



# NORTHWOOD

## UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 295, 62 West Highway 61, Esko, MN 55733

Pastor Brian Cornell ~ 828-434-6995

[bcornell@wnccumc.net](mailto:bcornell@wnccumc.net)

Sunday Online Worship: 9:00 am

### A church with a BIG heart!



**Reverend Brian Cornell**

Check out our website for online worship, pictures and upcoming events! Weekly newsletters and bulletins also are available for viewing.

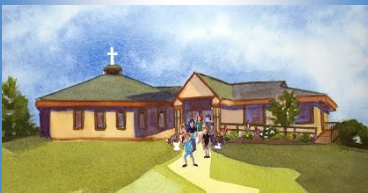
[www.northwoodesko.com](http://www.northwoodesko.com)

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](mailto:shirleybob15@gmail.com).

Please also cc to Ann Butler at: [annonpond@yahoo.com](mailto:annonpond@yahoo.com)



## PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!

**Wednesday, July 8** ~ Administrative Council Meeting in a socially distant setting at 7:00 pm. Please bring a mask and lawn chair in case we decide to meet outside.

**Sunday, July 12** ~ Facebook or YouTube Live Worship service at 9:00 am. Links to view the video will be emailed out prior to Sunday. The link will also be on Northwood UMC's website at [www.northwoodesko.com](http://www.northwoodesko.com)

All online worship services dating back to March 22, 2020 may be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/Northwood-United-Methodist-Church-Esko-MN-113344768735604/> or on the Worship page at Northwood's newly updated website at [www.northwoodesko.com](http://www.northwoodesko.com)

**Please send your Tithes and Offerings to  
Northwood UMC, P. O. Box 295, Esko MN 55733**

### SHOUT OUTS FOR . . .

- Everyone who participated in the Twin Ports United Methodist Ministries Laity Sunday Worship Service. Very nicely done!
- Amanda Zbacnik and children Brody and Maddox for doing Kingdom Time for the July 5 Worship service.

### 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, and Alex Lammi serving in Memphis, son of Barb and Ted Lammi.

### CHECKING IN . . .

**Where have you See God? Need God?  
Feel Joy? Feel Gratitude?**

Please share your thoughts by calling Pastor Brian at 828-434-6995 or emailing [bcornell@wnccumc.net](mailto:bcornell@wnccumc.net)

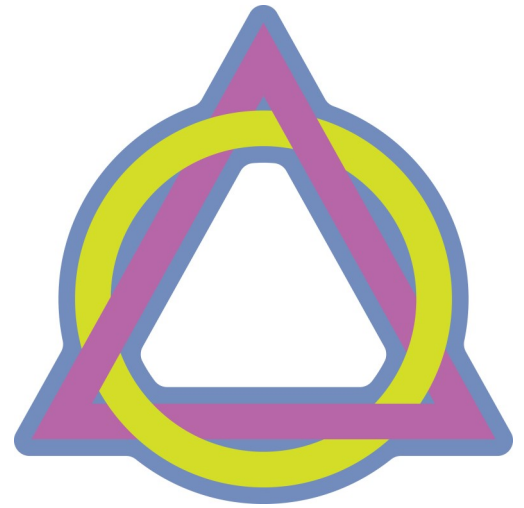
If you would like to share your thoughts in the newsletter, please email to Shirley at [shirleybob15@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybob15@gmail.com) and/or Ann Butler at [annonpond@yahoo.com](mailto:annonpond@yahoo.com)

# COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

## Working On the Trifecta

Greetings Church Family!

**M**y family is returning from vacation with the privilege of perspective and rest. And one of the things soothing my heart is hearing our children saying they are 'excited to get HOME'. They mean **Minnesota!** We had a great time on vacation. We saw people we love, stayed in places we appreciate. Yet they consider our community and space in Esko as home. This makes my heart glad! It means the seeds we are planting by living with new people in a new place are taking root in our boys' hearts. As parents, we pray for this. We want our children to find solace in their creation and be content to grow where they are planted. Now we return to Esko to keep this growth alive and prospering for God's kingdom.



This is what we all are about in this life together. Finding ways to gather God's work in us and to find peace in this discovery. A couple of days before leaving for vacation, I witnessed for each other's growth and joy, finding ways to remember several places where growth was happening. I attended a funeral where the family of the departed celebrated the joy and love these beloved souls left behind. Later that day at a baptism, we celebrated another child of God only this time, less than a year old. We talked about cultivating lives of faith around him so that he would grow WITH us and know of God's purpose for him and his life. Finally, the day ended with two middle-aged adults sharing in vows to marry, knowing better than many they were walking into a garden of opportunity that needs constant care and cultivation under God's nurturing leadership.

After sharing about this rare occurrence on Facebook, a friend offered I had participated in the pastoral Trifecta. And as I considered this, a different thought came to my mind. We are all working on participating in some version of this Trifecta, as it were. All of us in the Christian life have a place or places where we claimed Faith or had it claimed for us. All of us have places in our lives when we declare through our actions, our words, or both who it is that will be traveling with us in this journey of growth and faith. And all of us, save Jesus, Enoch (maybe) and Elijah, can fully expect at some point to "die" and pass into another version of God's kingdom. So we are all working on the Trifecta.

As your pastor, I want our whole church family to experience growth in God's kingdom. These are different days from ones we've experienced before, yet God's care and instructions anticipate changes in our lives. And God's invitation to enter The Kingdom never wavers; Jesus constantly tells us how we might recognize the kingdom in us and around us.

My hope for the coming weeks is to explore more fully how we are growing and to encourage all of us to enter more fully God's work in us and in the community around us. My family is returning to Esko, MN and we are encouraged to continue God's work while celebrating the coming Kingdom.

Peace to you,

Pastor Brian

## JOYS, CONCERNS, GRATITUDE & NEEDS . . .

- Continuing prayers for everyone and all circumstances being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continuing prayers for Shirley Fahrenholz as she recovers from triple bypass surgery.
- Prayers for Ted and Barb Lammi and family in the death of Barb's brother, John Roed, from cancer. Services are pending.
- Prayers for safe travel home as the Cornell family continue their southern vacation.
- Prayers for Denny Day who is having hip surgery on July 8.



*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](mailto:bcornell@wnccumc.net)  
If you would like your request to appear in the newsletter, please also email to  
Shirley at [shirleybob15@gmail.com](mailto:shirleybob15@gmail.com) and/or Ann Butler at [annonpond@yahoo.com](mailto:annonpond@yahoo.com)*

## VIDEOS NEEDED . . .

The worship team is looking for videos or a collage of pictures about 3 minutes in length to be played as a backdrop for Sunday's Special Music each week. Nature videos would be most appropriate. If you have a good eye and camera, please e-mail your result to Pastor Brian at [bcornell@wnccumc.net](mailto:bcornell@wnccumc.net)



### **It's summer and the lawn needs mowing!**

Contact Gary Sather at 879-0041  
to have your name added to the mowing schedule!

## 2021 INTERIM EPISCOPAL LEADERSHIP . . .

The North Central Jurisdiction College of Bishops announces the plan proposed to and approved by the Council of Bishops for episcopal leadership for 2021 in light of the vocational retirements of Bishop Sally Dyck and Bishop Bruce Ough.

Bishop David Bard has been selected to assume primary supervisory responsibility for the Minnesota Conference. This assignment begins January 1, 2021, and continues until another bishop is assigned, but no later than December 31, 2021.

For more information, go to: <https://www.minnesotaumc.org/newsdetail/episcopal-leadership-2021-14121153>

For more information about Bishop Bard, go to: <https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/person-detail/2463374>

See you virtually and until we meet again ...

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