



Motley Free Methodist Church

"In His Grip"

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

April 2021

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<http://www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com>

A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Psalm 84:1-2 (HCSB) *How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord of Hosts. I long and yearn for the courts of the Lord; my heart and flesh cry out for the Living God.*

It seems like the older we get, the easier it is to "long for the courts of the Lord". Don't you think? It seems like the closer we draw to the Lord, the easier it is for our "heart and flesh to cry out to the Living God".

I have been reading through the Psalms as of late for my devotional time each day. They are so rich, so helpful, so intimate in so many places. May we all draw to a dependence upon the Living God that is so real and so refreshing that we cannot do without HIM, daily. I know that we mentioned this before but allow me to share a few events coming very soon with you again.

Friday, April 2nd we will have our Good Friday service at 7:00 pm, with communion. Sunday morning, April 4th (Easter) we will have both services as usual with a breakfast being served from 8:00 am-10:00 am, this gives the servers a chance to clean up and get to the 2nd service. Thank you for all of the food donations, there will be plenty. Praise the Lord!

Sunday April 11th, Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge will be with us to share in testimony and song. They will share at both services, but we will NOT have a pot-luck dinner with them after 2nd service. We will provide them some refreshments between services downstairs. Those of you that normally would be downstairs between services, please be aware of this.

The times for Sunday services will change back to 9:00 am and 10:30 am starting on the 11th when MNTC is here.

Pastor Jim will be on sabbatical from April 5th through May 9th. Pastor Charles will be leading during this time.

We are thankful that the restrictions churches have been under are loosening. We are able to resume some kind of normal again, at least to some degree. Not everything has been done away with, but I believe we are moving in the right direction.

I want to say Thank you to all teachers and class leaders and small group discussion leaders. Thank you for being used of God in this way. IF anyone has a passion / desire to begin a "young couples" bible study/small group, please let me/us know. I think that would be wonderful and I believe it is needed, just for a chance for young couples to meet each other and grow together and fellowship together. Let us know, if you would like to be a part of this group and let us know if you would feel led to lead this group.

On Easter Sunday morning, besides all of the other activities of worship and fellowship; we will also be welcoming 2 new LMC candidates at the close of 1st service.

What is an LMC (local ministerial candidate)? An LMC is an individual sensing and exploring the call of God on their lives to the ministry. It is the first step in a process towards the ordained ministry.

I will work very closely with both of these candidates for the next year and as they progress in their call and assignments, they will then go on to the next step in the process which is called CMC (conference ministerial candidates). Pray for these brothers as they seek to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, and as they journey towards ordination.

The summer will be busy, as we prepare to have VBS and community meals and several weddings, a river baptism in July and all the rest that God will call us to do together as we serve HIM.

Thank you all for being part of this family.

Serving Jesus and serving you, Pastor Jim

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Upcoming Event

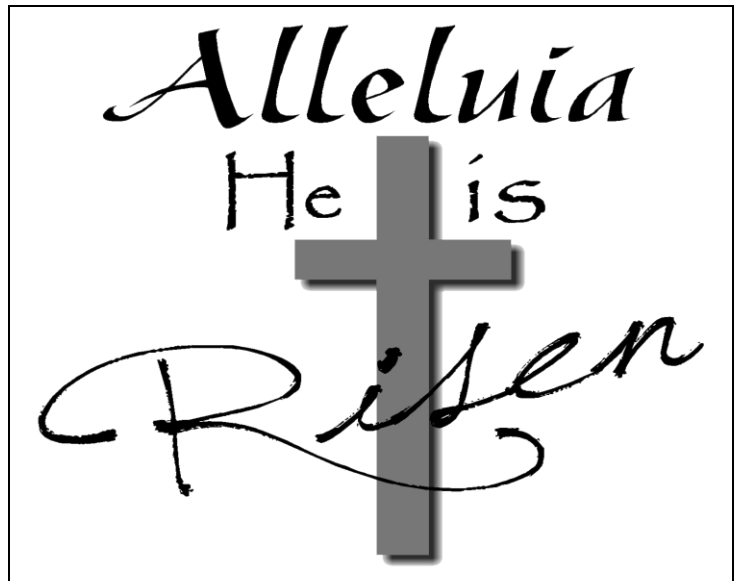
ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO GOVERNOR'S DIRECTIVES: Please stay tuned!!

- *April 2-Good Friday Service at 7 pm
- *April 4-Easter Sunday!
- *April 10-Women's Meeting at 9 am
- *April 10-VBS Meeting at 10 am
- *April 11-MN Teen Challenge Here!
- *April 18-Youth Led Services
- *April 19-BOA Meeting at 6:30 pm
- *April 30-May 1-Youth Garage Sale

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...

- Tuesday morning 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday evening 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday morning at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday afternoon prayer time at 12:00 pm
- Thursday evening Men's Group at 6:30 pm
- Thursday evening Women's Bible Study at 6:30-8 pm
- Saturday evening prayer group at the church at 6 pm with Pastor Jim



Young Adults

The month of April is powerful this year with our high holy day of Easter. This celebration of the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead has changed the world and has impacted eternity for all human beings. The word "risen" used in **Mark 16:1-8**, in reference to the resurrection of Jesus, means to be "aroused" or "awakened" after death. Jesus, by His own power, awakened and came back to life after being dead three days...just as He promised.

That is our message we must deliver to the world. We must cry just as Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). That is our hope. That is our passion. That is our ultimate victory (1 Corinthians 15:55-57) and our destiny (John 14:1-3). We have hope and promise that the power that raised Christ from the dead is the same power (Holy Spirit) working in us.

That means the same power that guided us through the pandemic is the exact same power that can help us come out of it rejoicing! Let us welcome the power of the Holy Spirit to inspire us with resolve to keep pressing forward with new and inviting ways to tell others about Jesus.

The greatness of our God empowers us to overcome everything associated with the pandemic. The COVID restrictions neither stopped nor prevented anything from advancing God's Kingdom...and we are part of that mission and we share in that power. *Let's keep advancing!*

Let us also remember our charge for 2021, from **1 Thessalonians 5:13-22**: "Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen."

For questions regarding the Young Adults ministry please contact Charles Mallory; Associate Pastor, O: (218) 352-6888; C: (240) 691-6762 or charlesMFMC@gmail.com

Blog: <https://charlesmfmc.blogspot.com> **Twitter:** @FreeMotley or <https://twitter.com/FreeMotley>
GAB: <https://gab.com/CharlesMFMC> **MeWe:** <https://mewe.com/group/60073fcb987324725d4d5056>

Women's Ministry News:

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:24-25

The goal of the Women's Ministry team at the MFMC has been to simply be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around us by coming together each month to hear a devotional, spend time in prayer and plan or complete a project to help those around us! We have been so thankful for this giving body of Christ. In March, the women met and decided to donate \$600.00 to the Women's shelter in Brainerd as well as deliver some blankets the women's sewing group on Thursdays has completed! With Minnesota Teen Challenge coming on April 11, we are also collecting items to donate to them. There is a sheet of needed items on the back table, if you are able to help provided any of these needed items, please purchase them and bring in to the church by Sunday, April 11, 2021. The women also voted to purchase 2 cases of Bibles for the Teen Challenge men this year! The women continue to make and give out prayer shawls, marriage devotionals, baby blankets and more. Looking ahead, the women's group is planning a Ladies' Tea for Saturday, May 8th at 10 am! We are excited to be able to come together again this year for a time of fellowship! Any and all women are invited to come to the women's meetings! If you ever have any questions regarding the women's ministry please contact

Jessica Judd 218.296.2441 or jessleejohnson@yahoo.com

Youth News:

March started off with Craig doing the lessons. March 12 the youth had a lock-in at the church. The B.A.Y Rally that was originally scheduled in January got rescheduled for March and now has been rescheduled again for April

April starts off with pizza and B.A.Y. Rally on the 7th in Baxter at Lakewood Evangelical Free Church. Jess will continue with her study of Daniel. April 18 the Youth will lead both Sunday services. April 28th the Youth will be setting up for the Youth Group garage sale at the Judd's

The Youth Group Garage Sale is Friday April 30th and Saturday May 1st. if you have any good donations Please see Jess, Tim or Craig

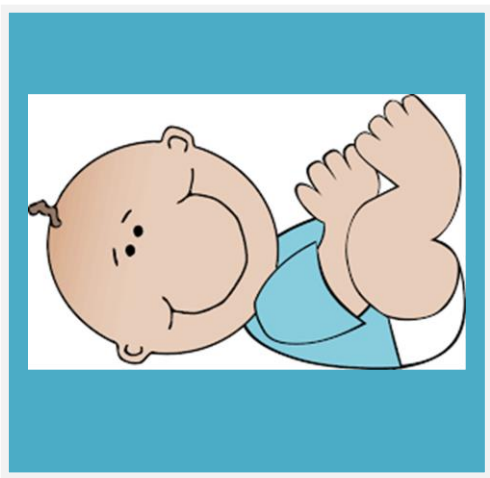
May 19th Bump up night where we welcome the 6th graders into Youth Group.

May 23rd Graduation Sunday to honor our Graduates. Seniors, please get your pictures to Jessica soon.

If we can be of any help to any of the youth please text, call or message any of the Youth Leaders and we will be glad to pray, talk or Just listen to any of you!

If you have any questions please contact Craig Weigel (218) 839-0007 cbweigel@hotmail.com or

Jessica Judd (218)296-2441 jessleejohnson@yahoo.com





In Children's Ministry News:

Our Children's ministry continues to press forward! Praise be to God and we are thankful for all our children's workers! We continue to offer Sunday morning children's church during the first service with Sheri and Marisela. During the first service, we also offer a youth class for 7-12th graders led by Chris Neal and John Tabatt. During the second service, Jason Caldwell, Barb Hirschey and Jennifer Mallory teach our Sunday school classes! We are thankful for our dedicated teaching staff! We are thankful for our weekly AWANA staff who love and head up teaching our children the word of God each Wednesday evening! We are thankful for our nursery staff! God has been good to us!

As we look ahead, vacation bible school is right around the corner. Rocky Railway VBS is June 21-25, 2021 from 4:30-7:30 pm. We will run as normal of a VBS as we can this year, including stations and supper! We will have a training meeting for VBS on Saturday, April 10, at 10 am. This meeting will go over what is expected of our staff and we will watch Group's training video! If you have never helped with VBS please come and check this meeting out! There are donation sheets and volunteer area sheet on the back table, if you are willing, please sign up to help where you can! Everyone pulling together helps VBS run smoothly!! We also have registration forms available now, please fill out registration forms any time you know of someone coming, it helps us prepare for first night and makes things run well. Our theme this year is Jesus pulls us through! Hallelujah! May we honor Him and share the love of Jesus with the children all around us this summer! Join the crew! :) If you have questions, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441, jessleejohnson@yahoo.com or message, text or contact me on Facebook messenger!



First, a huge **Thank You** to all who helped collect food for the Motley Food Shelf! We donated 309 lbs!

Did you know there are over **62,000** AWANA Clubs in over **120 countries** worldwide? In April, we will be working with AWANA GO (Global Outreach) to raise money to support kids around the world. Just \$10 pays for the duration of one child in a club (average 4-6 years). We will be distributing coin collection tubes and learning more about kids and their clubs in other countries.

In addition to missions, in this final quarter of club, we will be focusing on developing the Fruits of the Spirit; Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control (Gal. 5:22-23).

Schedule:

April 7th -Reg. Night; **April 14th** – Fake Injury Night; **April 21st** – Reg. Night; **April 28th** – Missions/Coin Drive; **May 5th** -Missions/Coin Drive; **May 12th** -Awards Night

Motley Free Methodist Church
BOA Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2021

Devotional / Prayer—Pastor Charles Mallory outlined a devotional written by Richard Blackaby, framing how the church must focus on God as we face the Covid 19 virus and the changing world around us. Quoting Isaiah 55:8-9 Charles stated that rarely does God do exactly what we think He will. In Exodus 5:22 Moses questions God's intentions. Charles quotes Blackaby, "We are foolish to do God's work using our own common sense." Opening prayer given by Pastor Charles

Presentation by Tanya Brusewitz-Safe Families for Children—established in 2003, by Dave Anderson, first in Chicago. Tanya presented the need for the Christian community to become a resource for families in need of support. The obligation to volunteers would be a series of background checks and training. Ms.Brusewitz is the coordinator to five counties in our area. The Board has agreed to schedule a time for Ms. Brusewitz to speak at church in the near future.

Sec. Report—there was an amendment made to the February BOA minutes under Pastor Jim's Sabbatical. The 2nd week will be changed from Jim McGaffey to a Youth lead service on that day. Marisela Vasquez made the motion and Craig Weigel seconded it. A vote was made and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report—a copy of the Treasures Report and the Budget Report for the month was handed out. Linda Beebe discussed the monthly balance. Chris Neal made the motion to accept and Barbara Hirschev seconded it. The Board approved the motion.

Old Business--

- **Covid Restrictions/Serving Food**—Per the Governors' change to Covid restrictions, March 15, 2021, the board agreed to open food service up to a capacity of 100 people, including downstairs. The church will provide caramel rolls and coffee to MNTC on April 11th, between 1st and 2nd service. The lady's kitchen crew will be serving Easter breakfast. A team of servers will dish up the food to keep fewer opportunities for contamination.
- **Sanctuary seating changes**—all seating will be set up for the future church services. Social distancing, and mask requirements will remain under the same implementation required by the Governor of the state.
- **Church service time**—starting April 11th, the service times will be at 9:00 and 10:30 AM

New Business--

- **LMC prospects**—Matt Urspringer and Casey Reynolds petitioned to become new Local Ministerial Candidates. Pastor Jim asked each candidate questions from the Free Methodist Church Book of Discipline. BOA members were given the opportunity to ask questions. The BOA voted to confirm each candidate. The vote was unanimous for approval. Matt and Casey will be presented before the congregation as part of a LMC process.
- **Youth Group News / Sales / Trip**—the Youth trip is still on for July 2021.
- **Mike and Vicki Reynen**—BOA decided to up the monthly giving from \$200.00 to \$300.00 to help the Reynens. The board has also chosen to give a onetime offering of \$3,000.00 to help with the building improvements in Togo. Tim Judd made the motion and Kevin Swecker seconded. The motion was passed.
- **Summer community picnics**—still on as scheduled. (see February BOA minutes)
- **Verndale Christian Academy**-Pastor Ken K. March 21st Pastor Ken will speak, briefly, next Sunday at both services. He will also have a table set up in the foyer.

Other:

Next Meeting – April 19th, 2021 6:30

Closing Prayer—Chris Neal offered the closing prayer.

Present—Linda Beebe, Tim and Jessica Judd, Ken Swecker, Carla Leehy, Craig and Carol Weigel, Chris Neal, Barbara Hirschev, Marisela Vasquez, Pastor Charles Mallory, Pastor Jim Johnson

Guests—Melaine Swecker, Curt Hirschev