



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.



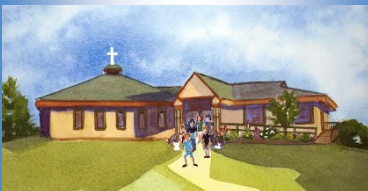
Reverend Brian Cornell

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, February 26 ~ Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 pm.

Sunday, March 1 ~ Adult Lenten Bible Study at 10:30 am. Dive deep into the history of the last days before the crucifixion with *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine.

Sunday, March 15 ~ Bishop Bruce Ough will be in the pulpit at Asbury UMC at 10:00 am. Northwood has been invited to worship with Asbury on this special Sunday. This is truly a worship service not to be missed! Clyde Iron's banquet room has been reserved for 12:15 pm following the Asbury UMC worship service for everyone who desires to share a meal with Bishop Ough. You order from the menu and pay for your own meal. **THERE WILL BE NO WORSHIP SERVICE AT NORTHWOOD ON THIS SUNDAY.**

Sunday, March 22 ~

- UMCOR Sunday! Gifts to UMCOR Sunday lay the foundation for all United Methodist Committee on Relief work by covering the cost of doing business. This means all contributions designated to specific programs can go 100% to those programs because UMCOR's basic expenses are covered. Prayerfully consider a generous gift to UMCOR this year!
- A Chicken Parmesan Dinner will be held at Norton Park UMC from noon to 2:00 pm. Tickets are \$11 for adults, \$6 for children 3-10 and free under 3. **Please call Claudia at 218-269-3508 for presale tickets by March 15.** A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. A bake sale will also be held.

Wednesday, March 25 ~ Youth Event from 6:00 to 7:30 pm! Just a Touch of Love Drive for Harbor House Crisis Shelter at NUMC.

Saturday, April 4 ~ Youth event at 7:00 pm! Mercy Me and Jeremy Camp concert at Amsoil Arena.

Thursday, April 9 ~ Experience our annual Judeo Christian Seder Meal at 5:30 pm. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to indicate your desire to attend.

Sunday, April 12 ~ Easter morning breakfast at 8:00 am! A delicious breakfast of egg bakes, fruit salad and baked goods followed by the Easter service at 9:00 am. There is a sign-up form in the Narthex for breakfast baked goods.

Sunday, April 26 ~ Spring Auction at 10:30 am! Bring items for auction or think of a service item to auction. If you haven't attended in the past, now is the time to check out this fun, laugh-a-minute, fast-paced fundraiser that will guarantee enjoyment! You could very well be going home with some very unique items! If you can't attend, please consider donating an item or a service to the auction.

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

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Taking Risks

I get a lot of mixed messages when it comes to risk.

When I worked briefly in insurance, I was encouraged to pursue clients with the least amount of risk exposure.

I've heard professional and personal coaches suggest some amount of risk is necessary to grow as a person and be a better boss or employee.

Society generally frowns upon risky behavior among teens, and yet children's development authors note teen brains and bodies are hardwired to take risks, teaching them how to handle life better as adults.



And these days, every church growth strategist or congregational behavior analyst I've read or I listened to say congregations must face risk if they are to remain relevant.

See what I mean about mixed messages? It comes then as something of a comfort to know we as followers of Christ are not the first ones to face risky things. For the next six Sundays, we as congregations can see how Jesus took a lot of risks on his way towards his Passion. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience. We will be talking about these questions during our Bible Study following worship each Sunday and covering the larger question of WHY Jesus was willing to take these risks during preaching in Sunday's worship.

Let me invite you and those you value to take a not-so-risky step of joining us for worship throughout Lent these 40 days and nights. I cannot promise that God won't offer some amount of new risks for us to face, but I can promise God will be with us in all things together.

Peace of Christ to each of you and wishing you a most Holy Lent.

Pastor Brian

JOYS, CONCERNS, GRATITUDE & NEEDS . . .

- The Lenten Retreat on Saturday, February 22, was wonderful!
- A joy to have Felipa Vega visiting Grandma and Grandpa Cavanaugh this week.
- A joy to have Ann Butler's sister Alice up this weekend and able to attend the Lenten Retreat.
- Prayers of comfort for the family of Margaret Conley, from our sister church, who passed suddenly on Saturday.
- Prayers of successful open-heart surgery to replace a valve and complete a bypass for Jon Propp on Monday and fast healing, as well as calm for his family.
- Prayers of safe travel for John and Kora Cavanaugh who leave this Thursday for Florida.
- Prayers for Kora's cousin, Bob, who is having his surgery at Mayo on Friday for his bladder cancer.
- Prayers of joy that the CEC Girl's Hockey Team played in the state championship game on Saturday!
- Continued prayers for Daisy Rose after a successful gallbladder surgery on Friday. She still has a lot of pain and discomfort.



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.

YOUTH GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS . . .

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| 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. |



BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA®

Sunday, March 8 & 22.
7:00 to 8:15 pm
Esko BS Troop 152
meeting at Northwood UMC.



girl scouts

Monday, March 2, 16 & 30.
5:30 to 6:30 pm
Esko GS Troop 4139
meeting at Northwood UMC.

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 Campbell, KY, 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.



The Boy Scouts Program
February

SHOUTS OUTS TO . . .

- The Northwood Singers for sharing their voices with us during service on Sunday, February 23!
- Pastor Brian and Pastor Katharine for their leadership at the Lenten Retreat on Saturday, February 22!
- Gary Sather for arranging for the ice dams to get taken care of on the roof!

See you in church! and till then . . .

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