



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

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## From Pastor Howard

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## ***Successful Termination of Relationships***



This message has a far more academic quality to it than my previous messages, but I hope you will bear with me as I explain a theory that I have been working on for much of my adult life. I am sharing this theory with you at this time since we will be "terminating our relationship as Interim Pastor and Parishioner" when the new Settled Pastor is called. My definition of "termination" is "the act of ending or concluding". The date of call likely will be no sooner than two months and possibly as long as four to six months.

My theory is: ***"The depth, power and meaningfulness of a relationship does not necessarily depend on the longevity of the relationship."*** This is not meant to minimize the significance of long-term settled pastorates; or even those wonderful relationships that have resulted in many, many years of devotion and care such as in life-long family relationships, friendships that begin in childhood and continue into older age; or long-term marriage or other committed relationships. I do mean to say that short-term relationships - even a brief encounter - can have depth and meaning.

All of our physical relationships end with death; but the vast majority of all our relationships end long before death. Significant relationships end or go through a type of "termination" due to one party or the other deciding to end the relationship such as ending a marriage through separation or divorce; moving away; graduating from school; going away to college or military service; ending employment; retirement; or simply just a change in interests or circumstances. Change in interest or circumstances might include moving to a different church or simply no longer

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## **Pastoral Care Update**

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Join us in the EMC Sanctuary on Sunday, March 20th for our regular Taize service, from 7-7:30 pm, followed by a light soup supper in the library. All are

attending church on a regular basis. Since terminations are so frequent, it puzzles me that we do not pay more attention to helpful ways to end relationships.

This theory emerged in my mind in concrete terms in 1974 when I was enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Minnesota. I wrote a paper entitled "Notions on: 'Termination of Relationships'". The theory included the following three assumptions:

1. Pain and loss is often associated with terminations.
2. It is normal for people to want to avoid the subject of termination.
3. Some ways of ending a relationship may be better than other ways.

I was surprised when I was researching this topic not to find much significant research or even articles on the subject of successful termination processes. The area that was most useful to me came from the work on the ending of therapeutic relationships. Research suggested that the successful ending of therapy may be the single most important factor in whether or not the therapy itself is "successful". Here are the steps that I learned; have explored in other settings where I believe I had a successful termination; and that I propose to use in our termination.

1. **Set a specific and clear end date.**
2. **Spend time prior to the termination examining together the specific reasons for the termination.**
3. **Both parties take time to fully express negative and positive feelings about the relationship that is ending.**
4. **Have some ritual ending and celebration of accomplishments.**

My end date will be announced as soon as we know

welcome!

## March Giving Opportunities



### Minnesota Refugee Welcome Kit Supply Drive

The Morningside neighborhood has organized a drive to collect supplies for refugee welcome kits to make a difference for these families. There are 2 types of kits - cleaning kits and hygiene kits. **The timeline for this drive is relatively short. Items should be brought in by Sunday March 13.** They can be put in the laundry basket found in the narthex. Listed below are the desired items.

**Cleaning Welcome Kit**  
Dish soap

the arrival date of a new settled pastor. Typically the Interim pastor leaves two or three Sundays before the new pastor starts to allow for adjustment time. We will announce a firm "last Sunday" as soon as it is set. I will be exploring reasons for the fact that I will be unable to participate with you in worship of other activities in the future in the coming few months through additional messages, sermon time and individually. I also look forward to an honest assessment of feelings both - positive and negative - in board and committee meetings, a formal exit interview, and in our conversations together. Finally, we will plan a "release ritual" on my final Sunday and possibly have cake together during Coffee and Fellowship Time! My hope is that though our relationship together was "intentionally" short-term that it has had depth, power and meaningfulness. I know that I have experienced depth, power and meaningfulness in my relationships with you. I look forward to our sharing this journey together to a successful termination!

## Settled Pastor Update

The settled pastor search committee has been working on our Church Profile, which is a 21 page document describing our church history, as well as what we are looking for in our settled pastor. I presented a summary of the Profile at a congregational forum on January 31.

The completed Church Profile was unanimously approved by Cabinet this week, and has been sent to the conference for posting. Please join me in extending a hearty THANK YOU for all the committee members for their dedication and hard work on the profile.

Once the position is posted, we are expecting to receive large number of responses. Our remaining work is to:

Bathroom/kitchen cleanser  
(all purpose or separate)

Sponges

Paper towels

Laundry detergent

Trash bags

Small trash bin (bathroom size)

### Hygiene Welcome Kit

Toilet paper

Shampoo/conditioner  
(separate or 2-in-1 product)

Bar soap (packages)

Toothbrushes (package of 6)

Toothpaste (family size)

Shower liners

Shower curtain hooks  
(bathroom size)



### Minnesota FoodShare and VEAP March Food Drive

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 statewide effort where every dollar donated goes directly to food shelves to purchase food for the hungry. VEAP and food shelves across the state of Minnesota participate in this March Food

- Respond to each candidate that we have received their profile
- Review each candidate and rank them against our 14 criteria
- Select which candidates we would like to interview
  - Schedule interviews (by phone or Skype)
- Select the final candidate(s) to bring in for in-person interviews
- Work with Cabinet & Trustees to negotiate a salary, benefit package and start date
  - Present the final candidate to Cabinet & the congregation for approval

For this next phase we will need to be very confidential and quiet about the specific candidates. Look for updates in the Messenger on our progress, but understand there may not be a lot of information to share for a few weeks.

Doug Toth, on behalf of the Settled Pastor Search Committee

## Christian Education

**Wednesday, March 2:**

**Souper Supper:  
Homeless Youth  
and Beacon's 66  
West Housing  
Project 6:00-  
7:30 p.m.**



BOCE is sponsoring this Lenten evening with Michael Ohama of Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative (which hosts the Families Moving Forward program) and Mark Swiggum of Edina Community Lutheran Church. They will discuss

Drive. 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. If you haven't had a chance to bring in food for VEAP before then, we encourage you to bring something that final week of the campaign.

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.

These can be brought on Sunday or to the Wednesday night soup suppers/programs. You can put your contributions in the grocery cart found in the narthex.

In addition, EMC will take a special offering for Minnesota FoodShare at the Maundy Thursday service on March 24.

Thanks for all you do. It is

the scope of homelessness in the suburbs and ways that congregations are making a difference in addressing the issue. Beacon has partnered with ECLC in the development of 66 West: 39 studio apartments that will be built at 3330 66<sup>th</sup> Street to provide shelter and supportive services for previously homeless youth. Confirmation students will be attending this discussion, and we encourage EMC high schoolers to join the conversation as well.

### **Sunday, March 6: Family Sunday**



There will be no Sunday school on March 6<sup>th</sup> as all ages are invited to participate in worship. Our elementary and middle school students will be baking bread for communion, and our confirmation students have chosen the postlude. As we continue to examine the idea of forgiveness, youth and adults will be sharing words, poems, and music about being lost, making mistakes, and letting go of pain.

### **Saturday, March 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m. Morningside U: The Power of Writing About Illness with Karin Miller**

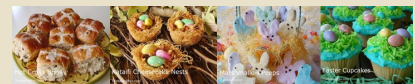
Karin Miller is a full-time writer, editor and poet, and the founder and editor of two, national anthologies of *The Cancer Poetry Project*. When her husband Thom was diagnosed with cancer, she wanted to convey to other cancer patients, spouses and partners, family members, friends and caregivers that they were not alone. She worked with writers

appreciated by those in need.

## **March Calendar**

[March Calendar](#)

## **Women's Fellowship**



**Women's Fellowship Palm Sunday Bake Sale and Cookie Walk - Sunday, March 20, 2016 - after Sunday worship in Fellowship Hall.** We know it is hard to believe but blessed Easter will soon be here! That means that the Women's Fellowship Palm Sunday Bake Sale & Cookie Walk cannot be far behind. This is the perfect opportunity to buy those luscious Easter sweets to serve to you guests and family...or to munch down yourself during coffee hour. We will have our famous "cookie walk" so come prepared with your own container or use one of ours. If you would like to

as young as 5 and as old as 84 and found that, for many people, writing poetry is cathartic and healing. During her workshop, Karin will share a wide variety of poems from *The Cancer Poetry Project* and will help participants brainstorm ideas for writing their own. Morningside U classes are free but require registration by sending an email of interest to [emcucc@emcucc.org](mailto:emcucc@emcucc.org). Don't forget to invite your friends!



## **Monday, March 28th, 5:00-7:00 Families Moving Forward at Parkway UCC**

Edina Morningside has agreed to help serve

Families Moving Forward each Monday evening that Parkway UCC in North Minneapolis hosts families this year. Our first date is on Holy Monday, the day after Easter. We will bring dinner to serve four families who are transitioning out of homelessness, and we'll bring a craft or a game to play with the kids after they finish eating. If you want to be involved in cooking, shopping, serving, crafting, or cleaning up, please email Janet Anderson your interest, or sign up on the volunteer sheet in the narthex.

## **Our Whole Lives**

The board of Christian education is supporting Janet Anderson in being trained in the *Our Whole Lives* sexuality curriculum for grades 7-9 and 10-12. The goal of the board is to offer the curriculum to Edina Morningside youth in the fall. We will be looking to partner with another local church so that our classes will be full and our kids will feel comfortable. If you have questions or concerns about the *Our Whole Lives* curriculum,

contribute baked or pastry goods to the sale, please bring them to Fellowship Hall before Sunday worship. If you would like to bring them earlier and put them in the freezer that's fine, too. Just be sure they are marked for the bake sale and let us know they are there. ENJOY! Any questions, please contact Laurie Cory - [coryhome@visi.com](mailto:coryhome@visi.com) or Pam DeLaitre - [pdelait@earthlink.net](mailto:pdelait@earthlink.net)



## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

March 8 Lollie Eidsness  
March 8 Ben Neuhaus  
March 11 Jay Eidsness  
March 12 Marge Ellingson  
March 25 Betty Scriver  
March 26 Kirk Engelke  
March 28 Cameron Green  
March 29 Rev. Howard Bell

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

## **Messenger Deadline**

please contact [Janet Anderson](#).

**BOCE meets Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**

Janet Anderson

Director, Christian Education, Youth, & Family Life



**March 28<sup>th</sup>** is the deadline for articles to be included in the April Messenger.

## DAYLIGHT CENTER & SCHOOL, KENYA



**EMC Contact:**

**Pam DeLaitre**

**[pdelait@earthlink.net](mailto:pdelait@earthlink.net)**

Follow the link below to meet Losam , the Daylight mascot, an adorable pup the kids love!

[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*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

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

## Morningside After Dark



The "Dumped" themed Morningside After Dark held on February 22nd was the biggest event yet! An at capacity crowd enjoyed 15 performances by local and global writers and musicians including acts like Lorna Landvik and The Belfast Cowboys with poetry, stories and live music that kept everyone laughing through the program. Da Bomb Bath Fizzers' colorful bath bombs filled Fellowship Hall with the



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

## EMC Music Update

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### **Make Me an Instrument: UCC Gathering of Music and Mission**

**April 17, 4:00 PM at Mizpah UCC in Hopkins.**

Join the choirs of EMC and three other local UCC congregations in an afternoon of music supporting UCC missions. Alex Heetland will conduct Vaughan William's *Five Mystical Songs* as part of this exciting new collaboration among congregations.

### ***Bach's St. Matthew Passion***

**March 4 and 5, 7:30 PM at Ted Mann Concert Hall.**

**Tickets are \$29 to \$35 at [tickets.umn.edu](https://tickets.umn.edu).**

EMC music director **Alex Heetland** will participate in this rare staged production of Bach's monumental setting of Jesus' suffering and death according to the Gospel of Matthew. U of M chorus and orchestra will be joined by visiting musicians from Germany.

**Alex** will be travelling to Germany to participate in the same production of *St. Matthew's Passion*. He will be gone for two weeks including being absent from our worship on March 13 thru March 20.

sweet smell of lavender at their pop-up shop while free homemade French macarons donated by a local baker Maryam Sarreshteh were enjoyed with Dunn Brothers coffee. Our own Janet Anderson kept things running smoothly backstage as a fill-in Stage Manager while Pastor Howard welcomed the crowd and Charlie Green documented the evening for the archives. Big thanks as always to everyone who helps make this event run so smoothly but especially Mary and Doug Engelke for leading the set-up and tear down of our makeshift coffeehouse. We will take a break in March but look forward to a big return on April 25th at 7:30 pm with another stellar line-up (including The Voice finalist Kat Perkins!) with samples by event sponsor The Twisted Shrub natural beverages and Isadore Nut Company mixed nuts. Thank you!

Rebecca Bell Sorensen

## Holy Week Worship

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**Welcome to "PrayerNet"  
Edina Morningside United Church of Christ's  
Online Prayer Chain**

Hello, my Name is ***Kathleen Lundgren*** and I want to share some exciting news with you about something called PrayerNet. PrayerNet is EMC's new online prayer chain. Pam Olson, the PrayerNet backup person, and I will be shepherding this exciting communication piece which will be able to interact with everyone who needs to request a prayer or who chooses to become included to fulfill prayers that have been requested by people like yourselves.

Click [here](#) to find simple instructions as to what information your request needs to contain. When you enter this information it will be forwarded to me. I will forward the prayer requests to the PrayerNet group asking them to pray for the person or situation requested. For those without internet connections you will be able to use a mail-in request to the church office which will also be forwarded to me for distribution.

Now, the million dollar question.....are you willing and able to pray for others upon request? If so please let the office or myself know and I will add you to the group of PrayerNet volunteers. (You do not need to use the computer for this church activity.) And, if you are unsure of how to begin, we will share with you a



**Palm Sunday,  
March 20, 10 am -  
Join us for Palm  
Sunday service**

**Women's Fellowship Bake  
Sale will follow worship**

**Taize Service  
March 20, 7 pm -  
Our monthly Taize  
service will be held in  
the sanctuary.**



**Maundy Thursday  
March 24, 7 pm -  
Service of Holy  
Communion and  
Tenenbrae**

**Easter Sunday, March 27  
7:30 am -  
Sunrise Service,  
Browndale Park  
Morningside Rd.**

**10 am -  
Easter Worship**

few thoughts and suggestions on how to get started. If I can answer any questions please feel free to contact me at 952.221.8356. Thanks for considering using PrayerNet or becoming a PrayerNet volunteer.

**Kathleen**

*"What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit, oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. Amen."*

## Board of Christian Education

It is an exciting time of growth and change at Edina Morningside UCC. There are a lot of new activities that have been introduced in the past year, as well as existing ones that have been strengthened. We have had remarkable turnouts for Morningside U events, youth events, adult education opportunities, and community outreach. As with anything, many hands make light work. One challenge we are experiencing, however, is that sometimes it feels as if we have just a few hands doing all the work to offer these events.

The Board of Christian Education is a small but mighty group of a handful of dedicated members who believe in offering a wealth of opportunities for spiritual growth and outreach. But we need your help- we can't do it without you!

**We are looking for volunteers who would be**

## Save the Date



Front Porch Friday will be meeting on Friday, March 18th. Destination to be determined. Please look for more information in the Weekly Update.

**willing to act as host for one or more events, to sign up to do set up or clean up, to chaperone our youth, to teach Sunday School, and to do the myriad of things that make our small church great.**

If there is something that you would particularly like to participate in, please let one of the BOCE members know. Otherwise, we hope you will prayerfully consider saying "yes" when one of us approaches you with a request for help. The BOCE Board is seriously concerned about the overload of work placed on Director of Children, Youth and Families, **Janet Anderson**, when she must not only arrange the event, promote the event, recruit participants, be present and host every event, but often is also required to do much or all of the set-up and clean-up. Her half-time position will not be sustainable long-term unless we have increased lay member engagement.

Thank you, your Board of Christian Education:  
**Cathy Baldwin, Matt Gennerich, Kris Kulevsky, Becky Phalen, Patty Strickler**

## **Spiritual Exploration Through Reflection & Writing**

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The first session of Morningside U was held on September 26, 2015. **Dr. Mary Rogers** led a group of women on a journey of spiritual growth through writing. This group still meets on an intermittent basis in the EMC library. You may have noticed it on the website or printed church calendar. The next session is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 9th from 10 to noon.**

If you would be interested in joining them please contact [Mary](#) to learn more about the group and what they are doing.



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### Goats for Daylight is now Goats and a COW for Daylight! -

Due to the astonishing generosity of the children and adults of EMC, you have donated enough money to buy **8 goats**! That is a whole herd of goats! We asked **Michael Kimpur**, the Kenyan Director of Daylight, if they could manage so many goats. He was amazed and happy at how generous you are and how much money you have given but, after thinking about it, he said that if it was alright with everyone at EMC, the School would prefer to have a COW and a few goats.J

We talked about it in church on Sunday and everyone agreed that would be fine. SO, we will be sending the money to Daylight and they can buy 1 cow (\$500) and 3 goats (\$300). Now the Daylight children will have milk from both the cows and goats! **Thank you so much to all of you!** You are truly a blessing!

**Pam DeLaittre**

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## Lenten Series Souper Wednesdays

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*Lenten Series Souper Wednesdays*

Wednesdays, March 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

During the month of March, this educational series will present the final three sessions featuring 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](mailto:emcucc@emcucc.org) or on sheets in Narthex.

March 2 "**Homeless Youth/West 66<sup>th</sup>**"

**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 66<sup>th</sup> 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 in Minnesota at about 140,000. This class is based on the exhibit Tracks in the Snow - The Minnesota Muslim Experience since 1880 which 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.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

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We are providing you financial information regarding pledges each month in the Messenger. Please make every effort to keep your pledge payments current. Direct deposit is the best way to assure that you current. The form to authorize direct deposit is available on our website. Click [here](#) to access the form.

Messenger Financial Report	January	Year-to-Date
	2016	1/31/16
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$18,463
Actual Pledges	\$12,922	\$12,922

Difference

-\$5,541 -\$5,541

## 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:

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