



# 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 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, September 9** ~ Administrative Council Meeting in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

**Sunday, September 13** ~ Parking lot worship in the back parking lot at 9:00 am. Bulletins will be available at the service. If you are unable to attend the parking lot worship please view online worship on Facebook or YouTube at 9:00 am. Links to view the video will be emailed out prior to Sunday. The link will also be available at [www.northwoodesko.com](http://www.northwoodesko.com)

All online worship services may be viewed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Northwood-United-Methodist-Church-Esko-MN-113344768735604/> on YouTube at [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCizZVSYdgxa81\\_CEBbIXQyw?view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCizZVSYdgxa81_CEBbIXQyw?view_as=subscriber) or on the Worship page 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 . . .

- Amanda Zbacnik for vocals and Phyllis Kruell of Asbury UMC accompanying for the special music on Sunday, September 6, "Bless the Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts.

### WHEELS ON WEDNESDAYS (WOW) . . .

Our Wheels on Wednesdays bike riding get together will meet Wednesday, September 9 at 4:00 pm at the Munger Trail Pavilion in Carlton. We will be heading south this time on the Munger Trail. We will social distance while riding our bikes for fun! Families welcome. Helmets required. **For more info, call Barb Lammi at 218-393-9608.**



### 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

## Forgiveness

**Romans 14:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup> Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup> Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup> Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

forgive 

**A** friend asked recently, “How has COVID changed things for you, apart from no more hospital visits, no in-person worship, weddings or funerals inside or youth meetings?” After we both laughed (because what else is there?), I thought about where I’ve seen the most change professionally and I have to say it is the elevation of FEELINGS. It is EVERYWHERE.

Everything is weighted, everything is political, everything is huge, and everything has unseen consequences. Case in point: Momma looked at someone’s school schedule and suggested a change to her son. The son’s response? Tears. Momma and son had to both be reminded they were ‘good people’. We’re just more than a little emotionally vulnerable right now. All of us.

I don’t know what emotions Paul was running into when he wrote his letter to the Romans, but it sounds like BIG EMOTIONS were around then, too. Basically, Paul defends vegetarians (even though ‘some’ think they are weak) and then says, ‘Who are you to pass judgment on others’, offering that the LORD can make the weak vegetarians stand. (BRATWURST SOLIDARITY, Y’ALL!)

I offer this with some humor, but also want to admit that Big Emotions are everywhere in our world, and our congregation is no different. All of us are stepping into a world our generations have never seen before and we are all writing the book on how to deal with it as we go forward. That said, I want to offer some suggestions others have made in faith - even in scripture - to help us move forward.

Paul’s letter to the Romans invites us to not pass judgment, but it doesn’t say we have to join them. Does your diet include delicious brats? Good on you then. Your diet is made up of healthy and vitamin-rich vegetables? Winner, winner... Chicken-less dinner! But in either case, we are also invited to stay from condemnation. What helps me is to TURN TO WONDER. Often shared by the spiritual mystics of our tradition, WONDER is a state that allows us to hold others in God’s wisdom and mercy and just ask questions. “Why do they eat only veggies?”, “What in their past has shaped their need for bacon?”, “How do they lift weights and look so healthy eating \_\_\_\_\_?”

Wonder is the state that allows us to suspend judgment and to still love someone while inviting a deeper understanding.

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My second recommendation is not very original. It comes from God's story over and over and over. Jesus reused it and let us know it was pretty essential. FORGIVENESS.

Now I'm preaching to the choir, but the gist of it is "If God can have mercy on us, the least we can do is to show it to one another". Let's go back to the plight of the vegetarians. I'm a vegetarian, but I keep a cow to drink milk. Now my neighbor, who eats meat, kills and eats my cow. Seriously wrong, correct? While we can turn to wonder (like 'what on earth is going on in that diet of theirs they think eating other people's property is okay?') we also are comfortable in the position something wrong has been done to us. Within that position, we can approach our scary neighbor and ask, "what the hey possessed you to eat my milk cow?"

IF, IF, IF they repent and make actions to repent (replace the cow, promise to not eat their neighbor's meat, ask to be forgiven), we are then asked by God through the example of Christ, to forgive them, too.

And, how many times are we asked to forgive them? Yeah, we'll get into that on Sunday. Maybe bring something to eat if you get hungry?

See you at church!

With love,  
Pastor Brian

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### **PRAYER WARRIORS! . . .**

Northwood United Methodist Church is in the finishing stages of getting the childcare program at the church, Growing with Love, LLC, up and running (we have two remaining inspections). Northwood's childcare subcommittee met recently and are asking everyone to join them in praying:

*"As we prepare to open this new childcare facility,  
let us ask God's blessing on all who will be involved in its operation —  
as students, educators, parents, and staff.  
We praise you for the gift of children, who bring joy to our lives,  
and brighten our hearts with promise.  
We thank You for calling us to serve You by caring for their educational needs.  
We pray that this new childcare be a place of joy, love, peace and growth  
in knowledge and skills illumined by faith.  
Send your holy angels to abide here,  
to guide and protect all who pass through these doors.  
May all who enter and exit the childcare be filled  
with the love of Jesus in their hearts.  
We make this prayer to You, Jesus Christ, who is Lord. Amen"*

Thank you for spreading your love!

An article on Amanda Groth and Growing With Love, LLC, appeared in the August 27, 2020 edition of the Pine Journal. A tentative opening date is set for September 28. To read the entire article please go to: <https://www.pinejournal.com/business/small-business/6631886-New-day-care-center-addresses-need-in-Esko>

*"Peace within self has to be practiced!"*

— Pastor Brian



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

- Continuing prayers for everyone and all circumstances being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Continuing prayers for healing of Shirley's wounds from her heart surgery.
- Prayers of continuing healing for Julie Day who is home and doing better.
- Prayers for Amanda and Matt Tonner as they prepare for the birth of their daughter due on September 8
- Prayers for John Thierer's sister, Penny, who is in hospice suffering from two broken hips, cancer and lupis.
- Prayers of thankfulness that Kermit's daughter who bought a house 2 years ago and fixed it up has sold it at the top of the market. She now resides in Duluth.
- Prayers of thankfulness from Ted that as we celebrate Labor Day we reflect on the end of child labor and the establishment of a 40-hour work week.
- Prayers of gratitude for the Esko high school principal, Greg Hexum, who dropped off Esko face masks for the Cornells in thanks for them "showing up" for a video call.

*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)

### **DISCIPLESHIP WORK PARTNERS SOUGHT . . .**

Pastor Brian is looking to create or partner with a new group of faith friends for discipleship work. Short-term goals are the current priority; later he would like to turn to long-term goals. The Cornell family has adopted a daily practice of efforts to grow physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally. They set goals on Sunday, then use lunch every day to see how each person is doing. If any of you would like to partner in this, please let Pastor Brian know. He especially wants to invite members of Northwood and Norton Park UMC, but anyone can participate. If you are interested, please contact him by calling or texting to phone at 828-434-6995 or email at [bcornell@wnccumc.net](mailto:bcornell@wnccumc.net) or Facebook. A PM group will be created out of those interested and Pastor Brian plans to give it a go for about four weeks.

### **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.

*See you virtually and until we meet again ...*

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