

## July Messenger

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## The Messenger: July 2016

### Congregational Meeting



Moderator Sonja Martens has issued the third call to a Congregational Meeting after worship on Wednesday, July 13<sup>th</sup> to vote on our settled pastor candidate. To read about the candidate, Rev. Obadiah (Oby) Ballinger please click [here](#). There will be a meet and greet with Oby in Fellowship Hall starting at 5 pm, followed by dinner & worship. The congregational meeting to vote will be held immediately after the service. Please plan to attend and be a part of our new adventure at EMC!

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### “Saying Goodbye”

In last month’s message we celebrated the accomplishments for our Interim Ministry Time during the month of May. I referred to May as Chapter 1 of our *Sequel: “Behold! We are Doing New things!”* Looking forward into June (Chapter 2) I laid out the hope that a Settled Pastor Candidate might be identified during June. All the things we imagined for June have now been accomplished! The unanimously recommended candidate is Rev. Obadiah (Oby) Ballinger. The Congregational Meeting to vote on Rev. Ballinger has been scheduled following Wednesday evening worship on July 13<sup>th</sup>. See more details elsewhere in this newsletter. Once approved, Rev. Ballinger’s first day in the church office will be Tuesday, September 6 and his first Sunday as your new Pastor will be Sunday, September 11 (Rally Sunday). Congratulations to the Pastoral Search Committee, to the Church Cabinet and to the Congregation for this successful completion of a pastoral search. An exciting journey lies ahead for all of you.

In the month of June, we have many more wonderful accomplishments to celebrate. I was able to take a one-week vacation with

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**Pastoral  
Care**

the second week of my vacation: The National Gathering for the Open and Affirming Coalition, UCC, the Minnesota UCC Open and Affirming Gathering, and the Minnesota Conference UCC Annual Meeting. Thanks to Janet Anderson for preaching on June 5<sup>th</sup>; Sonja Martens for preaching on June 12 and Rev. Molly Cox for pastoral care coverage. Please review my [sermon](#) from June 19 for more information about the exciting keynoters from these education sessions and gatherings. I am grateful for these renewing opportunities. You may watch some videos from the Conference Annual Meeting on the conference [website](#) that I believe you will find inspirational.

June also marked the beginning of these modifications to summer worship:

- More informality in liturgy
- Singing songs that are more simple than hymns
- Special music that includes “Instant Choir”, soloists, choral groups and instrumentalists
- Non-lectionary based scripture and/or contemporary readings
- Members offering a “Prophetic Witness” (Suggested ways to witness are by sharing: *Faith statements; A story of faith; How my faith applies to my work/vocation; Who mentored me in faith and/or whom have I mentored, etc.*)
- Members creating a more participatory and creative liturgy

Please contact [me](#) if you want to offer a prophetic witness and see elsewhere in this

## Happy Birthday



7/3

Laurie Cory

7/6

Ami Sharp

7/7

Dean Jones

7/9

Mary Herbst

7/17

Don Patrick

7/22

Jill Kreun

7/24

Janet Anderson

7/25

Betty Busch

Zach Engelke

7/31

Caitlin Rogers

## Summer Worship

***Sundays move to Wednesdays***  
**Supper at 6pm;**  
**Worship at 6:45pm**

Two very special events of note occurred in June. One was the June 22<sup>nd</sup> “Commemorative Service for Peace and Healing for Orlando and Beyond” and EMC’s participation in the Twin Cities Pride Parade on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Both of these events are detailed separated in this July Messenger.

All of these accomplishments also mean that it is now time for me to begin the process of “*Saying Goodbye*”. In her book [Life is Goodbye, Life is Hello](#) Alla Renee Bozarth Ph.D. says, “*Life is change. Life means having and holding – then letting go and giving up...*” I had the privilege of meeting Dr. Bozarth in the late 80’s. She was devoted to the writings of Julian of Norwich. During a grief conference that I convened and that Dr. Bozarth keyed, I remember her leading us in a song that was titled “*All Shall Be Well Again*”. At that time Dr. Bozarth helped me process through both my divorce and my coming out as a gay male, with her writings and, particularly, with these reassuring words. Now, I am calling on her wisdom as we process the ending of our relationships. I celebrate with you that as we end our time together: “*All Shall Be Well Again*” for me and for you.

I invite you to review my message in the March Messenger that described a “termination process” for successfully ending a meaningful relationship. Here are the steps that that I hope we can do together:

1. Set a specific and clear end date.
2. Spend time prior to the termination

(Air-conditioned library is backup in case of rain or extreme heat.)

***Come to enjoy the outdoors and our new portable speaker system!***

**Wednesday,  
July 6**

**Preacher and  
Pastoral Role:**

Pastor Howard  
**Theme:** Mental  
Health and the  
Spirit

**Prophetic**

**Witness:** Gwen  
Williams

**Baptism:**

Kensington  
Elizabeth Hamm

**Sacrament of**

**Communion:**

Pastor Howard

**Special**

**Music:** Alex  
Heetland with  
*Youth Theatre  
Camp Singers*

**Wednesday,  
July 13 –**

**Candidating  
Service for Rev.  
Obadiah (Oby)**

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 dates are as follows: August 14 is my last Sunday in worship with you; August 18 will be my last day in the office completing administrative tasks for the ministerial transition.

The reason for the termination is the successful completion of our Interim Ministry Time. My contract was for one year and we extended it until the Settled Pastor was selected and a date was set for the beginning of that ministry. "Life is Goodbye, Life is Hello". I believe that everything is occurring both as we planned and as God intends.

The reason why I can no longer be in worship with you and be in pastoral ministry with you is that you have a new pastor starting. All pastoral functions need to be clearly separated so that new bonds of love and partnership in ministry can be formed between you - the members and friends of Edina Morningside Church - and your new pastor - Rev. Oby Ballinger, without any interference by me as your former Interim Pastor. I hope to also be forming new bonds of love and partnership in ministry with another congregation if selected by them to serve in a new Interim Ministry.

I hope and pray that we will have opportunities over the next six weeks to share our feelings about one another and about our

**& Greet 5pm**  
**Dinner 6pm;**  
**Worship 6:45pm**  
**Congregational**  
**Meeting 7:45pm**

**Preacher and**  
**Pastoral Role:**  
 Rev. Obadiah  
 (Oby) Ballinger,  
*Call Sermon*

**Music:** Chancel  
 Choir

**Wednesday,**  
**July 20**

**Leader:** Janet  
 Anderson,  
 Director of  
 Children, Youth  
 and Families

**Pastoral Role:**  
 Pastor Howard  
**Theme:** Garden  
 Party Worship

The service will be focused on our relationship with creation. Children and youth are encouraged to attend: we'll be doing some drawing, giving witness to our love of nature, and considering

shared openly. There is always more to learn from any mistakes that I have made, challenges that we have faced together, differences we may have experienced or even conflicts that may have occurred. I welcome and encourage open and honest communication between us.

I have deep love for each of you and for this community. Thank you for welcoming me with such generosity and for allowing me to be lovingly in ministry with you. I have cherished so many of our shared events and activities, service opportunities, committee meetings, worship services, one-on-ones, pastoral visits, fellowship time, etc. I am already deeply grieving not being able to be with you in these ways in the future. I trust you will accept my inevitable tears as we “Say Goodbye”.

The ritual for ending will occur during 10am worship on Sunday, Aug 14. The celebration of our time together will follow worship that Sunday in Fellowship Hall for coffee and cake. Thanks be to God.

***Rev. Howard K. Bell***

## Mass Killings in Orlando, Florida and EMC Response

stewards of the earth.

Worshippers are encouraged to bring a food item made from garden produce to share for supper at 6:00.

**Music:** Denise Cochran and *Heartfelt* Choral Group

**Wednesday,  
July 27**

**Leader:** Mary Rogers

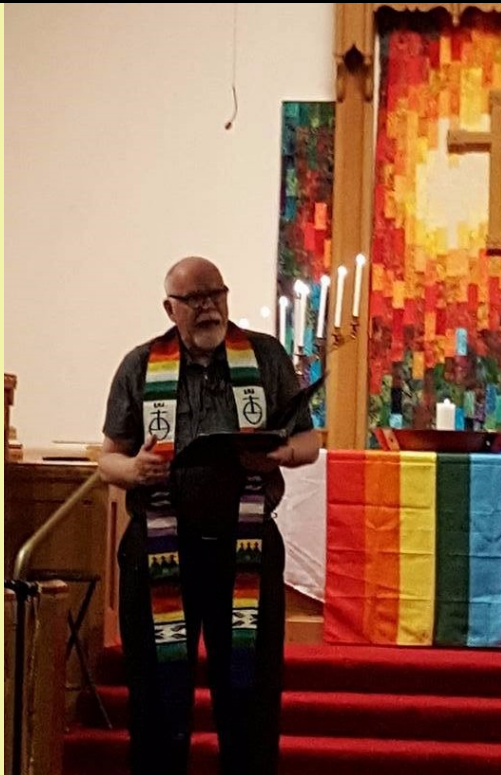
**Pastoral Role:** Pastor Howard

**Theme:** Spiritual Journey

Everyone invited to write about individuals in their lives who have played a pivotal role along the way.

**Music:** To Be Determined

**Wednesdays  
return to  
Sundays  
Sunday  
Morning  
July 31 10am**



On the early morning of June 12<sup>th</sup> 49 persons were killed by one person at Pulse, a gay club in Orlando, Florida. The majority of those murdered were Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) persons and many were Latino/a. As an Open and Affirming UCC church, Edina Morningside Church members and friends were shocked and deeply affected by this tragedy along with so many in our communities and across the country. We also acknowledge that our community and surrounding communities (particularly on the north side of Minneapolis where we participate in outreach ministries) are faced with senseless violence on a nearly daily basis. In response, we held a “Commemorative Service for Peace and Healing for Orlando and Beyond.” Thanks to EMC Member, Patty Strickler for initiating and coordinating this meaningful service held in our sanctuary on June 22, 2016. This event simply would not have happened without

play or skit To Be  
Determined

**Pastoral Role:**

Pastor Howard

**Theme:**

Prophetic  
Witness of  
Theatre

**Music:** To Be  
Determined

## Southwest Corner Repairs Complete!!



Thanks to:  
everyone in this  
church for your  
financial support  
and authorization  
of the  
Cornerstone  
Fund Loan; the  
Board of Trustees  
- and specifically  
Tadd Kreun for  
his project  
management - for  
oversight of this  
effort; and Jen-  
Tor Construction

list of names and organizations that were represented on the program that night:

Rev. Howard K. Bell, Interim Minister  
Edina Morningside Community Church,  
United Church of Christ.

Rev. Shari Prestemon, Conference Minister  
Minnesota Conference, United Church of  
Christ

Alex Heetland, Music Director  
Edina Morningside Church Chancel Choir

Rev. Ron Moor, Lead Minister  
Spirit United, A Community Honoring Spiritual  
Transformation

Memoona Ghani, Speaker's Bureau  
Islamic Resource Group

Richard Carrick, Music Director  
Calliope Women's Chorus

Ellen Swanson  
Council Member, Minnesota Holistic Nurses  
Assn.  
Member, Spirit United, A Community  
Honoring Spiritual Transformation

Dianne Star, Member  
Parkway United Church of Christ, Minneapolis

Verna Monson, Ph.D., Monson Consulting  
and Evaluation  
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center,  
Domestic Violence Advocacy and Support

Southwest  
Corner were  
completed June  
24th. We  
celebrate that this  
long-delayed and  
necessary repair  
has been  
successfully  
accomplished  
and within  
budget.

Pastor Howard

## 66 West Ground- breaking



***Tuesday, July 12***  
***5pm - 6:30pm***  
***Brief program at***  
***5:30***

You are invited to  
the 66 West  
ground breaking.  
You've helped to  
create 39 homes  
for youth who  
have experienced  
homelessness.  
Join us to



## Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense

Patty Strickler, Commemorative Service Event  
Coordinator  
Member, Edina Morningside Community  
Church

Rev. Molly Cox, Retired UCC Minister  
Member, Edina Morningside Community  
Church

Jonina Bell Krieg, Friend of Edina  
Morningside Community Church  
Daughter of Pastor Howard

An offering was collected that totaled \$909. These donations are being sent to the Florida Conference, UCC, to be forwarded to the LGBT Center of Central Florida in support of the families of those killed in Orlando. If you would still like to contribute, please bring in or send a check to the church office. Checks can be made payable to EMC with "Orlando" written in the memo line. Thanks also to EMC's Women's Fellowship for providing bottled water before and during the service on a muggy night; and for providing fellowship and treats following the service. More than 100 people were in attendance.



construction.

### **Where:**

Site of 66 West  
3330 West 66th  
Street  
Edina, MN 55435

Limited parking  
will be available  
after 5pm at the  
[Southdale Place  
Office Building](#)  
west of the 66  
West site. Please  
consider  
carpooling or  
using transit.

If you have  
questions, please  
call Claire at 651-  
789-6260 x223.

## Daylight



The cow and  
goats have  
arrived at the  
Daylight farm!  
Click [here](#) to read  
about how  
agriculture is  
woven into life at  
Daylight and a  
shout out to the

## EDINA MORNINGSIDE PRESCHOOL



**Now Enrolling for the 2016/17 school year.  
AM or PM sessions**

We have a wonderful preschool nestled in the charming Morningside Neighborhood at:

**4201 Morningside Road**

-Experienced, Loving Teachers-Warm Family Atmosphere-Fostering Empathy, Leadership, Independence & Friendship-Creative Play-Problem Solving-Kindergarten Readiness

Accepting children 3 to 5 years of age  
Full & Partial Scholarships Available

Call Melissa Clarke @ 952-926-655 or email at [preschool@emcucc.org](mailto:preschool@emcucc.org) for more information.

## Faith Formation Update

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AT MILDA'S CAFE

contribution.

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*

## July Calendar

Here's what's happening in [July](#)

## Save the Dates!



Edina  
Morningside  
Church  
Rummage Sale

Wednesday,  
**August 10**  
5:00 – 8:00pm  
Pre-Sale (\$2



Join Edina Morningside friends for brunch at Milda's Café (1720 Glenwood Avenue) on Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. This is a chance to relax, chat, eat hashbrowns, grits, or pasties and put some money into a business in north Minneapolis. Howard plans to attend, so this is an opportunity to socialize with him as he winds down his exceptional work as our interim pastor.

#### OUR WHOLE LIVES INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Larry Williams and I will host an informational meeting about the UCC and UU-developed curriculum on human sexuality, Our Whole Lives. OWL provides more than accurate information about physical sex. It also encourages participants to explore their values and attitudes about sexual and gender expression, to feel whole in their skins, to respect others, and to make decisions that support their identities as physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual people. All adults are welcome at the meeting on Monday, July 18 from 7:00-8:30pm. Parents of children entering grades 7-9 this year are encouraged to come to decide if they would like to opt their children into the classes that we will be offering this fall.

#### SERVICE AT SECOND HARVEST

Thursday,  
**August 11**  
8:00am –  
5:30pm, Sale

Saturday,  
**August 13**  
8:00am – Noon  
Bag Sale

You may drop-off items for the Garage Sale beginning Friday, August 5. Furniture may be dropped off beginning August 9. No electronics please

Many volunteers are needed for this event. Please consider time that you have available. Please contact Moderator [Sonja Martens](#) to volunteer.

More information will be available in the Weekly Updates.



People ages 8 to adult are welcome to sign up for service at Second Harvest in Golden Valley on Tuesday, July 26 from 6-8 p.m. Please email [Janet](#) at if you are interested in attending. Bring five bucks if you'd like to hit the DQ after we're done packing.

#### FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE 2016-2017

The Board of Christian Education has been working on a schedule of faith formation classes for the coming year that will include opportunities for youth in grades 6-12 to alternate Sunday classroom instruction with worship and service opportunities. Information about the proposed schedule will be made available after the BOCE meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. We are excited about expanding opportunities to our youth and look forward to sharing with the congregation soon.

*Janet Anderson*

## Friday



The next Front Porch Friday will be **July 8th** 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 will have lunch at the Zobota Café, next to the Garden Safari Gift Shop.

## EMC at Twin Cities Pride



## Messenger Deadline



July 25th is the deadline for articles to be included in the

persons to march in the Twin Cities Pride Parade. The marchers were (L-R in the photo): Cathy Baldwin, Alex Heetland, Thomas Pfeiffer (visitor to EMC and friend of Pastor Howard) and Pastor Howard. Please also note the new rainbow church banner that was printed in time for this year and will be available for other uses. The EMC contingent marched as part of the Minnesota Conference UCC Open and Affirming Team contingent. There were about 65 total marchers representing a total of eight Open and Affirming churches in the Minnesota Conference UCC.

### EMC T-Shirts

Please also notice in the picture that the four marchers are wearing EMC T-shirts. Thanks to EMC Member, Gwen Williams for designing these t-shirts! We purchased sixteen shirts that were all sold on Sunday June 19 and Sunday June 26 at a price of \$16 each. We now have several additional people interested in purchasing a t-shirt. We would like to place another order by July 7. If you would like to purchase one, please sign up at worship on July 6 or send an email to the [church office](#).

## Contact us

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

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

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



## Morningside Theatre Camp

YOUTH CAMP: Once Upon A Mattress Jr.  
AGES 12-16

M-F June 27th-July 15th 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



This three-week intensive produces a 60-minute junior version musical, with four performances open to the community. If you thought you knew the story of 'The Princess and The Pea,' you may be in for a walloping surprise! Did you know, for instance, that Princess Winnifred actually swam the moat to reach Prince Dauntless the Drab? Or that, in fact, it wasn't the pea at all that caused the princess a sleepless night? Carried on a wave of wonderful songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this rollicking spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting shenanigans. Chances are you'll never look at fairy tales quite the same way again. Curtain up!

**Performances: July 14-15 @ 7 p.m.,  
July 15-16 @ 10 a.m**

**The Cast of Disney's Sleeping Beauty**



To see more pictures from the Sleeping Beauty production, please go to Morningside Theatre Company's [FACEBOOK page](#). For additional inquiries or questions, send an email to [Jane Williams](#).

## Financial Update



### *Summer Pledge Payments*

*June pledge payments fell significantly short of budgeted amounts. This "down month" is combined with our being almost \$8,000 below budget in May 31 year-to-date payments. Please remember to keep up with your pledge payments over the summer even when you not able to attend worship regularly. If you fall behind it*

*trustees to manage its expenditures. The best option for staying current is Automatic Deductions. Click [here](#) to download the authorization form. Thank you for your financial support along with all the other ways you give of your time, talent and of yourselves.*

Messenger Financial Report

	5/2016	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$92,313
Actual Pledges	\$20,018	\$84,587
Difference	\$1,556	-\$7,727



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**Our mailing address is:**

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