



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

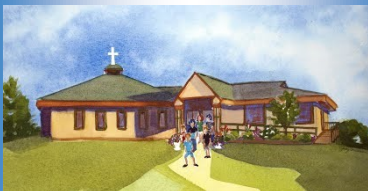
Check out our website for online worship, pictures and upcoming events! Weekly newsletters and bulletins also are available for viewing.

www.northwoodesko.com

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!

Sunday, September 27 ~ Parking lot worship in Northwood's 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

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 or on the Worship page at www.northwoodesko.com

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

SHOUT OUTS FOR . . .

- Linda Talbot, accompanied by Kathy Moland from Norton Park UMC for the special music, "You Are Always on My Mind" on Sunday, September 20.

WHEELS ON WEDNESDAYS (WOW) . . .

Our Wheels on Wednesdays bike riding get together will meet Wednesday, September 23 at 4:00 pm at the Munger Trail Pavilion in Carlton. 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

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

COLLOQUIES with Pastor Brian

What Do You Think?

Matthew 21:28-32

²⁸ 'What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, "Son, go and work in the vineyard today." ²⁹ He answered, "I will not"; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, "I go, sir"; but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said, 'The first.' Jesus said to them, 'Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.'



What Do You Think?

This Sunday, if we get our act together, you will hear a sermon sharing why Moses leading the Israelites out of the desert is like Jesus talking about belief in God's kingdom. Today, I want to share more mundane thoughts.

Primarily, I ask that we concentrate on just the passage of Matthew 21:28-32. And here's my question: Where have you had a child tell you they'd do something and they didn't do it or a child say they wouldn't and then they did? Its a real question. Please, if you are reading this and you have seen this type of behavior, would you mind contacting me and letting me know? Because with the pandemic and homeschooling, THIS STORY IS OUR LIVES!

We have more than just two sons, of course, but I need both my fingers AND my toes to count how many times a child promises me they will do something and then they don't follow through. On the other hand, I have some children who will protest loudly and often about something I asked them to do and I quit, exasperated only to find out their guilt (or another child leaning on them) has made them go and do the thing I asked them to do. And yet, here is the really strange thing.

Jesus' version of this story LIFTS UP the story of the first son, the one who did the will of the father but had said they would not, and then compares them to prostitutes and tax collectors. Anyone else uncomfortable with this story? Let me ask you another way, which of your children is the prostitute or which one works for the IRS?

I know, right? And I have a bigger challenge. Can I admit to you that some part of me wants to be lied to? When one of our kids fights us tooth and nail to not cooperate with what we are asking or need, it takes all the joy out of a situation. Later, even if they do what we asked, we often find ourselves unhappy still because of how hard it was to convince them to participate. On the other hand, when we are lied to (I hope unintentionally, but still...) by a child promising to do something but then 'forgetting', we are usually disappointed, but a lot less exhausted or frustrated. It depends how many times we have to ask, of course.

So this week and before filming Thursday or preaching Sunday, I have to figure out what Jesus means by all of this. What do you think?

Again, please let me know what you have observed in your own homes. I don't have a moral or teaching yet. I'm just perplexed. I hope God's own instruction to you in your living and learning might help me see this in new light. Here's hoping to hear from you! My contact information is below.

With appreciation,

Rev. Brian

828-434-6995 and bcornell@wnccumc.net



JOYS, CONCERNS, GRATITUDE & NEEDS . . .

- Prayers for grace, protection and care for everyone affected by COVID-19.
- Condolences for John Thierer on the passing of his sister, Penny. Prayers of comfort for the family.
- Prayers for Sheila, a high school friend of Phil Powers who recently lost two siblings within days of each other.
- Prayers for a cousin of Kermit's, Clyde and Clyde's daughter Dawn. Clyde lost his brother and his daughter was sentenced to prison all in the same week.
- Prayers for Amanda Groth and the Childcare Center at Northwood UMC moving ahead.
- Prayers of protection for the children and providers in our education system -- keep them safe with the pandemic.
- Prayers for all those fighting COVID-19 and prayers of support for their family members.
- Prayers for rain and safety for those dealing with the wildfires on the West Coast.
- Prayers for safety for those dealing with the massive storms on the East Coast and the Gulf states.
- Prayers for our country as we mourn the loss of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsburg and the equality that she fought for.
- Prayers for all people of our nation. We ask for love and respect as we go through the weeks leading up to a contentious election.

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

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS NEEDS OUR HELP! . . .

The Lutheran World Relief, where school backpacks are sent through the God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) program, are in desperate need of school supplies. Please collect and deliver your supplies to Zion Lutheran Church, 1000 Washington Ave., Cloquet, before September 29.

Due to the pandemic there will **NOT** be a large group of volunteers assembling the school supplies in the backpacks as only a couple of individuals are needed.

Zion Lutheran Church office hours are Monday—Thursday 9:00 to 11:00 am, and Friday 11:00 am to noon. Please call ahead 879-4647. Or, you can contact Barb Lammi before September 28 at 218-393-9608 and she will pick up your items.



Mark Your Calendar! Norton Park UMC is having their "Outdoor" Holiday Harvest Bazaar on Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at 436 North 79th Ave. West. This will be a "drive by" sale this year due to COVID 19. Please wear a mask and social distance. There will be crafts, baked goods, fall & Scandinavian treats, a cherry tree, Halloween treat bags and next to new seasonal items.

A curbside lunch takeout will be available which includes a chicken hot dish, veggies, jello, homemade bun and a dessert.

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.

"Forgiveness is at the very heart of the Christian journey!"

— Pastor Brian