



NORTHWOOD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

62 West Highway 61, Esko, MN 55733

Pastor Brian Cornell ~ 828-434-6995

bcornell@wnccumc.net

Sunday Worship: 9:00 am

The little church with a BIG heart.



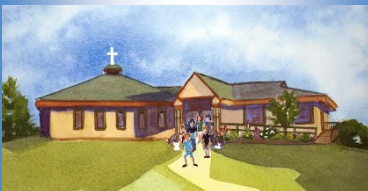
Reverend Brian Cornell

Check out our website for pictures and upcoming events! Weekly bulletins (current month) and weekly newsletters also are available for viewing.
www.northwoodesko.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK @ Northwood United Methodist Church, Esko MN (include ESKO MN in the address) for the most current information and event albums.

DIRECT ANNOUNCEMENTS to Shirley Brandt for the bulletin by Tuesday by 5:00 pm and/or for the weekly newsletter by Monday afternoon at: shirleybob15@gmail.com.

Please also cc to Ann Butler at: annonpond@yahoo.com



PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

Sunday, January 19 ~ HUMAN RELATIONS DAY! Through your generous gift you strengthen community outreach and empower at-risk youth. "Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children." - *The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., "I Have a Dream," 1963.*

Wednesday, January 22 ~ Ladies Lunch Bunch meets at Carmen's at 5:30 pm! Please let Ann or Jo know if you are planning to attend.

Thursday, January 23 ~ Outreach meeting at Perkins in Cloquet at 9:30 am.

Wednesday, January 29 ~ Youth outing to the Theatrical Escape Room at Mt Royal Library in Duluth from 5:00 to 7:30 pm. Meet at the church at 4:40 pm if needing a ride.

Sunday, February 2 ~ TPUMM (Twin Ports United Methodist Ministry) meeting at Northwood UMC at 1:30 pm.

Wednesday, February 12 ~ Administrative Council Meeting in the Fireside Room at 7:00 pm.

Thursday, February 20 ~ Sewing For Mission from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. All volunteer help appreciated. There are many jobs for all skill levels.

Saturday, February 22 ~ Save the date! Retreat to be held at the McCabe Renewal Center from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. More information will be coming soon.

Please check the message board in the Narthex for upcoming events offered.

PRAYER MINISTRY . . .

The tea light candles we light on the altar each Sunday remind us of our ministry of prayer to the military service personnel and their families within our congregation. Especially Gavin Day stationed in Fort Leonard Wood, MO, nephew of Dan and Beth Belden and grandson of Dennis and Julie Day, Kevin Jensen, cousin to Daisy Rose and Holly Compo, deployed to Japan and Alex Lammi serving in Memphis, son of Barb and Ted Lammi.

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Following Jesus Further On the Path of Discipleship

Dear Friends,

Sunday's scripture in the Gospel of John features Jesus calling of the disciples. In it, these curious future followers of Jesus ask "Messiah, where are you staying" to which Jesus replies, "Come and see". We've paired this scripture with a song from Little Peggy March called "I Will Follow Him," which many might remember featured prominently in the movie Sister Act.

Pairing these secular lyrics with a Christian message is obviously not new; this was the entire premise of the Sister Act movie. However, there is more to this story worth exploring. Considered by many in America a 'one hit wonder,' Little Peggy March continued her singing career much later into her life performing in another language AND releasing songs that charted many times in Germany, hitting the top 10 at least four different times.

Little Peggy March (Margaret Annemarie Battavio) then attained great success, but only after she was willing to grow and change in her pursuit of a musical career. We, who evaluate her career, would misunderstand the outcomes if we didn't hear the "rest of the story," as Paul Harvey liked to say.

So often I meet people who have been indoctrinated to the idea that following Christ is a once / always premise. We fall into the trap of thinking that success comes from saying once, "Hey, we'll follow this guy" yet fail to see what following actually looks like.

Peter in particular hit great highs and new lows in his own discipleship, being called 'Satan' at one time by none other than Jesus, denying Jesus when it mattered most AND quitting the disciples and returning to his old job of fishing.

Of course, we know in the end that Jesus found Peter and the other disciples back at their nets and Jesus redeemed their failure with his forgiveness. But how often do we lift this up as a pattern of successful discipleship?

Jesus said "Come and see." Peggy March sang, "I will follow him." In neither scenario was success actually promised. But that wasn't the point, was it? Jesus only asks that we keep showing up. The rest is up to him. And, for those of us who have been doing this following for a while, we can testify that the path is not smooth or easy. But when we fail (and boy, howdy do we fail), Jesus tends to show back up and invite us to keep on following.

So what do you say? Can we pledge once again, this week to follow Jesus further in his path of discipleship?

Come and see. Until Sunday, Peace.

Pastor Brian





JOYS & CONCERNS . . .

- Gratitude for the Cavanaughs' grandchildren.
- Joy that Pastor Brian was able to meet up with a cousin from Indiana he hasn't seen in a while that was up for birdwatching.
- Joy that Amanda Zbacnik had a good week away and it is good to be home!
- Prayers for Ben Johnson, friend of the Compos, who had a mass removed from his brain last week and waiting for results from tests.
- Prayers of joy that Briana Johnson, the lady who was hit by the train, has been allowed to go home from the hospital! PTL!
- Continuing prayers of healing for Jon Severson, who is struggling following his bladder tumor removal.
- Prayers of comfort for the Al Stank family as he passed recently. Al was a coworker of John Cavanaugh.
- Continued prayers of healing for John Malinka, brother-in-law of Ann Butler, still in Rochester trying to recover from wound cleaning. He also has recently lost sight in one eye that they don't know if he will get back.
- Prayers for Katherine Johnson's high school friend, Bev, who was recently diagnosed with Stage 4 esophageal cancer that has spread to her liver. She is very much alone as her husband has already passed away.
- Healing prayers for Katherine Johnson as she has recently finished treatment on her face for a basal cell carcinoma.
- Prayers for Deb Debolt, coworker of Shane Johnson, who has come back to school following her diagnosis of ALS. Deb also got a CPAP to help with sleeping.
- Prayers that Beth Belden's boss, Krista, has a successful surgery this week.
- Prayers of joy that David and Kaylee Belden, and baby Ryder, made it down to see Julie and Denny Day for a visit this week.
- Healing prayers for John Piette, our friend from Barnes Care, who suffered a minor stroke on Saturday.
- Prayers of comfort to all those affected by the Ukrainian airliner that was shot down.
- Prayers for those dealing with the storms throughout the country, especially in North Carolina where Pastor Brian came from.

PRAYER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE from the ushers prior to the worship service.

If you would prefer the Pastor to receive your prayer request in writing rather than verbally at Joys and Concerns, please complete a prayer card and place it in the offering plate.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES WITH PASTOR BRIAN . . .

For the foreseeable future on the second Tuesday of each month, Pastor Brian is preaching at several senior centers. These include North Shore Estates, 7700 Grand Ave, Duluth, at 10:00 am, Sunnyside Healthcare Center, 512 Skyline Blvd, Cloquet, at 2:15 pm and Inter-Faith Care Center, 811 3rd St, Carlton, at 3:15 pm.

Pastor would LOVE to have company to participate musically, help pray, or even to preach. Please let Pastor Brian know if you are interested. And, visitors / congregants are always welcome to come listen and/or visit with the residents — they so look forward to being smiled at or appreciated.



OUTREACH



**BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA**

Sunday, Dates TBD.
7:00 to 8:15 pm
Esko BS Troop 152
meeting at Northwood UMC.



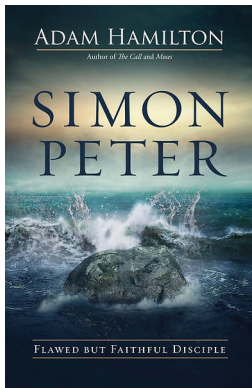
Monday, January 20
5:30 to 6:30 pm
Esko GS Troop 4139
meeting at Northwood UMC.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION . . .

There is a Zero Waste Living class being offered by Esko's Community Education program. It reads: "Esko's own April Hepokoski will teach you the beginner stages of how to reduce your imprint. She has managed to reduce the waste from her house to fit in a mason jar! Seem overwhelming? This class is for you. Learn the beginning steps to reduce your carbon footprint."

Our care for God's creation is one of the ways we worship and return our love to God as God has shared it with us.

If you are interested in attending, follow this link: https://isd99.cr3.rschoolday.com/public/getclass/category_id/19/program_id/2 or call 879-4038. Space is limited.



ADULT BOOK STUDY . . .

If you missed the beginning of Northwood's study of Simon Peter Flawed But Faithful Disciple by Adam Hamilton, Asbury UMC is doing the same study on Thursdays from 11:00 am to noon. The six-week study started January 9 and will continue each Thursday until February 13. It is not necessary to attend every class. Please see Ann Butler if you need a book. Come by and be filled by this meaningful and powerful testimony of Jesus' "rock" of the faith.

YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 26 | No Sunday school. |
| January 29 | Theatrical Escape Room at Mt. Royal Library from 5:00-7:30 pm. |
| February 16 | No Sunday school. |
| February 16 | Skating at 4 Season's complex in Carlton from 12:30 to 2:00 pm. |
| March 22 | No Sunday school. |
| March 25 | Just a Touch of Love Drive for Harbor House Crisis Shelter from 6:00 to 7:30 pm at NUMC. |
| April 4 | Mercy Me (and Jeremy Camp) concert at Amsoil Arena at 7:00 pm. |
| May 10 | No Sunday school. |
| May 13 | Roadside Cleanup from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. |



See you in church! and till then ...

SCATTER JOY, INSPIRE HOPE, SHARE LOVE, AND SEEK PEACE.