



Motley Free Methodist Church

"In His Grip"

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

May 2019

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A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Gal. 5:19-21(NIV) *The acts of the sinful nature are obvious; sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambitions, dissensions, factions and envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like. I warn you as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the Kingdom of God.*

Why would I start a newsletter with these verses? Two reasons really; 1) I speak to people out of the church all of the time and they have this overwhelming sentiment that if I am a good person all is well, or as long as I believe in God all is well. So many seem not to see, hear or understand the warnings of the new testament to follow Jesus.

2) I speak to folks of the church all the time too and there are 2 prevailing thoughts here- first, we like to use what verses seem palatable and excuse those that don't and second, we like to argue "well I said a prayer of salvation and so I am saved and therefore covered by grace".

While the grace of God is absolutely what we all need, it does not give us a license to sin.

Can we just take these verses for what they say and believe them? I say yes, we should. Can we just see what Paul is not only saying here but he said it in Ephesians 5 and Romans 1 as well, those that live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Does that alarm you friends? "will not inherit"?

So, if these verses describe who I still am, something is still wrong. If I am still under the bondage of sin in these categories, the Holy Spirit has little to NO influence on me. I am still living for myself and not for Jesus.

So, why do I speak to all of this today? I fear, way too many in the church and out, are still very unclear as to what the Bible says.

Jesus invites all to repent and follow HIM. God calls us all, as we have repented (means turned away from sin) to live HOLY lives. Paul calls us to be obedient to the teachings of Jesus, Peter, John and Paul.

I still believe if the church were in fact living Holy lives and really in love with God so much that we actually loved our neighbors I believe that would be noticeable and I believe that people would be drawn to that Light that shines from the church, that is a reflection of Jesus Christ. I still believe that.

I love the people of God, called the church. I love what God has done in us here and is doing around the world. I praise God for that. BUT we are sorely mistaken if we in the church think that we can live like, and look like the world and end up with God for eternity. Check out Matthew 7:21-23 again. Check Galatians 5:19-21 again.

And then there is that thinking of the world; "I am a pretty good person, or I believe in God" and that is where they leave it. That is seriously alarming to me. Now maybe I am wrong, correct me if I am. BUT this thinking keeps me up at night praying for the lost.

What are we doing as individuals, and as a church, in MFMC to see that the lost of our city and region know Jesus Christ? Do we care, that people all around us may be headed towards hell?

Are we praying? Do we actually love our neighbors in tangible ways so that they can see Jesus in His church? When was the last time you invited someone to a Sunday morning church service? How is your bible reading going? Are you studying the word to glean its richness and truth and then obedient to what it says?

James says "be ye doers of the word, not just hearers". NOT James Johnson either, but James the "bond servant" of Jesus Christ.

Having been sick all week with vertigo I have had a lot of time on my back in prayer. And as you can see, I have had a lot of time to think and ponder.

I pray for revival of the church every day. God will not do "lukewarm" we all know that. So why in the world would anyone in the church want to be lukewarm?

Why in the world would anyone not in the church not want to be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ and the grace of God? I am still praying.

May is going to be busy, starting May 5th when the Cahills (missionaries to Africa) are with us. We will have pot-luck lunch with them and then they will be spending the week in Motley. Thank You Don and Mary for putting them up. There will be opportunities to visit with them more and to have lunch with them through out that week. There is a clip-board sign up for that in the foyer.

May 11th will be a great day for the Ladies Tea. Sign up for that on the back table as well. Mother's Day is the 12th of May. There will be a wedding here on the 18th of May. Senior Sunday and Baccalaureate is May 19th and Memorial Day is May 27th. Pastor Jim and Sheri will be on vacation May 20th -26th.

Then you throw in the possibility of a few more funerals and we will get to minister to families again.

Kids Club will wind down for the year in May. Let me say Thank You Val Johnson for all your commitment and hard work over the years. Thanks to all of the staff for being here week after week and supporting these children and teaching them about Jesus. Thank you and God bless all of you. Please be in prayer about next year's Awana program.

Friends, in closing...may we simply commit to be radical in our following of Jesus Christ and may we commit to do what we can, as God calls us and enables us, to win souls for Christ and help people grow to be HOLY?

God bless you all. Serving Jesus and serving you. Pastor Jim

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Upcoming Events

- *May 1 All-In Spring Project
- *May 3 & 4 Youth Garage Sale
- *May 11 Women's Meeting
- *May 11 Ladies' Tea
- *May 12 Mother's Day
- *May 20 Senior Sunday
- *May 13 VBS Meeting
- *May 20 BOA Meeting
- *May 27 Memorial Day



Ladies Luncheon

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Place: Motley Free Methodist Church

Details: The ladies group is holding a ladies luncheon to honor all women! We would like to invite you to come for worship, speaker, fellowship and Pot-luck luncheon. Please join us and invite a friend!!



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

- 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!

Youth Garage & Bake Sale!

On May 3-4, along with the city wide garage sales here in Motley, we will hold our annual youth garage sale event. If you have any quality items you are willing to donate to the youth sale we would be happy to take them at the Judd's home, located 3 blocks east of the Motley DQ. The sale is held in the old Little white church building which used to be the Free Methodist Church! We are also looking for baked goods like home made jellies, breads, cookies or bars which typically sell very well especially on Friday morning! We appreciate your pre-packaging them. Even if you do not have items to donate, we would like to encourage you to stop by the sale Friday 8 am-4 pm or Saturday 8 am-12 pm!! Thank you again for your support of our youth. The proceeds will go to the Mission Motley project of putting up a shelter at the Ernie Converse Park!! 😊

If you have any questions regarding the sale please see Jessica Judd or Craig Weigel

Women's Ministry News:

April's Women's Meeting Update:

On April 13, 2019 the women's group met at 10 am. Hope Johnson led morning devotions from Isaiah 53 and a story by Phillip Gulley. Next, we planned this year's Ladies' Tea. The Ladies' Tea is scheduled for May 11, 2019 at 11 am. This year's theme is Precious and Dearly Loved. There is a sign-up sheet on the back table of the church if you plan to attend. We will have a pot-luck luncheon meal of soup, sandwiches, salads and desserts. Our guest speaker is our own Alice Dickson, with Barb Hirschey hosting our event and Jane Callis doing a reading! Please join us for a time of fun, fellowship, and food!

In addition, the ladies discussed making some lap blankets to go with the prayer shawls for men, or a few shawls in colors to give away to men as well. The women are still working on a date to do quilting. Val gave an All-In update. There are only a few weeks left of All-In for this year. The Easter Event on April 17, May 1st will be the spring community project of May Day baskets, and on May 14 is the last night of All-In for 2018-2019 school year! A huge thank you to Valerie Johnson for leading and directing our Wednesday evening programming for the last several years! Her time and dedication as well as heart to see the children in this area come to know and love Jesus have been remarkable! We have been blessed and wish her well in her future endeavors for the Lord. We also briefly discussed Good Friday Service, Easter morning breakfast led by our men's group and regular Easter Services. On May 3-4 will be the annual Youth group garage sale Friday 8 am-4 pm on Saturday 8 am-Noon ☺ Also, in May we will recognize our high school seniors on May 19th. The Cahill's (our missionaries to Africa) will be with us on May 5th as well. Thank you to all who support our women's ministry. We aim to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our church body, but further to our community and beyond! If you have any questions regarding the women's ministry please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441

Youth News:

April started off with Jess doing a lesson on 1 Timothy for the first two weeks. April 17th, we had a guest speaker, Ron Odenthal gave his testimony and life story to the youth. April 24th, we went to the last B.A.Y Rally of the school year. B.A.Y. Rallies are always a good time and well attended.

May 1st the Youth will be setting up for the Youth Group Garage & Bake sale. The sale will be held May 3rd and 4th in the old church next to Tim and Jessica Judd's house, 3 blocks East of the Dairy Queen. We are still looking for good items for the garage sale and goodies for the bake sale. Items for the bake sale are things like homemade Jellies, breads, cookies or bars. We appreciate your pre-packaging them. Please stop by the sale Friday 8 am to 4 pm or Saturday 8am to 12pm. This year the Youth Group is doing a Mission Motley project of putting up a picnic shelter at the Ernie Converse park for the whole community to enjoy. Craig will be starting a lesson on the Commandments. May 19th will be Senior Sunday where we recognize or High School Seniors.

If you have any questions please contact Craig Weigel (218) 839-0007 cbweigel@hotmail.com or Jessica Judd (218)296-2441 jessleejohnson@yahoo.com

May

5/5- Diane J. & Deb C./ Sandy K. & Morgan S.

5/12- Melaine S. & Margaret F./ Tammy & Cassidy

5/19- Nick & Lonna D./ Lisa M. & Natalie S.

5/26- Dale & Carla/ Marisela & Ashley

June

6/2- Linda B. & Grace J/ Traci & Bel B.

6/9- Dayton & Samantha/ Brandi N. & Pat B.

6/16- Diane J. & Deb C./ Mary N. & Lilly N.

6/23- Melaine S. & Margaret F./ Lonny & Cathi D

6/30- Nick & Lonna D./ Sandy K. & Morgan S.

July

7/7- Dale & Carla/ Tammy & Cassidy

7/14- Linda B. & Grace J/ Lisa M. & Natalie S.

7/21- Dayton & Samantha/ Marisela & Ashley

7/28- Diane J. & Deb C./ Traci & Bel B.



In April, the kids had been working on making our baskets for the Spring Community Project. The Wednesday before Easter, the kids heard the Easter Story from the book of "Easter Love Letters from God". What a wonderful night, it is amazing when you change the structure of the night to a moving story, how well the kids get engaged. Thank you to all our readers, (Barb H., Laurie T., Leia G., Jason C., Pastor Jim, Lisa M., and Jane C.) for taking the time to tell the children this very most important HiStory lesson in the Bible. The children each collected their very own set of love letters and each family left with a book to take home and read and were encouraged to share with other family members during family visits over the weekend.

We are nearing the end of the year with only 3 weeks left! They are all big nights, so please be praying all kids will continue to come. May 1st, weather permitting, we will hand out baskets, the following week will be a regular night (as regular as you can get this time a year), and our last night we will be having a celebration night. Celebrating with Pizza and ending our night with Ice Cream Sundaes. Thank you to all that have been involved this year, it has been a good year and again God has showed himself faithful to working in the hearts of kids throughout the year and always providing for the things we need.

Please be praying for us, we thank you all for knowing you have us covered! Prayer requests: 1) Families will continue to send kids this last month and God will work on parent's hearts. 2) Our Volunteers- health, patience, strength and be filled with Holy Spirit to pour out the love of Jesus onto these kids! 3) Continued growth for children in their walk with Jesus, especially those that have made a confession of Faith this year.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 1: Spring Community Project; **May 8:** Regular Night **May 15:** Celebration Night



In Children's Ministry News:

The MFMC offers nursery care during both services for children ages 0-3 year. If you have any questions regarding the nursery please see Linda Beebe.

During our first service time Sheri Johnson and Marisela Vasquez continue to offer children's church during the sermon and Tim Judd teaches a youth Bible study group at 9:15 am.

During our second service, Jason Caldwell teaches our preschool-Kindergarten age children, Barb Hirschey and Jennifer Mallory teach our elementary age children and Danny & Sue Rydbom teach our youth.

Vacation Bible school will be right around the corner! It is June 17-21, 2019 4:30-7:30 pm. It is a wonderful outreach week for our children and communities' children. We encourage you to be involved. Pray, help invite, be a part of the teaching/leading, donating (donation sheet on the back table.) Many hands make light work! Also, we are taking registrations now! Sign up on the papers on the back table or online today! (www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com/vbs.html) We have two meetings left for this year's VBS: May 13, 2019 at 6 pm or June 8 at 11 am! Please try to make at least one meeting!! Thank you. If you have any questions regarding VBS please talk to Jessica Judd today! 218.296.2441 or jessleejohnson@yahoo.com



Young Adult Ministries

The Month of May is filled with many occasions of celebration such as “National Day of Prayer” (2nd), Missionaries Thom and Sherry Cahill (5th), Mother’s Day (12th), Memorial Day (27th) and our Church’s Annual Conference (30-31/June 1). Needless to say, there is plenty to look forward to and a lot of areas in which to become involved.

Over the last month, I was thinking of compiling a list of phone-apps that could help you with your daily devotions, Bible study and prayer time. I will try to list a few each month. Here are some trusted sources to get you started:



1. Blue Letter Bible: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.blueletterbible.blb>



2. Our Daily Bread: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.rbc.odb>



3. Bible Gateway: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.csnmedia.android.bg>

Our “Social Media” ministry outreach continues to do well. First, our **Twitter page** gained 3 people which brings us to 41 “followers” seeing 6,700 views in April with an average of 191 people interacting with our Church Twitter page each day. Amazingly, we had 771 people access our Sunday worship services and Pastor’s sermons (audio and video) via Twitter. Secondly, our Church **blog-page** published 5 new articles with 252 checking in to read.

Also, don’t forget our connection with the **Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge** ministry in Brainerd. **Would you like to get involved?** Here are some volunteer “skill sets” they are looking for (that you may not have known): barber/stylist, personal trainer, yard/house work, construction, plumbing, vehicle maintenance, Word/Excel/Computer Teachers, drivers (take men/women to appointments). They also have daily chapel services and monthly worship opportunities for you!! Plus, there is so much more!! **Will you help?** They will accommodate your schedule. Check out: volunteer.mntc.org.

I am so thankful that you are making Motley Free Methodist your spiritual home. May we continue partnering together to engage in ministry and outreach that will give God glory and help our Church, community, and neighbor. *May God’s blessings be upon you always!*

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

Blog: <https://charlesmfmc.blogspot.com>

 **Twitter:** [@FreeMotley](https://twitter.com/FreeMotley) or <https://twitter.com/FreeMotley>

Another Young Adult Opportunity:

Sunday Evening: 5:30PM: *Young Married Couples*, led by Ron & Dorothy Odenthal in the Church Fellowship Hall. Come, join in and learn new and inviting ways to strengthen your marriage!

May 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
			01	02	03	04	
			9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Prayer Time 12:00 AA Meeting 3:30 All-In 5:30 Youth Group	6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Women's Group	12:00 AA Meeting *Youth Garage Sale	6:00 Prayer Time *Youth Garage Sale	
	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
9:00 First Serv. 10:30 Second 5:30 Young Married Couples *Cahill's Visit	4:00 Worship Practice	6:30 Bible Study	9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Prayer Time 12:00 AA Meeting 3:30 All-In 5:30 Youth Group	6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Women's Group	12:00 AA Meeting	*10:00 Women's Ministry Meeting *11:00 Ladies' Tea 6:00 Prayer Time	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 First Serv. 10:30 Second 5:30 Young Married Couples *Mother's Day	4:00 Worship Practice *6:00 VBS Meeting	6:30 Bible Study	9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Prayer Time 12:00 AA Meeting 3:30 All-In- Year End Celebration 5:30 Youth Group	6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Women's Group	12:00 AA Meeting	6:00 Prayer Time	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 First Serv. 10:30 Second 5:30 Young Married Couples *Senior Sunday	4:00 Worship Practice *6:30 BOA Meeting	6:30 Bible Study	9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Prayer Time 12:00 AA Meeting 5:30 Youth Group	6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Women's Group	12:00 AA Meeting	6:00 Prayer Time	
	26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:00 First Serv. 10:30 Second 5:30 Young Married Couples	4:00 Worship Practice *Memorial Day	6:30 Bible Study	9:30 Bible Study 12:00 Prayer Time 12:00 AA Meeting 5:30 Youth Group	6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Women's Group *Annual Conference	12:00 AA Meeting *Annual Conference	*Annual Conference	