August 10th 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.](#)

Faith Formation Updates

Volunteer Opportunities for Families “Doing Good Together” during August

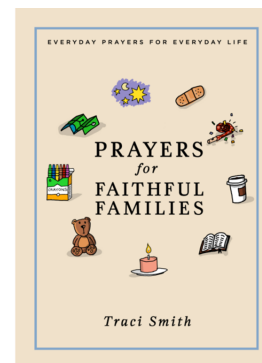
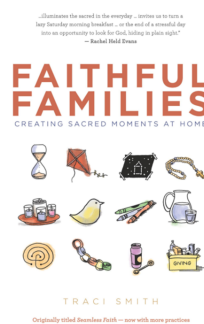
Check out [this list of ways](#) for your family to make a difference in our local communities during the month of August. The list is compiled by doinggoodtogether.com.



Back-to-School Prayers and Blessings for Families

Author Traci Smith offers these [prayers and blessings](#) for families during these uncertain times.

From her introduction: “As I write this, a lot of the back to school plans are up in the air because of the COVID-19 virus. Some districts are starting the new year in person, with modifications, some are offering a remote option, some are trying a hybrid model, and others are homeschooling, many for the first time.



The one consistent thing that I’m hearing from parents and educators all over the world is this: it’s different, hard and often overwhelming.

I wrote these prayers to give you and your family words when it feels like there are no words to say. My philosophy is that prayer with children should be simple, honest, and leave room for us to listen to God’s voice and our own intuition. Some of the prayers read like mantras or affirmations, others address God simply and directly. Use them however you feel is most beneficial for your family.”

Join us on **Sunday, September 6**, for a special “**Back-to-School**” blessing during the 10AM worship service.

Shhhh! It’s a surprise: KIDS CLUB -- August 19th at 3PM (note earlier start time)

Whether you’ve joined us earlier in the summer or not, all kids, Grade 5 and under (and their

families) are invited to join us for our **End of the Summer Kids Club Zoom at 3:00pm on Wednesday, August 19th.**

Please don't let the kids know, but we have a special guest who'll "Zoom bomb" us at 3:15: a **Raptor Zoomie** from the University of Minnesota's [Raptor Center](#). Our guest is a hawk. Please plan to join Susan and Pastor Oby for this special Kids Club!



Grandparents, feel free to join us with your grandchildren. Contact [Susan](#) for the Zoom link!

(Reminder: We will not meet on August 26 or Sept. 2. Kids Club resumes Wednesday, Sept. 9.)

Save the Dates:

Sept. 10 at 7PM (via Zoom) -- Confirmation Parent Meeting
Sept. 13 -- Rally Sunday (Sunday School Resumes at 9AM)
Sept. 17 at 7PM -- Youth Group Kick-off

Week 4: Family Connection Toolkit Available Now!

The [Week Four Toolkit](#), "'Giving and Receiving Extravagant Welcome", is now available for free through the Outdoor Ministries team of the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ. Included in the Toolkit are:

- Spiritual themes & readings
- Creative activities for the whole family
- Fun games
- Discussion/journaling prompts
- Projects that connect to and care for the common good



We hope that this toolkit serves as a resource and helps you feel connected to the community, even as you may be socially distanced.

The **Week One Toolkit**, connecting with the sacred in nature, is available [HERE](#).
 The **Week Two Toolkit**, interrupting the patterns of daily life, is available [HERE](#).
 The **Week Three Toolkit**, "Nurturing Resilience in Body, Heart, Mind, and Soul," is available [HERE](#).

The No Justice No Peace Youth & Young Adult Racial Justice Rally (previously referenced as the Youth & Young Adult Town Hall on Racial Justice) was held on July 28. **This event was excellent!** If you missed it (or if you just want to watch it again), you can [find it here](#):

The event was a special edition of the United Church of Christ's Tuesdays for Nurture program.



Financial Update Through June

This update compares budgeted pledges and actual pledges through the month of June. The

July comparisons will be in the September Messenger.

	June	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$15,393	\$115,444
Actual Pledges	\$17,641	\$127,122
Difference	\$2,249	\$11,678

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!

MTC Virtual Summer!

Congrats to Cast A of SUPER HAPPY AWESOME NEWS on their fabulous show! Missed the premiere? [You can still check out their silly and sincere performance here!](#)



August Calendar



[Click here](#) for the latest EMC August 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](#).

Beacon Rent is Due - Call to Action!

Join us on Monday, August 3 at 8:30 a.m. for the [Rent is Due: Day of Action](#) virtual meeting to learn more about what has happened, explain new research Beacon has done on the renters crisis happening in our state, and take necessary action. [Please register here](#) to receive the information on how to join the video meeting.



Daylight Update



[Read the August](#) update to meet Daisy a future journalist and learn more about how students are preparing for their 8th grade exams during the pandemic.

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the staff and children at Daylight and the dedicated people who

support Daylight in your prayers.

Blessings!

Pam

VEAP Back to School Drive is Extended to August 7th!

The pandemic may have put a pause on many plans, but low-income students this fall are still in great need of school supplies--regardless of where and how they will be learning.



VEAP has just extended their annual [School Supply Drive](#) to **August 7** and could use our support! Right now, the *greatest* need of supplies for local kids--scientific calculators, backpacks and other costlier items are difficult for families to purchase. Traditional school supplies are also welcome.

Donations can be brought to church during Drop-in Community Care on Tuesday and Wednesday from 3-4pm on the EMC Patio or just call the church office (952.526.6555) to arrange another time to stop by the building.

Member and Community Happenings

Samantha Fuentes Headlines August 6 "Justice Talk to Justice Walk"



Youth, young adults, and adult supporters are invited to join a discussion on Thursday, August 6, from 7:00–8:30 pm with guest speaker Samantha Fuentes (pictured above at left), a survivor of the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and leader in March for Our Lives.

Samantha will share her story of resilience and healing that fuels her commitment “to uplift the voices of the silenced, and remind us that ALL our experiences matter regardless of color, religion, gender, age, or sexual orientation.”

The webinar, the third in the Minnesota Conference's "Justice Walk to Justice Talk" series, will be co-moderated by **Cecilia Alexander** (pictured at right) and Rev. Kevin Brown. Cecilia is serving as a Youth Engagement & Social Media Interns with the Conference

[Register for the August 6th Webinar here.](#)

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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