



# Motley Free Methodist Church

## "In His Grip"

Motley Free Methodist Church, 33 Wellwood Street E, Motley, MN. 56466

December 2018

Pastor Jim Johnson: [pastorjim05@brainerd.net](mailto:pastorjim05@brainerd.net) 218.352.6888

Pastor Charles Mallory: [CharlesMFMC@gmail.com](mailto:CharlesMFMC@gmail.com) 218.352.6022

<http://www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com>

## A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Micah 6:8 (NIV) *"He has showed you, oh man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God"*

Do you ever have those days when you wonder "what next", you have the sense that if anything else can go wrong it probably will too.

I know that we all have those days when it seems like the weight of the world is on us and we are supposed to be able to figure it all out and slug through the challenges of life. I know you have been there too. It seems like there have been a lot of those lately.

Then I turn to scripture and am reminded of verses like this, that remind me.... "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God". This is what God asks of us, His people. Trusting Him when it seems hardest is when we need to trust Him most.

I pray that this Christmas season is one that is a blessing to you, in spite of life's challenges and difficulties. I pray that you can find and have real joy and real peace and real comfort this Christmas season. Remember the source of our joy and peace is Jesus Christ.

Our children will be performing a Christmas program for us during the second service (10:30 am) on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. please plan to watch them and support them on this day. We will have our first service like always and then during the second service we will hear from our children.

Once again, we will have our annual Christmas eve service on December 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. This is an evening of music, generally. We want to invite you to come and worship with us that evening and if you would like to play or sing a song for us that evening please let Jessica Judd know what that will be, so we can have you on the program too.

I want to thank you again for being such a blessing to others, less fortunate, during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Thank you for the meals prepared and delivered. Thank you for the "angels" pulled off the Christmas tree to help children and young people.

Thank you for contributing to others Christmas joy this season again. God bless you.

This year is quickly coming to a close already. On January 13<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) we will have our annual meeting after pot-luck dinner that day. Please pray for this congregation. Please pray for leading and direction from God as to our future and how God will use us next year, and the next and beyond. Please pray for the salvation of souls and for the church of Jesus Christ (us too) to be a Holy people in an unholy time.

Please continue to pray that God would raise up an army of prayer warriors, missionaries, pastors, evangelists, teachers and leaders from our congregation and the church at large.

Thank you for being a part of our family. May God guide us into and through this season and into the new year. May God be glorified in who we are and what we do, now and always.

Serving Jesus and serving you.

Jim

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Words from Pastor Jim	1
Upcoming Events	2
Small Group Information	2
Women's Ministry Information	3
Youth News	3
Children's Programming Information	3
Nursery Schedule	3
All In Kids Update	4
Young Adult Ministry	5
Calendar of Events	6

## Upcoming Events:

- Dec. 3- BOA meeting
- Dec. 8- Women's Ministry meeting
- Dec. 16- Children's Christmas program
- Dec. 19- Kidz Club Store Night
- Dec. 19- Youth Christmas party
- Dec. 24- Christmas Eve service
- Dec. 25- Merry Christmas!



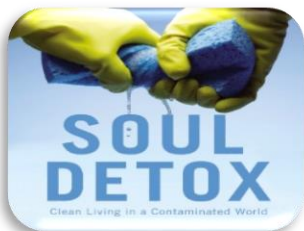
## Small Group Information:

As a part of a growing body, the best way to have a more intimate fellowship and Bible study is to be involved in a small group. Here at the Motley Free Methodist Church we currently have 8 small group opportunities...

- Sunday morning at 9:00 Youth Bible Study with Tim Judd in the Fellowship Hall
- Sunday morning at 10:30 in the Fellowship Hall, led by Chris Neal or Dan Rose studying 1 Timothy
- Sunday evening at 5:00 pm, Young Married Couples led by Ron & Dorothy Odenthal
- Tuesday evening Bible Study starting at 6:30 pm studying John
- Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall studying the book of 1 Samuel

- Wednesday afternoon intercessory prayer team at 12:00 pm
- Thursday evenings Men's Group at 6:30 pm with Wayne Johnson & Mike Horstmann
- Thursday evenings Women's Bible Study at 6:30-8 pm studying Worship by Henry Blackaby Led by Susie Horstmann & Barb Hirschey
- Saturday evening prayer group at the church at 6 pm with Pastor Jim

*Please pray about which group you can be a part of or if you would be willing to lead a different small group please see Tim Judd-Small Group Head or Pastor Jim!*



### Young Adult Study: "Soul Detox"

*A study to bring awareness to the negative impact that the "toxic poisons" of societal norms can have on our thoughts, language, relationships and behaviors.*

- Five lessons – Begins January 6<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup>
- Three meetings times to choose from
- Book and study guide provided *free of charge*
- Sessions led by Asst. Pastor Charles Mallory

The five sessions will help grow and strengthen your faith to "detox" from the worldly influences that can be toxic to our life and witness. **Send name, email and contact number** along with the **study (day) you will like to attend** to: charlesmfmcc@gmail.com

Come visit one of the session you would like to join:

1. Sunday Night: 6-7PM: Lakewood Hospital (Staples) downstairs main conference room:  
**JAN 6, 13, 20, 27, FEB 3**
2. Wednesday: 11:30am-12:30pm: Church Fellowship Hall:
3. Wednesday: 6:00-7:00pm: Church Sanctuary

**BOTH Wednesday schedules are: JAN 9, 16, 23, 30, FEB 6**

## Women's Ministry News:

I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds. Psalm 9:1

God has been so faithful and good to our body at the MFMC! The Women group met Saturday, November 10, at 10 am. The group had a devotional led by Hope Johnson and then recapped what the Women's group has been up to!

For the November meeting, the women planned to have a light luncheon for our December 8, 2018 meeting after packing Christmas goodie bags. This will be a light pot-luck soup and sandwich meal before delivering the Christmas goodie bags that we will be putting together that day! Then we discussed that there would be a Thanksgiving service at the church on Sunday, November 18, 2018 with refreshments following. The angel tree is off to a great start all the angels have been claimed and Linda Beebe will be collecting these items on or before December 16<sup>th</sup> to get to the families! Thank you everyone who is helping to brighten a family's Christmas in our area! Next, we put together 28 Thanksgiving baskets to give to families or widows in our body and beyond. The women's group also gave out 8 gift cards as well for meals! Val gave an update on the All-In Kids club program. It is doing well, however, if you would like to help donate to the weekly meals being prepared, please see the clip board on the back table and there will be needs for the store night coming soon! If you are interested in helping to donate to, pack or deliver the Christmas goodie bags that our women's ministry team put out each year, please see Jessica Judd or sign up on the back table on the clip board, we need 6 doz. Cookies among other items! Thank you everyone who made wonderful Thanksgiving baskets this year! They were greatly appreciated! Lastly, thank you to Stella Schmidt who will be learning to take charge of the second kitchen crew since Estelle moved!

We pray you have a blessed Christmas ahead! If you have a need, or an idea for the women's ministry, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441 or email at [jessleejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:jessleejohnson@yahoo.com) ☺

## Youth News:

As November came to an end, Craig finished his lessons titled "Who Am I". We had a great time at our pre-Thanksgiving pizza party on November 21<sup>st</sup>. A few of the youth have been practicing a song for the Christmas Eve service.

December is a busy time for everyone including the youth. Jessica is doing a lesson on "Christmas". Some of the youth will continue to practice for the Christmas Eve service. December 19<sup>th</sup> will be the youth Christmas party. We will have a nice meal, a good Christmas devotion and some fun Christmas games. We would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy and Joyous New Year. If you have any questions please contact Craig Weigel (218) 839-0007 [cbweigel@hotmail.com](mailto:cbweigel@hotmail.com) or Jessica Judd (218)296-2441 [jessleejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:jessleejohnson@yahoo.com)



## In Children's Ministry News:

The Children along with their Sunday School teachers have been working hard on this year's Christmas program, which we look forward to seeing on Sunday, December 16, 2018 at 10:30 am! Please remember that there will be two Saturday morning practices on Saturday, December 8 and 15<sup>th</sup> at 9 am for one hour! Please try to have your child attend, as it helps them to be comfortable with the program on the stage! As always, we offer nursery care for children ages 0-3 years during both services. In addition to the nursery care, we have a children's church during the sermon for first service, and we have Sunday school classes during the entire second service 10:30-11:30 am. Thank you to all our staff from nursery care to teachers, you are so appreciated!! Merry Christmas!

### December

12/2- Dorothy & Kristen / Dale & Carla L.

12/9- Jaurone & Mikayla/ Samantha & Dayton

12/16- Nick & Lonna D./ Traci & Bel

12/23- Ken, Hope & Sue/ Brandi & Pat B.

12/30- Linda B. & Grace J./ Sandy & Morgan



If you would like to help in the Nursery this coming year please see Linda Beebe.



November was a fast moving month, we had an exciting night November 14, of packing over 50+ shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all that donated items to be packed. December brings another exciting fun month! December 12<sup>th</sup> we will be having our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders go Christmas Caroling to Sunny Pines, while the rest of us, make a craft and play some games. ON December 19<sup>th</sup> we will be having our store night where kids will have the opportunity to shop for their families. Please be sure to check out the donations suggested list of items we are looking for to have available for that night. If you are free to come from about 4ish to 5:30 we can use extra hands for shopping and wrapping gifts for the kids. Thank you all again for supporting this ministry either monetarily, with donated items and with all the food that has been prepared for the kids! You are a blessing to each of us!

Please continue to pray for us in the following ways: 1) Children and their families- that they will continue to come, and that God will prepare their hearts to make a decision to accept Jesus as their Savior. 2) Volunteers- to be healthy, to strengthen and encourage them to love these kids with a love that God fills us with. 3) Safety- as we start getting into the winter season, our Pillager students are being brought over in the church van, pray that the Lord will keep them safe as they are on the road. 4) That God will continue to provide all our needs for feeding and ministering to the children.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**December 5:** Regular Club; **December 12:** Christmas Caroling; **December 19:** Store Night; **December 26- NO CLUB;** **January 2- NO CLUB**

**Donation Ideas for the ALL IN Christmas Store!**

On December 19, 2018 our ALL IN kids will be shopping at the Christmas store that will help them purchase gifts for family members this Christmas. This year kids will be getting a set amount of gifts they will be able to purchase at the store because we are no longer an award based club. We still feel that a way to minister to our kids and their families is to give them an opportunity to help give gifts that they may not have the opportunity to do so otherwise. So once again we are looking for items that could be given to gifts to parents, grandparents and siblings. Please pray how you can help support the ALL IN Store this year! Thank You for all of your donations!

- |                                         |                          |                                    |                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Worship Music CDs                     | • Large Candy Bars       | • Baseball Cards, etc.             | • Scripture wall hangings                                     |
| • Christian children movies             | • Footballs/Basketballs  | • Paint/Marker Sets                | • Ice Fishing Tackle                                          |
| • Children’s Bibles                     | • Jump Ropes, Hula Hoops | • Family board games               | • Tool sets                                                   |
| • Devotional Books                      | • Lotion baskets         | • Small Lego Sets                  | • Card Games                                                  |
| • Journals/pens                         | • Fuzzy Socks            | • Microwave popcorn                | • Gift Cards– DQ, Burger King, etc.                           |
| • Candy canes & candy to go inside cups | • Board games            | bags/hot chocolate to go with mugs | • Monetary Donations (to be used to purchase items for store) |
| • Winter gloves/hats                    | • Coffee cups            | • Small toys                       |                                                               |

Any questions, please contact, Valerie Johnson. Store donations can be dropped off at the church in the office labeled ALL IN Store. Please bring by Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, so we can set up. Thank you again for supporting this Ministry.





## Young Adult Ministries

I am amazed that we have ventured into the last month of the year. The Winter season and thoughts of the Holidays and New Year are upon us with sudden intensity. We find ourselves in reflection of all that was accomplished and what goals and aspirations to set for 2019.

Although I have only been the Associate Pastor for six months, much has happened and yet so much is yet to be accomplished. I have (hopefully) visited, met, or was introduced to, most of our younger adults...singles, couples, families. I pray that our time together can continue to grow.

I am happy to report that our **first group study** is underway. We are looking at Richard and Sabina Wurmbrand. A native of Romania who was imprisoned for fourteen years for a "crime" which was leading Christian worship and witnessing – both of which were illegal under the atheistic Communist regime in Romania (post World War II). Beaten, tortured, and placed in solitary confinement, his faith was never shaken...only strengthened and empowered. We are learning why!

**Our next study** will begin in January 2019 entitled "*Soul Detox*" which will look at bringing awareness to the negative impacts non-christian influences have on our thoughts, language, relationships and behaviors. I do believe you will find that quite interesting. Be looking for the advertising during worship services, on the website, Facebook and Twitter.

One of our major undertakings this year was establishing a **Twitter** account and **Blog** site to assist with announcements, spiritual growth, and awareness of faith-based issues. The **Twitter account** (<https://twitter.com/FreeMotley>) was started in August 2018 and has gained 21 followers and generated over 40,000 responses from around the world.

Our **Blog** (<https://charlesmfmc.blogspot.com>) was started in October 2018 as a way to connect each week with a subject-based "life lesson" as a way to provoke a new perspective and deeper thinking towards faith-based issues and subjects. In just the first three weeks (3 posts), we have had 170 visitors read/visit the site.

Last, but not least, we have added our "Young Adults" tab on the Church website which can be found under the "Programming" button on the homepage menu. It can be accessed directly through this link: <http://www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com/young-adults.html> As I close, I can honestly say that words cannot fully express how grateful I am for the warm-welcome given to my family and to me as we joined you here in Motley FMC. I am looking forward to the time ahead and to where God leads us together. Blessings to you...and also, a Merry Christmas and blessed and happy New Year!

***If you have any questions regarding the Young Adults ministry please contact Charles Mallory; Associate Pastor, (218) 352-6888; (240) 691-6762 or charlesMFMC@gmail.com***

### Young Adult Schedule:

**Sunday Evening:** 5PM: *Young Married Couples*, led by Ron & Dorothy Odenthal in the Church Fellowship Hall

**Sunday Night:** 6PM: "*Wurmbrand*" study at Staples Lakewood (Hospital) conference room. Led by Pastor Charles

**Wednesday:** "*Wurmbrand*" studies:  
**11:30AM** – Church Fellowship Hall  
**6PM** – Church Sanctuary

# December 2018

SUN      MON      TUE      WED      THU      FRI      SAT

**01**

6:00 Prayer Time

**02**

9:00 First Serv.  
10:30 Second  
5:30 Young Married Couples

**03**

4:00 Worship Practice

**04**

6:30 Bible Study

**05**

9:30 Bible Study  
12:00 Prayer Time  
12:00 AA Meeting  
3:30 All-In  
5:30 Youth Group

**06**

6:30 Men's Group  
6:30 Women's Group

**07**

12:00 AA Meeting

**08**

**\*10:00 Women's Ministry Meeting**  
**Deliver Gift Baskets**  
6:00 Prayer Time

**09**

9:00 First Serv.  
10:30 Second  
5:30 Young Married Couples

**10**

4:00 Worship Practice

**11**

6:30 Bible Study  
6:00 GriefShare

**12**

9:30 Bible Study  
12:00 Prayer Time  
12:00 AA Meeting  
3:30 All-In  
5:30 Youth Group

**13**

6:30 Men's Group  
6:30 Women's Group

**14**

12:00 AA Meeting

**15**

6:00 Prayer Time

**16**

9:00 First Serv.  
**\*10:30 Children's Christmas Program**  
5:30 Young Married Couples

**17**

4:00 Worship Practice

**18**

6:30 Bible Study  
6:00 GriefShare

**19**

9:30 Bible Study  
12:00 Prayer Time  
12:00 AA Meeting  
3:30 All-In  
5:30 Youth Group

**20**

6:30 Men's Group  
6:30 Women's Group

**21**

12:00 AA Meeting

**22**

6:00 Prayer Time

**23**

9:00 First Serv.  
10:30 Second  
5:30 Young Married Couples

**24**

**\*4:30 Christmas Eve Service**

**25**

**\*Merry Christmas**

**26**

9:30 Bible Study  
12:00 Prayer Time  
12:00 AA Meeting  
3:30 All-In  
5:30 Youth Group

**27**

6:30 Men's Group  
6:30 Women's Group

**28**

12:00 AA Meeting

**29**

**30**

9:00 First Serv.  
10:30 Second  
5:30 Young Married Couples

**31**