

The monthly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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The Messenger: September 2016

Pastor's Message



Pastor Oby ready for his first day at Edina Morningside Church!

"Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7)

At the risk of sounding like a kill-joy, can I confess that I look forward to life after Labor Day? The summer has been lovely, but cooler temperatures will slow the garden and lawn

Table of Contents

- [Pastor's Message](#)
- [Faith Formation Update](#)
- [From Alex](#)
- [Moderator's Corner](#)
- [Preschool News](#)
- [September Worship Preview](#)
- [Financial Update](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Table of Contents](#)

luxuriously, but now I can imagine families relieved to return children to the structure of school. In my own St. Paul neighborhood just south of the fairgrounds, Labor Day brings the end of the “Great Minnesota Get-Together”, and I’m looking forward to drivable streets again!

Life after Labor Day also brings a new chapter for Edina Morningside Church and I, as we begin ministry together on September 6th. These weeks since you extended the call to me in mid-July have been filled with anticipation. Like an eager child returning to school, I have thought a lot about who I’ll be alongside each day, wondered what the congregation will feel like on Rally Sunday (September 11th), and even purchased a new bag! Thank you for the many holiday letters and photos you have shared with me; they help me put names and faces together so I start to know who’s in my new “class”. How else will we welcome one another at the start of this new ministry? In our worship, our planning, and our activities, how can we continue to extend hospitality to each other, and to those who have not yet found a home with us at EMC?

A Christian emphasis on hospitality and welcome comes directly from our spiritual ancestry. The Bible is chock full of stories that highlight welcoming neighbors and strangers. God initiates the action. When Abraham and his family are “nobodies from nowhere”, God welcomes them as chosen people. The prophets and leaders constantly remind Abraham’s descendants to welcome strangers

- [Front Porch Friday](#)
- [Women's Fellowship](#)
- [Daylight Center & School](#)
- [Community Event](#)
- [September Calendar](#)
- [September Birthdays](#)
- [Rummage Sale Recap](#)

Pastoral Care

Front Porch Friday



SEEING
NATURE -
LANDSCAPE
PAINTINGS at
the Minneapolis
Art Institute

A beautiful group
of landscape

extending hospitality to all people everywhere. Gentiles as well as Jews are now a part of God's family. Christ's welcome goes out to every single person on the planet. That's why the United Church of Christ says, "No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." We imitate God, and put out the welcome mat for all.

In coming months, we'll have many ways to show hospitality to neighbors and strangers alike. I invite you to join me with one particular effort in my first week at church. On September 7th or 8th from 5:30-7pm, please join me to have conversations and distribute door hangers with our Morningside neighbors! The door hangers are made by the Membership/Marketing Committee, and promote our Rally Sunday activities. They are a perfect conversation starter with those in our community who are looking for an open and affirming Christian church with a commitment to community, and activities for all ages. I'm excited about all we have to offer as Edina Morningside Church, and I want everyone to know how good this community can be together! When we gather in worship on Rally Sunday, I trust that we will see a number of new faces, and that we will extend to each one the gracious hospitality that God shows us. It all starts on Wednesday and Thursday evenings next week. So will you don your EMC t-shirt, bring along a friendly dog if you like, and join this effort to introduce ourselves anew to the neighborhood? Let us welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us. Thanks be to God!

G. Allen
[Microsoft guru] is at the MIA for a few more weeks. Join friends from Edina Morningside for the Front Porch Friday trip to the exhibit on **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16,** at 10:00 AM. We will carpool from the church - or drive on your own. There is a \$20 charge for the exhibit, or \$16 if you are a member. We will lunch nearby - Eat Street maybe? Help us decide! Please sign up or RSVP to the church, or contact [Molly Cox](#) or [Laura Simonson](#) for more information.

Women's Fellowship

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP –

Faith Formation Update

Rally Sunday is September 11th!



This year our return to routine coincides with welcoming a new pastor. Because we are a church of food-lovers who believe strongly in feeding the hungry, the Board of Christian Education and the Marketing and Membership Committees are inviting all members who can to bring tapas to share after worship: a small plate of food that says something about who you are and how you love. Connect with [me](#) if you can bring food or help set up. We'll also be playing get-to-know-you games in honor of Pastor Oby. Kids in grades K-12 will all have class that day with the opportunity to meet their teachers and new classmates. We will not be registering children for faith formation classes—all are welcome—but now is the time to update BREEZE with important information about your kids, including their ages and your emergency contact information. Don't know how? Charlie Green and Pam DeLaitre are experts.

Sign Up for Nursery Care!

We are moving to a model of church member care in the nursery this year. That means we need youth and adults to sign up for Sunday

September

Wednesday

7th

9:30 AM

The new church year is beginning and we will gather in the church library for our first meeting of the fall on **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th at 9:30 AM!**

Look forward to devotions, “what we did this summer”, plans for the coming year, expanding our fellowship to include ALL members and friends of EMC, both men and women and, of course, treats! Please join us!

Any questions contact Laurie Cory -

coryhome@visi.com, 952-933-5863 or Pam DeLaitre – pdelait@earthlin.com

with [me](#) if you are an adult who can provide nursery care on September 11 or 25, or a middle or high school student who can provide care on September 18. Thank you!

OWL Classes Begin



On Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 p.m. Larry Williams and I will offer one more orientation session for parents who want to enroll their 7th, 8th, or 9th graders in an abbreviated program of the Our Whole Lives curriculum on human sexuality. OWL is based on principles of both pleasure and responsibility and encourages people to consciously express their values in how they approach their sexual lives. Classes begin monthly on September 28th at 6:30 p.m. Curious? All adults are welcome to attend the orientation session.

Morningside U Returns!



Thom and Joey Miller kick off the fall 2016

Daylight Center & School



Daylight students go through a lot of pencils. Click [here](#) to read all about it.

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

**DAYLIGHT
NEWS FLASH!
Some of you
may know that
Nathan Roberts
and Michael
Kimpur were
asked to do a
TED Talk about
how they met
and how**

Free Library on Saturday, September 24 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. EMC will be the recipient of their work—a Little Free Gift to us and the community! Register with the church office starting September 12th and bring a book to share.

BOCE meets at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1st at church.

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

You may have heard by now that I have accepted a position teaching music and theatre at Pathways World School - Aravali outside New Delhi, India. Obviously, that would be a difficult commute to EMC! I handed in my resignation as Music Director at EMC in August, and my last Sunday at EMC will be September 11. Choir rehearsals will begin as planned, with Chancel Choir starting on August 31, and Bell Choir on September 7th. Howard, Sonja, and the Music Committee have already started talking with very exciting colleagues of mine to serve as temporary Music Director. A search for a permanent Music Director will

came to be, to view their talk click [HERE](#).

Community Event

AS EMC TURNS 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

On a personal note, I am grateful for the time I spent at Edina Morningside over the past four years. I am proud of the work we have done together to create moving experiences in worship and music. As EMC and I move into our next chapters, I am excited for the possibilities that are ahead for both of us.

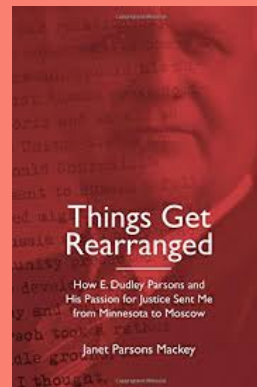
Alex Heetland

Moderator's Corner

Ahh, September! I love September. It is a time of gentle endings – summer slipping away almost unnoticed, the air hinting at the cooler temperatures yet to come. But mostly, September is a time of new beginnings. Young animals become independent, young people start the new school year, new routines are established after the chaos of summer. And here at Edina Morningside, we are experiencing September in full measure this year. It is an exciting time!

We have our share of endings this September. It is the end of our interim time with Pastor Howard. During the last sixteen months, we have accomplished a lot! And while we are sad to see Pastor Howard go, the interim period was successful and we are excited and ready for the next chapter in the life of Edina Morningside Church!

Also, we are saying good-bye to our beloved Music Director, Alex Heetland. Alex has been a true gift to our community and our music program for the past 4 years. We will



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

There will also be a meet and greet with Janet in the EMC library on

in particular, will miss his insights. I have benefitted greatly as Moderator from his thoughtful comments and questions. We wish Alex well in his new beginning in India this September, and hope he will stay in touch and visit us when he has a chance. And, of course, we could go to India

But EMC is poised on the brink of a wonderful new beginning this September! We have Pastor Oby joining us as of September 6. Rally Sunday (September 11 – be there!) promises to be a wonderful and fun beginning to our new settled pastor's tenure and our new program year. BOCE has worked hard to create an innovative and inspired education program for our youth, Membership is working with BOCE on fun "getting to know you" activities for our coffee hour after church on Rally Sunday, and the Music Committee is working hard to put in place an interim Music Director who will continue to challenge and lead us.

And that is just the beginning! I look forward to sharing our exciting journey into EMC's new beginnings with you all. See you in September!

Sonja Martens, Moderator

Preschool News

noon.

September Calendar



[September](#)

September Birthdays



Abbie Baldwin -
Sept. 3
Tyler Eckberg -
Sept. 4
Tyler Thomas -
Sept. 7
Dale Seubert -
Sept. 7
Scott Herbst -
Sept. 16
Pam Olson -
Sept. 21
Marjorie
Jamieson -
Sept. 22
Lois Obert -
Sept. 22
Alan Eidsness -
Sept. 26



Preschool starts on Tuesday, September 13. Teachers have been in the building all week getting ready for the students to arrive! We still have some room for more friends. There are 6 spots for the morning and 11 spots in the afternoon, so please let your friends know.

The preschool would like to thank Kathy and Gary Lundgren, Laura Gennrich and her dad for the donated materials and labor for the new classroom bulletin boards. The boards are now decorated and look amazing!!

Melissa

September Worship Preview

September 4th: On **Labor Sunday**, we gather for worship and Holy Communion, led by Rev. Molly Cox.

September 11th: EMC welcomes longtime members and new guests to **Rally Sunday** as we kick off our Sunday school program again! Come to share in Pastor Oby's first Sunday, express gratitude to outgoing music director Alex Heetland, and stay afterward to share food together. We begin a focus on narratives of the Bible with Adam and Eve—their

Arch Williams -
Sept. 29

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

Rummage Sale Recap



Whew! We had a whirlwind rummage sale in early August! Because our church is so delightfully busy in the summer, with three theater camps, and a number of preschool camps, there was really only one weekend that was available for us to hold a sale. We began accepting donations two weeks in

mercy despite disobedience.

September 18th: Bible stories show us the heart of God and humanity, so we make our way through Scriptures with an eye for what we can learn about our lives today. Another early story is our model this Sunday. The greatest thing about our spiritual ancestors **Abraham and Sarah** is their remarkable faith. In Genesis 15:1-6, God promises that this barren couple will have descendants as numerous as the stars. Against all evidence to the contrary, Abraham believes. What promises of God are we challenged and inspired to believe?

September 25th: We welcome **Rev. Janet Parsons Mackey** as our guest preacher today, illuminating God's grace in generations of family experiences growing up at Edina Morningside. An extended coffee hour follows the service so that worshippers can visit more directly with Rev. Mackey. At noon EMC hosts a community-wide conversation in the library, where Rev. Mackey discusses Edina Morningside history and reads from her memoir, "Things Get Rearranged: How E. Dudley Parsons and His Passion for Justice Sent Me from Minnesota to Moscow".

Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report	7/2016	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,463	\$129,238
Actual Pledges	\$17,750	\$112,384

the neighborhood and we received many items from people who had never been in our church before! And then our church worker-bees got to work: sorting, testing, and pricing.

People lined up to come shop for our presale, and then we had a good turnout on Thursday and Saturday morning. So far, the sale has made \$2,500... but wait! There's more! Some of the items that did not sell at our church rummage sale will make a second appearance at the annual **Festival of Sales at Interlachen Park in Hopkins. That sale will be Saturday, September 10th from 8-4. It is well worth**

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](#).

Contact us

[Laurie Eckberg](#)

Administrative assistant

952-926-6555

Website

emcucc.org

neighborhood.

Thank you to all who donated your items—we had a wonderful variety of treasures to sell. Thank you to all who shopped—enjoy your treasures and keep them for at least a couple years before bringing them back for us to sell again! And especially, thank you to the THIRTY hard workers who spent precious summer hours in a hot basement, sharing laughter and making this sale a success!



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