



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.



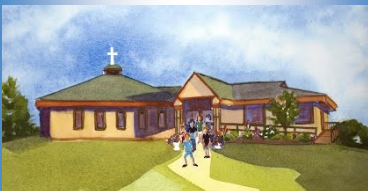
Reverend Brian Cornell

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!

Wednesday, January 8 ~ Administrative Council Meeting in the Fireside Room at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday, January 15 ~

- The Lay Leadership Ministry at Northwood UMC is hosting a spaghetti dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 pm for the Leadership Ministries (formerly called Committees) within Northwood. After the dinner the Ministry you are serving with will meet for a short meeting.
- Worship Meeting at 6:30 pm following the Leadership Dinner.

Thursday, January 16 ~ Sewing For Mission from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. All volunteer help appreciated. There are many jobs for all skill levels.

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.

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.

SHOUT OUTS TO . . .

- The Cavanaugh's for being the main brains for the Epiphany Party after church on Sunday, January 5!
- All those who helped clean up after the party on Sunday.



COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Compassion Is a Bridge-Builder

Dear Friends,

When we moved here, everyone asked, "How are you liking it?" Every time we'd say 'Good' or 'Everything is going well' we'd hear: "We hope you last to Spring"! Since then, several storms have come through, causing us to miss worship at the church TWICE, which we're told is unusual. Not that we'd know. EVERYTHING in Minnesota is unusual for us!

But it IS reassuring to hear from other people - long time residents even - things are different for them, too. By sharing in empathy and compassion; even by sharing their impressions, we feel included and supported in this season of adjustment.

I think this might be a universal truth: compassion is a bridge-builder. When we take the time to be present with others: asking how they are doing, talking about what things they've experienced, listening to their stories and letting them know some about our own, we are helping them know they matter.

In the song "Make You Feel My Love," written by Bob Dylan (have you Minnesotans heard of him?), the singer talks about the various types of weather (emotional and physical) we might experience in this life, but then promises to work through it all to let the listener feel their love. It is an amazing song, made even more incredible when you hear the soulful Adele sing it. If there was ever a pledge of love that endures through all things, Adele's voice singing Dylan's song is the very expression of it.

This week in worship, Matthew also writes of an expression of love. His lyrics are less poetic but no less moving. It is full of the reassurance a father has for a son and the love the two share for one another... and us. There is a demonstration of compassion and a physical demonstration of a bridge - made by the presence of the Holy Spirit and through Baptism - from God to Jesus and from Jesus to us.

This week at worship, we'll talk more about Holy Winds and other weather, share compassion with one another, listen to Adele's version of "Make You Feel My Love" and give more reasons to listen to modern music to remind us of our Christian walks. I can't wait to see you all... weather permitting!

In Christ,

Pastor Brian



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.



JOYS & CONCERNS . . .

- Congratulations on John and Kora's new grandbaby, Luella Gene Cavanaugh, born to Jake and Dana on January 2, 2020!
- A joy to have the other Cavanaugh grandkids up to spend time with Grandma and Grandpa.
- Prayers for Amanda Zbacnik as she leaves for this week of seminary classes in the Twin Cities and that things go smoothly at home for Tom!
- John Piette's nephew welcomed a new baby girl recently!
- A joy that the Severson family was blessed by Best Christmas Ever — a true "see God" moment!
- Continued prayers for Jon Severson as he heals from his surgery to remove tumors last Friday.
- Ongoing prayers for the Thierer's past neighbors as they grieve the loss of their granddaughter.
- Prayers for Ann, coworker of Amanda Zbacnik, and her husband, Josh, as they grieve for their little baby, Josiah, who passed away at 12 days old. He was born very prematurely.
- Prayers of healing for John Malinka, brother-in-law of Ann Butler, who is back at the Mayo Clinic to have his wound cleaned as it is not healing.
- Prayers for Debra Debolt, coworker of Shane Johnson, who was diagnosed with ALS this past week.
- Prayers for Kermit Nielsen's friend, Keith, who was taking care of his cousin and the cousin passed away.
- Prayers for the troops being sent overseas.
- Prayers for Australia that they get some relief from the wildfires that are ravaging their country.
- Prayers for Team Glitter Unicorn.
- Prayers for Kora's cousin, Bob, who was recently diagnosed with bladder cancer.
- Continued prayers of comfort for Luiz Vega's family both in the US and Mexico. They are grieving the loss of Luiz's sister, Veronica.
- A joy that Randy Fahrenholz has met a very nice girl.
- Prayers for easy adjustment for the Bong family as Keith's 17-year-old son has recently moved in with him and Nan.
- Prayers for all parents who are struggling with raising good and decent humans that are respectful and considerate of others.
- Prayers of joy that Hope Falls was able to get much of Mike's family together that are spread all over the country to meet and share each others lives!
- Prayers that Jo Dunaiski's family was all able to get together over the holidays!
- Prayers for the Methodist denomination as they struggle through uncertain times ahead.

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.



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA

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



girl scouts

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



Birthday Blessings

Randy Fahrenholz

See you in church! and till then ...

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