

Monthly Newsletter of Edina Morningside Church

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April 2017 Messenger/Friday Update

From Pastor Oby...



This past week I received a lovely office visit from someone who lives a few houses down from the church, resulting in a long walk-and-talk through the neighborhood. My conversation partner shared with me her

history in the community, past activities with the church, and current desire to help make a difference in the world by aligning with positive movements for change. While she doesn't think of herself as a "church person", our neighbor sees us as a force for good, a source of other-centered care in what can sometimes feel like a harsh world.

I couldn't be happier with that interaction (and not only because I finally took a walk through Browndale Park). I'm convinced that this sort of thing is just what we're about: sharing joy,

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spending a lot of energy right now repairing the church building and getting ready for the Capital Campaign's launch after Easter (April 30th!), we do so for the sake of this greater community. All our worship, programs and building improvements must be measured by how well they help us and others to love God, love neighbor, and love self.

As we anticipate the glorious Easter of God's triumph over the grave and other deathly powers, how are we doing at "sharing the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving"? Is there someone you know who needs to hear the promise of God's presence in the shadows of Maundy Thursday or the glory of Easter morning? Might you bring them with you to one of our services this month?

See you in church,
Pastor Oby

Lenten activities at EMC!

More than Meets the Eye:

Worship Series from

Ash Wednesday – Easter Sunday

As we retrace Jesus' steps in Luke's Gospel during Lent, think about where we at Edina Morningside Church are called to walk with Jesus. Whom are we invited to encounter, to embrace, to see anew? Remember, there is always *More than Meets the Eye!*

Prayer Journal Writing Prompt for March 26 (Fourth Sunday in Lent):

Consider this verse: "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced, even if someone rises from the

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In Our Prayers

We hold these members and friends in our prayers:

Write on this passage from Flannery O'Connor's journal: "Mediocrity is a hard word to apply to oneself... I want so to love God all the way. At the same time I want all the things that seem opposed to it." (pg. 23)

"Caring for Our Community" Monday Night Speaker Series:

This Monday at 6:30pm, the Deacons invite you on a **tour of VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People)**, the social service program headquarters in Bloomington (9600 Aldrich Avenue South).

Fundraising for Daylight School:

Throughout Lent, we receive dedicated offerings to help Daylight School in Kenya purchase new bedding for their residential students. Each bedding package—blankets, sheets, pillow and mattress—costs \$40. We'll see how many beds we can furnish throughout Lent! We already hve 33 sets purchased - thank you!

Sunday Service - April 2nd

Scripture reading: Luke 18:31-19:10

This Week's Leaders

- **Preaching:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Leading Music:** Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Sharing Communion:** Rev. Frank Bennett
- **Usher:** Chuck Clay
- **Reader:** Laurie Cory
- **Musicians:** Chancel Choir

April Birthdays



April 3 - Julia Eckberg

April 14 - Pam DeLaittre

April 12 -
Jim Cory
Jeff Strickler

April 13 -
Marjorie Wezeman

April 17 -
Rev. Joe Clay

April 27 - TIm Comes Flying

April 28 - Corey Green

Daylight News



Martha, an 8th grade student at Daylight, wants to

- **Fellowship Hosts:** Preschool Board
- **Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke

During Worship

- Communion by distribution to the pews
- Nursery care available

Holy Week and April Worship

April 9th (Palm Sunday): *More than Meets the Eye: End in Sight* theme; worship starts outside with palm procession from sidewalk by playground; dramatic retelling of the entire Holy Week story, Morningside Bells and Chancel Choir music

April 13th (Maundy Thursday): Luke 22:10-27; *More than Meets the Eye: Unbearable Sight* theme; sharing communion, Chancel Choir music, growing darkness throughout worship until we leave in hushed darkness

April 16th (Easter Sunday): Luke 24:1-12; *More than Meets the Eye: Sight Unseen* theme; **Outdoor 7:30am sunrise worship at Browndale Park** (simple music and a retelling of the Easter story); **10am Sanctuary Worship** (joyful music, children rediscovering the hidden "alleluia", resurrection life)

April 23rd: Luke 24:13-35 (Emmaus Road story); Annual Meeting and Lenten journaling report-back after worship

April 30th: Acts 6:1-7:2a, 44-60 (story of apostle Stephen's witness to Christ); launch of the Capital Campaign with special liturgy and speaker

learn more about what motivates this top science student and hair stylist.

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 DeLaittre

April Calendar



Click [here](#) to open the April Calendar

April Sunday School Schedule



April 2: Class for students in grades K-5

April 9: Class for students in grades K-12

April 16: **Easter Sunday. No classes.**

Kids of all ages are welcome in worship.

April 23: Class for students in grades K-12

April 30: Class for students in grades K-5

Equipping Teens for Life:

Saturday, April 8, 9:30-2:30

It's finally here! Equipping Teens for Life: A Health & Wellness Conference for Youth & Parents takes place at EMC on Saturday April 8th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The conference features author and St. Louis Park native Peggy Orenstein as a keynote speaker on her book, *Girls & Sex*, which addresses how young people of all genders are exposed to sexuality in our time. The day also brings a variety of 50-minute break-out sessions on topics for youth and adults like depression, grief, academic stress, managing parents, and the LGBTQ spectrum. This event is generously co-sponsored by the UCC Minnesota Conference with funding from the Ashley Endowment, and it features presenters from our own congregation and the Twin Cities UCC community, as well as Camp Erin, Treehouse, The Annex Teen Clinic, Bethel University and MCTC. Tickets are \$40/adult and \$10/youth. How can you help? Buy a



Good Night!

Sleep Tight!

THANK YOU!

Lent is not at an end and we will continue to take donations for the Daylight bedding packages until Easter, but as you can see from the “tally poster” in the Narthex the congregational response to this project has already been amazing. **To date we have funds for 33 bedding packages!** I want to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU! or as Tom Gillaspay said last Sunday, “Asanti Sana”. Many blessings for your care and generosity,
Pam DeLaittre

MADark

you are available to help register people in the morning, act as host in a break-out session, or serve and clean up meals. The Equipping Teens committee looks forward to bringing information and aid to our community, and thanks you for your support!

**Families Moving Forward:
Monday, April 17, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**



Edina Morningside has a commitment to serve Families Moving Forward dinner at Parkway UCC, 3120 Washburn Avenue North in Minneapolis, on Monday, April 17th. We'll prepare dinner at 5:30, serve at 6:00, then play with kids and clean up between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. This is an intergenerational service opportunity that provides a lot of satisfaction. If you haven't participated in the past, maybe now is the time to try it out. Women's Fellowship will be cooking up meat and providing salsa for taco salad. If you can sign on to bring onions, tomatoes, lettuce, chips, sour cream, soda, milk, dessert, or items for the families' next-day lunches, please [RSVP](#) to Laurie Cory with that information. I'll also need a craft helper this month, as I (Janet) have another volunteer commitment that night. Can you bring a child-friendly craft? Commit to playing with sidewalk chalk and balls outside the church? [Let me know.](#) Thank you!

**Prayer Journalling Cheese Party, Sunday,
April 23, 11:15 a.m.**



**Save the date -
April 24th will be
the 5th
anniversary
show for
Morningside
After Dark!**

Join us for the third and final event of the MAD 2017 season as local musicians, singers and storytellers each offer one song, musical set or story, in a fast-paced, humorous, meaningful and fun-filled evening. Doors open at 7pm; the show starts at 7:30!

**Women's
Social
Evening**

life deepened by the practice? What did you discover about yourself? We'll have a table set with cheeses in Fellowship Hall after the service on April 23rd for those who want to get together and talk about how keeping up a Lenten conversation with God impacted their lives.

**Last OWL Class, Wednesday, April 26,
6:30-8:30 p.m.**



This year's OWL students will get together one last time to learn about STIs, contraception, and sexual decision-making skills. Larry and I have had a great time. I look forward to offering OWL for students in grades 10-12 next year. *And adults, are you interested in an OWL class? Let me know...*

Janet Anderson

Janet on Leave this May - July

Faith formation director Janet Anderson has asked for a three-month leave of absence to focus on her first love of writing, a request that the Board of Christian Education and Cabinet have unanimously approved. Janet will be away on leave from May through July, then returning in August to finish planning for the fall. Please **be in touch with Janet this month** as you anticipate upcoming program needs, and help the Board of Christian Education wherever possible with faith



Time to gather again! **Friday evening, April 28th at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall** we are planning another relaxing social evening for EMC adult women Members and Friends. Please bring a snack and a beverage to share if you are able (not required). We will again have materials available to tie a blanket for the Frauenshuh Cancer Center - Park Nicollet.

So we can plan, **please RSVP to the church office by Monday, April 24thor just come!** If childcare is needed, please

April "Earth Month" Activities!

EMC is gearing up for April Earth Month by partnering with other local organizations in an effort dubbed "Rolling Together Toward a Better World". Our Earthworks breakfast is tied together with a monthlong celebration of more connected and earth-friendly community. We are partnering with our friends from the Morningside Neighborhood Association (MNA), Cool Planet, and the Linden Hills Food Co-op, with their focus on [#30 Days of Biking](#). Here's a list of the events planned (all are free and open to the public):

April 1- [#30daysofbiking](#) kickoff at the Co-op (3815 Sunnyside Ave, Mpls) 8-10 am coffee and sign the [#30days of biking pledge](#).

April 8 - [#30 Days of biking](#) 1/2 mile Pizza Ride from Kojetin Park (4201 W. 44th St.) to Hello Pizza, 4pm start, family friendly

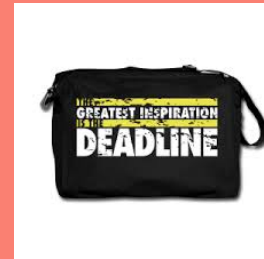
April 8 - Citizens' Climate Lobby monthly meetings--building political will for a livable world through carbon pricing and respectful, nonpartisan conversations. [Multiple locations for metro area meetings here.](#)

April 11 - Cool Planet presentation at Linden Hills Park (4230 Xerxes Ave, Mpls) 6:30-8:30 Topic includes Mindy Ahler's cross-country bike journey and the work to build a nonpartisan climate solutions movement.

soon as you can so we can make arrangements. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Questions: contact [Pam DeLaittre](#)

Messenger Deadline



Please have articles for the May Messenger to the church office by **April 24th.**

Preschool News



Preschool is

April 20 - Edina Film Series **Before the Flood**, 7 pm Edina Senior Center (5280 Grandview Square, Edina)

**Our Third Annual Earthworks Breakfast:
Saturday, April 22, 8:30-11:00 a.m.**



This Earth Day, an intergenerational celebration of earth stewardship meets Morningside U! We'll meet at 8:30 a.m. for omelets flipped to order by Neil and Greta Kulevksy. At 9:00, our own Robert Schumacher will discuss bee farming. He has promised to bring his bee suit, as well as honey for tasting. At 9:30, we'll hear from Leah Lamon's daughter, Jayne Stevenson, who is a member of Roots & Shoots in St. Louis Park, as well as executive director Larry Kraft, on environmental sustainability. (You can [read about their work here](#).) At 10:00, Laurie Chidester will present the basics of bicycle maintenance, so that we can all get where we're going in a less polluting way. Weather willing, we'll have ourselves a bike parade at 10:30. Environmentally friendly crafts for kids will be provided. Invite a friend and **don't forget to RSVP!** We need to know how many eggs we'll be cracking.

April 23 - Morningside Eco-Fair "Rolling Toward a Better World" 2-5 pm Weber Park

weather! This month, our theme is **underwater adventures**. We will be learning about sea creatures and oceans. Our field trip will be to Sea Life Minnesota at the Mall of America on **Wednesday, April 12**. The morning class will have their tour at 10AM and the afternoon class will have their tour at 1:15PM. Parents will help us drive the children to the Mall of America and help us on the field trip.

This year, we have been working toward re-rating with Parent Aware, a voluntary quality rating system for Early Childhood Programs. It has required coaching with a quality

showroom, renewable energy options (Windsorce and Solar programs), Eco Passport for Kids, Adopt a Storm Drain, outdoor games, zero-waste (composting & recycling) and more.

April 30 - #30 Days of Biking final ride, family friendly, 2pm at the Co-op with end of the month party!!

Drought affecting Daylight

Jambo, Daylight Partners,

You may have already heard about the drought affecting our Kenyan friends. Due to low rainfall, many Kenyan crops failed, including most of the crops at Daylight's own farm that helps feed our children. (To read more about the drought, read [East Africa food prices reach record levels due to drought - U.N](#)) In this difficult time we are committed to continuing to educate, feed and shelter our Daylight students - to be a place of stability and hope.

But we need your continued financial support to do this. Each month donors send \$5,100 to our friends at Daylight for food to feed its 400 students, money to pay our generous teachers and staff, and for the living expenses that keep things like the cooking fires going. With pledges from donors we have about \$3,000 in commitments per month, but still need \$2,100 monthly from individuals like you. Most months we can make up the gap with special gifts, but not yet this month. This is drought season...

pages of documents to show quality in our staff, equipment, curriculum, training, communication and interactions with children. The last stage will be an observation in the classroom in May. It has been very helpful and supportive process. Our rating will be published in June.

Our next **Open House and Parent Play Night** will be on **Friday, April 21 from 5-7PM**. We will have preschool set up like a school day for you and your family to enjoy for a fun evening together! We will also host an Open House this evening. We have 1 opening

us meet the daily needs of our students and staff? Most Daylight supporters help by giving \$50/month, but what if you could close our gap with another amount? Here's where you can [give to Daylight](#), [make a pledge](#), or [support in another way](#). However you choose to give, we are so grateful. Your gifts are as essential as water in the dry season and food in a drought.

On behalf of Daylight Center, Pam DeLaittre

Meet Basil Considine



Meet our newest Morningside Theater Camp Director! Basil Considine is an award-winning director, composer, and playwright. As the Artistic Director of Really Spicy Opera, he has guided the premieres of more than 15 new musicals, plays, and operas. His opera *The Frat Party* was a hit at the 2014 Minnesota Fringe Festival, while his parody show *Game of Thrones: The Musical* sold out shows at the 2017 O'ahu Fringe Festival, and propelled the 2017 Maui Fringe Festival to an all-time attendance record. Basil holds a PhD in Music and Drama and an MTS in Sacred Music from Boston University, plus a BA in Music and Theatre from the University of San Diego. He is also an alum of Nautilus Music-Theater's

openings in the afternoon. We also have 9 openings for Fab Fridays. Please let friends and families know about Edina Morningside Preschool and invite them to our Open House!

Each Wednesday this Spring, our lunch friends will walk to **Kojetin Park**. AM friends can be picked up at the park at 12:30. PM friends will walk back with staff for afternoon class. We will continue to take 15 friends for lunch on Wednesdays.

April is tornado awareness month. Minnesota sounds the emergency sirens for practice, starting on April 17th. We will talk about tornados at

Northern Starz Children's Theatre's production of *The Enchantment of Beauty and the Beast*.

A word from Basil: I am very excited to join the team at Morningside Theatre Camp. I've practiced and experienced theatre all over the world, but the most profound stories on stage are always those that we share with others. See you this summer!

Jane Williams

O & A Celebration



On Saturday, April 29, 2017, the Minnesota Conference United Church of Christ (UCC) will offer workshops and celebrate in worship with the Open and Affirming ministry settings from across Minnesota. The 2017 Minnesota Celebration, "Open and Affirming as Beloved Community," will be held at Hazel Park Congregational UCC, 1831 Minnehaha Avenue East in Saint Paul. The day will include workshops at 11:00 AM, a time of kinship over lunch, and worship at 1:30 PM.

There will be three workshop options to choose from. "All in the Family" Will include stories from panelist who are either LGBT parents or parent of LGBT children. "Getting the Word Out" will be a workshop on "ONA Identity and Evangelism," how to get your message of welcome and inclusion out

emergency plan early on **April 18th** with each class. Each family should have an emergency plan for home too.

For our finale this year, we would like to invite all families to a Preschool potluck party. Save **Tuesday, May 23rd from 6-7:30 PM** for play time, sharing a meal together and enjoying a special time together. We will plan an evening of good food, a very short program and time to play together. It will be a great way to end this fun year with friends.

Melissa Clarke

Contact us

Pastor

honestly about what is like to LGBT or an ally.

In worship we will acknowledge the various “Open and Affirming” ministry settings in Minnesota. The preachers will be the Rev. John Fiscus, pastor of Peace UCC in St. Cloud, and the Rev. Leslie Moughty, pastor of First Congregational UCC in Brainerd. Both of these pastors serve Open and Affirming congregations in greater Minnesota and bring a unique understanding of “beloved community.”

Lunch will be provided free of charge and RSVPs are appreciated to help with meal planning. Child Care will be provided at no cost during workshops and worship with advanced notice Any questions and RSVP can be sent via email to [Marc Blakesley](#).

Administrative assistant

[Laurie Eckberg](#)

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Website

emcucc.org



Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report

	2/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,973	\$31,787
Actual Pledges	\$16,377	\$35,363
Difference	-\$2,596	\$3,576

Community Event

LUNAFEST Women's Film Festival

Wednesday, April 26, 2017 at 7 p.m. at the Riverview Theater in Minneapolis

Subscribe

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Past Issues

You are invited to the LUNAFEST Women's Film Festival. Come join us for spring fun and inspiration.

Translate ▼

to support transforming psychological trauma into nonviolent power. Enjoy nine short films by, for, about women with festivities, raffles, and the VIP After Party with great conversations, music, appetizers and drinks!

Information and tickets

at www.lunafest.org/minneapolis0426.

Sponsored by the MN Peacebuilding Leadership Institute.



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