



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!

ALL MARCH EVENTS INCLUDING SUNDAY SERVICE ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

GOING FORWARD WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED OF FUTURE CANCELLATIONS VIA EMAIL AND/OR FACEBOOK.

CANCELLED! Wednesday, March 18 ~

- Education meeting at the home of Daisy Rose at 6:30 pm.
- Trustees meeting at Northwood UMC at 6:30 pm.

CANCELLED! Thursday, March 19 ~ Sewing For Mission from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

CANCELLED! 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.

CANCELLED! 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.

CANCELLED! Friday, April 3 ~ Outreach meeting at the home of Kora Cavanaugh, 21 6th St, Cloquet, at 9:30 am.

CANCELLED! 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. A sign-up sheet is 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

“What Shall We Do?”

In Acts 2, Peter has just preached to the listening foreign Jews about the death and resurrection of Jesus. The listening Jews are overwhelmed. They are distraught. In their anguish, they cry out to Peter, “What shall we do?”

I know THAT cry. “What shall we do?” Given our current epidemic and the entire communal, societal and global response to the Corona Virus, the cry of the Acts 2 listening masses resonates with me... with us. Yes, congregation “What Shall We Do?”

There isn't a precedent in recent memory. Our closest perspectives come around the polio epidemic, where some eldest members remember being taught via radio at home. Can you imagine doing school from home via radio? Some if not all of our children may have that type of experience very soon.

I've been through all the emotions. “God, why is this happening?” to “Maybe this is the church growing to new things...” to “What about our most vulnerable populations?” to “What will the future look like?” And into all of these, God speaks of ‘peace beyond understanding.’ I used to think of this as such a deep peace I couldn't even fathom the type of rest it might provide. But in light of current events, it might mean to possess peace when no one can understand why you have any peace at all.

Let me try to speak out of the peace of Christ that told the Cornells ‘God would be with us’ among the families of Minnesota. Let me speak from the place where God has shown all of us time and time again we are loved, our creation was intentional and we were formed to love the Eternal and love our neighbors.

Let me speak out of the peace that comes with keeping people safe and edging towards God's edge — not always being self-protective but thinking of others: the least, the last and the lost. We need to be safe AND to care for ourselves and others as God desires for us. So what does that look like?

Last week, I asked our administrative ministry to consider what we could do for the five areas of Christian expression we have done since the time of Christ. And here is what we came up with:

1. Worship will continue, both online and by phone. For this next week, I will lead worship services at our normal time using Facebook Live broadcast from the Northwood Church Facebook page. I will ask my children to help with the services this week, and going forward we will ask congregation

LET THE PEACE OF CHRIST



RULE IN YOUR HEARTS...

members to assist. We “HOPE” to be using a phone service as well, because several of our church members do not have internet access, or don’t possess speeds necessary to live stream. To do this, please follow these instructions:

Subject: Northwood Worship

Date and Time: 03/22/2020 8:45 AM US/Central GMT-0500

Description: Worship and Sermon, Sharing of Prayers and Checking in, Kingdom Time

Dial-in number (US): (425) 436-6349

Access code: 872463#

International dial-in numbers: <https://fccdl.in/i/brianjcornell8>

Online meeting ID: brianjcornell8

Join the online meeting: <https://join.freeconferencecall.com/brianjcornell8>

For additional assistance connecting to the meeting text “Help” to the Dial-In number above. Message and data rates may apply.

2. Giving: At this time, the only way we have to keep our ministries perpetuated is to keep all giving consistent. Even without meeting regularly, we have the same commitments financially we had when the year started. So we ask that you mail your tithes and offering to:
Northwood UMC, P.O. Box 295, Esko, MN 55733.

3. Teaching and Discipleship: We ARE planning to continue our Bible study called “Entering the Passion of Jesus.” In fact, with the current situation, participation might be easier than before. Both Northwood AND Asbury UMC are planning to try an online format to continue. More about this will be emailed to participants AND emailed to the church.

4. Singing and Praying: I roll out a prayer train each week on Facebook (my page as well as the congregation pages). You can text or call me with prayer at 828-434-6995. You can email prayers to me at bcornell@wnccumc.net.

Singing... well, I have an idea, but I’ll need your help. Would you each be willing to pick a song that gives you hope for going forward and I’ll build a Spotify Northwood SoundTrack for the rest of Lent? Then, we can sing along at our heart’s content. We might not hear you, but God will (and anyone close to you when you let loose).

5. Service: Friends, this will be tricky. How do we help without infecting? How can we offer help when the regular ways are disrupted? I trust our Missions Team and as soon as they have ideas, I’ll share them with you. Just because things are hard, Christians have never hidden from the call to serve others. Let us start with looking towards our neighbors, sharing our willingness to care for them and even inviting them to attend our virtual worship, prayer, adding songs to a playlist and just listening when they express fear or any other emotion.

The peace that passes understanding right now means to me to hold on to the peace that is promised, not the one that I might not feel. I hope these immediate small steps help you in this season of extreme change while following a God who is unchanging. Let’s offer each other grace to know we are all doing the best we can with what we’ve got right now, and that we are still and always God’s beloved. I thank God for your company in this time of challenge.

Peace.

Pastor Brian



Dakotas-Minnesota Episcopal Area of The United Methodist Church

Bruce R. Ough, resident bishop

A message from Bishop Bruce R. Ough:

We are in unprecedented times. The coronavirus pandemic has gripped the world's attention and, in many places, is straining our disease prevention and health care systems. Nearly every conversation I have had in the past week, even at home, has included comments about the virus's impact on our daily lives. The rapid spread of the virus, the endless news cycle, and the ever-changing recommendations and directions from federal, state and local officials creates fear upon fear.

The common goal in all the steps being taken to close public schools, entertainment venues, and restaurants, and to restrict travel, is to retard the spread of the virus and flatten the now infamous infection curve, in large part to not overwhelm our health care assets.

Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a new recommendation: For the next eight weeks, all gatherings of 50 people or more should be canceled or postponed. Also yesterday, here in Minnesota, Governor Walz announced a nearly two-week closure of all K-12 schools in the state, to begin no later than Wednesday, March 18.

I believe those of us in the faith community should be the first responders when it comes to the spiritual, physical, and mental health of all of God's people. Thus, **I am asking all United Methodist congregations in the Minnesota Conference to suspend in-person worship through the end of March.** Further, I urge the postponement or cancellation of all non-essential, in-person small group meetings or gatherings in our church buildings during this timeframe. Finally, I urge all pastors to exercise thoughtful discretion with regard to conducting funerals or other religious rites and pastoral visitations. Stricter recommendations are being announced almost daily, so I will revisit these recommendations by the end of March.

I do not take this action lightly. In more than 40 years of ministry, I have never recommended the suspension of worship, except in extremely bad weather. What might feel like overreaction today is likely the response needed to avoid a greater crisis tomorrow. For me, this is not an emotional, political, or economic response. This response is a matter of civic responsibility and spiritual leadership.

The coronavirus pandemic has extraordinarily changed the context for each of our pastors as spiritual leaders and each of our congregations as safe harbors. Our spiritual leaders are being challenged to claim the authority and power to adapt and expand their missional imperative to heal a broken world to address these unprecedented circumstances.

I encourage our spiritual leaders to consider anew our five-fold membership vow as a template for

Continued on next page...

his/her ministry during this season of disruption and adaptation. When spiritual leaders join a United Methodist congregation, they pledge to participate in its ministries through prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Here are some ways in which our spiritual leaders will continue to do that:

PRAYERS – Initiating a prayer ministry for those infected with the virus, the heroic health care providers, and all those in each congregation and community who are or will be isolated by the social distancing and cessation of large gatherings and businesses.

PRESENCE – Conducting online or live-streamed worship, Bible studies, and discipleship classes, and organizing regular phone calls or video chats with and among parishioners.

GIFTS – Promoting online giving; the ministry and mission of each congregation and the larger United Methodist connection will go on. We will not stumble or fall; we will not stall or go into a holding pattern. The mission is paramount, and the need for our witness does not wane, but actually increases during a crisis.

SERVICE – Consider how to promptly, but safely, provide food assistance or other essential services to those on the margins or most vulnerable during this pandemic.

WITNESS – Let us show our communities and the world that the people called Methodist practice grace upon grace and not fear upon fear. Do not hunker down; get creative in how you go about sharing the faith. The primary way we receive and learn and perpetuate the faith is through relationships. Maintain your relationships with one another. Initiate new relationships – they are a phone call or video chat away. Take care of one another; show Christ's love. Social distancing is not an excuse for disengagement; it is a call for holy imagination.

Let us remember during these uncertain days that God is with us. My prayers are with you.

Bishop Ough recently lead worship and preached at the March 15 worship service at Asbury United Methodist Church. If you would like to view the worship service and listen to Bishop's Ough's sermon, it is available on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/S10X5szvln8>

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.



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

CANCELLED!

girl scouts

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

See you in church! and till then ...

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