

September Messenger/Friday Update: August 30, 2019 (Copy 01)

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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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September Messenger/Friday Update: August 30, 2019

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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".

I'm thrilled to announce that EMC has hired Susan Weston as our next Faith Formation Director! Susan has been a member of First Congregational UCC in Menomonie, Wisconsin for almost thirty years, and for the last five years she was their full-time Faith Formation Director. The search committee was impressed with her warmth, skill, maturity, relatability and passion for faith formation. Her background as a high school teacher, and within the UCC doing just this sort of work, make



us sure that she will be successful in ministry with children and youth of all ages. (I'm certain that adults will love her too!) Susan's references lauded her character and skills, describing her as a "self-starter", "knowledgeable", "gifted", "articulate", "organized", "enthusiastic", and a "deep person of faith".

I'm thrilled to have Susan on the staff team as we begin our next year of programs. Her first Sunday with us will be Rally Sunday, September 8th, and I hope you'll be there to greet her in person! She and I will be working throughout the coming days to ensure a smooth start to Sunday school, Our Whole Lives, and other faith formation activities this fall. Finally, I'm grateful for the dedicated work of the search committee (Emily Goldthwaite Fries, Brad Gangnon, Robin Ray, Catriona Ray, and Mary Rogers), who met repeatedly throughout the summer to develop a job description, interview candidates, and make this unanimous recommendation. Welcome, Susan, and may God bless our ministries together!

Sunday Worship Service - September 1, 2019

Before Worship

- Rehearsal with worship participants
- Fill out prayer request slips

This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Music Director:** Conie Borchardt
- **Nursery Attendant:** Nicole Martens
- **September Ushers:** Cathy Baldwin and Janet Preston
- **Offering Counter:** Doug Engelke

During Worship

- Finish out Biblical Wisdom series with [Ecclesiastes 2:18-3:8](#), including “To everything there is a season”.
- Pray for labor in its many forms
- Share communion by intinction at the front of the church
- Children's activity table in the Sanctuary
- Nursery Care available
- Loose coins collected in September go to [Daylight Center and School](#)

After Worship

- Refreshments and Community in the Gathering Space

In Our Prayers

We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:

Time and Talent Offering - September 1, 2019





I/we can be an **occasional Sunday school lead/assistant teacher** for elementary (grades 2-5) and/or middle school (grades 6-8) kids, for 30-45 minute classes during worship this fall.

I/we plan to apply for the **June/July 2020 Trip to Daylight School** in Kenya (deadline Sept. 15th).

I/we would like to **help out in worship** on Sundays by presenting Scripture, reading liturgy, lighting candles, or wherever needed.

I/we plan to attend **“Pursuing God with U2”** on Tuesday nights at 6:30 from Sept 10th-Oct 15th.

[Please email the office](#) if you are interested in any of these opportunities--thank you!

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours:	T-Fr	10am-3pm
Pastor's Office Hours:	T-Fr	appointments encouraged

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** (Meeting Room)
- 6pm **Pastoral Relations Committee** (Meeting Room)

Wednesday

- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship** (Meeting Room)
- 5:30pm Hand of AA (Gathering Space)
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir** (Sanctuary)

Thursday

- 4:30pm **Preschool Back to School Open House**
 - 7pm **MTC read through for As It Is In Heaven** (Meeting Room)
-

September Worship Preview

September worship Preview

September 1st: On **Labor Day weekend**, we finish out our Biblical Wisdom series with Ecclesiastes 2:18-3:8, where the writer suggests “To everything there is a season”. We pray for labor in its many forms and share communion by intinction at the front of the church.

September 8th: On **Rally Sunday**, we welcome back those who have been away this summer, resume Sunday school and fall programs, welcome our new Faith Formation Director Susan Weston, and celebrate with an Ice Cream Social after worship! Our year begins with the **Garden of Eden creation story** (Genesis 2:4b-25) and our theme—God Creates Connection: Earth and Humanity.



September 15th: God Creates Connection between doubt, hope, and those who carry both simultaneously, including **Sarah giving birth** to Isaac long after childbearing age (Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7). After worship, we resume our monthly **Potluck and Ministries** practice, sharing community, food, and ministry input around tables in Fellowship Hall.

September 22nd: God Creates Connection between humility and blessing in the story of Genesis 32:9-30, where **Jacob wrestles with God** in a sleepless night at a hinge point in his life. Our Second Hour is an intergenerational experience of **Building Home**, led in Fellowship Hall by members of the Beacon Core Team.

September 29th: As we start a few weeks focused on Channeling God’s Love, we learn from the examples of **courageous rebels** like Hebrew midwives, Miriam and the daughter of Pharaoh who kept Moses alive (Exodus 1:8-2:10). During Second Hour, we learn the power and possibilities of paperless music from our Music Director Conie Borchardt.

Calling All Singers, Ringers and Musicians!

- Chancel (adult) Choir has begun! Join us for rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Morningside Bells start rehearsal on Wednesday, September 11 at 6:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Do you play an instrument? Want to sing only occasionally? Tell Conie and she'll fold your joyful notes into the worship soundscape!



Contact Music Director Conie Borchardt at emcmusic@emcucc.org or 952-926-6555.

Edina Morningside Preschool News



The teachers are excited to be back and are busy preparing for the new school year. We'll be visiting each student at their home next week to share some things about the upcoming year. We have an open house at school on Thursday, September 5th from 4:30-6 and our first day of school is Tuesday, September 10th.

Pursuing God with U2!

Do you love the music of U2? Have you ever thought about the lyrics, and their connections to faith? Join us this fall for a six-week series about the many spiritual themes in the music of the legendary rock band. (Read and hear more in this [recent story from NPR](#).) Larry Williams and Pastor Oby Ballinger will convene the conversation and listening party—all are welcome. **“Pursuing God with U2”** will be on Tuesday nights at 6:30 from Sept 10th-Oct 15th. [RSVP with Pastor Oby](#) to let him know of your interest, and feel free to bring friends!



September Birthdays



September 1 Sonja Martens
September 2 Esther Putzier

~~September 2~~ Esther Fuzier

September 3 Abbie Baldwin

Laura Gennrich

September 4 Tyler Eckberg

September 6 Bob Beyerl

September 7 Tyler Engelke

Jan Johnson

Dale Suebert

Sue Toth

September 9 Waylon Jasper

September 12 Steve Ray

September 15 Harriet Schumacher

September 19 Denise Cochran

September 21 Pam Olson

September 22 Marjorie Jamieson

Lois Obert

September 23 Elaine Kirkland

September 26 Alan Eidsness

September 29 Frank Bennett

Brad Gangnon

Kara Gratzek

Olivia Krebs

Becky Phelan

Arch Williams

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

Pastoral Relations Committee



The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is comprised of [Laurie Cory](#), [Leah Lamon](#), and [Larry Williams](#). It meets quarterly with Pastor Oby to provide a sounding board for him on how he feels things are going, and to act as liaisons from the congregation about issues that you, the congregation, bring forth. If there are any concerns or things that you would like to have shared, please bring them to one of the members of the committee, who will treat the information with complete confidence and bring it up at the next meeting -

Tuesday, September 3rd.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group:

September 16th, 6:30-8:30pm

On Monday, September 16th at 6:30pm, the monthly **Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group** gathering will take place for those seeking information and resources in caring for those with dementia.

This gathering will take place in the EMC Meeting Room, facilitated by Frank Bennett and Mary Lenard.

[For More Information](#)



Dakota Sacred Sites Tour on Sept 29th (Details Updated)



Healing Minnesota Stories and the Minnesota Council of Churches have announced dates for open Dakota Sacred Site Tours. These tours visit sites in the Twin Cities that are sacred to the Dakota people. Participants will experientially learn about the land's importance throughout history in a way that facilitates healing. (Pastor Oby can share his experience of a tour last year.) **There is no set cost for the tour. They take up a collection at the end and**

participants are encouraged to consider a donation of \$45-\$75 per person. Tour participants meet at St Peter's Catholic Church in Mendota Heights and carpool/caravan from there to two additional spaces. In an effort to keep this tour as accessible as possible there is very minimal walking (the greatest distance being maybe 400 yards). Those who may have an issue standing for a moderate amount of time are encouraged to bring along a folding or camp style chair.

If you are interested in joining folks from EMC for the Sacred Sites tour on September 29th from 1-5pm, please [contact the church office.](#)

Veap Update



As you enjoy your garden and CSA produce in the coming weeks, remember that VEAP will take any extra veggies you have and distribute them to clients. **There is a blue bin inside the main door to the church building where we are collecting donations.** Barb and Charlie Green and Pam DeLaitre will deliver produce to the VEAP warehouse as needed. Thank you in advance for sharing every good thing!

July Financial Report

	July	Year to Date
Budgeted Pledges	\$14,684	\$124,816
Actual Pledges	\$30,919	\$148,837
Difference	\$16,235	\$24,021

Daylight Service Trip News

Dear Interested Trip participants,

We are so excited to send a team of folks to learn, live, and serve alongside Daylight School in Kenya in the summer of 2020! [Watch this video](#) to experience what a day at Daylight looks like. We will be learning about Kenyan culture, experiencing the education system in rural Kenya, helping teach English, learning about traditional Kenyan life, and seeing lots of amazing animals on safari. [The trip application is attached](#) and should be turned in by Sept 15th, 2019 along with a \$100 non-refundable deposit towards your trip.



2018 EMC Daylight Trip

Trip dates:

Right now it seems likely that we will have two trips in Summer 2020 from Minneapolis UCC churches. The 6 mandatory pre-trip trainings will be done together. We will discuss with the pastors which church will be going when, but we will do our best to put folks from the same church on the same trips. Likely one trip will be Mid June - late June and the second will be early July to mid July.

We will not know exact dates until Feb. or March of 2020. We try to fly Sat to Sat but flight costs can make this difficult. So please be prepared to leave on a Thurs or Fri and return a Monday or Tues if flights costs rise.

Trip Cost:

The trip cost due to flight costs in the summer is estimated at \$4000 per person based on \$1600 flight costs per person (which is what they were last year) but please warn that trip costs may rise if flight costs go up. Also please check with your insurance company about whether tropical vaccinations are covered in your plan. They can cost up to \$800 without insurance. \$2000 per person will be due in January 2020.

Trip Applications: Due Sept 15th, 2019.

Pastor Oby went to Daylight in 2018, as did a half-dozen others from EMC. They are great resources to answer questions about filling out the trip applications going forward!

Volunteer at Perspectives



[Perspectives](#), an award-winning human services agency in St. Louis Park is one of the six community organizations supported by EMC, and the recipient of our August loose coin collection. Since 2017, church members have been helping kids create healthy dinners once a month. This volunteer opportunity is open to everyone 16 and older—even if you barely know your way around a kitchen. We serve on the first Monday of every month during the school year and will start on October 7th. Please use this [SignUpGenius link](#) to learn more and pitch in!

Beacon Interfaith Housing News



Save the Date

Join us at the **Beacon Congregation Convening** at Colonial Church in Edina on September 26th at 7pm. Featuring Minnesota Housing Commissioner Jennifer Ho, we'll be celebrating the wide array of work Beacon is engaged in, reflecting on the

landscape of housing in our communities, and looking to the future together. Join with hundreds of others from Beacon collaborating congregations for important updates and commitments to action. Invite other members of EMC to come with you!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Vista 44 Update

At the April kick-off where Beacon launched its effort to build affordable housing in Hopkins (Vista 44), Jessica shared that her boys have stability and are THRIVING because of supportive housing. How can we help more families like Jessica's have a place to call home? How can you show your support for building Vista 44, family supportive housing in Hopkins?



Questions?

Votes on Beacon's land use application happen later this fall. **Save these two important dates** and help get the word out to others:

- **Tuesday, October 22, 6:30 p.m.** (likely at City Hall): Planning & Zoning Commission hearing
- **Monday, November 4, 7 p.m.** (likely at City Hall): City Council hearing

Contact Beacon organizer [Kat Vann](#): (651) 789-6260 ext. 214.

Keep Your Shirt On!



How many times have you heard that, or “Keep your britches on”? This usually means to stay calm and have patience. But what if you don’t have a shirt or britches – in this case an undershirt or underpants – to “keep on”? Beacon’s Families Moving Forward program leaders tell us that one of the biggest needs of families in their program is new underwear – undershirts, underpants, bras and panties, socks - ALL SIZES - for men, women and children. Women’s Fellowship is

offering a challenge to our congregation to collect as many “underwear items” as we can, by the end of September. This is the perfect time of year for this challenge, as there are huge sales while people head back to school. Here is what’s needed:

- Men’s t-shirts – all sizes
- Men’s boxers – all sizes
- Men’s crew socks
- Women’s crew socks
- Women’s bras – all sizes
- Women’s underpants - all sizes
- All children’s underwear

Next time you are at Target, Costco, Sam’s, etc. or online, think of the families who could use your help. Let’s see how many items we can collect! Pastor Oby may have a surprise for you, too... :) Any questions? Contact [Pam DeLaittre](#).

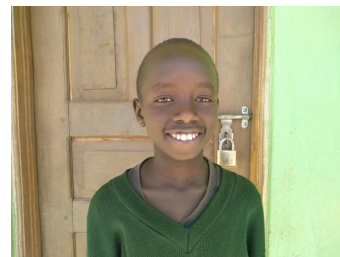
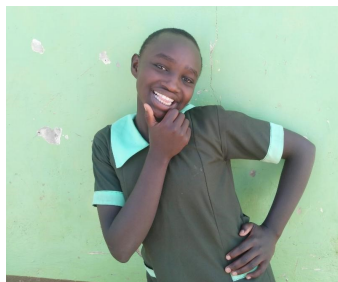


Click [here](#) to see what is happening at EMC in the coming month!

Daylight Update



Daylight
Center & School



Recently two Daylight students were featured on a Kenya Radio Station! Maurine and Griffin were asked to "Utter out a speech" about a topic they are passionate about. To read more click [HERE](#) and to hear Maurine and Griffin's speeches click [HERE](#).

Please continue to keep the people of Kenya, the staff and children at Daylight, and the dedicated people who support Daylight in your prayers. Thank you!

Looking For a New Home: Color Printer

Xerox Phaser 8560 Color Printer from the Church Archives, including extra color ink cartridges and original set of instructions - Excellent condition used sparingly. Free to those who can use it more often. [Click here for more information on the unit.](#) (We promise it's not archival material!)



If interested please contact Church Historian [Doug Fuerst.](#)

Member and Community Happenings

The Crux: Engaging the Wisdom of the Wilderness for Today's Changing Church

Dive Deeper into your Faith with this **Damascus Project Class**. This course will offer rich opportunities for reflection on the metaphor of the wilderness in scripture and in our lives personally as well as within our congregations. Any church leader (lay and ordained) grappling with the future of their congregation would benefit from this course. Any person of faith grappling with their own future in this rapidly changing world will find something to hold on to in this wilderness time in which we live. More information and registration available [HERE](#).



Family Course on Mental Illnesses Offered in Edina Thursday's starting Sept. 12th, 6-8:30pm

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering a free educational course that helps families gain a greater understanding of mental illness, discuss resources, build communication skills, reduce stress and find support. Over 4,000 Minnesota families have benefited from this course. Join others for this series taught by family members who have walked the walk. The Family-to-Family course will meet weekly for 12 weeks on Thursdays

starting Sept. 12, from 6:00-8:30 p.m., at Lutheran Church of Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave. S., Edina. For information or to register (required), call Cathy at 253-691-9401 or Marge at 952-934-1166.

2019 Walk to End Alzheimer's - Twin Cities, MN

Saturday, September 28th

8am Registration, 9:30am Ceremony with Walk immediately after

Target Field, 1 Target Way, Minneapolis

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is the world's largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. This inspiring event calls on participants of all ages and abilities to join the fight against the disease! [For more information and to donate.](#)

Minnesota Walk to End HIV

Saturday, October 12th

Minnehaha Falls Regional Park, Minneapolis MN

9:30 Registration, 10:30 rally, 11:30 walk - 1.2 miles

We won't stop until HIV is ended. We will win. Together.

Together, we can end HIV. The tools to stop HIV exist and we need greater urgency to make it happen. Join us on Saturday, October 12 for the Minnesota Walk to End HIV (the new Minnesota AIDS Walk) at Minnehaha Regional Park in Minneapolis. **Every voice, every step, every dollar will bring us closer to ending HIV in Minnesota.** [Register, Donate or Volunteer](#)

New Anxiety Support Group

Tuesdays, 7-8:30pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NAMI Minnesota (National Alliance on Mental Illness) sponsors free support groups for persons with anxiety disorders. The groups help individuals develop better coping skills and find strength through sharing their experiences. An Open Door Anxiety and Panic support group meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 4100 Lyndale Ave. S., in Harrisville Room, in Minneapolis. Check in at the office. For information, call Bruce at 612-325-1517 or Mark at 612-581-2480

Do you have events or news to share? [Please email us](#) the information by Wednesday for inclusion in the next Friday Update.

Contact us!

Pastor: [Rev. Oby Ballinger](#) 612-900-3914 (cell)
Music Director: [Conie Borchardt](#) 952-926-6555 (office)
Administrative Assistant: [Laurie Eckberg](#) 952-926-6555 (office)
Website: emcucc.org



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