

The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

[View this email in your browser](#)



The Messenger: August 2016

## Pastor's Message



From Rev. Howard K. Bell

### Interim Ministry



With thanksgiving to God for the ministries that we have co-created during our time together, we will end our Interim Ministry Time this month. **Sunday, August 14** is my last Sunday with you in worship. **Thursday, August 18** is my last administrative day in the office. As all of you are aware, my covenant

## Table of Contents

- [Pastor's Message](#)
- [From Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)
- [Rummage Sale](#)
- [Faith Formation Update](#)
- [Financial Update](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)
- [Pastoral Care](#)
- [Supply Preachers](#)
- [Daylight Center &](#)

as an Interim Minister is such that I will not be able to maintain pastoral relationships formally with the church or informally with members and friends of the church following the end of this interim ministry time. The purpose of this covenant is to assure that I do not – in any way – interfere with the new pastoral relationships you will soon be forming with the new settled pastor, **Rev. Oby Ballinger**. Thank you for your understanding of these necessary boundaries. I rejoice with you in the new ministries you will co-create together following Oby's arrival in the church office on **Tuesday, September 6**; and as he shares in his first worship service with you on **Sunday, September 11 – Rally Sunday**.

I have deeply loved being in ministry with you! I will miss each of you. I have the fullness of love, appreciation and gratitude for each of you individually. This includes the dedicated staff members, the phenomenal lay leadership and every single member who has participated in loving ministry together with me, who have participated in worship and fellowship times, and all of you with whom I have been privileged to meet one-on-one, in your homes, in my office and in community gatherings. You are a remarkably warm and welcoming community. I believe that there is a powerful and vital future ahead for Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC.

As a theme for this message, I would like to suggest that despite our covenant to end our pastoral relationships, that we end our time together with a “comma” rather than with a “period”. I love the comma symbol that is part of the “God is Still Speaking,” United Church of Christ (UCC) identity. I am particularly fond

- [School](#)
- [VEAP Update](#)
- [Front Porch Friday](#)
- [Giving Opportunity](#)
- [Theatre Camp Recap](#)
- [Meals on Wheels Fundraiser](#)
- [Community Event](#)
- [August Calendar](#)
- [August Birthdays](#)
- [Contact us](#)

## Pastoral Care

## Supply Preachers

Sunday, August 21

10:00am

**Mary Herbst**

Sunday, August

of the rainbow comma that you see in the headline for this article. It speaks powerfully - and with greater clarity than the words "Open and Affirming" - in identifying the extravagant welcome message of the UCC and of Edina Morningside Community Church, UCC.

The comma separates what "**comes before**" from what "**is yet to come**", but it does it more softly than does a hard period. In our April 2016 annual meeting we wrote "**We Will**" statements that give direction to the future of this beloved faith community. These statements address a hoped for future into the coming year and beyond. One of the goals of Interim Ministry – as I understand it – is for a church come to terms with who it has been, to assess who it is today and to determine a desired future. All of this assessment and work is done with a pastor who is intentional about his/her presence within the community for a short, identified period of time. This allows the church to make these determinations without the central focus being the leadership, the theology, and the vision of a pastor.

One of our "we will" statements reads: "*We will continue to use and expand our marketing resources to spread the good news about all that EMC has to offer.*" I hope the **rainbow comma** will be integrated fully into these expanded marketing resources and that every member and friend covenants to embrace the **extravagant welcome** demonstrated by this symbol. Thanks for the tremendous engagement of our marketing committee volunteers who have greatly broadened the reach of our church into the wider community.

28 10:00am

**Rev. Rick  
Wagner**

Sunday,  
September 4  
10:00am

**Rev. Molly Cox**

## **Pastoral Care Coverage**

Rev. Molly Cox will be available for pastoral care beginning on **Friday, August 19** and continuing through Monday, **September 5**. You may reach her on [email](#) or by cell phone: (952) 564-7847.

## **Daylight Center & School**



Mission trips impact the world in many ways. To read how the lives of 3 teenagers were changed after a

In the spirit of the “comma”, I would like to highlight some current projects, begun during the interim time, but which will need to proceed toward completion in the coming year or so:

**Outreach Ministries:** Another “we will” statements reads: *“We will deepen our understanding of the root causes of injustice and increase the impact of our outreach work by partnering with other churches and justice ministries.”* I was privileged to attend the groundbreaking ceremony of “**West 66<sup>th</sup>**” this month. I hope this is one of the areas that you will increase your outreach ministry for homeless youth. **Families Moving Forward** is a second one. I am certain that future directions will emerge as well.

**In-reach Ministries:** **PrayerNet** is underway now, but there is much more to be developed. Thanks for the tremendous work of the **Board of Deacons** and the **Board of Women’s Fellowship** in extending loving care to all those in need of prayer and support within the community.

#### **Building Projects:**

- Building repairs have been successfully completed on the **Southwest Corner**,
- **East Wall** repair contracts have been signed with construction to begin no later than the second week of September,
- **Funding** was secured by a congregationally approved \$250,000 mortgage,
- An additional congregationally approved \$100,000 **line of credit** has been

recent trip to Daylight click [here](#).

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**

## **VEAP Update**



Yes! It’s that time already! Back to School collection sites and drives started last week and run through **August 9** and distribution of school supplies is **August 18-23**. We need your help to ensure that 3,300 students start the school year with

applied for,

- a preliminary vision for the **renovation of the narthex and main entrance** have been approved with Trustees moving forward to develop more specific plans, and
- a planned **Capital Appeal 2017** is being further developed to address both existing debt and future improvements.

### Governance Structure:

the school supplies they need.

For the complete Back to School Wish List please click [here](#).

Thank you all for your support of the Back to

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Interim Ministry

School program

Translate ▼

time, you added by-laws to your church constitution that allowed for **fewer members of boards and committees**; and that reduced the **quorum** required for a congregational meeting from **50 - 40**,

- In 2016, we added the position of **Associate Moderator**, and
- A new ad hoc committee has been formed and has begun meeting to consider additional **governance** changes required to more efficiently support the ministries of the church.

### Technology and Communications:

- The new **website** continues to flourish and adapt to emerging needs,
- **FACEBOOK** articles are integrated with the website and reach a broader audience,
- The **BREEZE** database is fully updated and a new **church directory** will be available before Fall,
- Regular Friday **email updates** have occurred and are expected to continue,

## Front Porch Friday



The Front Porch Friday that was cancelled in July has been rescheduled for **Friday, August 19th** to the **Como Zoo and Conservatory**, and the current exhibit, Blooming Butterflies. We will meet at the church at **10AM** and car pool to the Como Zoo / Conservatory. We

- The monthly **Messenger** is an essential tool for church-wide communication – mostly delivered electronically, but made available in hard copy as needed, and
- **Sunday announcements** – verbal and written – continue to provide the more personal touch to all the amazingly numerous activities for a small church!

Interim Ministry Time will end. The ministries of this church – some that have been

will have lunch at Hoa Bien in St. Paul located at 1105 University Ave, at University and Lexington. It is highly recommended by Jim and Laurie Cory!

[Subscribe](#)

[Share ▼](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Giving](#)

[Translate ▼](#)

that are yet to be envisioned in collaboration with Rev. Ballinger and his remarkable vision and ideas - will continue! **Thanks be to God.**

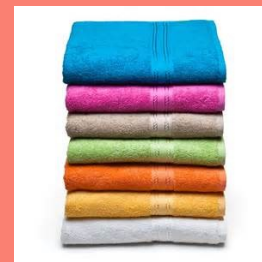
## From Rev. Oby Ballinger



Hello! I cannot describe how honored and thrilled I am that you have chosen me to serve as your next settled pastor! I enjoyed meeting many of you at the candidating activities on July 13<sup>th</sup>, and I'm very much looking forward to seeing more of you after I start on September 6<sup>th</sup>!

I'm writing to follow up on a request I made after the affirmative vote in July. That night I asked anyone who had a holiday letter from the last year to send it on to me via the EMC

## Opportunity



### **Bath Towels for Families Moving Forward (FMF)!**

Our next opportunity to serve our guests at **Parkway UCC** is **August 22<sup>nd</sup>** as you know and the church has notified us that they are in desperate need of bath towels for their FMF guests who stay overnight at the church. Just

office, so I might have a chance to get to know your lives just a bit in these weeks before I begin as your pastor. Thank you to all those who have taken me up on the invitation—it's been so fun to read your news!

Your search committee asked that I also share a holiday letter. Imagine my dismay when my husband Javen reminded me that we didn't get around to doing one last year! So lest you think I'm unwilling to practice what I preach, please accept this hot-off-the-

think how wonderful it is to get out of the shower or bath and have a nice fluffy bath towel to dry off with. If you are able, please bring a new bath towel to church before August 22<sup>nd</sup> and

we will take them

with us when we go to Parkway to serve dinner. Thank you and Blessings!

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼

*Javen and I pack our days very full with activities at our churches and with loved ones. Since receiving news that I would be the final candidate for Edina Morningside, I have begun saying goodbye to the people of Community United Church of Christ in Saint Paul Park, where I have served for the last 6.5 years. Coffee conversations, hugs and a few tears are a big part of saying goodbye, as are getting office details in order and packing up my many bookshelves. The congregation is sad to see me go, but they also understand the need for a change and wish us well in the new endeavors at Edina Morningside.*

*Javen (Swanson) continues to greatly enjoy his work as an Associate Pastor at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Saint Paul, now beginning his third year. He serves with a great team of two other pastors, and counts the joyful staff culture as one of the best blessings of the community. His work this summer includes organizing GDLC members to hand out thousands of water bottles as the church hosts a park-and-ride for the State Fair.*

## Theatre Camp Recap



The 2016 Morningside Theatre Company Youth Camp completed its 7th year. The cast of 40, ages 12-16, presented **Getting to Know "Once Upon a Mattress"** from July 14-16, 2016

*When we're not working (or enjoying the rare beverage on a sunny patio with friends), you can find Javen and I at our home in Saint Paul with our dog Ruthie and two cats. We signed up for a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) share this summer, so every Tuesday a box of farm-fresh vegetables arrives, to be turned into delicious homemade meals. Javen is the better cook, so I make up for it pulling weeds in our vegetable and flower gardens.*

in Fellowship Hall. This year's camp featured 28 returning actors and 12 who were new to our program. With one less rehearsal day than normal (due to 4th of July holiday), the cast

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

worked extra

Translate ▼

*But all work and no play threatens to make us dull people, so we have taken some time off this summer as well. At the end of June, we traveled to Montana for a week visiting my grandmother, cousins, and Glacier National Park. We took the Amtrak there and back, which is great fun so long as you don't have a strict schedule to keep! We've been delighted to celebrate family birthdays and anniversaries at the farm where Javen's grandparents still live, near Dassel, MN. My nearby family includes five siblings, seven nieces and nephews (one more due any day!), a great-aunt and -uncle, and my mother, so all our get-togethers are boisterous fun. Javen and I are also planning to take some time on the North Shore at the end of August, and I'm going to satisfy my love of lifelong learning with a week of faith-based community organizer training in Mankato.*

hard in their 10 days (52 hours) of rehearsal. Joining the actors were 4 youth on crew (lights, sound, stage manager) and a college percussionist.

Many thanks to Women's Fellowship for baking and donating dozens of cookies to be sold at intermission each show.

**Alex, Jane & Jim**

I hope it helps to read a little news from our home to yours! If you have updates that would help me get to know you a bit more, please send them to [Laurie](#) in the office, who can pass them on to me. Many thanks, and see you in September!

**Meals on  
Wheels  
Fundraiser**



With gratitude,  
Rev. Oby Ballinger

## Rummage Sale



You may have heard NPR radio say that they

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

12th from

Translate ▼

Well, we can't do anything with a car donation, but we'd like to be able to turn your other unneeded items into our church building! No, our plan is not to repair the wall with a mosaic of your old kitchen dishes – we'd like to resurrect the church rummage sale and change your unwanted items into cash.

This will be quite an undertaking. We have a good news/bad news situation. The good news is that our church building is busy and being used a lot this summer by a variety of programming. The bad news is that it doesn't leave a lot of time for us to set up for this big sale! So, we're at a point of asking for all hands on deck! We hope that each of you will be able to assist with this effort in one or more of the following ways:

1. Donate your clean, lightly used items... clothing, household, toys, furniture (no electronics, please)
2. Donate an hour or three to help with the presale either by taking a shift to be at the church to receive donated items or assisting with sorting and pricing items



**Attached** are the flyers for the second Meals on Wheels fundraiser at **Pizza Rev** at Centennial Lakes in Edina on **Friday, August**

**10 am to 10 pm.** They made \$161 at the last fundraiser. Let's see if we can help them top that this time. Just take the flyer or simply mention Meals on Wheels at the register - a portion of your sale will benefit the Edina Meals on Wheels program. There are also flyers posted around church for you to take.

## Community Event

AS EMC TURNS

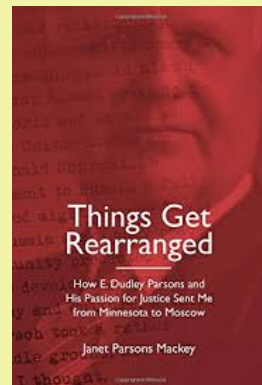
3. Donate an hour or three to help at the actual sale—manning the cash register, straightening items, answering questions
4. Donate an hour or three to help with the clean-up post sale.

Here are the facts that you need to know. Items can be brought to the church effective immediately, where they will be stored in a designated area on the stage. You can drop

THE PAGE TO A BRIGHT NEW FUTURE, YOU ARE INVITED TO A REMEMBRANCE OF OUR MORNINGSIDE ROOTS.



Save the date for a unique opportunity: On **Sunday, September 25** join us as we welcome back **Rev. Janet Parsons**, daughter and grand-daughter of EMC's founding and long-time members, **E. Dudley Parsons, Sr. and E. Dudley Parsons Jr.**



Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼

off items during the church office hours or contact Sonia Martens 952-938-0093 (h) or 952-486-2851 (cell) or Cathy Baldwin (952-994-6431) to arrange a time to drop off your items. Please bring your items in through the elevator so that you don't disturb the preschool camp on the ground level. Donation slips are available for tax purposes.

The final set-up will begin on August 5<sup>th</sup>- August 9<sup>th</sup>. Then on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, we will host a pre-sale with an entrance fee. The sale will officially begin on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup>, no sale on Friday, and the final sale day will be on Saturday, with a bag sale until noon.

This will take a Herculean effort on everyone's part. Please let us know one way or another if you plan to bring items, or if you think you can help with working at the sale in some way.

Thanks!

**Sonja Martens** and **Cathy Baldwin**

**Faith Formation Update**

## Faith Formation Teachers

A new season of faith formation Sunday classes will begin on Rally Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. We are well on our way to recruiting a team of teachers to staff our classrooms for the year. BOCE chair Matt Gennrich will be teaching in the K-5 classroom along with Laurie Eckberg and Sarah Gednalske. I will be teaching that group monthly when I am not with the high

leader Kris Kulevsky will be teaching in the 6-8 classroom along with seasoned Sunday school pro Megan Gratzek. I'd like to get another member on this team so that these teachers can be assured of some time off throughout the year. Is God calling you to work on the third floor? [Email me.](#)

## Faith Formation Schedule and Nursery Care

After the board of Christian education ratifies a faith formation schedule on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will send that schedule to the congregation. Our goal is to maintain Sunday classes weekly for children in grades K-5 while providing a rotation of classes, worship, and service opportunities for youth in grades 6-8. One of those service opportunities will be providing nursery care. Because coverage has been difficult to secure in the past, we would like to have a roster of both adults and youth who will sign up for periodic nursery shifts during worship. High-schoolers: I will be happy to sign your National Honor Society service hour forms if you can volunteer in this ministry. Middle-schoolers: All youth will be

**10AM:** Pastor Janet Parsons delivers a guest sermon

**11:00AM:** Coffee hour: informally visit with Janet

**12Noon:** Janet Parsons reads selections from

her memoir  
*Things Got*

*Rearranged: How E. Dudley Parsons and his Passion for Justice Sent Me from Minnesota to Moscow* followed by a Q & A.

## August Calendar



[August Calendar](#)

## August Birthdays

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼

working with a buddy, so this is open to you, too. No matter what your age is, please [email me](#) if you have interest in being a nursery care provider.

### **Economic Justice: Dinner at Tootie's Thursday, August 25 6:00 p.m.**



August 2 -  
Julia Lorenzen  
August 7 -  
Gary Lundgren  
August 15 -

Jessie Holly  
August 25 -

Translate ▼

Mary Rogers  
August 31 -  
Joe Toth

### **Contact us**

**Interim pastor**  
[Pastor Howard Bell](#)

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

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



Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Saint Louis Park Schools start up in August, so before summer comes to a close, let's get together for burgers and fried green beans (try one and love them!) at Tootie's in North Minneapolis. Tootie's is on Lowry, across the street from Parkway UCC where we serve Families Moving Forward. Come at 6:00 for conversation and let the purchase of a hot, grilled sandwich and a beer inject some money into the neighborhood. It's your last chance to join in EMC economic justice until we brunch at Victory 44 and do our Second Annual Caroling on Victory!

### **Families Moving Forward, Monday, August 22nd 5:30-7:30 p.m.**

If you haven't yet participated in Families Moving Forward at Parkway UCC in North Minneapolis, there are lots of ways to join in. Food items that we will need for dinner on August 22<sup>nd</sup> are posted in the narthex. Sign up if you can purchase something. You can also choose simply to attend and help serve, clean up, or craft and play with the kids who are there. In addition, see the special note

about bath towels needed for families. Other items that are always wanted: diapers, wipes, and soda. The Parkway congregation is generous and big-hearted but not deep-pocketed. I am also asking Parkway to find out how we can help families whom we will be serving again Christmas week. Stay tuned for another wish list.

### Vacation

I will be on vacation the week of August 14-20, which means that I will miss Howard's last again on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

BOCE meets on the evening of Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the home of Matt and Laura Gennrich.

Janet Anderson

### Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report

	6/2016	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$110,776
Actual Pledges	\$10,049	\$94,635
Difference	-\$8,414	-\$16,141

Please consider bringing your pledge payments current! Automatic withdrawals are the most efficient way to avoid these dips in pledge payments. Click here to download an [authorization form](#).

Subscribe

Share ▼

Past Issues

Translate ▼



*Copyright © 2016 Edina Morningside Church, All rights reserved.*

**Our mailing address is:**

4201 Morningside Road, Edina, MN 55416

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

**Subscribe**

**Share ▼**

**Past Issues**

**Translate ▼**