



# Motley Free Methodist Church

## "In His Grip"

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

January 2019

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## A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Isaiah 1: 2-4 *"Hear Oh heavens and listen Oh earth! For the Lord has spoken: I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger. But Israel does not know, my people do not understand. Ah sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evil doers, children given to corruption. They have forsaken the Lord; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on Him"*

People of God, we have come to the end of another calendar year and are about to go into and embrace a brand-new year. I praise God for the opportunity to serve Him and to see what He will do again this year to advance His Kingdom, to save the lost and, I pray, revive His church.

Friends, as I read scripture like Isaiah; I am reminded of so many things. One of which is history repeating itself. I see this scripture and I see what is happening to our great nation and I ask myself; "have we not learned anything for God?"

We have legalized so much sin and perversion and not only do we accept it we applaud it. God have mercy on America. Please O God revive your church, I pray.

People of God, as we go into this new year and new opportunities, will you please commit, with me; to do whatever God asks of us?

Will we start by simply putting Jesus Christ first in our lives? Jesus is not first so much of the time even in the church.

What once was never done or heard of in the church, then became acceptable and now is promoted and applauded. I am not talking about any one issue, there are dozens of them.

I ask, and I know God has to be wondering, what has happened to His church. Where is His church in this dark and dreary land?

Friends, God has brought us together in this congregation..... not to live for ourselves, but to live for Him and to use our Holy Spirit given gifts to bring God glory and advance His Kingdom and to Love our neighbors as ourselves.

We are going to have our annual meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup> after both services and lunch and I will speak a little more to this, but please hear me friends. The church of Jesus Christ needs to come alive in the Spirit of God (the church needs a wakeup call) and be available to be used of God to help minister to the "least of these" and point people to Christ and teach and love and train and disciple and all the things that God commands the church to do.

We, the people of God must surrender our own wills and agendas to His will and see what we can do to make an eternal difference for Jesus Christ.

NO, God does not need me or you. He is God alone. But He calls us to be part of the church and the church needs some milk and some meat and some growing opportunities. But at some point, the church needs to be "doing the word and not just hearing the word" and the church needs to be contributing not just consuming.

Let us take this roll of "followers of Jesus" to a new level this year brothers and sisters. We are in this together. A church is made up of many parts, many people with many gifts. We all need to use them and we all need to contribute for the advancing of the Kingdom and for the glory of God.

Please help me know how to shepherd better and please be available to be used by God this year in whatever He is asking of you.

I cannot tell you what to do, although I sometimes inadvertently try to. I don't mean to.... I just want to see people "born-again." I just want to see God's people living Holy lives for Him reflecting His image not the image of the world. AND God will call upon all of us to be involved in His work. To the glory and praise of Almighty God.

We can do it.

May we commit now to doing His will this new year. May we commit now to be available to God for His bidding. May we love the Lord our God so passionately that it shows in everyday living for me and for all of us.

Please forgive me if and when I have wronged any of you. I am sorry for that.

May God lead us, this congregation, and His church to great things this year ahead for His glory.

Thank you for being here and a part of this congregation. Thank you for all you do. God bless you for that.

Serving Jesus and serving you. Jim

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## Upcoming Events:

Dec. 31- Watch Night  
Jan. 12- Women's Meeting  
Jan. 13- Potluck/Annual Meeting  
Jan. 14- Christian Ed Meeting  
Jan. 21-BOA Meeting  
Jan. 30- All-In Family Movie Night  
Jan. 30- Youth Group B.A.Y. Rally



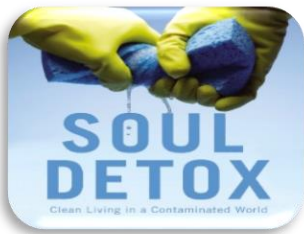
## Small Group Information:

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
- Sunday evening at 5:00 pm, Young Married Couples led by Ron & Dorothy Odenthal
- Tuesday evening Bible Study starting at 6:30 pm studying Acts
- 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 with 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: charlesmfmc@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:

The women's ministry had a wonderful meeting on December 8, 2018. At the meeting we discussed what has been going on including 27 Thanksgiving baskets being put together and distributed in November, 19 poinsettias bought and distributed in memory of lost loved ones that Pastor Jim has done the funerals for, and at our December meeting we put together just over 70 goodie bags with several teams of people helping to deliver bags in the name of Jesus! We are so thankful to all of you who help to make these gift bags a reality! We simply want to bless people during the holiday seasons, those for their service, those who have lost loved ones, and those who may be in need! Thank you to Linda Beebe for heading up the Angel Tree again this year! It has been a great blessing to many! And thank you all who contributed to this cause! The women also discussed the prayer shawl ministry and several have been brought in and given out already!! If you are willing to make a prayer shawl, we will gladly see that someone in the hospital or in need gets it! Thank you all for being the hands and feet of Jesus! If you ever have questions about the women's group, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441 or [jessleejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:jessleejohnson@yahoo.com). The women's ministry meetings are held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 10 am and any woman young or old is invited and encouraged to please join us. For the month of January, we are collecting items to go to the Women's Shelter in Brainerd. If that ministry touches your heart and you feel led to give, please see the clip board on the back table for their list of needs and we will collect the items at our next meeting, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 10 am!

In Addition, Hope Johnson is willing to help teach some basic crocheting lessons if anyone is interested in attending our meeting on Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>!

## Youth News:

December was very busy for our youth. December 19<sup>th</sup> was the youth group Christmas party. We had a great time and a great meal. A big thank you to Kent Blake for making the meal. We played Christmas games, had a great dovetail. We had 37 youth and 6 adults at the Christmas party. Jess finished her lesson on Christmas. We had several youths participate in the Christmas Eve service.

January Craig starts a lesson series called "UNTOUCHABLES" it is about Jesus and some of the people he encountered in his ministry. January 30<sup>th</sup> is the next BAY Rally. The BAY Rallies are always a great time. We will start the evening off with pizza at 5:30, depart for Brainerd at 6:00 and return about 9:00. As 2018 comes to an end, we would like to wish very one a HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Looking ahead to February 6<sup>th</sup> we will have an ice-skating party at the Motley ice rink weather permitting.

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)

### January

- 1/6- Diane J. & Deb C./ Mary N. & Jazmyn H.
- 1/13- Melaine S. & Margaret F./Diane B. & Cassidy R.
- 1/20- Dorothy & Kristen O./ Lisa M. & Lilly N.
- 1/27- Nick & Lonna D./ Marisela & Ashley V.



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



“Know that the LORD, He is God! It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.”- Psalm 100:3  
We had a great month for December at All-In! Our highlights were December 12<sup>th</sup> some of our volunteers took 20 of our 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> graders Christmas Caroling at Sunny Pines to spread the love and Christmas Joy to those around us. The kids did a great job and the residents loved that we took time out to visit them! And December 19<sup>th</sup> was our store night, each of the kids were able to shop for family members and themselves for Christmas gifts. Volunteers were busy tending to tables and wrapping gifts for each of the kids. We were blessed with the excitement from the kids who were able to buy a gift for their siblings and/or parents, etc. Thank you to all that donated to this event! In January we will be having our annual Movie Night on January 30<sup>th</sup>. **Parents will join us at 5:30**, we will serve sloppy joes, popcorn and some goodies.

Thank you for praying for the children, their families and all the volunteers! We would ask that you would 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 and that more adults would step up and come alongside these kids in their journey with Jesus 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.

Lastly, in December I, Val, with the Lord's prompting have made the decision that this will be my last year as the director of our children's Wednesday program. I would ask that you would be praying for God to prompt whoever will be taking this position to trust God and step out in faith. Thank you all, for the opportunity that I have had for serving the church and God's Kingdom through the children on Wednesday nights. My heart is so blessed by all God has done over the years and am eagerly awaiting what He has next for all of us.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**January 2:** NO CLUB; **January 9:** Regular Night; **January 16:** Crazy Hair/Hat Night; **January 23:** Regular Night; **January 30:** Pajama/Glow in the Dark AND Family Movie Night; **February 6:** Regular Night



#### **In Children's Ministry News:**

Once again December has come and gone with yet another beautiful performance from our children. The children did a fantastic job on this year play called God's Promise Came True. We are so grateful to dedicated Sunday School teachers and staff for helping to make this come to life! We are also thankful to all the children who worked so hard and gave a great performance displaying the truth of God's promises to each of us through His Son Jesus. Thank you to Sheri Johnson and Marisela Vasquez for continuing to love our children during the first service message with the word of God as well. Lastly, as we move into a new year we are in need of nursery care workers again! If you have a heart for our littlest friends, we could use you! Please see Linda Beebe today! Thank you again for your support of our children! In January we will have our bi-annual Christian education meeting. If you are interested in attending please let Jessica Judd know!! Happy New Year!



# Young Adult Ministries

The new year is upon us and we, in some way, have a “clean slate” before us. There is always a place for us in service to the Church and our world. A new year can provide optimism to “jump in” and “get going”. There is definitely no need to hesitate. We want you to be a part of what is going on at Motley Free Methodist. Consider this an open invitation! You know your desires, abilities and gifts....wherever “that is” in the Church, let us guide you there! We’ll introduce you to the Leader of that group and you can “go from there!” You’ll be quite amazed at what incredible things you can do!

I feel we are off to a great start as we’ve seen the successful conclusion of our **first group study** on the life of Richard and Sabina Wurmland. 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). Although the study was provided three different days/times, the Sunday night class (at Lakewood Hospital, Staples) drew the most interest. Overall, six attended the training throughout the course.

**Our next study** is 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. Once we get settled into the new year, we’ll set a time and date.

We will continue using our **Twitter** account and **Blog** site to communicate, enlighten, enlist and assist you with announcements and opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and to simply make you aware of faith-based issues. “Follow” us on **Twitter**: (<https://twitter.com/FreeMotley>) and also check out our weekly **Blog** (<https://charlesmfmc.blogspot.com>).

In regards to “communicating”, don’t forget 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> Check there from time-to-time for upcoming events, plans, and programs.

As I close, thank you for making Motley Free Methodist a part of your spiritual journey. I covet your prayers and support as well as feedback. I am always open to suggestions and ideas that can bring us together to do things that will give God glory and help our Church, community, and neighbor. Also, if I can assist you or your family personally, please let me know. Or, perhaps, I can simply pray for you in a specific way, I am here for you! Stop by the Church for a visit, call, email....either way, let me know. Blessings to you as you step boldly into 2019!

***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](mailto:charlesMFMC@gmail.com)***

## Young Adult Schedule:

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

**UPCOMING:** “Soul Detox” 5-week study. Several options to choose from later in January. Be thinking about 1 of these 3 options that would be best for you:

- Sunday night at the Church – 6pm
- Sunday night at Lakewood Hospital – 6pm
- Addition to the Tuesday or Thursday night studies – 6:30pm

## BOA MINUTES – 12/03/2018

**Present:** Pastor Jim Johnson, Linda Beebe, Craig Weigel, Traci Birkholtz, Chris Neal, Dan Rose, Susie Griffith, Tim Judd, and Pastor Charles Mallory

**Guests:** Jessica Judd, Wayne Johnson, Val Johnson, and Marilyn O'Regan

Devotional/Prayer: A. W. Tozer – Church Organization

Titus 1:5 – The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

There is a tendency to over-organize the church. We know we can't oppose organization in the church any more than we can perish from too much organization. However, we must find a balance between the two extremes and avoid both.

Tozer prays, "Give us wisdom, Lord, to operate with good organization and wise business practices. But keep us from being so organized that the Holy Spirit has no room to work. Amen."

We want God to be leading our Sunday Services, we don't want to limit the Spirit of God. We must find that delicate balance to lead us and allow holy people to use their gifts (as mentioned in the 3 Sermon Series Discussion "Christian-ish").

Lord, thank you for being here. Please remind us to have a balance of order and structure. We know we need to allow your spirit to move within us. As leaders, give us wisdom and understanding to allow your Holy Spirit amongst us. Thank you for the past year and thank you that you are unchanged. We are looking forward to what works you will do here in 2019 and remain thankful for the blessings of 2018. We thank you also Lord for all those that have served within this body this past year in so many ways.

Secretary Report - Dan made a motion to accept the October 15, 2018 minutes and Chris seconded that motion. No discussion, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report - The beginning balance in the checking account was \$62,161.66 with deposits of \$355,410.56 for a total of \$417,572.22. Year to date expenses were \$359,619.61, leaving a balance in checking as of November 30, 2018, of \$57,952.61. Free Methodist Loan Fund is \$51,511.69 and the local Savings Account balance is \$11,811.72. Traci made a motion to accept the September Treasurer's Report and Chris seconded that motion. No discussion, motion carried.

### Old Business:

Class Room Dividers – A plan has been made to install/put in place the dividers. It will take a couple of Saturdays to implement this plan.

2019 Budget – Dan made a motion, seconded by Traci to approve the proposed 2019 budget and present it at the annual meeting.

### New Business:

Val Johnson – Val informed the board that she would be resigning as All-in Director. She will be stepping down from the Children's Program at the end of May. Val and Wayne were thanked for their years of service to our Wednesday Night Children's Ministry.

Salik Building Project – After much discussion the board agree to present Salik with the money available to us in the Free Methodist Foundation Fund to go towards his building project. The motion was made by Craig and seconded by Chris. No further discussion, motion carried.

C.A.R.E. Ministries – Discussed giving extra to this ministry. It was determined that we will continue on with our annual dues.

Ark Encounter Trip – Request to look into a Diamond Tour Bus Trip to Kentucky for a 7 day/6 night package. Cost would be \$649.00 based on double occupancy. Price would include pick up from Motley Free Methodist Parking lot, lodging, most meals, and all admission costs. A minimum of 30 people would need to be interested, but could be combined with other groups interested. Looking to set up in the fall of 2019. Watch in the bulletin for more information.

Year End Giving – A motion was made by Craig and seconded by Dan to give out \$12,000 in year-end giving to various different organizations and ministries.

Watch Night Service – To be held on New Year's Eve. Meet together at the church for fellowship and reconciliation. Enjoy pizza and games and then together we will watch Billy Graham, An Extraordinary Journey on DVD. The evening will end with a communion service. Let's pray our way into the New Year.

Membership Approval – Dan made a motion, seconded by Chris to approve a person for membership.

Nominating Committee – The board discussed board positions coming available and reviewed/approved the names provided by the Nominating Committee to prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting.

# January 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

**01**

*Happy New Year*

6:30 Bible Study

**02**

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

**03**

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

12:00 AA Meeting

**04**

6:00 Prayer Time

**05**

**06**

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

**07**

4:00 Worship Practice

**08**

6:30 Bible Study

**09**

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

**10**

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

**11**

12:00 AA Meeting

**12**

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

**13**

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

**14**

4:00 Worship Practice  
**\*6:00 Christian Ed Meeting**

**15**

6:30 Bible Study

**16**

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

**17**

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

**18**

12:00 AA Meeting

**19**

6:00 Prayer Time

**20**

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

**21**

4:00 Worship Practice

**22**

6:30 Bible Study

**23**

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

**24**

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

**25**

12:00 AA Meeting

**26**

6:00 Prayer Time

**27**

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

**28**

4:00 Worship Practice

**29**

6:30 Bible Study

**30**

9:30 Bible Study  
12:00 Prayer Time  
12:00 AA Meeting  
3:30 All-In  
**5:30 Family Movie Nighz**  
**5:30 Youth Group- B.A.Y. Rally**

**31**

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

12:00 AA Meeting