



NORTHWOOD

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 295, 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.



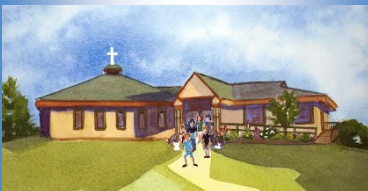
Reverend Brian Cornell

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

CANCELLED! Sunday, March 29 ~ Adult Lenten Bible Study Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine at 10:30 am.

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

POSTPONED! 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.

Wednesday, April 15 ~ Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting in the Fireside Room at 5:30 pm.

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.

NUMC OUTREACH SQUAD . . .

Hello Church Family! Do you need:

- A helping hand?
- Grocery items?
- Prescription or medicine pick up?
- Take-out meal pick-up and delivery?
- Cheering up?

Call the Northwood Outreach Squad to get the help you need! We are "on the ready" to help! Don't hesitate! Our schedule is filling up fast!

Barb Lammi (r) 218-383-9608 or Kora Cavanaugh (l) 218 310-7380.



COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Dear CHURCH,

Never have I written this title more appropriately. For the church is not a building, it is a people. And today, the church exists wherever you are found. For those still serving in purposeful and essential places in our community, you have our thanks and gratitude. For those sheltering in place to protect people you'll never know, thank you for your humility and servant hearts. And for those honest in their bewilderment of disrupted patterns, habits and concerns, bless you. For you... and all of us... are inheriting the kingdom of God.

I do not believe God gave us this virus. Please hear me on this. This virus can hurt, kill and maim the things that God considers sacred. This virus targets those already vulnerable and exploits their weakness. This is one of the things that God and our scriptures are clear upon; God considers creation a sacred event and humankind's creation is special in these regards. And along with this, Jesus prioritizes caring for the weak, the sick, the poor, the vulnerable. IF we are caught caring for these brothers and sisters, we care directly for Jesus.

God doesn't want us to suffer needlessly. Yet since the fall of creation (and through the actions of humankind again and again), God tries to keep us from being selfish and we warp out and assume our worst characteristics. And God works to save. We suffer the arrows we inflict upon ourselves and others, but God is in the New Kingdom, trying to make our way better all the time. Leading us toward our best selves of loving God fully and loving others. So while we say clearly, "The virus is NOT God's will," we can also say "God is with us in this time."

While the onslaught of the virus is upon us, we can name its wrongness AND work to make things better. This is why we are following our Bishop's invitation to discontinue worship at our congregation building and to keep others (and ourselves) safe by following the best practices we know to still worship AND make our world better. God didn't create this situation, but God can be present WITH US in this and all struggles. God can also be IN US as we reach out to continue God's work in worshipping, sharing our gifts, praying and studying, doing Good (God) deeds and by being present and singing with one another.

We haven't stopped. This week, over 100 people joined us online for some or all of worship. Did you invite someone to join us? Thank you! Could you still invite someone? Heck yes!

Some of us have been visited by the Northwood MerryMakers who attempted to juggle, sing and dance (with a ... mop?) to make us laugh/cry with joy. Some of us have been calling and texting one another to see how each of us are doing. Some of us have interacted in the Friday/Saturday prayer train as it rolled on Facebook. And some of us even got together in GoogleHangouts to laugh, meet and just say "I miss you" to one another. I'm told others are checking mail; while others are counting tithes and others still paying our bills while we never stop being CHURCH. God is still with us and we are God's people.

Yes, lots of things are changing. It is okay to be stressed at this time. It is okay to be overwhelmed. But we never stop being loved by God and being the ones called to love others. Maybe someone near you needs to hear the person they think has it all together feels strung out? Maybe someone just needs a call to see how they are doing? If God brings someone to mind, act on it. Because we are all in this together.

God didn't do this, but you and I can certainly profess that God is in the midst of this, holding us and others together. How can we use these moments to witness to God's saving power and enact God's grace and mercy with others?

I hope you'll keep each other and myself on your shortlist of people to call for any reason (or no reason at all) and know we are more than ready to be present with you. For you are the CHURCH.

With peace and affection,

Brian



JOYS, CONCERNS, GRATITUDE & NEEDS . . .

COVID-19 Prayer Requests:

- Prayers for all people, especially those ill with COVID-19.
- Prayers for all health care providers.
- Prayers for the staff and residents of health care facilities.
- Prayers for those who have had their jobs eliminated, put on hold or hours reduced.
- Prayers for all people who provide us food, either by growing it, delivering it to the stores, stock persons and for check out clerks.
- Prayers for all of the nation's semi-truck drivers.
- Prayers for a smooth transition for all students experiencing on line learning and for the teachers who prepare these lessons.

Online Worship March 22 Prayer Requests:

- Prayers for all our healthcare workers submitted by Diana Kuenzli.
- Brenda who is in kidney failure submitted by Janace Grant Grigsby.
- Prayers for on-campus college students returning from spring break who now need to finish their education online submitted by Amanda Zbacnik.
- Prayers for total healing and that it hasn't spread for Doug who has melanoma submitted by Susan Kelly Taylor.
- Prayers for Andrew Kaiser, a family friend of the Propps, hospitalized for cancer treatment submitted by Bonny Propp.

Additional Prayer Requests:

- Prayers of healing for Jon Propp who continues to recover from heart surgery.
- Prayers of healing for our former church member Joyce Alision recovering from a broken hip.

Prayer Requests may be texted or called in to Pastor Brian at 828-434-6995.
 Prayer requests also may be emailed to Pastor Brian at bcornell@wnccumc.net
 If you would like your request to appear in the newsletter, please also email to Shirley at shirleybob15@gmail.com and/or Ann Butler at annonpond@yahoo.com

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!


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.