

# March Messenger/Friday Update: February 28, 2020

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The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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March Messenger/Friday Update: February 28, 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".*

As part of our focus on racial justice this Lent, I'm learning from Church Historian Doug Fuerst about important figures in the racial histories of Edina, Morningside, and the church. The first people Doug pointed me to are Ellen and Beverly Claiborne ("B.C.") Yancey, who were among a dozen Black pioneers and



early founders of Edina. The Yanceys were successful farmers in the Grandview area of Edina, cultivating over a hundred acres of blueberries on land that is now Highway 100. They moved from Ohio after the Civil War, settling in Edina on land purchased from Army Captain Richard Strout, who seized the land from Dakota people after the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862. Ellen founded the PTA in Edina, and B.C. served on the Village Council of Edina, working with the state of Minnesota to develop the land. They [raised eight children](#) and lived in Edina until they died in the early 1900s, but they faced significant discrimination from White neighbors by the end of their lives.

The Yanceys were founding members for Edina Union Congregational Church (one of our predecessor churches), and also went from Edina Union to become charter members of Union Congregational Church in what is now Saint Louis Park. B.C. Yancey's daily journals have been vital to understanding early life in Edina, and are now in the collections of the Edina Historical Society. Read excerpts from the journals at the [website of the local Grange](#) (another organization B.C. helped found, source of these pictures), and in a [Star Tribune feature](#) on the Yanceys from 2013.

In each Friday Update as we are "waking up" this Lent, we'll continue to feature stories of such importance in the history of our community. Read, learn and enjoy!

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## Sunday Worship Service - March 1, 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
- **Child Care Provider:** Nicole Martens
- **March Ushers:** Lollie Eidsness, Joyce & Roger Fitzgerald, Donella Neuhaus
- **March Offering Counter:** Cathy Baldwin

## **During Worship**

- Loose coins collected in March go to [VEAP](#) in support of the 2020 Minnesota FoodShare Campaign
- Children's Activity Table in the Sanctuary
- Sunday School for Grades PreK - 5 (Fellowship Hall)
- Nursery Care available
- Communion by Intinction

## **After Worship**

- Coffee and Community
- Second Hour: Waking Up White Book Discussion Group

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## **Coronavirus Precautions**

**As we pray for medical caregivers and all those ill with the coronavirus**, we recommend the illness prevention techniques from the Centers for Disease Control. That means using good hand hygiene, cough etiquette, and staying home if you feel sick with a fever and cough. If you need to cough or sneeze, remember to cough or sneeze into your elbow rather than your hand. When receiving communion, if you prefer to receive only the bread or only the cup, you still participate fully in the sacrament. Most of all, the CDC advises us not to panic, but to be diligent in adhering to these best practices for disease prevention.

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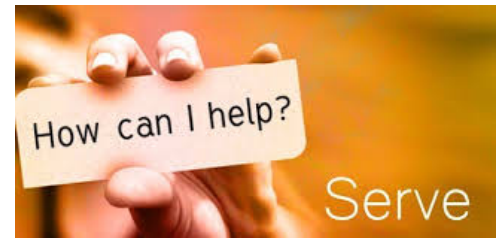
## **In Our Prayers**

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

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## Time and Talent Offering - March 1, 2020

I /we plan to join our **Front Porch Friday** excursion to the Minnesota Zoo and lunch on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (meet at EMC at 9:30am to carpool).



I/we plan to donate items to the **VEAP Birthday Bag** collection at church, and/or contribute to the **Minnesota FoodShare Campaign** this month.

I/we plan to attend **Heart Songs** for community-building music this Thursday night (or other Thursdays in Lent) from 6-7pm in the Chancel.

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

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## Second Hour: Waking Up White Book Discussion Group



This year for our **all-church read during Lent**, we learn from Debby Irving's personal story of discovery about race and identity. Pick up your copy of **"Waking Up White"** at EMC, and/or the reading schedule on a bookmark. The cost is \$15 for your copy from church (list price is \$19.99; e-reader versions vary). **Plan to join a small group for discussion during this Sunday's Second Hour, on Mondays at 6:30pm, or on Tuesdays at 10am.**

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## Let's Bowl!

If you are one of the folks who signed up to bowl this Sunday, OR if you have been wanting to sign up but have just forgotten, please join us at the Park Tavern Bowling Center at 3401 Louisiana Avenue South in St. Louis Park ([www.parktavern.net](http://www.parktavern.net)) at 1:30 for some fun and laughter. Pay when you arrive. Shoe rental is \$3.75 and bowling ranges from \$4.00-\$6.00 per game depending on your age. See you then!



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## This Week at EMC

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

***Pastor Oby will be away for vacation March 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. For pastoral care emergencies while he is away, please contact Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland on her cell: (631) 766-6959.***

### Monday

- 3:30pm **Perspectives Outreach** (St. Louis Park)
- 6pm **Our Whole Lives** (The Loft)
- 6:30pm **Waking Up White Discussion Group** (Meeting Room)
- 7pm MNA Steering Committee (Fellowship Hall)

### Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** (Meeting Room)
- 6pm **Beacon Core Team Meeting** (Meeting Room)

### Wednesday

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

### Thursday

- 6pm **Heart Songs** (The Chancel)

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## March Worship and Second Hour Preview

**March 1st:** We begin a Lenten series considering **racial justice** alongside our all-church read of the book *Waking Up White*. On the **First Sunday in Lent**, we hear how Jesus is **"Awakening"**

the disciples to the last-first and first-last way of God's realm (Mark 10:17-31), and share communion by intinction at the front of the sanctuary.

**March 8th:** As we continue on the **Second Sunday in Lent** with our focus on *Waking Up White*, Rev. Elaine B. Kirkland leads worship on the theme of "**Rethinking**". Jesus predicts his crucifixion but insists that the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:32-52). Please remember to set your clocks forward before worship so that you arrive on time!

**March 15th (10am):** The **Third Sunday in Lent** invites us to further "**Relearning**" with Debby Irving on her tossing and turning in the work of racial justice. With Jesus' discussion about taxes in Mark 12:13-17, we also reflect on the connections between property and people.

**March 15th (7pm):** We gather for a warm and centering **Taizé** worship in the front area of the sanctuary. This 30-minute, candlelit service of meditative songs, scripture and silence is followed by a simple soup supper in the Meeting Room.



**March 22nd:** The **Fourth Sunday in Lent** focuses on "**Investing**", and includes a special offering to support humanitarian aid and development efforts through One Great Hour of Sharing. Our scripture text is Mark 12:28-44, where Jesus praises a poor widow who gives away all she has.

**March 29th:** The **Fifth Sunday in Lent** considers a theme of "**Becoming**" and the Scripture passage of Mark 13:1-8, 24-37, where Jesus calls disciples to be watchful for signs of the end of the age. We also celebrate the baptisms of cousins Bennett Quinlan and Henry Kamin, children in our neighborhood!

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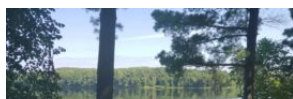
## Faith Formation Updates

### Family Sunday



Thank you to all of the children, youth and families who helped lead worship last week! We are blessed to have you as part of our church family and ministry! Please mark your calendars for our next **Family Sunday on April 26th**. All children and youth are encouraged to help lead worship that day.

### Outdoor Ministries



The Minnesota Conference UCC offers camps and retreats for all ages. Check out their current offerings [here!](#) Partial scholarships are



available. Contact Faith Formation Director, Susan Weston, for more information.

### Family Lenten Devotional Booklet: Love Builds Up.



Copies available at church. "SALT's "40-Day 'Love Builds Up' Family Challenge" is the perfect way for families of all shapes and sizes to strengthen spiritual muscles and emotional health during Lent. We could all use a little training - and a little practice! Here's the challenge: For each of the six weeks of Lent, spend some time at the beginning of the week (Sunday night, maybe?) reading that week's Bible passage together. Talk as a family about the suggested topic, using the

devotional's optional conversation prompts if you like. Commit to taking on an action or practice for that week - and then watch as the Realm of God fills, strengthens, and beautifies your house and the world!

**Bagel Bunch, for students in Grades 6-12, meets on March 8 and March 22.** Join us upstairs in the Loft following the Time with Children in worship. Bring a friend, and enjoy some bagels and a time to connect with other middle and high school students.

**Multi-church Youth Group meets Wednesday, March 25th.** Join us from 6-8pm, starting in the Loft upstairs. We'll end downstairs in the Fellowship Hall, after a pizza supper. Friends are always welcome! RSVP to Susan, so we can be sure to have enough pizza for all!

### Intergenerational Outing on Sunday, March 22:



Godspell at Aldersgate, 3:00pm Meet at Aldersgate United Methodist Church at 2:40 for the 3pm performance of the musical Godspell. Aldersgate is located at 3801 Wooddale Avenue South, St. Louis Park. Free will donation. An optional Spaghetti Supper follows (\$8 adults, \$5 ages 5-12, under 5 free). No need to register, but if you let Susan Weston know you're coming, she'll be there early to reserve seats. All ages welcome!

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## Support for VEAP Food Shelf in March

There are 2 opportunities to support VEAP this month - through the MN FoodShare Campaign and through the Birthday Bag collection. Read below for more information. All donated goods can be left on the VEAP cart located at the end of the hall in the Gathering Space. In addition to collected items, the children's offering and loose coin collection in March will go to VEAP in financial support





of the campaign.

## 2020 Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign



Minnesota FoodShare began its work in 1982 with a campaign advanced by congregations to restock food shelves in the 7-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The effort was so successful and the need was so evident, the March Campaign became a statewide program just one year later.

The largest grassroots food and fund drive in the state, the Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign brings together various community organizations, businesses, and faith communities to help stock nearly 300 food shelves statewide.

During the 2019 March Campaign, more than \$8 million dollars and over 5.1 million pounds of food shelf items were raised by Minnesota food shelves and Minnesota FoodShare.

## Birthday Bags for VEAP

Sunday School students, along with the rest of the congregation, are exploring Jesus's teachings from the Gospel of Mark to "serve others" and to "love our neighbors," so we'd love your help with our service project: Birthday Bags for VEAP!

### Suggested items:

Cake mix            Paper Plates  
Frosting            Paper Napkins  
Candles            Balloons  
Small gift (\$10-15 value)



### Gift Suggestions:

#### AGES 1 TO 5

Board, picture books  
Coloring books  
Crayons  
Dolls  
Play-Doh  
Stuffed animals  
Small puzzles, games  
Bubbles  
Sidewalk chalk

#### AGES 6 TO 12

Chapter books  
Small games/travel games  
Small puzzles, games  
Legos  
Crafts  
Hot Wheels  
Yo-yos, jump ropes  
Action figures, dolls  
Jewelry, nail polish

Note: Because participants come from many backgrounds, gifts of a religious nature are not accepted. All items must be new.



**Please bring your donations for the Birthday Bags to church by Sunday, March 22nd.** On that day, the Sunday School students will assemble the bags to be delivered to children through the VEAP program. Thank you for your support of our Sunday School class and the children who will receive the Birthday Bags!

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## Perspectives Outreach



There is an upcoming outreach opportunity at **Perspectives** in St. Louis Park on **March 2nd 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!

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## OWL (Our Whole Lives) Session on March 2nd, 6-8pm

**The OWL youth (students in grades 10 - 12) will be meeting on** Monday, March 2nd, 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.



## Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group: Monday, March 16th, 6:30-8pm

On Monday, March 16th 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.](#)



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## Visit the Tropics with Front Porch Friday at the Minnesota Zoo!



**MINNESOTA ZOO**  
Changing how you see the world

Even if you couldn't go South this winter, you can join us at the Minnesota Zoo in Apple Valley! There are indoor exhibits - and outdoor ones if the weather permits. We will meet at 9:30 AM at church to carpool to the zoo. There is always something happening at the zoo - the Bird Show, various animal exhibits, etc. The Food Court offers lots of choices - burgers, tacos, salads, gelato! Sounds like a great break from winter! Tickets are \$13.95 for seniors and kids - \$19.95 for adults. All our events are open to ALL AGES! Friday, March 13 - 9:30 AM. Sign up or contact Laura or Molly.

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## Congregational Meeting Recap from January 26th

On January 26th a congregational meeting was held to review church finances and approve the 2020 budget. For a Capital Campaign Update click [HERE](#) and for an copy of the approved 2020 Budget click [HERE](#).



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## March Birthdays



**March 1 - Nicole Martens**

**March 3** - Bennett Kersten  
**March 5** - Katie Kersten  
**March 8** - Lollie Eidsness  
**March 9** - Natalie Eidsness  
**March 10** - Catriona Ray  
**March 11** - Jay Eidsness  
Matt Gennrich  
**March 12** - Marge Ellingson  
**March 13** - Doug Fuerst  
**March 16** - Roth Kersten  
**March 17** - Reid Williams  
**March 19** - Jane Chang  
**March 21** - Rianna Ray  
**March 25** - Betty Scriver  
**March 26** - Laurie Chidester  
Kirk Engelke  
Paul Jasper  
**March 29** - Piper DeLong  
Silvia Schumacher

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

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## Last Call For Quilts to Support Daylight!



There is still time to purchase and take home one of these beautiful quilts! We will have them at church until **March 1st** (this Sunday), and then they will go home with Ash Bull, the talented creator of the quilts. The 5x6 quilts are \$60 and the 3.5x4.5 are \$40. They will keep you warm on a chilly Minnesota night, and the proceeds help send our Daylight team to Kenya this summer. Stop in this Sunday to see if there's a design calling YOUR name!

## Edina Morningside Preschool

Edina Morningside Preschool had a very successful open house on February 1st. We had many new families stop by to check out our wonderful school, as well as some current students who came to proudly show their families around. In addition to the new families that visited during the open house, Destiny was busy giving many tours during the month of January, resulting in a **full roster for the 2020-2021 school year!** It's been a busy two months since winter break and things aren't slowing down any time soon. During the month of March we will be attending a field trip at the Minnesota Orchestra and the preschool students will be hosting their dads for a special Dads and Donuts event.



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## Daylight Update



In this month's newsletter we meet Maurine, the 2020 Class President at Daylight School and learn about the start of the new school year. Click [HERE](#) for the March 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!*



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## March Calendar



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

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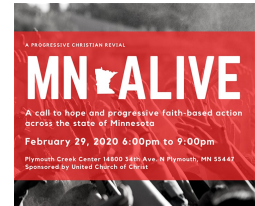
## Member and Community Happenings

### MN Alive

**February 29th, 6-9pm \*This Saturday\***

Plymouth Creek Center, 14800 34th Avenue North  
Plymouth, MN 55447

MN Alive is a one-night gathering of progressive Christian communities, whose faith welcomes the stranger, the refugee; celebrates diversity in its many forms; calls for a caring and just economy; and is committed to justice for our earth. In the tradition of religious revivals, the evening will feature song, speakers, and solace for the spirit. Come gather with others to revitalize our commitment to action in a world hungry for hope. Sponsored by United Church of Christ



### 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](#)

### The Christian Art and Practice of Reconciliation in Divisive Times

**Tuesday, March 24th, 6:30pm**

United Theological Seminary, 767 N. Eustis Street, St. Paul

This event features Rev. Dr. Curtiss DeYoung, MCC executive director and author.

DeYoung's talk will include panelists, United professors Carolyn Pressler, John Lee, Justin Sabia-Tanis, and alum Rev. Elizabeth Macaulay, lead pastor of Christ United Church of Christ in Rochester. Registration is \$10 per person. Light refreshments will be served. [For more information and to register.](#)

### \*LowBrow Fundraiser for Minnesota ME/CFS\*

**Monday, March 30th, 4-9:30pm**

LowBrow, 4244 Nicolett Ave Minneapolis

**EMC member Jeff Beyerl lives with ME/CFS, and his mother Lianne leads the Minnesota Alliance.**



Come one, come all! On Monday, March 30th from 4:00 pm - 9:30 pm, there will be a fundraiser at The LowBrow bar and restaurant in Minneapolis. Ten percent of the night's sales will be donated to the Minnesota ME/CFS Alliance through their Dine Out Give Back program. Check out their delicious [menu](#) items.



The LowBrow is located at [4244 Nicollet Avenue](#) in Minneapolis. Feel free to call (612-208-0720) to reserve a table, though reservations are not necessary. No flyer is needed; just come as you are!

**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.

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Contact us!

Pastor: [Rev. Oby Ballinger](#) 612-900-3914 (cell)

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

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

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

Website: [emcucc.org](http://emcucc.org)



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