



The Messenger: February 2016
Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC
We are an Open and Affirming congregation

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From Pastor Howard

Message from Interim Pastor Rev. Howard K. Bell

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Many are the gifts given, love is all one.

Love's the gift of Jesus.

Many are the gifts given, love is all one,

We are one in Christ.



*Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
Servant spirit of Jesus.*

*Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;
We are one in Christ*

*Many are the members, the body is one;
members all of Jesus.*

*Many are the members, the body is one,
We are one in Christ*

Many Are the Lightbeams NCH #163 Versus 30 5

I loved singing this song on January 24th. It is truly representative of my experience during this Interim Time with this beloved faith community. I am amazed by the gifts that are offered here, the many ways we serve God and the sense of unity that we have in the body of Christ.

During the last two Sundays in January, the church has seen the results of work that has been in process for more than 12 months. Sunday, January 24, the forum following worship was a presentation by the Board of Trustees on proposed building projects. Some of which are so essential that the Board is recommending that we take out a \$250,000 mortgage on our building in order to begin both needed repairs and a redo of our main entrance to make it more welcoming. The mortgage would allow us to begin these projects as soon as possible this Spring! They also proposed a Capital Appeal be conducted in the Spring of 2017 that would allow further renovation of our church facility and possibly pay off the mortgage as soon as possible as these

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Pastoral Care



Join us in the EMC Sanctuary on Sunday, February 21st for our regular Taize service, from 7-7:30 pm, followed by a light soup supper in the library. All are welcome!

VEAP UPDATE

capital funds are received. **Many are the gifts given, love is all one.**

On Sunday, January 31st the Settled Pastor Search Committee presented the Church Profile that they have been working on since late summer or early fall of 2015. This document is the means by which candidates to be the next EMC pastor find out about our church and help them in their discernment about candidating here. If they discern a possible interest in being called, they will submit their Ministerial Profile for discernment by our Search Committee.

What a wonderful job this group has done in compiling accurate and compelling information about who we have been, who we are and who we hope to be as a vital faith community. Blessings to them as they begin the next phase of reviewing profiles, interviewing and bringing a candidate before the congregation with the goal of accomplishing this sometime this Spring. Thanks for the many ways of serving God displayed by our Settled Pastor Search Committee. **Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is One.**

The Church Cabinet has recently reviewed all the work done in the past nine months (including the time we spent on reviewing church history) on creating all-church goals for "Living Into our Mission and Vision". This work is a compilation of prayerful thoughts and ideas proposed by a congregational forum, by a Cabinet and Trustee retreat, and by deliberations of several small groups including some existing boards and committees where one monthly agenda was given over to this task. The Cabinet intends to approve a set of goals at their February meeting. These will be shared with the congregation and presented at another all church forum following worship on Sunday, March 6th. Goals will then be voted on at the April 17th Annual Meeting. **Many are the members, the body is one.**



*Meeting Basic Needs.
Building Stronger Communities.*

Minnesota FoodShare March Food Drive

Only a few months into every year, the generosity of the holidays in the form of donations of food and money begin to fade. Shelves begin to go bare, and organizations like VEAP struggle to provide families in need. For this very reason, VEAP and food shelves across the state of Minnesota organize a March Food Drive. This ensures that we are well equipped to continue helping our neighbors in need and that nobody goes hungry in the spring.

For more than 30 years, Minnesota FoodShare has coordinated the March Campaign, the annual grassroots food and fund drive that provides more than half the food distributed by 300 food shelves throughout the state. The March Campaign is the only

Elsewhere in this newsletter, please see the descriptions of the **Lenten Series Souper Wednesdays**. Five sessions, five Wednesdays (Feb. 17 & 24; Mar 2, 9 & 16), five soup meals, five speakers, five community agencies, and five communities that are in need of outreach ministries and support. Thanks to the Board of Deacons and the Board of Christian Education for planning and implementing this Lenten ministry. Please plan to attend all the sessions or any one of the sessions that you are available to attend and have an interest in learning from these agency representatives who are offering many gifts.

Also, during Lent, I am planning to abandon the lectionary and present a series of sermons and worship experiences that focus us on receiving and giving **forgiveness and unconditional love**. We will explore areas of our personal and communal lives where forgiveness and unconditional love might bring us healing from past hurts. We have also scheduled another **sermon talk-back** facilitated by Larry Williams on Sunday, February 21st.

I feel blessed to be in ministry with you.

Settled Pastor Update

Greetings from the settled pastor search committee. Thanks to those who were able to attend the forum after church on January 31. We are putting the final touches on the church profile, and preparing to send it on to the conference. Once the profile is posted, we will move into the search phase. As a reminder, this phase will be receiving, reviewing and interviewing potential candidates. We will be unable to discuss specific candidates during the process due to confidentiality.

Here are the 14 qualities we will be using to evaluate

statewide effort where every dollar donated goes directly to food shelves to purchase food for the hungry. During the 2016 March Campaign, Minnesota FoodShare will host a **Pack the Pews week** from **Saturday, March 19 to Friday, March 25**. Pack the Pews week is an opportunity for congregations across the state to engage their members in supporting Minnesota food shelves by bringing non-perishable food items to worship services.

Most needed items include: peanut butter, tuna, canned meats (chicken, beef stew, chili, etc.), 100% juices, dry beans, rice, vegetable oil, flour and sugar, baby formula, diapers (sizes 3-6), toilet tissue, laundry soap.

Look for more information next month in the March Messenger

February Calendar

[February Calendar](#)

Women's

the candidates. Please let us know if we missed anything from this list.

Our pastoral search committee was asked to look at a list of 45 items, which represent a range of qualities we desire in the minister of our church. The items below, in no particular order, are the top 14 characteristics we selected. We pray our new pastor will:

- Be a person of faith.
- Be a compassionate and caring person.
- Be an effective preacher/speaker.
- Accept people with divergent views.
- Help people develop their spiritual lives.
- Make pastoral calls on people in hospitals and nursing homes, and those confined to their homes.
- Have a strong commitment to the educational ministry of EMC.
- Work regularly to bring new members into EMC.
- Continue to develop his/her theological/biblical skills.
- Help people understand and act upon issues of social justice.
- Be mature and emotionally secure.
- Be a helpful counselor.
- Encourage people to relate their faith to their daily lives.

Christian Education

**Mardi Gras Pancake Breakfast:
Sunday, February 7, 11:00 a.m.**

Fellowship

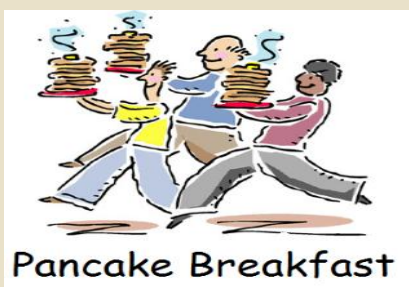
Many thanks to those who helped with Joan McCarthy's memorial service and luncheon this past Saturday. Pulling it all together on such short notice took many hands and as always folks at EMC were there. The family was very grateful and appreciative.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Feb 3	Ted Cory
Feb 5	Anne Lepow
Feb 9	Ivy Kersten
Feb 10	Rebecca Sorensen
Feb 13	Will Gednalske
Feb 17	Doug Toth
Feb 19	Mark Sorensen
Feb 20	Ella Haugen
Feb 24	Seth Jergens
Feb 26	Joan Palmer
Feb 27	Dave Russell
Feb 28	Jim Olson

Please let us know if we've missed your big day!!



Religious tradition meets popular culture as we gather to eat fattening pancakes and prepare ourselves for living more humbly and thoughtfully during Lent. Children grades K-12 should plan to be in Fellowship Hall during worship: youth will be working in the kitchen and younger kids will be helping to set tables. Tickets are \$8.00/adult, \$6.00/children 12 and under, and \$12.00/family. Proceeds will go into the mission fund for EMC youth. Gary Lundgren will bring his fellow Dixiecats, so remember to invite your friends to join in the fun! And if you can fold up chairs or help wash griddles afterwards, God will put a gold star on your heaven chart.

**Share the Love (with Secret Pals!):
Sunday, February 14, 11:00 a.m.**

The Christian Education and Marketing & Membership committees invite you to an enhanced coffee hour on Valentine's Day. Bring your

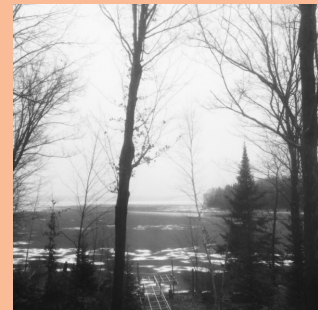


smart phones and get key people programmed into your contacts so that we can all funnel photos and text to our website and Facebook coordinators. Find out where the church advertises events so that you can direct your friends to information. Get advice about inviting people to church without feeling like you've crossed a social boundary. We'll talk for thirty minutes while we nosh: then adults will pick Secret Pals! This intergenerational mixer enables adults to supply encouragement, trinkets, and love to children in the congregation who have until April 17th to try to guess who their



**Lollie and Alan Eidsness
1361 Waterford Drive
Golden Valley, MN 55422
763-205-5153**

**Messenger
Deadline**



February 22nd is the deadline for articles to be included in the March Messenger.

**Morningside
After Dark**

Secret Pal is. Communications will be made via a bulletin board in the narthex. Kids up to 18 may participate as children. Sign up will be available starting January 31st.

Outreach at Second Harvest:

Saturday, February 20, 12:30-2:30 p.m.

This month's outreach opportunity takes place on a Saturday afternoon at Second Harvest in Golden

Valley. We hope that people of all ages are able to join us in packing food for the hungry at a work site that is always peppy. Please RSVP to Janet by February 14th so that Second Harvest staff can plan our task according to our numbers.



Morningside After Dark:

Monday, February 22, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Live music and storytelling in the dark of winter continue with an evening devoted to being "Dumped." Don't miss out on this jewel of EMC programming, which features talented local artists, treats and coffee, and a lively, engaged audience. Proceeds support community outreach at Edina Morningside.

Morningside U with Jeff Strickler:

Getting a Good Interview:

Saturday, February 27, 10:00-noon

Morningside U continues an exciting march through its first season with Jeff Strickler who will present "Getting a Good Interview." Jeff is the assistant features editor at the *Star Tribune* where he was the long-time movie reviewer. He will present tips on getting good copy out of your subject and, on the eve of the Oscars, may spill some secrets about the famous people he has



On Monday, January 25th at 7:30 pm a "Hush" came over the at-capacity crowd for the launch of the fourth annual winter storytelling and live music series, "Morningside After Dark." The program included a pop-up shop by January "Hush-themed" sponsor, Mammaste's (mammastemama.com) Lori Ann Yang who also read a poem at the event. Also from EMC was Karin Miller who kicked off the night with a trio of "mostly quiet poems." From there, 13 more performers twisted and turned around the "hush" theme for 90 minutes with live music ranging from Herman's Hermits "Hush" to avant garde jazz to original scores written for the event interwoven with writers like Kim Ode from the *Star Tribune* (see below poem) who added depth to the program. Refreshments were provided by a Morningside

interviewed. Recommended for aspiring journalists, people writing family histories, and celebrity junkies. Invite your friends, and don't forget to register at emcucc@emcucc.org with "Getting a Good Interview" in the subject line.

BOCE: Thursday, February 11, 5:00 p.m.

Janet Anderson
Director, Christian Education, Youth, & Family Life

DAYLIGHT CENTER & SCHOOL, KENYA



EMC Contact:
Pam DeLaitre
pdelait@earthlink.net

Follow the link below to see Daylights first class of graduating 8th grade students. They have all passed their exams and are ready for high school. What an amazing accomplishment!
[Daylight Update.](#)

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

neighborhood volunteer, Nicki Williams with a "hush" theme as well... 160 molasses (slow like January)/ginger frosted soft cookies known in the midwest as the "Aunt Sallys" and not one was left at the end of the night. The crowd who came out of hibernation to attend universally loved the event and felt the hush theme as they left EMC with a gentle light snowfall quieting the Morningside neighborhood on their way home. Special thanks to Mary and Doug Engelke who set the stage for the event, Janet Anderson for keeping the outside and inside of the church safe from slipping, Jane Williams for managing the lighting, Charlie Green for photographing the event, and Pastor Howard for greeting the crowd and helping at the bitter end with the tear-down of the event. A \$100 donation was given to the event by nearby yoga studio, YogaFit along with the \$640 funds raised from donations. We will be back next month for "Dumped" as 14 new performers will give their interpretations on the theme. A local bath-bomb company, "Da Bomb Bath Fizzers" will sponsor the event with donated performer

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are looking for a volunteer to assist with church finances.

The position includes entering information into quick books, bill payments, printing checks and some financial reports.

Volunteer will be trained and work closely with the treasurer. Approximately 5 hours a week. If interested please contact [Pastor Howard](#) or [Cindy Joyce](#) @ 612.816.0740



PRESCHOOL NEWS

The Preschool learned about community helpers and winter during the month of January. We visited the Edina Police Station. The children learned what police officers do for their job. We saw how they take finger prints on the computer, what a holding cell looks like, learned about K-9 units and where the dogs work at the station and saw police cars.

gifts and a pop-up shop of yummy scented bath bombs. A Linden Hills baker is providing red hot macaroons for all to enjoy. We are currently looking for a new coffee sponsor (Caribou is under new management and can no longer donate the coffee) so please contact Rebecca if you have any leads (typically we go through 5 gallons of decaf!). Until then, thanks to all of you who came out of the cold to enjoy the "hush" of winter and hope to see you back in the basement on February 22nd at 7:30 pm!

A special poem shared on January 25th by Kim Ode who wrote "With apologies to Robert Frost":

Shoveling Out Morningside on a Snowy Evening

**Whose drifts are these,
there is no doubt.
Our driveway's snow
begins to mount.
We pause our shovels as
neighbors pass,
To keep our backs from
going out.**

**Our friends down south
must think it queer
That there aren't more**

For the month of February our theme will be Beautiful Books. We will be going to Wild Rumpus book store for our field trip.

Our open house for Fall 2016 will be on Tuesday, February 9th from 6:30 - 8 pm. Fall enrollment will start this evening, as well as summer camp enrollment. There will be 5 weeks of summer camps this year!

The preschool classes will be having their Valentine's Day parties on Thursday, February 11th. The children will make crafts, have a valentine snack and pass out valentine cards and treats.

Have a great month!

Melissa

asylums here.

To them, we're nuts,
insane, loose screws
To shovel snowdrifts every
year.

I give my boots a stamp
and shake
And darkly eye the roof's
snow rake.

Why do we linger in this
clime where
Fish can't rest and tans are
fake?

My mood can be lovely, or
dark as a druid.

But always, one promise
must be renew-ed.
Refill the windshield wiper
fluid.

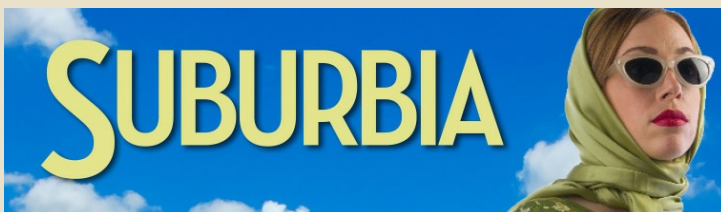
Refill the windshield wiper
fluid.

Rebecca Bell Sorensen

Front Porch Friday



FRONT PORCH FRIDAY - FEBRUARY 19 AT 10!



Front Porch Friday will explore "SUBURBIA" the exhibit at the Minnesota History Center. The exhibit explores the huge changes in the life and landscape of our community - and others - with the advent of the

EMC Music Update

UCC Choir Festival

The EMC Chancel Choir will join choirs from Mizpah, Parkway, and Union UCC churches to present a choir festival including a performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' 5

suburbs. After World War II, there was a huge housing boom as veterans returned home to start families. Builders built small houses outside the cities, and just kept on going. St. Louis Park, Edina, Richfield, Golden Valley - all experienced great growth. Most of us grew up taking suburbia for granted - but it wasn't always there!

Come join us to take a nostalgic look back to the mid-century - and better understand our contemporary urban environment. Meet at church at 10:00 AM to carpool to the History Center in St. Paul. We will visit the exhibit, then have lunch at their Cafe.

Sign up on the board, or contact [Molly Cox](#) or [Laura Simonson](#).

Mystical Songs conducted by Alex Heetland. Mark your calendars for the afternoon of April 17th to hear this exciting new collaboration of UCC church choirs.

Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*

EMC music director Alex Heetland will participate with the University of Minnesota Chamber Singers and Orchestra, joining with choir and orchestra visiting from Germany to present Bach's monumental setting of Jesus' suffering and death according to the Gospel of Matthew. Performances are March 4 and 5, 7:30 PM at Ted Mann concert hall.

Morningside Theatre Camp



Thanks for spreading the word about our new 8-11 year old camp! Both it, and our 12-16 year old camp are now full. We will take kids on the wait list. We do have spots available in our 5-7 year old camp.

We are so excited to welcome Highlands Elementary Music teacher, Katie Widen to the Morningside Theatre team this summer. She will be in charge of the 5-7 year olds.

Katie is married and lives in Minneapolis with her husband, a musician and their 13 month old daughter.

Lenten Series Souper Wednesdays

Lenten Series Souper Wednesdays

Wednesdays, Feb 17 and 24; and Mar 2, 9, and 16

6:00 - 6:30pm Soup Supper; 6:30- 7:30 Program

Sponsored by: Board of Deacons and Board of Christian Education

This educational series will present five different speakers each offering resources related to their particular community agency and the people in need whom they serve. Come to one or all. Sign-ups are requested in order to plan for soup supper. A free will offering will be collected to cover cost of the soup supper. Sign-up by email to emcucc@emcucc.org or on sheets in Narthex beginning this Sunday, January 31.

February 17: "***Ministry at a Time of Migration - I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you visited me.***" (Matthew 25: 35,36)

Rev. John Gutterman, UCC Clergy and Lead, Conversations with Friends (CWF)

Speaker Host: Pastor Howard

Soup Host: Deacons/Barb Green

Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR) has been a priority of Presidents G. W. Bush and Barak Obama, as well as business, labor, and interfaith coalitions, but Congress has failed to act positively in 16 years. Without their action immigrant enforcement and incarceration is the default reform Congress has created. Come to discuss the latest status of CIR, the civil detention of immigrants, and the CWF program. Rev. Gutterman will also speak about the Syrian and Central American refugee crisis, as well as outline opportunities for all of us to work ecumenically in interfaith ways to create a more welcoming Minnesota.

February 24: "***My Experience and God's Call for Unity***"

Rev. Demetrius Chester, Youth Development and Outreach Pastor at New Covenant Church of God in Christ, Minneapolis

Speaker Host: Pat Strickler

Soup Host: BOCE

Pastor Chester plans to share some of his experiences on race in Minnesota and an urgent call for Unity amongst the Body of Christ. He is coming to us representing a speaker's bureau of Christian leaders from our Historic Black Churches formed by The Minnesota Council of Churches. The purpose of this speaker's bureau is to help the churches of Minnesota reflect on the challenges of being Christian in America after the Ferguson, MO and Staten Island, NY grand jury decisions, I-35W shut down and Mall of America protest. It is hoped that the sharing of stories will build empathy in our congregation, which aids discernment of right action.

March 2: "**Homeless Youth/West 66th**"

Michael Ohama (Beacon Interfaith) and Mark Swiggum (Edina Community Lutheran Church Lay Leader)

Speaker Host: Janet Anderson

Soup Host: BOCE

Learn about the invisible scope of homelessness in the suburbs and about ways that congregations are making a difference in addressing this issue. Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative has partnered with Edina Community Lutheran Church in the development of "66 West". 39 studio apartments will be built at 3330 66th Street. Supportive services will also be provided to previously homeless young adults who will be residents of "66 West". Share in a discussion of how this particular partnership is functioning, and possibly consider ways for EMC to become involved.

March 9: "**Minnesota Muslims Up Close**"

Zafar Siddiqui, Director of interfaith and Civic Relations, Islamic Resource Group and Chairman of the board of Al Amal School in Fridley

Speaker Host: Sara Gednalske

Soup Host: Deacons/Lollie Eidsness

Historical records show a Muslim presence in Minnesota that goes as far back as 1880. Current estimates put the Muslim population at about 140,000. This session is based on the exhibit "Tracks in the Snow - The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880" which the Islamic Resource Group put together with support from the Minnesota Historical Society in 2014. You will get an exclusive insight into the lives and experiences of Minnesota Muslims from different cultural backgrounds and their pioneering work.

March 16: "**Refugees Around the World and in America**"

Emily Hipps, Development & Communications Coordinator, International Institute of Minnesota (IIM)

Speaker Host: Barb Green

Soup Host: Deacons/Molly Cox

The International Institute of Minnesota delivers services and resources to assist New

Americans in the transition to a new life leading to economic self-sufficiency.

The Institute supports this mission by providing linguistically and culturally accessible services that enable every New American to work toward achieving full community participation and self-sufficiency. Come to hear an overview of who is a refugee, how does one become a refugee, what is the process for refugees to come to the United States, and what kind of help do refugees get when they get to the United States.

Worship and Music Survey Recap

Report to Congregation: Worship and Music Survey

Pastor Howard Bell

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Worship and Music Survey conducted by the Interim Ministry Steering Committee last year. Alex Heetland, Pam DeLaitre, Doug Toth, Sonja Martens and I have carefully reviewed the results. Several of us have shared insights gleaned from the survey with the Board of Deacons and Music Committee.

I am happy to report that overall the results were most positive regarding the current status of our music programs and of the congregations' experience of worship at EMC. There did not seem to be a demand for radical change. However, we appreciate that the survey did offer a diversity of perspectives from individual members. Your voices were heard. We believe that there are areas that may be tweaked as we continue to seek to bring improvement to these ministries.

Due to the complexity of the survey, it has been difficult to know which information from the survey is of interest to the full congregation. This report is my attempt to distill some highlights for you. Here are the highlights:

1. **Sound:** Generally good, but a few problems - particularly in

- choir loft.
2. **Bulletin:** Almost everyone considers the bulletin to be excellent.
 3. **Lighting:** 30% of respondents consider sanctuary lighting to be poor.
 4. **Time of Service:** A very strong majority support remaining with 10:00am as the time for our regular Sunday worship service.
 5. **Length of Service:** There was no expressed desire to lengthen or shorten the planned one hour length of our worship service, but there is a desire to try to stay within that time frame as frequently as possible.
 6. **Attendance:** 76% of respondents attend mostly every week; 24% once per month or less.
 7. **Worship Styles:** No significant interest in change. However 58% suggested family services could be offered monthly. There is some interest in a greater mix of music although traditional hymns generally preferred.
 8. **Special Services:** A very limited investment in attending special services such as Easter Sunrise and Good Friday.
 9. **Announcements:** Strong majority prefer to keep announcements as they are, although there is a desire to keep them from getting too long.
 10. **Greeting/Passing of Peace:** 86% want to continue the practice greeting of one another/passing the peace
 11. **Communion:** Passing cups in the pews remains strong preference but many are open to occasional variation. There was almost no interest in incorporating the practice of intinction regularly.
 12. **Worship elements:** All elements of worship are appreciated by nearly the same percentage of respondents. Preaching, scripture reading and joys and concerns the top three but others not far behind.
 13. **Wed. Night:** The strong majority of respondents want July Wed. night services continued. There was no majority interest

in increasing Wed. night offerings to June and/or August. One reason given for not increasing was the burden on Deacons to do dinner.

14. **Christian Education:** There is extremely high interest in Christian Education by respondents with 75% rating it very or extremely important
15. **Sunday School:** 87% of those for whom Sunday School applies want to keep it during church hour.
16. **Adult Ed:** Sunday late afternoon or early evening could be considered. Half of respondents are generally not interested in adult education.
17. **Participate in Music Ensemble:** 30% of respondents say they participate in a music ensemble.
18. **Style of Music:** There are widely divergent views on styles of music
19. **Hymn Sing:** Only 25% show interest in a separate hymn sing service; but about 33% say they would participate; most preferring before church.
20. **Favorite Hymns:** 82 suggestions for favorite hymns. We are attempting to use favorites as often as they fit with the service.
21. **Youth Choir:** 67% would like to see a youth choir, but we did not address related costs.
22. **Culturally diverse music:** 68% interested in music from other cultures if it is good, but only 34% interested in singing verses in different languages.
23. **Projected Hymns:** Not much interest in projected words of hymns on a screen.

Contact Us

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Edina Morningside Community Church is Open and Affirming.

Find us online: [EMC's Facebook page](#)

And find archived newsletters and calendar information at our web site:

[Edina Morningside Community Church](#)

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