

## The weekly newsletter for Edina Morningside Church

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July Messenger/Friday Update: June 26, 2020

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

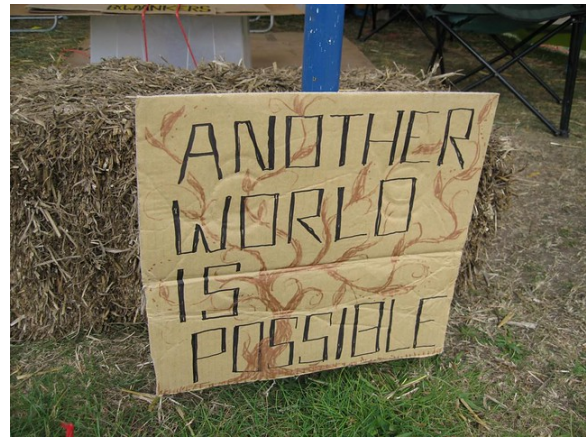
*What's happening in the world and the church, as it relates to God's purpose for Edina Morningside Church: "Sharing the joy of Christ's love by welcoming and serving".*

Black lives will *never* be valued as equal, etc. This is where an open-ended faith can save our hope, and better serve those we love. We say in the United Church of Christ that “another world is possible”, and we pray for God’s realm to come “on earth as in heaven”, so even “when we face for a moment the worst our kind can do, and shudder to know the taint in our own selves” (Denise Levertov, “[On the Mystery of the Incarnation](#)”), the destiny of creation is held in the care of God, far beyond our own human efforts and failures.

In this spirit of trusting resurrection in the face of crucifixion, the poet Ross Gay wrote the [following poem](#) after the police killing of Eric Garner in 2015. May it encourage you to persevere. The ways of death may seem more visible, but the ways of Divine Life are more enduring and guaranteed.

### *A Small Needful Fact*

Is that Eric Garner worked  
for some time for the Parks and Rec.  
Horticultural Department, which means,  
perhaps, that with his very large hands,  
perhaps, in all likelihood,  
he put gently into the earth  
some plants which, most likely,  
some of them, in all likelihood,  
continue to grow, continue  
to do what such plants do, like house  
and feed small and necessary creatures,  
like being pleasant to touch and smell,  
like converting sunlight  
into food, like making it easier  
for us to breathe.



## Connecting to our Worship & Activities

Until we can be together in person again, click on the links below to join us for these EMC weekly events via Zoom. Another way to connect to these events is to call in and participate by audio. You call in to Zoom as if it's a phone conference call. Dial 312-626-6799 (a Chicago area phone number) and when prompted, enter the Meeting ID. The links and meeting ID's remain the same week by week:

- [10am Sunday Worship and Conversation Time](#) ID 863-036-343
- [10am Tuesday Bible Study](#) ID 564-967-741
- [7pm Wednesday Bell and Chancel Choir](#) ID 511-709-185

If you have any questions or would like to have a **one-to-one Zoom practice session**, please call (952-926-6555) or [email Laurie in the church office](#).

**Also, videos of our worship services are available “on demand”** throughout the week on our [Facebook page](#). You don't need a Facebook account to see these (just click the link to see the video directory), and new videos are posted every Sunday afternoon.

## Sunday Worship Service - June 28, 2020

Live [via Zoom](#)

### Before Worship

- Sunday School from 9-9:30am (via Zoom, contact [Susan Weston](#) for link)
- Send in private prayer requests via [PrayerNet](#) or "Send Message" on our [Facebook page](#)

### This Week's Leaders

- **Leading Worship:** Rev. Elaine Kirkland
- **Music Director:** Conie Borchardt
- **Faith Formation Director:** Susan Weston
- **Reader:** Jane Williams
- **Musicians:** Katelyn Gill, Wendy Grim, Barb & Charlie Green, Elaine Kirkland, Lisa Lally, Mark Mironer, Jane & Larry Williams
- **Digital Producer:** Mark Mironer

### During Worship

- For the **Radical Unraveling of Vocation**, there's no better example than Zacchaeus, the wealthy tax collector enlisted by Jesus (Luke 19:1-10).
- We will mark Pride Sunday with blessings of joy for those in the LGBTQ community.
- Share prayer requests in the chat thread on Zoom, which will then be woven next week into our "Unraveled" prayer loom!
- Community Communion
- [Donate online](#) through Breeze.
- To give via text, send an amount (ex: "25") to 612-712-3452. You'll receive a text back with a link to register card info. When complete, you'll receive a receipt via email. For future



ministry partner, [Meals on Wheels](#).

## After Worship

- Social time after worship in small groups via Zoom - bring your coffee and treat!  
(Parents: please accompany children in small group time, helping us create a safer church.)

## In Our Prayers

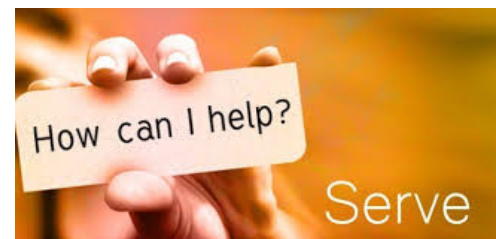
*We especially hold these members and friends in our prayers:*



## Time and Talent Offering - June 28, 2020

**I/we are interested in learning about the Sunshine Card Ministry which involves** writing cards for various church

member needs (such as holiday cards for homebound members, sympathy, birthday cards, etc..)



I/we are interested in being a **reader for virtual worship** services in future weeks.

I am/we are interested in being a **digital resource** for the life of the church (making/editing PowerPoints, editing the website, assisting with Zoom and/or Facebook Live worship, etc).

I/we can help with **outdoor work around church** - cleaning up the play yard, and more.

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

## This Week at EMC

While he is away, please contact Rev. Frank Bennett on his cell. (012) 940-5572

**Church Office Hours:** as needed  
**Pastor's Office Hours:** home office  
**Faith Formation Hours:** home office

## Monday

- 6:30pm **MTC *The Show Must Go On Rehearsal*** (via Zoom)

## Tuesday

- 10am **Bible Study** ([via Zoom](#))
- 3-4pm **Drop in Community Care with Pastor Oby**
- 6:30pm **MTC *The Show Must Go On Rehearsal*** (via Zoom)

## Wednesday

- 3-4pm **Drop in Community Care with Pastor Oby**
- 4pm **Time with Children** (via Zoom, email [Susan Weston](#) for more info)
- 6pm **EMC Coronavirus Task Force** (via Zoom)
- 6:15pm **MTC *The Show Must Go On Rehearsal*** (via Zoom)
- 7pm **Bell and Choir Check-In** ([via Zoom](#))

## Thursday

- 9am **Morning Coffee and Conversation** ([via Zoom](#))
- 6:15pm **MTC *The Show Must Go On Rehearsal*** (via Zoom)

## Friday

- 10am **MTC *The Show Must Go On Rehearsal*** (via Zoom)

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## "Seeing Racism in Our Lives: Towards Abolition"

### Film Discussion Series

"Seeing Racism in Our Lives: Towards Abolition," a film discussion series, begins Tuesday, June 30 with a discussion of ***Just Mercy*** (PG-13), a powerful true story based on the bestselling book by Bryan Stevenson. The film is available to [watch for free](#) until the end of June.





discussion at **7:00pm on Tuesday, June 30 and Tuesday, July 7**, led by **Rev. Elaine Kirkland and Larry Williams**.

The group will meet via Zoom to discuss **five films** over the course of **ten weeks**, using both large and small group formats for discussion. Stay tuned for additional titles coming soon.

[Register in advance for the series \(limited to 25 participants\):](#)

Questions? Contact Faith Formation Director, [Susan Weston](#).

## July Worship and Second Hour Preview



*In July we continue our summer worship series, **Unraveled: Seeking God When Our Plans Fall Apart**. For your copy of an accompanying journal for reflection, and to see all the scriptures for the summer, please [email the church office](#).*

**July 5th:** Worship focuses on the story of Pharaoh's heart grows cold against the Hebrew minority in the land (Exodus 7:8-23), and yet how with God even **Hardened Hearts Unravel**. We'll observe the Independence Day weekend, and offer prayers for this country, in the midst of so much great change.

**July 12th:** We consider the heated rivalry between Jewish leaders like Saul and Christ-followers like Ananias. Saul is blinded by his prejudice and Ananias by his fear, but **Assumptions Unravel** in Acts 9:1-20. Our Second Hour is "Zoom and Ministries", where we gather in small groups to guide the hospitality, spirituality, outreach, and theatre ministries of the church.

**July 19th:** When Hebrew leaders are taken into exile for generations, the prophet Jeremiah (29:1-7) advises them of God's wish that they put down roots in this adopted, unfamiliar homeland. **Dreams Unravel** in the face of enduring hardship, and yet God's spirit may be found

**July 26th:** Jesus' conversation with a Samaritan woman at a well (John 4:1-29) demonstrates how **Shames Unravel** in the woman's willingness to claim her unusual family circumstances and encounter Jesus as an equal, plus Jesus' refusal to judge or humiliate her.

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## July Birthdays



**July 3** - Laurie Cory

**July 10** - Lianne Beyerl

**July 12** - Barb Dibble

**July 13** - Conrad Phelan

**July 15** - Chloe Gratzek &  
Maimie Jamieson

**July 16** - Carol Downey

**July 17** - Don Patrick

**July 24** - Katelyn Gill

**July 25** - Zach Engelke

**July 26** - William Eidsness

**July 28** - Ella Williams

**July 31** - Caitlin Rogers

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

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## Heart Songs - Monday, July 6th!

Gather for an informal singing time to re-center our hearts in community. Simple songs will be led paperlessly/taught by ear by Conie Borchardt, other song leaders, and you, if you'd have a song to share.

Join us. Bring friends.



gathering is Mon, July 6th starting at 6:30pm. We'll be using the [Zoom platform](#) ID number is 431-161-455.

Songs will be about the human experience and in that way, spiritual in nature, but not

specifically religious.

This is a space intended for self-care, however that shifts for you in every moment. Bring water. Come and go. Sit in a chair, lie on the floor, or stand as you need to. Simple songs will be taught by ear by Conie and other Twin Cities song leaders.

## Second Hour on Sunday, July 12th: Zoom and Ministries

Plan to attend our monthly ministry conversations after worship on Sunday, July 12th! We have adapted to an online format, but will still have opt-in breakouts if you want to share in **conversation about our Generous Hospitality, Spiritual Life, and Faithful Service ministries**. Or, you may wish to continue to build community in a less structured small group. Either way, plan to stay and join us for "Zoom and Ministries" after worship.



## Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group

Monday, July 13th 6:30pm via Zoom



On Monday, July 13th 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 will take place via Zoom and be facilitated by Frank Bennett and Mary Lenard. [Contact Mary for more information.](#)



## Faith Formation Updates



### Youth and Young Adults Connecting for Racial Justice

The Minnesota Conference is partnering with staff from the national setting of the UCC and other conferences around the country to host and facilitate a series of online gatherings for youth and young adults to give voice to the unrest they are experiencing in these days and to encourage and support one another in their work for racial justice. Learn more [here](#).



### National Youth Event (NYE) Sunday, June 28, 3:00 PM CST

Creativity and Justice in Quarantine, a live NYE video premiere and chat on the United Church of Christ's [Facebook page](#).



### Youth Camp - Mon. - Wed., June 29 - July 1 for youth in Grades 6-12.

This event is offered online and free of charge. Learn more & register **\*TODAY\*** at <https://www.uccmn.org/ministries/outdoor/>.



### Blessing of the Bikes: Saturday, July 11th, 10:00am at the church.

Bring your bikes (all shapes and sizes) to the Blessing of the Bikes on Saturday, July 11th at 10:00am! Join us as we pray for safety and encourage all riders, including the dozens who pass by the church on roads and sidewalks each day. We'll gather on Grimes Ave at 10:00am. Please wear masks and practice social distancing. Invite your friends, neighbors and family members!

### Zoom Children Faith Formation this Week:

Sunday, June 28 - Sunday School at 9:00am

Wednesday, July 1 - Time with Children at 4:00pm



Families: links to join groups are emailed each week. Let [Susan](#) know if you'd like to be added to the email list.

## Cameraphone Donations for Sanctuary Use

The Trustees have approved a plan to purchase some essential technology needed for us to continue offering great worship online when we're eventually also leading worship in the sanctuary. One thing we will need are 2-3 simple cameraphones that can connect online (don't need a cell/data plan). **Do you have a working cameraphone at home that you're no longer using and could donate to the church?**



Models from recent years (with cameras) will reduce the number of phones we need to purchase. Please be in touch with the office if you have a phone you'd like to donate. Thank you!

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## MTC Virtual Summer!



Join us again this Saturday, June 25th, at 7PM to watch the premiere of our virtual musical: The Show Must Go Online! (Cast B) The link to the show will be shared on EMC's Facebook page tomorrow afternoon. It's free, but donations are gladly accepted and appreciated, via the church's Breeze site. Be sure to choose Morningside Theatre on the scroll.

Thank you and enjoy the show!



They're here! Morningside Theatre Company's first ever baseball caps! These awesome lids are \$20.00 each and all proceeds will help support MTC's virtual summer program. Watch for our pop-up sales on the church lawn this summer! [Contact Jane Williams for more info.](#)



Click [here](#) for the latest EMC July Calendar. It is based on the premise that most gatherings will be via Zoom, with limited activity in the church building for the entire month. If you have any questions, please [contact the church office](#).

## Rent is Due - Call to Action!

Wednesday, July 1st at 8:30am

All are invited to join Beacon next Wednesday, July 1, for our "Rent is Due: Day of Action." [Please click here to register.](#)



We are coming together because we know hundreds of thousands of our neighbors are juggling their finances to meet this month's rent. This housing instability crisis, intensified by COVID-19, hurts our communities, our kids, and will increase the homeless crisis we see in our parks and cities.

During this Day of Action, we will join together in a 30-minute update call at 8:30 a.m. and then all take collective action together by emailing or calling the legislature. **We are excited to announce that Rep. Michael Howard will be joining us for our update call.** Rep. Howard is the House author of Bring It Home, MN, our rent subsidy bill, and has been a champion negotiating for housing issues in the legislature.

**There is a lot to do during our day of action because the Minnesota legislature hasn't accomplished much.** We need to renew our effort to build support for the transformative Bring It Home, MN bill that would provide housing stability for all Minnesotans. But we still have to keep advocating for this past session's priorities, because the legislature failed again.

We're disappointed, sad, and angry that this past Saturday morning, June 20, the Minnesota legislature adjourned - AGAIN - without passing our essential housing bills. No money for emergency rental assistance that would keep thousands of families from being turned out on the street. No money for the construction of desperately-needed homes for people with the lowest incomes. **No money for the Minnesotans in every legislative district who are struggling for a home.**

constituents.

They got to go home Friday night. Too many Minnesotans didn't.

Legislators also failed to reach agreement on long-overdue police and criminal justice reforms and that disagreement overflowed into all areas of their work, preventing essential priorities for home from passing.

**It is more important than ever that we join together in action and demonstrate to the legislature we are not ceasing our advocacy. [Join us next Wednesday](#) to hear from Rep. Michael Howard and take action demanding the legislature pass this year's measures and start supporting the long term solution of Bring It Home, MN.**

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## Daylight Update



COVID-19 is affecting the entire world and we ask you to help Daylight Center and School continue to serve families in rural Kenya. With a nationwide stay at home order and fewer and fewer job opportunities many families are having a hard time keeping food on the table and paying for medications. [Read this month's Update to learn more.](#)

Donate [here](#) via credit card or ACH and select **COVID Medical Fund**, or if donating by check please note **COVID** on your donation.

Daylight Center and School  
PO Box 40533  
Saint Paul, MN 55104



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## Member and Community Happenings

### Rev. Eliot Howard Celebration

Please join us on Sunday, June 28, for a service of closure and farewell in appreciation and celebration of the ministry of **Rev. Eliot N. Howard**. We will bid fond farewell to Pastor Eliot and Jan after 27 years of their faithful ministry and service to the congregation of **Linden**



Park from 4:30-6 pm that afternoon, or send a card to Eliot and Jan via Linden Hills UCC, [4200 Upton Ave S, Minneapolis 55410](https://www.lindenhillsc.org/)



### 2020 Pride Celebration

Under normal circumstances, Twin Cities Pride draws around 400,000 attendees to downtown Minneapolis to celebrate Minnesota's LGBTQ+ community. And although the in-person festivities have been



cancelled, the show must go on. This year's virtual celebration will include streaming music performances, an online art show and a web marketplace to emulate the festival vibe typically found in Loring Park, while the annual Ashley Rukes LGBTQ+ Pride Parade has been creatively reimaged as an MC'd digital procession of user-submitted video clips. [To learn more and participate in the 2020 Virtual Pride Celebration](#)

**Twin Cities Pride Staff and Board invite everyone to join the Taking Back Pride march in support of #Justice4GeorgeFloyd and #DefendBlackTransFolx in Minneapolis, MN. Sunday, June 28 from 10:30am-12pm. See all event details [here](#).**

### Masks Needed

EMC neighbor Kate Parramon is collecting masks in support of Nekima Levy Armstrong's community outreach efforts in North Minneapolis and the Cedar-Riverside areas. For more information and to contribute masks [please contact the church office](#).



### "Justice Talk to Justice Walk" Webinar Series Launches June 30 with Rev. Traci Blackmon

The UCC MN Conference's new webinar series, "Justice Talk to Justice Walk: Building Awareness, Strengthening Our Resolve," launches June 30, from 7:00–8:30 pm.

The first of several webinars aimed at expanding our racial justice awareness features [Rev. Traci](#)





## Go From Here? Lessons from Ferguson & Beyond.”

This webinar will be an interactive conversation between Conference Minister Shari Prestemon and Rev. Blackmon, with opportunities for participants to ask questions.

[Register here](#) (registration is required).

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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