

February Messenger/Friday Update: January 31, 2020 (Copy 01)

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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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February Messenger/Friday Update: January 31, 2020

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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".

Last night, fifteen of us from EMC gathered with over two hundred other Christians, Jews and Muslims for the latest Convening of [Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative](#). The room heard from Beacon leaders and elected officials about efforts to increase housing dollars provided by the legislative bonding process in 2020, seek better funding for family support services, and launch a multi-year campaign for rent subsidy that would keep low-income Minnesotans in their own homes (rather than moving into Beacon buildings after they become homeless). I was inspired by the stories of transformation, and proud of how our own members showed up to understand the issues, then commit to helping future initiatives. This is one of the ways we share the joy of Christ's love through service—not just in direct service but also in advocacy that transforms our state environment into something that more closely resembles the kingdom of God.



Such advocacy has challenged churches like ours in the past, with members trying to avoid controversy by staying silent on official actions or matters of public policy. I'm persuaded, however, that Christ calls the church to lift our voices in support of those who are poor, overlooked, or maligned—just as he did in his own ministry. We participate in Beacon, and promote active engagement in the electoral process through [ISAIAH](#), because of our faith's calling "to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke" (Isaiah 58:6). Jesus showed this in his [Parable of the Good Samaritan](#), demonstrating that "love of neighbor" looks like letting ourselves be interrupted by the harm that others face, and making personal efforts to ensure their healing. So please convey our thanks to those who went to the Convening last night, join with others from EMC next Thursday night for an [ISAIAH training](#) on how caucus participation can advance a shared [Faith Agenda](#), and stay tuned for other ways to enact our prayer for God's reign of justice and love to be done "on earth as it is in heaven".

Sunday Worship Service - February 2, 2020

Before Worship

- Rehearsal with worship participants
- Fill out prayer request slips

This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Oby Ballinger
- **Music Director:** Conie Borchardt

- **Readers:** Pam DeLaittre and Lisa Lally
- **Child Care Provider:** Nicole Martens
- **February Ushers:** Alan Eidsness, Dan Jurgens and Jim Olson
- **February Offering Counter:** Donella Neuhaus

During Worship

- Loose coins collected in February go to [Perspectives](#)
- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Sunday School for Grades PreK - 5 (Fellowship Hall)
- Nursery Care available
- Offering Music from Morningside Bells
- Communion by Distribution to the pews

After Worship

- Second Hour: Potluck and Ministries (Fellowship Hall)

In Our Prayers

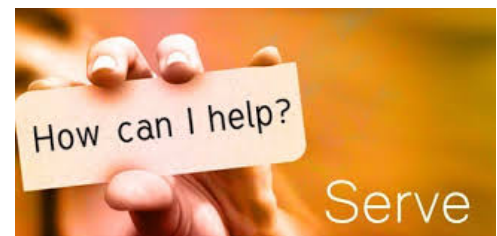
We especially hold these members, friends and circumstances in our prayers:

Time and Talent Offering - February 2, 2020

I/we can help serve a meal for the guests of **Families**

Moving Forward on Feb. 10th from 5-7:30 pm at

Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ (4200 Lake Rd, Robbinsdale 55422).



I/we plan to **caucus for state legislators** on February 25th at 7pm. (Please also indicate if you are interested in the ISIAAH strategy of shaping future legislators to support a [Faith Agenda](#).)

I/we plan to participate in a **Lenten discussion group of the book [Waking Up White!](#)** The best time that works for me is: Sunday after worship Monday evening Tuesday morning

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

Second Hour: Potluck and Ministries



After worship on Sunday, plan to join our Potluck and Ministries in Fellowship Hall. We'll have breakouts if you want to share in conversation about our Generous Hospitality, Spiritual Life, and Faithful Service ministries, or continue to build community over the shared treats. Please bring a snack if you have one to offer. See you Sunday!

This Week at EMC

Church Office Hours:	M - W	10am-3pm
Pastor's Office Hours:	T - Fr	appointments encouraged
Faith Formation Hours:	T-Th	encouraged
Preschool Hours:	T - Fr	9am-1pm

Monday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach** (St. Louis Park)
- 6pm **Our Whole Lives** (The Loft)
- 7pm MNA Steering Committee (Meeting Room)

Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** (Meeting Room)
- 2pm **Beacon Core Team Meeting** (Meeting Room)
- 6pm **MTC Board Formation Meeting** (Meeting Room)

Wednesday

- 9:30am **Women's Fellowship** (Meeting Room)
- 5pm Hand Of AA (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:15pm **Morningside Bells** (Sanctuary)
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir** (Sanctuary)

Friday

- 7pm **Women's Social Evening** (Fellowship Hall)

February Worship and Second Hour Preview

February 2nd: This Sunday's worship ("Healing Power") takes its inspiration from the healing of Jairus' daughter and a woman with a flow of blood (Mark 5:21-43). We receive communion in our pews, and the Second Hour is our monthly (snack) **Potluck and Ministries**, sharing community, food, and ministry input around tables in Fellowship Hall.

February 9th: For "Shifting Power" (Mark 6:1-29), we consider the death of John the Baptist, Jesus' rejection at Nazareth, and the commissioning of his disciples. How does the prophetic Good News of God's transformative love empower those who gather in Christ's name now?

February 16th (10am): This Sunday, we talk about "Cleansing Power" in Mark 7:1-23. We also celebrate the festive Carnival and Mardi Gras season in worship, with festive beads, masks and feather boas! After worship, continue downstairs to Fellowship Hall for a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser, benefitting this summer's mission trip to [Daylight School](#) in Kenya!



February 16th (7pm): We gather for a warm and centering **Taizé** worship in the sanctuary. This 30-minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is followed by a simple soup supper in the Meeting Room.

February 23rd: Transfiguration marks the end of the Epiphany season and is a Family Sunday, so liturgy is led by our children and youth. Rev. Molly Cox preaches about Mark 8:27-9:8, where disciples confess Jesus' identity as the Messiah, mistake what's required to follow him, then follow Christ up a mountain and see him transfigured. Our Second Hour is a presentation by Edina author Rev. Angela Denker, on her book "[Red State Christians](#)".

February 26th (7pm): Join with our church family as we consider the paradoxical gifts of mortality on **Ash Wednesday**. Mark 9:30-37 is our text, as we enter the church season of Lent with somber song and the imposition of ashes.



Faith Formation Updates

Sunday School News



these dates:

February 2 - Children return to worship in time for Communion.

February 16 - Sunday School stays upstairs in the Meeting Room, due to Pancake Breakfast preparations in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to stay for pancakes after Sunday School!

February 23 - Family Sunday: All children and youth are invited to participate in leading this

February 23 - Family Sunday All children and youth are invited to participate in leading this service. Let [Susan](#) know if you will be there!

Volunteers Needed

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
HELPERS NEEDED!**



Position: Sunday School Volunteer

Time commitment: approximately 45 minutes per Sunday. (Meet in the Fellowship Hall following the Time with Children.) Volunteer once, twice or more between now and the end of May.

Requirements: Complete a background check (provided by the church) and a volunteer application (if new to the church).

Rewards: Getting to know the children of our church better, offering support to our young families, knowing you're helping us honor our Safer Sanctuary policy, experiencing the stories of our faith through art, movement, and the eyes of a child!

To apply: Contact [Susan](#) Weston, Director of Faith Formation. Thank you!

Bagel Bunch



Bagel Bunch, open to students in Grades 6-12, meets on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month in the Loft (upper floor), following the Time with Children. Share bagels and discussion of our faith stories, led by Sonja Martens.

Note: **February 23 is Family Sunday.** All children and youth are invited to participate in leading this service. Let [Susan](#) know if you will be there!



Volunteer Opportunities for Youth

Monday, February 10 - join other EMC volunteers serving **Families Moving Forward at Robbinsdale Parkway UCC--** help set up and serve dinner to the families hosted at RPUC. After dinner you can help with clean up or even play

with the kids for a while.

Sunday, February 16 - before and after worship, **Fellowship Hall** -- Help prepare, serve and clean-up for the **Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser**. Funds raised go to support the Daylight 2020 trip. Contact Susan or the church office to sign up.

Multi-church Youth Group



All youth in Grades 6-12 are invited to participate in our Multi-church Youth Group held in the Loft (upper floor) at Edina Morningside Church. We meet once a month on Wednesday evenings, usually on the third Wednesday from 6 - 8pm. Friends are always welcome, and a pizza supper is included!

Each month, we include a time for "**Pow, Wow, How,**" an opportunity to share a challenge ("Pow"), a blessing ("Wow"), and/or an experience of God's presence in their lives ("How"). This practice also works well during family meal times, car rides, etc.!

The remaining dates for Youth Group are **February 19, March 25, April 22, and May 27.**

Note: On **April 22**, we'll be traveling to **Simpson Housing Shelter** to prepare and serve a meal to residents. The shelter is located at **2740 First Ave. S., Minneapolis.** Youth group

will begin and end later than usual on this evening. Watch for more information about this service learning opportunity coming soon!

Family Sunday - February 23

On February 23, the children and youth of the church, along with guest preacher, Rev. Molly Cox, will lead worship. Please join us for this all-ages service!

Edina Morningside Preschool

It's registration time at Edina Morningside Preschool! We are happy to share that many of our current families will be returning next fall. Some current students are heading off to kindergarten and while we are excited for their adventures that does leave us with some open spots. We have been giving lots of tours to new families and we are hosting an open house **tomorrow, February 1st, from 10:00am-11:30am**. If you know someone who's interested or looking for a preschool please let them know about [Edina Morningside Preschool](#).



Perspectives Outreach



There is an upcoming outreach opportunity at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on **February 3rd from 3:30-6:30pm**. Help others by preparing a meal with kids of low-income families. You'll love the kids, and no prior cooking experience is required. 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. Please use this [SignUpGenius link](#) to learn more and pitch in!

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Session on February 3rd, 6-8pm

The OWL youth (students in grades 10 - 12) will be meeting on Monday, January 6th, from 6-8pm at EMC, upstairs in the Loft. Our Whole Lives (OWL) is a comprehensive human sexuality curriculum for communities of faith, led for us by Lisa Lally and Rev. Frank Bennett. Contact [Susan Weston](#), Faith Formation Director, with questions.



Women's Social Evening: Friday, February 7th, 7pm



Time to start the New Year off right and gather again!
Friday evening, February 7th at 7:00 PM in the GATHERING AREA/MEETING ROOM we are planning another relaxing social evening for EMC adult women-identified 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, February 3rd** – 952-926-6555 or emcucc@emcucc.org....or just come! If childcare is needed, please let Laurie E. or Pam know as soon as you can so we can make arrangements. Looking forward to seeing you there! Questions: contact [Pam DeLaittre](#)

Pledge Report through December 2019

	December	Through 2019
Budgeted Pledges	\$36,713	\$244,740
Actual Pledges	\$31,873	\$243,029
Difference	(\$4,840)	(\$1,711)

To see the 2020 Budget approved at the January 26th congregational meeting, [click here](#).

Families Moving Forward, February 10th



Edina Morningside Church has a commitment to serve dinner for Families Moving Forward at Robbinsdale Parkway United Church of Christ (4200 Lake Street, Robbinsdale) on **Monday, February 10th**. We'll meet and set up dinner at 5, serve at 6, then play with kids and clean up between 6:30 and 7:30pm. 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 provide the meal. Please use the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Space to indicate your interest or [email](#) the church office.

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group: Monday, February 10th, 6:30-8:30pm

On Monday, February 10th at 6:30pm, the monthly **Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group** will take place for those seeking information and resources in caring for those with dementia. This gathering is in the EMC Meeting Room, facilitated by Frank Bennett and Mary Lenard. [Click here for more information.](#)



Include Front Porch Friday in your Valentines Day Plans!



MINNESOTA
MUSEUM of
AMERICAN ART

Celebrate Valentine's Day and honor Black History Month by visiting The Minnesota Museum of American Art in St. Paul. Their featured exhibit is photography by Gordon Parks and Jamel Shabazz, documenting Black life and culture. Parks is a famous photographer, and Shabazz was

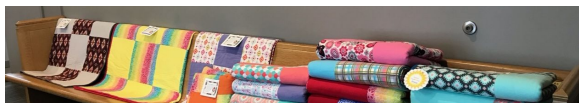
influenced by Parks.

The Minnesota Museum of American Art has been around for over 100 years, in various St. Paul locations. They were without a "home" for several years, and are now housed in the Endicott Building at 350 Robert St. in downtown St. Paul.

We plan to meet at church at 10:00 to allow time for travel and parking. The museum opens at 11:00. There is a short "flash tour" at noon. Lunch plans TBD - stay tuned!

Pancake Breakfast - Sunday, February 16th!

Join the crowd in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. for our traditional pancakes and sausage brunch! All proceeds will help the folks who will be traveling to Kenya this summer to do mission work at the Daylight School. (Travelers are paying their own way.) We will have the beautiful quilts made by Ash Bull



(Pastor Oby's sister) for sale, and also a silent auction with some amazing themed baskets!



Tickets are \$5.00/plate and extra donations are welcome. Invite your friends! Mmmm! Pancakes!

February Birthdays



February 4 - Jessica Krebs-Boie

February 7 - Larry Johnson

February 9 - Ivy Kersten

February 10 - Rebecca Sorensen

February 13 - Will Gednalske

February 14 - Aaron Mills

February 17 - Doug Toth

February 19 - Mark Sorensen

February 20 - Ella Haugen

February 21 - Brian DeLong

February 24 - Seth Jurgens

February 25 - Gabi Miller

February 26 - Joan Palmer

February 27 - Tom Martens, Dave Russell

February 28 - Jim Olson, Javen Swanson

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

A Thank-You From Women's Fellowship

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY! Around 60 EMC members and friends gathered after church last Sunday to eat a delicious taco salad lunch together and raise funds to support our outreach meals throughout the rest of the year. We raised over \$1,000 (!) and you will be happy to know that this money is already being put to good use. On Tuesday (Jan 28) we served a special Families

Moving Forward meal to 3 families being temporarily housed at a hotel in Shakopee. On Friday (Jan 31) we serve dinner to more than 100 people at the Simpson Shelter in south Mpls. And, on

Feb. 10th we will serve our first Families Moving Forward meal at the combined new church

Rehoboth's Parkway LCC. We would not be able to provide these outreach meals without your



Robbinsdale Parkway UCC. We would not be able to provide these outreach meals without your help. Many thanks and blessings! --Women's Fellowship



February Morningside After Dark

After an amazing start last Monday evening, the 2020 [Morningside After Dark](#) storytelling and live music series continues on Monday, February 24th from 7:30 - 9 pm, featuring 6 musicians and 6 writers exploring the theme "My Best Mistake." As always, a coffee bar will be available as we take in these special under-5-minute performances. We hope you can make it!

If you would like to volunteer to help tear down the event at 9 pm we will gift you with product! Contact [Rebecca Sorensen](#) to let us know we can count on you there. Save now the date for our final show of this year's series,

on April 27th. Thanks as always to our amazing church and volunteers for your support!

Daylight Update



The holiday break is over and it is the start of the new school year Daylight School. Read about 7th grade student Edgar and his excitement for school and his future in the [February update](#).

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!



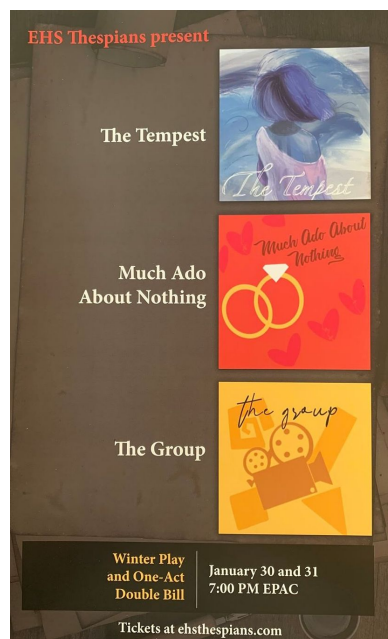
February Calendar





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

Member and Community Happenings



Final Evening of Shows

**EHS Thesians (incl. Anthony Fantin!) Present
Winter Play and One-Act Double Bill
January 30 & 31 at 7 pm**

Edina Performing Arts Center (EPAC)

Winter Play: *The Tempest* and *Much Ado About Nothing* and
One-Act: *The Group*. Come support the EHS
Thesians! **You'll see a few familiar faces from
Morningside Theatre Company.** [For Tickets](#)

VEAP's annual Mission Partner Meeting Saturday, February 1 from 9:00-10:30am

Colonial Church, 6200 Colonial Way, Edina, MN 55436

VEAP hosts this annual meeting and would love as many staff members and partner representatives as possible from the faith communities in Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and South Minneapolis to participate in this meeting. They will take time to celebrate and look back at VEAP's impact on the lives of our community members in 2019, and will talk about plans and goals we have for 2020 and discuss how the faith community can help VEAP make a real difference in the lives of our neighbors. There will also be some time to hear from participants about how VEAP can better engage in partnership within the faith community to help build stronger and more hopeful communities together. For more

information contact the [church office](#).

Warm Winter Night Cabaret

Mon, February 3, 2020, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Theater Latté Da, 345 13th Avenue Northeast

Minneapolis, MN 55413

A joyous night celebrating the talent of our community while raising vital funds for JustUs Health's aging services for LGBTQ+ folks and those living with HIV. Performers include Miss Richfield, Ann Reed, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, OVation, Venus DeMars, shOUT, queer improv group, Lori Dokken, and T Mychael Rambo. [For Tickets and more information](#)

LEAP! 2020!

Monday, March 16th, 2020 5:00pm-8:30pm

The Metropolitan, 5418 Wayzata Blvd

Golden Valley, MN 55416

LEAP! is the Division of Indian Work's annual fundraising event filled with entertainment, silent and live auctions, a cash bar, and great appetizers. All proceeds go toward our Horizons Unlimited (HU) food shelf and our Youth Leadership Development Program (YLDP).

[For Tickets and more information](#)

we count mn

CENSUS 2020

There is a packet of materials provided by the Edina Census 2020 Complete Count Committee in the EMC Gathering Space. It provides lots of useful information about the upcoming Census and it's impact on the community. You can also [check out their website](#).

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)

Director of Faith Formation: [Susan Weston](#) 952-926-6555 (office)

Music Director: [Conie Borchartd](#) 952-926-6555 (office)

Administrative Assistant: [Laurie Eckberg](#) 952-926-6555 (office)

Website: emcucc.org



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