

## Weekly Newsletter from Edina Morningside Community Church

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Good Friday Update/April Messenger: March 30, 2018

### Through the Lens of Faith, by Pastor Oby

*What's happening in the world and the church, as it relates to God's purpose for Edina Morningside Church:  
"Sharing the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving".*



This day, Good Friday, represents the greatest paradox of the Christian faith. The perfectly good man Jesus--God in human flesh--dies on a cross as a crucified criminal. Sinful human injustice put him there: reliance on Roman military might over virtue, a greed for power by the religious establishment, fearful inability of his followers to stand with their convictions or their leader, and a desire to maintain the hierarchical status quo at all costs. Yet Jesus demonstrates God's persistent love in the face of deadly hate. Humanity at our worst cannot change the fact of God's passionate love for this broken but blessed world. Jesus refused to take violent power himself to contest the violence of the world; rather he chose suffering love--even to the point of death--in order to overturn the world's violent ways. As an old saying goes, "Nails could not have kept Jesus on the cross had love not held Him there." That fact of God's love, shown by faithfulness even to death itself, is why this day is still called "Good". The very best day--Easter Sunday--demonstrates God's resurrection power to bring Life into every place of death, beginning with the tomb of Christ.

Take meaningful time today and reflect on God's love for you in the face of brokenness, abandonment and sin. If you can, come for all or part of **today's Good Friday Vigil at church between noon and 3pm**. Share in the silence, readings, and musical reflections every quarter

with us the power of God's love over human sin with Easter worship. We celebrate the resurrection with a **7am sunrise worship** outdoors at Browndale Park (followed by hot breakfast at Perkins), and with our joyful **10am sanctuary service**, complete with communion and special music. By the power of God's undying love, Christ is risen--no foolin'!

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## Jewish Passover

As we prepare to celebrate Easter, our Jewish friends and neighbors are preparing for Passover. This holiday commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt, a story told in the Bible in Exodus 12. This year, the eight-day festival begins at sundown on March 30 and ends at sundown on April 7. An appropriate greeting for Passover is "Chag Sameach" (KHAHG sah-MEHY-ahkh), or simply "Happy Passover."



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## Community Easter Egg Hunt



Children grade 5 and under are invited for an Easter egg hunt, rain or shine, here at EMC on **Saturday, March 31st at 2pm**. Candy, trinkets, activities for the young. Full details at the [Facebook event here](#). Join us and Celebrate New Life!

A few more **volunteers** are needed, so if you are able to help at this event **please come** at noon to volunteer - pizza will be served!

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## Easter Sunday Service - April 1, 2018

**Before Worship**

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## This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Minister of Music and Liturgical Arts:** Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland
- **Time with Children:** Janet Anderson
- **Scripture Reader:** Pam DeLaittre
- **Scripture Dramatists:** Catriona Ray and Jane Williams
- **Instrumentalist:** Tom Martens
- **Song Leaders:** Darlene Clay and Jane Williams
- **Nursery Attendant:** Laurie Eckberg
- **Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke
- **Ushers:** Chuck Clay and Diane Halpin

## During Worship

- Easter Procession and Proclamation
- Joyful Easter music
- Communion in the pews
- Nursery Care available
- **No Sunday School Classes this week**
- April loose coin offering for [Northside Achievement Zone](#)

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## In Our Prayers

*We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:*

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## This Week at EMC

<b>Church Office Hours:</b>	Tu - Fr	10am-3pm
<b>Pastor's Office Days:</b>	Tu, W, Th	appointments encouraged
<b>Faith Formation Hours:</b>	M, W, Th	
<b>Preschool Hours:</b>	Tu - Fr	9am-1pm

## Monday

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- 7pm MNA Steering Committee Meeting

## Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** (Library)
- 6:30pm **Divine Design Task Force**

## Wednesday

- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship** (Library)
- 12pm **UCC Clergy Cluster Lunch/Meeting** (Library)
- 5:30pm The Hand of AA (Library)
- 6:30pm **OWL**

## Friday

- 9am Baby Bare Certificate Training

## Saturday

- 9am Baby Bare Certificate Training

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## April Worship and Second Hour Preview

**April 1st--Easter Sunday**—Christ is risen—no foolin'! We celebrate the resurrection with a **7am sunrise worship** outdoors at Browndale Park (hot breakfast at Perkins afterward), and with our festive **10am sanctuary service**, complete with Easter proclamation, communion and special music. No Second Hour.

**April 8th--Coming Out: Leaving Comfortable Places** is the start of our **Emerge** series for the Easter season. Coming out as people and as a church from what we have known into a new identity (like caterpillars changing into butterflies) is filled with anxiety, unknowing and hope. We consider the story of Thomas after Jesus' resurrection (John 20:19-31) to see how disciples responded. Plan to attend Second Hour for a **Membership Meetup** to learn about church



**April 15th--Open: Into the Light** considers how a new butterfly's struggle to push out of its confines produces a fissure that cannot be undone. In like manner, when we open to Easter's new life and purpose as Saul does in Acts 9:1-19, faith leads us further on the journey of new understanding. Our Second Hours this Sunday include a briefing on the Beacon Interfaith bonding campaign, and a conversation about redesigning faith formation.

**April 22nd--Unfold: Claiming New Possibilities** reflects on the story in Acts 16:16-34, where Paul and Silas liberate a slave girl from her abusive captors, then face the hostile consequences. In similar fashion, once out of the cocoon, new butterfly wings are not yet ready. Small and undernourished, they long for expansion—to move beyond an awkward in-between-ness. Are we willing to let God's possibilities nurture and fill us in ways we never imagined? Second Hour is led by the Divine Design Task Force, with an update on our building remodel design and schedule.

**April 29th--Fly:** Daring New Heights comes when a butterfly launches into its new environment—new heights are now possible through transformation into what it was always meant to be. Worship focuses on mental health and healing, in preparation for May's Mental Health Awareness Month. Second Hour is led by a member of Make It OK, a campaign against mental health stigma.

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## Save the Date

### Second Hour: Faith Formation Re-Design



**Stay for Second Hour April 15<sup>th</sup> as we brainstorm ideas for forming young faith inside and outside of worship this fall.**

How could a new space enable children's chapel for all ages? Or picture book theology? Would you like to see young people in choir, bell choir, band; creating liturgy; meeting for a youth group or outreach service? What kind of mentoring could we offer? How could we change when we do things to meet the needs of children and families? What challenges and opportunities do you see?

## You Can Help Cure Homelessness

*Bonds that Build*



**HOMES**



Your investment of a few hours one afternoon can mean **MILLIONS** of dollars toward affordable homes for **YEARS!** Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is in the midst of the #BondsThatBuildHomes legislative campaign, a push to secure \$140 million in the Minnesota state bonding bill to support over 4,000 new affordable homes. As a Beacon collaborating congregation, this effort is a phenomenal way for us to put our faith into action and tell

local legislators: **home is a priority for us!** We'll have a chance to do just that through legislative action, where legislators at a nearby congregation can hear from US about the importance of supporting housing in the bonding bill. **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!** Join us on Sunday, April 22 at Shepherd of the Hills Presbyterian Church, 145 Engler Blvd, Chaska, MN 55318, to make your voice heard. Talk with Pastor Oby to learn more, or visit the [Beacon website](#).

## Women's Social Evening

Time to gather again! **Friday evening, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Library** we are planning another relaxing social evening for EMC adult women Members and Friends. We would also love to have the Pre-school mothers join us. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>](#) ....or just come! If childcare is needed, please let Laurie E. or Pam know as soon as you can so we can make arrangements. Questions?? contact [Pam DeLaittre](#). See you there!



## February Financial Report



Actual Pledges	\$11,734	\$50,787
Difference	(\$7,178)	\$17,691

## April Birthdays



**April 1** Barb Johnson

**April 3** Julia Eckberg

**April 12** Jim Cory & Jeff Strickler

**April 13** Marjorie Wezeman

**April 14** Pam DeLaittre

**April 17** Rev. Joe Clay

**April 21** Sebastian Birchard

**April 27** Tim Comes Flying

**April 28** Corey Green

Please [let us know](#) if we missed your big day!!

## MN Foodshare Month

March is [MN Foodshare Month](#), a collaborative effort of food shelves, faith communities, businesses and organizations to end hunger and food insecurity. The loose coins collected in worship this month (and last night's Maundy Thursday worship offering) will go to [VEAP](#) in support of these efforts. Here is latest collection update from VEAP:

\$150,000 goal

*\$128,280.63 raised  
so far!*

**Pounds Donated**

100,000 lbs. goal

*28,637.8 lbs raised  
so far!*

February 26-  
April 8, 2018

VEAP'S  
**March**

FOOD & FUND DRIVE

*Help us reach our goals of raising \$150,000  
and 100,000 pounds of food!*



## Daylight Update



This month you can [read the latest from Rosaline Kimpur](#), sophomore at Daystar University in Kenya, and daughter of Daylight Kenya Directors Michael and Angelina Kimpur. Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the dedicated people who support Daylight, and the staff and children at Daylight in your prayers. Please also watch for opportunities to hear more about and support EMC members going to Daylight this summer!

Blessings,  
*Pam DeLaittre*

## April Calendar





[Click here](#) to see what is happening at EMC in April



**Thank You!** The Palm Sunday Bake Sale went well and we thank all of you who contributed cookies and other baked goods, and those who

purchased the treats. The proceeds will be well used for our projects and outreach. We would also like to thank Leah Lamon, who works for Land O' Lakes and made it possible for our bakers to purchase butter from their company store. *Women's Fellowship*

## Member and Community Happenings

### LUNA Fest 2018

Wednesday, April 25th, 2018, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Riverview Theater, Minneapolis

Attend LUNAFEST to enjoy 9 inspiring short films by, for, and about women while supporting the Minnesota Peacebuilding Leadership Institute (aka Peacebuilding). [Click here for tickets and information.](#)

### National Association for Poetry Therapy's 38th Annual Conference

April 26-29th

Oak Ridge Hotel & Conference Center, Chaska MN

[Registration is now open](#) to attend the 2018 conference on Poetry Therapy in a Changing World: Pathways to Growth, Healing, and Social Justice. Enjoy keynote speakers, featured poets, exciting opening and closing events, and a wide choice of workshops that explore the use of creative expression and the literary arts, to promote growth, healing and social justice through language, symbol, and story.

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inclusion in the next Friday Update.

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