

## The monthly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger: January 2016

### Sunday Service

Scripture reading: **Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:21-38**

### This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Oby Ballinger
- **Interim Music Director:** Elaine Kirkland
- **Ushers:** Don Patrick and Janet Preston
- **Reader:** Barb Green
- **Musicians:** Denise Cochran, Lisa Lally, Elaine Kirkland, Barb and Charlie Green
- **Fellowship Hosts:** Mary Engelke and Brad Gangnon
- **Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke

### During Worship

- Singing Christmas and Epiphany carols
- Communion at the front of the sanctuary
- There will be no nursery care or Sunday School on New Year's Day

### Table of Contents

- [Sunday Service](#)
- [Pastor's Message](#)
- [Faith Organizing Summit](#)
- [Preschool News](#)
- [Warm Thanks](#)
- [Faith Formation](#)
- [January Worship Notes](#)
- [From The Archives](#)

- Fellowship gathering in the Church Library

## Pastor's Message

Happy New Year! 2017 brings many opportunities for us at EMC, as well as great change in our state and country. We'll be considering and voting on a capital campaign later this month,



welcoming more new members, undergoing the next phase of our building repairs, finishing a spring semester of Faith Formation, and hiring our next settled Music Director. We'll also be tracking the changes in state and federal leadership, with an eye to how they might affect all in our communities, particularly those for whom Jesus shows special care: the poor, the sick, children, elders, and foreigners.

Considering all that 2017 brings, our **worship continues to be vitally important**. Every week, we gather to share inspiration, connection, hope and power through God's love in Jesus Christ. The season of Epiphany (from now to Ash Wednesday on March 1) begins with the Wise Men's visit to the Holy Family, then continues that theme of wisdom through many stories of Jesus' life and ministry. This year, we're shaping the seven Sundays from January 15th to February 26th around a **preaching series called "Living Wisdom"**. Each week we'll look at a story in

[Forward](#)

- [Financial Update](#)
- [66 West Opens in May '17](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)
- [In Our Prayers](#)
- [Daylight Update](#)
- [January Birthday's](#)
- [MADark](#)
- [Taizé](#)
- [Women's Fellowship TACO SALAD LUNCH](#)
- [January Calendar](#)
- [Women's Social Evening](#)
- [Messenger Deadline](#)

**In Our Prayers**

Wisdom” is both God’s gift to the world in Jesus, and God’s ongoing invitation for our life together in 2017. Here are the themes:

- **January 15th: Redirecting Rejection**
- **January 22nd: More than Your Job**
- **January 29th: Whose Rules are You Following?**
- **February 5th: Affordable Care Acts**
- **February 12th: Declaring Deliverance**
- **February 19th: Forgiving Greatly**
- **February 20th: Demon Free**

I’m grateful to my colleague Anne Russ for help in shaping some of these themes, and hope they will help us continue shining the light of God’s love throughout this Epiphany season. See you in church!

With gratitude,  
Pastor Oby

## Faith Organizing Summit

Are you interested in a faithful vision of hope for Minnesota in 2017? Join Pastor Oby, other EMC members and **1500 people of faith at Shiloh Temple in Minneapolis on January 28th from 1-4pm**, hosted by **ISAIAH** (a statewide, ecumenical, multiracial organization working to protect those who are poor, sick, children, elderly or people of color in Minnesota). [Find out more and register here](#), then tell Pastor Oby that you’re going!

## Update



Happy New Year!  
Click [here](#) to learn about Leah, a Daylight student who wants to be a lawyer when she grows up.

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the dedicated people who support Daylight, and the staff and children at Daylight in your prayers.

Blessings!  
*Pam DeLaittre*



## January Birthday's

Jan 1 -  
Kira Engelke  
Jan 5 -  
Maggie  
Stevenson

We are excited about our theme of winter for January. We will be studying winter with songs, stories and investigating outside winter weather. We will



also be learning about patience for our social skill this month. This is a skill that we work on everyday. The children are learning patience by taking turns, using their words with friends and understanding that waiting a short time is part of patience. Fun dates for the month of January are the January 10th field trip to Como Park Planetarium, pajama and cooking day on January 18th, and sledding day on January 26th.

It is time to think about preschool for next year! Current families may register for the class session of their choice until January 31. After then, classes will fill on a first come, first served basis. We will be offering AM and PM classes with mixed ages. Fab Friday is the enrichment class for 4 year olds and older. Specialists for Fab Friday include: Nancy from Aberkadoodle Art, Angela from MacPhail Music Center, Alice from Kids Step and Destiny with Science. Please let family and friends know about our preschool and registration for next year. You are the best marketing tool we have and your support will be greatly appreciated!

At Edina Morningside Preschool, we always strive to offer the best care and learning for children and families. We will begin the re-rating process from Parent Aware this winter. We will have a mentor to help us, and receive training on great topics.

Jan 11 -  
Michael Toth  
Jan 18 -  
Sarah Gednalske  
Jan 22 -  
Harper Yang  
Jan 29 -  
Alex Beyerl  
Jan 31 -  
Daniel Toth

## MADark



Morningside After Dark (abbreviated as MADark) is thrilled to offer its fifth season of live music and storytelling hosted by EMC. Each winter program is centered around a theme and comprised of fourteen 3 to 5 minute sets alternating between the spoken word and live music.

We launch the

*From the EMC Preschool and Preschool Board*

The Play-Mat Fun-raising project has wrapped up: an overwhelming success! We had an outstanding response from the EMC congregation and preschool families to help meet the needs of the Preschool. There were very generous donations from the congregation and preschool families. We had excellent participation in our Butter Braid and Heggie's Pizza sales, and wonderful attendance from the entire community at the Hello Pizza night. The EMC preschool will be able to purchase high quality, durable gym mats for years of safe play. Additionally, some of the other equipment needs of the preschool can now be addressed.

I want to share some personal thoughts. I entered this project believing it was a small, but achievable goal...raise a few dollars, a small effort: No big deal. Instead, I was blessed to observe a true Community at work. Many spokes came together: Generous capital contributors who popped up unexpectedly, and "good sports" who bought some pastry or pizza they didn't need: echoes of Magi themes. Preschool parent volunteers who divided and conquered small tasks, and then pulled everyone in for a community-building meal together at Hello Pizza: breaking bread amongst friends. A local business, with no particular relationship to the church, (we had no "insider" there), who choose to support their community, and the greater area, Morningside neighborhood particularly, who values

from 7:30-9 pm followed by February 27th and April 24th. The event is FREE but donations are encouraged and given back to EMC. See you there!

## Taizé



Please join us on Sunday, January 15th at 7PM for a warm and centering Taize-style worship service in the sanctuary. Our 30 minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is followed by a simple soup supper in the library. Consider signing up in the Narthex, so that we may plan

Church family.

All this to buy some kid's gym mats. It was heartwarming , and I learned a lot! Thank you all again.

Megan Claps-Gratzek  
Volunteer, EMC Preschool Board

## Faith Formation

### Sunday Faith Formation Classes Resume!



The winter holidays have fallen on Sundays this year, giving our faith formation volunteers a month-long break from teaching. Classes for kids during worship resume this month on the following schedule:

January 1<sup>st</sup>: **New Year's Day; all ages in worship**

January 8<sup>th</sup>: **Class for all ages grades K-12**

January 15<sup>th</sup>: **Class for grades K-5; grades 6-12 in worship**

January 22<sup>nd</sup>: **In-house service for all ages grades K-12. We'll be writing letters and making art for shut-ins, college students, military personnel, and our friends at The Daylight School in Kenya.**

January 29<sup>th</sup>: **Class for grades K-5;**

Contact [Jane Williams](#) or [Barb Green](#)

## Women's Fellowship

### TACO SALAD LUNCH



Sunday,  
January 22 - right after worship

**All proceeds benefit our ministry with Families Moving Forward at Parkway UCC.**

**This is the main fundraiser for this outreach ministry for 2017. Save the date, and stay tuned!**

## January Calendar

## Morningside U: The Science of Spinning Things



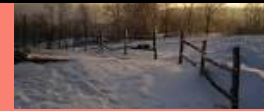
On Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m., join Kathleen Lundgren and her colleague Marcia Houtz as they provide a class for school-age kids and adults on the physics of spinning. Kids will learn about how tops spin and be able to make their own to take home. Bonus: Kathleen searched high and low and contracted out to answer the question, “Can a human being spin like a top?” You’ll have to be at the event to find out the answer! And don’t forget to register with the church office: we’ve got 17 school kids registered and the limit is 30!

## OWL Class



OWL class returns after a December hiatus on Wednesday, January 25 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We’ll be answering questions from the Question Box and talking about how to recognize and create healthy relationships. Classes for students in grades 7-9 will continue monthly through April.

The board of Christian education will meet on Thursday, January 12 at 7:00 p.m. on the third floor of the church.



To view the EMC January Calendar click [here](#).

## Women's Social Evening



LIFE IS BUSY... and that’s good but sometimes there is a longing for some “downtime” to relax, have a cup of coffee or a glass of wine, some refreshments and time to get together to talk with friends. Just social time.

Remember what fun we had in October when we gathered? We are doing it again!  
**Friday evening,**

January 29<sup>th</sup> through February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## January Worship Notes

**January 1st:** Start 2017 well by worshipping around the themes of **Epiphany** and the New Year! We'll reflect on the Wise Men visiting the Holy Family in Matthew 2:1-12, and the prophecies of Simeon and Anna in Luke 2:21-38 after they meet the newborn Christ. We also share communion by going forward to the altar, sing Epiphany carols, and enjoy music by both the Chancel Choir and several small-group ensembles.

**January 8th:** Today's worship celebrates the proclamation of John the Baptist, then the **baptism of Jesus** in the Jordan River, as told in Luke 3:1-22. Join us as Rev. Molly Cox leads us in worship, and Janet Anderson leads the Time with Children.

**January 15th:** Today we launch a seven-week preaching series called **Living Wisdom**. How will we lead the best lives possible, growing from the example of Jesus? This day we hear Luke 4:14-30, consider "**Redirecting Rejection**", and extend greetings to Rev. Kevin Brown, the new Associate Conference Minister of Faith Formation for the UCC in Minnesota.

**January 22nd:** The **Living Wisdom** series continues today with "**More Than Your Job**", in light of Jesus' call to the first disciples in Luke 5:1-11. We also welcome new members

### Fellowship Hall

we are planning another evening for EMC adult women Members and Friends. We want to continue to get to know each other better.

We will again have materials available to tie blankets for the Park Nicollet Cancer Center.

This is basically a social evening but we would ask you to think about how we can engage ALL members and friends of the church – men included - in other/different (?) fellowship gatherings. Please bring a beverage and a snack to share. This would be appreciated but not required.

**Please RSVP to the [church](#)**



proposal over a Taco Lunch fundraiser for Families Moving Forward by Women's Fellowship!

**January 29th:** Contrary to custom, Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath in Luke 6:1-16, which leads our **Living Wisdom** series to ask "**Whose Rules are You Following?**" We also celebrate a new "four-way covenant" with our member Rev. Frank Bennett, the Minnesota Conference, and the Center for Spirituality and Healing (U of M), where Frank teaches. Following worship, a congregational meeting votes on the 2017 capital campaign proposal.

## From The Archives

*Community member and volunteer EMC Historian Doug Fuerst is helping lead a small team from EMC in discovering and organizing the historic treasures in our archives. Here is the first of an occasional series about what they're finding!*

Winter 1910, 106 years ago, Morningside Congregational Church members signed their names to a "letter to organize" -- intent on forming a church society in their small village of Morningside. The church society these members formed so many years ago is initiating once again efforts to enrich and serve the congregation and Morningside community at large.

Coinciding with the 2017 capital improvement campaign, the church archives is initiating efforts that will reorganize and rehabilitate all stored items in the archive room. Upon completion of our efforts, church staff, boards and committees will be able to

**January 16<sup>th</sup>** – 952-926-6555 or so we can plan. ...or just come! If childcare is needed, please let Laurie E. or Pam know as soon as you can so we can make arrangements.

Questions: contact [Pam DeLaittre](#)

Looking forward to seeing you there. It won't be the same without you!

## Messenger Deadline



Articles for the February Messenger should be in the church office on January 23rd.

A best-practices program, this [Rediscovering Our Past](#) effort has been developed to focus on church artifact preservation, ensuring that artifacts are safeguarded for future generations. Look for highlights of our efforts in the weekly updates and monthly newsletters in *From The Archives*. Click [here](#) to see the Original Letter to Organize.

*Doug Fuerst*

**Pastor**  
[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

**Administrative assistant**  
[Laurie Eckberg](#)  
952-926-6555

**Website**  
[emcucc.org](http://emcucc.org)

## Families Moving Forward



In 2016, EMC members served four dinners to Families Moving Forward at Parkway UCC in North Minneapolis. We donated ten sets of bath and hand towels and half a dozen packs of diapers, and Pam DeLaitre donated a gently used sewing machine to help Parkway members make bedding for guests. Alan Eidsness introduced a group of lawyers to the program, and they served their first dinner at Parkway during Christmas week. Four of our members provided baked goods to FMF for breakfast on Christmas Day. When Cathy Baldwin had leftover Christmas pork tenderloin, she made a gift of it to Parkway for an additional FMF dinner. In addition, EMC members provided \$300 for Christmas gifts



helps to coordinate meals. Thanks to one and all for your generosity and service!

**Janet Anderson**

## Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report

	11/2016	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$19,696	\$221,664
Actual Pledges	\$18,524	\$210,894
Difference	-\$1,172	-\$10,770

## 66 West Opens in May '17



We are pleased to announce that Hennepin County has committed to one-time funding of about \$75,000 to help pay for services at **66 West** in 2017. Now, we're working with county staff to develop a contract for this funding, which we expect the county commissioners to approve in early 2017.

We didn't secure the sustainable funding we had asked for, but we will continue to work with Hennepin County staff to plan how the county can best support 66 West in 2018 and beyond.

### **Construction update**

With five months to go until we welcome our

66 West is more than 50 percent complete! In progress now: brick and siding being added to the exterior and sheetrock going up inside.



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4201 Morningside Road, Edina MN 55416

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