

## The monthly newsletter for Edina Morningside Community Church

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### The Messenger: March 2017

#### From Our Pastor

Hello, and blessings as we begin this season of Lent! I hope you will find one or more ways to take intentional time this year for reflection. EMC offers a variety of options to observe Lent in community or at home. Consider these invitations, starting tonight!

**Ash Wednesday Soup Supper** (tonight, 6:15pm) **and Worship** (7pm)

A simple meal invites members and friends to “break bread” together before the 7pm service. All are invited; please bring friends! Hosted by Women’s Fellowship.

**Lenten Worship and Preaching Series: “More Than Meets the Eye”**

Beginning Ash Wednesday and continuing through Easter Sunday, our worship series plays on “sight” metaphors and imagery. Join in each service of the season to glimpse some of the hidden figures and messages in the gospel of Luke!

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March 5th, all ages are invited to respond in writing to a weekly prompt, and bring reflections to worship the following Sunday. Prompts come from the Sunday text and from a prayer journal kept by the Catholic writer Flannery O'Connor. Participants will meet for cheese and conversation after worship on April 23rd to discuss the writing experience.

### "Caring for Our Community" Monday Night Speaker Series:

The Deacons invite you to a presentation series on Monday nights in Lent. Except for April 3rd, each event begins with a **meal at 6pm and the speaker at 6:30pm.**

- **March 6th: Josh Simenstad from Perspectives** in St. Louis Park
- **March 13th: Humane Society** showing care for our animal community
- **March 20th: ISIAH** presenter on faith-based community organizing
- **March 27th: Rev. Frank Bennett** on hidden gifts in end-of-life care
- **April 3rd: Tour of VEAP** (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People) social service program in Bloomington (6:30pm, no meal this night)

### Fundraising for Daylight School:

Throughout Lent, we'll be receiving dedicated offerings to help our partner Daylight School in Kenya purchase new bedding for their residential students. Each bedding package—blankets, sheets, pillow and mattress—costs \$40 and we'll see how many beds we can furnish throughout Lent! Sunday school classes will also connect with Daylight through weekly lessons.

See you in church!

*Pastor Oby*

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## In Our Prayers

## March Birthdays



March 8 - Lollie

Eidsness

March 8 - Ben

Neuhaus

March 9 - Natalie

## March Worship Preview

**March 1st (Ash Wednesday):** Luke 9:51-62; "Jerusalem in Sight" sermon begins the *More than Meets the Eye* worship series; receiving ashes

**March 5th:** Luke 10:25-37; *More than Meets the Eye: Out of Sight, Out of Mind* theme; Molly Cox leading worship and preaching; Janet Anderson teaching intergenerational writing reflection; communion by intinction (front of church)

**March 12th:** Luke 13:1-9, 31-35; *More than Meets the Eye: Sight for Sore Eyes* theme; receiving One Great Hour of Sharing special offering

**March 19th:** Luke 15:1-32; Family Sunday intergenerational worship

**March 26th:** Luke 16:19-31; *More than Meets the Eye: Hindsight is 20-20* theme; Daylight School update from Tom Gillaspay; special offering for Daylight School bed linens

## Faith Formation

SUNDAY SCHOOL



As we enter Lent, in addition to Bible stories, our EMC students will be learning each week about students at Daylight School in Kenya.

Eidsness

March 11 - Matt Gennrich  
 March 12 - Marge Ellingson  
 March 17 - Reid Williams  
 March 25 - Betty Scriver  
 March 26 - Kirk Engelke  
 March 28 - Cameron Green

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

## Taizé



Please join us on **Sunday, March 19 at 7pm** for our final **Taizé-style** worship service of the program year. Our 30 minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is

bedding at the school. March also brings our first Family Sunday of 2017. For information about how you can participate, scroll down!

March 5: Class will be held for kids in grades K-5.

March 12: Classes will be held for kids in all grades K-12

March 19: Family Sunday. All ages will be invited to worship.

March 26: Classes will be held for kids in all grades K-12

#### FAMILY SUNDAY: MARCH 19



Our first Family Sunday of the year rolls around on March 19th. Want to help lead worship? [Contact me!](#) I'm looking for an intergenerational crowd to sing "Easy To Be Hard" from the musical *Hair*—bell-bottoms and paisley welcome! I'll be sending out email pleas for singers, pianists, guitarists, trumpeters, tambourine-shakers and readers of poetry and holy texts, but if you have wanted a part in Family Sunday, and I have inexplicably failed to invite your talents, let me know!

#### PRAYER JOURNALLING

During Lent, church members of all ages will

supper in the library. Consider signing up in the Narthex, so that we may plan accordingly. Questions? Contact [Jane Williams](#) or [Barb Green](#)

### March Calendar



[Download the Calendar](#)

### Thanks from the Conference

Thank You! Your support of Our Church's Wider Mission is so important! We are most grateful you were able to increase our giving this year.

Be assured that working together

Look for writing prompts from both the Narrative Lectionary and Catholic writer Flannery O'Connor's *Prayer Journal* in the weekly update, the worship bulletin, and during services. And if you are a writer, I invite you to lead a short contemplation during worship one week. Want to know more? [Contact me.](#) And put April 23rd on your calendar: we'll get together during fellowship hour that day for cheese and conversation about this shared Lenten discipline.

OWL CLASS: MARCH 22nd, 6:30-8:30 p.m.



This month, our OWL students in grades 7 through 9 will be discussing facts and myths about lovemaking as well as issues around consent. As we continue to plan to offer OWL for grades 10 through 12 starting next fall, we are blessed to have more adults in the congregation who are interested in teaching and supporting the program or who are trained facilitators. Those people are Pastor Oby, Lisa Lally, and Frank Bennett. With the permission of our students, we'll be inviting those supporters to sit in on our class this month if they wish to do so.

**EQUIPPING TEENS CONFERENCE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**

On Saturday, April 8th from 9:00am-2:30pm we will be hosting parents and youth for "Equipping Teens for Life: A Health &

*Minnesota  
Conference UCC*

## Messenger Deadline

Articles for the April Messenger are due in the church office on March 27.

## Jerry's Receipts



You may or may not have noticed a box sitting in the Narthex that reads **Jerry's Receipts**.

Anytime you shop at Jerry's Grocery store and pay cash a percentage of your purchase can benefit EMC youth. Save the receipt, bring it to church, deposit it in the box and then Marge

ticket holders, act as liaisons (hosts) in break-out sessions, and help serve and clean up breakfast snacks and lunch. Please [contact me](#) if you can be available to help in the morning, the afternoon, or both. Thank you!

*Janet Anderson*

Director, Christian Education, Youth, & Family Life

submits them to Jerry's. We just received a check for \$21.76 from Jerry's which will support the Boundry Waters Camping Adventure planned for this July.

## Teen Health Conference

### Equipping Teens for Life:

*A Health & Wellness Conference for Young People and Parents*



### The Teen Years: *The Best Years of Their Lives?*

We're not so sure about that. That's why Edina Morningside UCC, in partnership with the Minnesota Conference, is creating a day for teens and parents - a day full of compassion, connections, and enlightenment on a wide range of topics. Headlining the event is Peggy Orenstein, *New York Times* best-selling author and Minnesota native, who will share insights from her most recent book, *Girls and Sex*. [Learn more by reading \*The New York Times\* Book Review.](#)

## From the Archives...

Spring is almost upon us and "Rediscovering Our Past" is making great strides towards completion. A working plan is in place and now on to Phase II of the initiative; building storage units to house the church collection, as well as ensuring all Boards and Committees have adequate space in the Archives to house their historical items. Artifact



UCC

**Cost:** \$40/adult; \$10/teen (lunch and program included)

There will be a variety of expert-led breakout sessions specifically geared towards teens, parents, or both. [Download the flyer for more information](#) on workshops and how to register.

## Preschool News

Preschool is looking forward to March and Spring! This month, we will be discussing Simple machines as our monthly theme



and self-regulation as our social skill. We will be going to The Works on March 16th for our field trip to try our simple machines and see them in action!

Parent's Night Out is Saturday, March 4th from 4-7 PM. The Preschool Board is hosting this evening and the donations will go to the scholarship fund. There are still openings to join in on the fun.

Fall registration is off to a great start! We have 3 openings for the morning session and 15 openings for the afternoon session. We are looking for 8 more friends to join us on Fab Fridays. Please share the word about our preschool and that we are looking for new

while discoveries surface and are catalogued for future display or use at the church.

We are finding out more about an opportunity to partner with the City of Edina to identify, preserve and safeguard an historical perspective of Edina Morningside Community Church through the years, enabling us to share our story with church and community alike.

Click [here](#) to view a photo from the Archives. This month features a picture in early Fall 1920 of 43-1/2 street, or as we know it now: Morningside Road. (The arrow shows the site of the future church where ground

Summer camp registration is open! Camp sessions are Monday-Thursday 9 AM to noon. You may sign up for one, one week or all summer. cost is \$30 per day or \$100 for 4 days(1 week). Space is limited to 16 children per day. The dates and themes for summer camp are:

June 5-9 Nature all around

June 19-22 Sports week

July 17-20 Stars and stripes

July 3- Aug 3 Under the sea

Aug 11-17 Camping fun

The preschool will be on Spring break March 28-31. We will be back in session on Tuesday, April 4th.

***Melissa Clarke, EM Preschool Director***

## One Great Hour of Sharing



Through One Great Hour of Sharing, United Church of Christ members reach out in the name of Christ to:

- **Build sustainable communities.** OGHS supports self-help programs in more than 80 nations to build sustainable communities that enable people and communities to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and other forces of injustice that deny and destroy dignity.

Archives on the third floor to find out more about this early photo. An 8"x10" sepia photo is available to get a better look at early Morningside.

## Altar Flowers



Every week members of the congregation provide the beautiful altar flowers for worship and a dedication is printed in the Sunday Bulletin. The cost of the flowers is \$35 and you are able to take them home. There are many open Sundays through 2017. If you are able to provide worship beauty one Sunday,



people in the aftermath of hurricanes, tornados, storms, floods, tidal waves, fires, explosions, technological disasters, civil strife, war, or other natural or human-caused events. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days.

- **Minister to refugees**. OGHS responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over.

Administrative costs are typically less than eight percent annually. The UCC annually channels more than \$3 million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world.

**Our church will receive a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on March 12th.**

[office.](#)

## Contact us

**Pastor**

[Rev. Oby Ballinger](#)

**Administrative assistant**

[Laurie Eckberg](#)  
952-926-6555

**Website**

[emcucc.org](#)



## Financial Update

Messenger Financial Report

	1/2017	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$18,587	\$18,587
Actual Pledges	\$18,986	\$18,986
Difference	\$399	\$399

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## From Hannah Bowlin

Hannah Bowlin was in EMC's 2008 confirmation class. She now attends Boston College and is training for the Boston Marathon. Click [here](#) to read a letter from Hannah, telling about her adventure and asking for support.



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**Our mailing address is:**

4201 Morningside Road, Edina MN 55416

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