

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

Taking VOWS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Northwood UMC,

We are starting a whole new season of worship in our congregation. For the next six weeks, our focus will be upon “VOWS” and in particular, the baptismal and membership vows of belonging in our congregation. Some of you will probably remember the vows, as at least once a year, if not more we have ‘remembered’ our Baptism in worship services. We also had two infant baptisms this summer where again the vows of Baptism were read aloud and adults spoke of their promise to teach and lead the children to fulfill these promises.

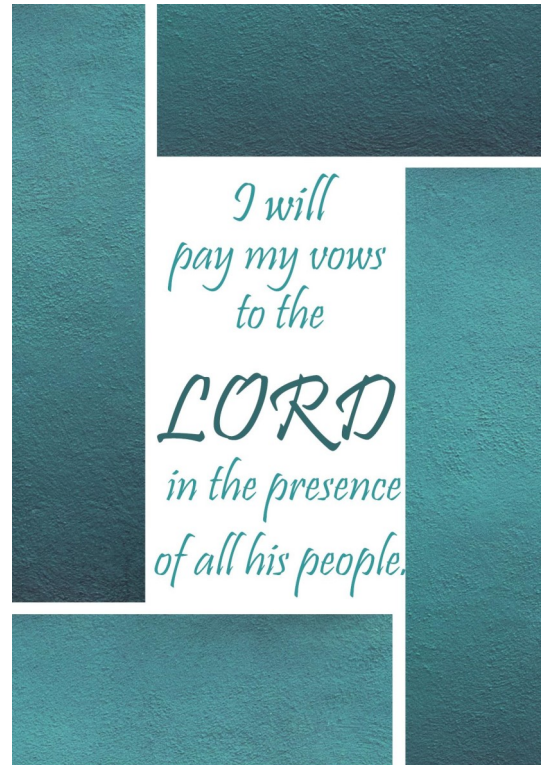
So what does taking VOWS mean and what are the particular vows of being part of our congregation? VOWs are a public declaration of our effort to ‘show up’ in particular ways. The most widely known example of vows is those taken when getting married. If you were to hear “For richer, for poorer, in sickness [and in health, for so long as we both shall live...” you might think you’d just stumbled into a wedding service. In the same way, if you heard people repeating “... to the flag of the United States of America. And to the Republic for which it stands...” you would assume a gathered assembly was reminding themselves of the “oath” or vow of US citizens to give our flag and nation special honor in our activities.

So in this same way, our Baptism and membership ceremonies have vows, where we each pledge to ‘show up’ in meaningful ways for our congregation. How we do it may differ for each individual but the effort is similar in saying we will support one another, our congregation and God’s work in our midst through “Our Prayers, Our Presence, Our Gifts, Our Service and Our Witness”. I look forward to exploring each of these topics and our congregational expression of them in the weeks ahead.

One more thing: One commitment or VOW I want to make to each member in our congregation is to design worship services that please God and allow all to participate. While this is harder in current times than ever before, your involvement in worship is paramount to our expression of commitment to one another. If you are finding worship challenging as it is offered and have any ideas of what could make it more inviting for everyone while keeping our participants safe, please let me or Ann Butler know. We want to worship God and to keep inviting others for a deeper experience of God’s love and forgiveness. Thanks so much and may God’s peace be with you in the coming week.

Peace in Christ,

Pastor Brian



“The good news is that God is faithful and he walks with us”

— Pastor Brian