



Motley Free Methodist Church

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April 2025



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“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified Him there, along with the criminals-one on His right, the other on His left. Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.’ And they divided up His clothes by casting lots.”

Luke 23:33-34, New International Version

This April, we will be reminded of the Cross, and celebrate the love of God, the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Resurrection. When I think of this and remember these words of Jesus, I simply say, “Thank You Lord!” Thank you, Lord, for dying for me / us. Thank you, Lord, for your willingness to forgive, not just those who nailed Him to the cross but forgiveness to all who ask. Thank you, Lord! I hope that you all will plan to worship with us this season, on Palm Sunday, Good Friday (communion) and Resurrection (Easter) morning. Breakfast will be served on Easter morning for anyone who wants to join us. Easter is such a special time on the Christian calendar, but as followers of Jesus Christ we should celebrate HIM every day. We should praise Him every day. God is worthy of our praise, every day, don't you think?

April will be busy with activities and May will be too. May 4th MNTC will be here to share testimonies and sing for us at both services, we will have pot-luck dinner together with them that day. On May 18th, we will celebrate another class of graduating high school seniors, and we will celebrate Mother's Day and Memorial Day in May as well. But even though we will recognize and celebrate all these wonderful things, may we never lose sight of the fact that the church of Jesus Christ exists to point people to Jesus Christ, in and out of the church. May we never forget who we are, in Christ, and be the “salt and light” that Jesus calls us to be in our communities and beyond.

Thank you again to our praise and worship team for the Food Shelf fund raising concert and your weekly leading. Thank you to all our teachers who teach. Thank you Awana and youth group leaders and team for guiding our young ones in the ways of Jesus. Thank you, prayer warriors, and funeral food providers and all who give of them time, talents and treasures. Thank you and God bless you.

We want to mention to you 2 large projects that we are prayerfully considering. The parking lot is 20 years old and in need of some serious reconstruction. We have a couple of bids now to grind down and resurface the lot. This is expensive but needs to be done sooner than later. We also have been without adequate kitchen space for 10 years. We would very much like to add a new kitchen on the west end of the existing “Riverside” building. This project will be expensive, too. Please pray with us and ask God for guidance and funds to make these projects a reality sometime in the near future. We will keep you informed on both projects as we gather more information, but please pray with us for them both. As your BOA considers these projects, we will also once again designate the 5th Sunday offerings (4 of them per year) to the “building fund.” This will be a start to setting aside funds for these projects.

Thank you again for being part of our family. May God be glorified in and through us all.

Serving Jesus and serving you,
Pastor Jim



**“O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your wrath, Nor chasten me in Your hot displeasure!
 For Your arrows pierce me deeply, And Your hand presses me down.**

***There is no soundness in my flesh Because of Your anger, Nor any health in my bones Because of my sin.
 For my iniquities have gone over my head; Like a heavy burden they are too heavy for me.***

**My wounds are foul *and* festering Because of my foolishness.
 I am troubled, I am bowed down greatly; I go mourning all the day long.
 For my loins are full of inflammation, And *there is* no soundness in my flesh.
 I am feeble and severely broken; I groan because of the turmoil of my heart.**

**Lord, all my desire *is* before You; And my sighing is not hidden from You.
 My heart pants, my strength fails me; As for the light of my eyes, it also has gone from me.**

My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off.”

Psalm 38:1-11, New King James Version

Mental Health/Mental Illness

Friends, can you hear the cry of the psalmist? Can you hear the anguish of his spirit? I have been battling this for months and even reached out to other pastors and leaders that I respect and trust. I ask them what are we to do with the topic of mental health or mental illness? It breaks my heart what I have been told over and over, LEAVE that to the PROFESSIONALS! We have and what has been the result, an all-time high of depression, anxiety, fear, counseling, diagnosis, and psychotropic drug prescriptions. Read the psalm... what would the psalmist be diagnosed with today? Depression, Anxiety, PTSD, chemical imbalance, and who knows what else. Friends I am NO Expert in this field, but I serve and trust in a God who is able to give the blind their sight, heal the leper, restore hearing, raise the dead, and save a wretch like me! Surely, He is big enough to set people free from mental illness.

I am preparing for a message on this subject and believe the church has been silent much too long. I ask you to pray for me in my preparation and studies for this message. What I know for sure is that there is a spiritual element to this whole issue that the world completely disregards as an option to free people from their anguish. By the power of God, may He help people be free from this heavy burden that seems to afflict so many in and out of the church.

**Praying for you Church,
 Assistant Pastor Casey**

Staff Hours	<u>Pastor Jim:</u> Friday: Off	
	<u>Pastor Casey:</u> Monday: Off Tuesday-Friday: 9 am-5pm	
	<u>Tatum:</u> Thursday: Off Mon-Wed, Friday: 8 am-3 pm	



Small Group Information

Here at the MFMC, we would like to encourage you to pray about getting involved in some of our many small group opportunities! If you are interested in leading a small group, please see Pastor Jim or Pastor Casey!

Sunday

- *9 am Children's church during first service
- *9 am & 10:30 am adult small group in the dining hall
- *10:30 am children's Sunday school classes second service
- *6 pm Celebrate Recovery

Tuesday

- *10 am Bible study at Sunny Pines with Sheri Johnson
- *6 pm Grief Share
- *6:30 pm Bible study with Ron Stokes



Wednesday

- *9:30 am Bible study with Al
- *11 am prayer group in the nursery
- *6 pm Evening Service

Thursday

- *9 am Sewing circle
- *6:30 pm Men's Group with Mike Horstmann
- *6:30 pm Women's Group with Susie Horstmann
- *6 pm young people's Bible study at the Judd's

Friday

- *9:30 am Truth Project Bible study

Saturday

- *6 pm prayer group at the church with Pastor Jim

Women's Ministry Meeting Minutes

Galatians 6:9-10 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."

The women's ministry team has had a busy few months helping with funerals, wedding showers, and a wedding, besides the normal projects, and babies being born and celebrated!! We, The Motley Free Methodist Church's Women's Ministry, pray we are about the business of our Heavenly Father as Ecclesiastes states in chapter 3 and Romans 12:15. Coming alongside and rejoicing with those who rejoice and mourning with those who mourn! Our monthly devotionals read by Hope Johnson, from Phillip Gulley's book have all been about Ecclesiastes chapter 3, for everything there is a season...

Being part of a church body is more than simply attending a church service once a week. It's growing together as followers of Jesus, who do life with one another. We love and support one another through the ups and downs of life. It's a privilege to be able to serve one another and so fulfill the greatest commandment to Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind and love our neighbor as ourselves! Thank you all for supporting our families in the church and the community through the monthly projects! In April, we will be hosting another Easter Breakfast, if you are interested in serving that morning, please let Jess know. We will also be collecting items again for MNTC, who will be here Sunday, May 4th. Please be looking for that information coming soon!

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441, jessleejohnson@yahoo.com, or on messenger. 😊

Children's Education

Special happenings with our children coming this spring: Wednesday, April 16, we will hold a special Easter Event for our Awana Children! We will hold 9 stations, 5 of which will take the children through the Easter story, then they will do some crafts, snacks and make a resurrection egg set to take home to share with their families! If you would like to come help out that evening, please contact Jess. We could use help with story stations and simply taking groups of kids around through the stations! Also coming right around the corner, will be the AWANA celebration with awards, supper and Derby night on May 14th starting at 5 pm! This should be a fun event for the whole family, please note this is NOT a normal night at 3:30 pm, but a special last night for the season beginning at 5 pm!! Sarah Bendson will also be working with the Sunday school children to present a special on Palm Sunday with our children!

Our current Children's programming consists of:

- **Nursery Care** for children 0-36 months during both services!
- **Children's Church** during the 1st service after songs!
- **Children's/Youth Sunday School Classes** during the 2nd service at 10:30 am in the basement
- **AWANA Clubs** on Wednesday afternoon 3:30-5:30 pm
- **Youth Group** on Wednesday evenings 6-8 pm
- **Young Adults Group** on Thursdays at 6 pm at the Judds' home

If you have any questions about children's programming, please contact Jessica Judd, Christian Ed Director for MFMC! 😊

AWANA Clubs

Our Awana clubs are entering into the final weeks of our program year! April is our last full month and it is a busy one! We are starting off by decorating our Derby cars on April 2nd and then we are having a Luau on the 9th. We are celebrating Jesus' Resurrection on the 16th with a special night that will have the kids journeying through the Holy Week, as well as making crafts and a snack. April 30th, we are having a Double Buck night, in which the kids earn double points in preparation for our store night in May. If you have items to donate to the Awana Store, please see Brandi Neal, or be looking for the tote in the foyer.

In large group time, the children will continue to learn about the Fruits of the Spirit: Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We are also preparing for our final Store Night, Derby Night, and our end of the year Awards Ceremony all coming up in May! Thank you, church, for all of your prayers and support this year. **Thank you for serving Jesus by Loving our kids!**

Schedule:

- April 2nd – Parents help decorate Derby Cars at 5 pm!
- April 9th – Luau Night (Early Out S/M schools)
- April 16th – Resurrection Event
- April 23rd – Regular Night (BAY)
- April 30th – Double Buck Night



RACE ON OVER TO THE MFMC



DERBY NIGHT

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025
From 5:00 – 7:00PM

Motley Free Methodist Church
*Supper Included!!

Motley Free Methodist Church

YOUTH SALE

*Friday, May 2, 8-4 pm

*Saturday, May 3, 8-12PM

333 Birch Street, Motley, MN

Clothing, Furniture, Toys, Books and more....



Youth News

March started off with a Movie Night on the 5th. We watched The Forge by the Kendrick Brothers. Jess continued her lessons on the book of Genesis. March 26th at 5:30 pm, we had a Mission Trip meeting for parents and participants.

April starts off with Craig doing the lessons. April 18th is the Good Friday service and Easter services on the 20th, with Easter breakfast being served from 8-10 am. April 23rd is the last B.A.Y. Rally of the school year. We will have pizza at 5:30 pm and leave for the Rally at 6 pm. April 30th is set up night for the Youth Sale. That night the youth are asked to go directly to the little white church at Tim and Jess' to help get ready for the sale. We are taking good donations for the sale at this time.

Looking ahead: Youth Group Rummage and Bake Sale May 2nd and 3rd. May 14th is Derby Night for AWANA with a Youth Group division this year. Sunday May 18th is Senior Recognition Sunday. May 21st will be bump up night for welcoming our 6th graders into Youth Group.

Mission trip update! We are going to Cincinnati, Ohio for a Week Of Hope with Group Mission Trips. We will be leaving July 12th and returning July 19th. At this time, we have 26 youth and 6 adult chaperones going. Please pray for our mission trip! Things to pray for are the people we are going to serve and the ones going on the trip.

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

	Date	First Service	Second Service
Nursery Schedule	April 6 th	Samantha & Dayton	Amy & Kalee W
	April 13 th	Taylor H & Clara N	Kristen O & Clara J
	April 20 th	Diane J & Clara J	Kristen O & Sharon T
	April 27 th	Margaret F & Clara N	Pat B & Kristen O

Motley Free Methodist Church
BOA Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2025
6:30 PM

Members present: Pastor Jim Johnson, Pastor Casey Reynolds, Tatum Reynolds, Jessica Judd, Harry Brown, Kevin Swecker, Jerry Haase, Craig Weigel, Brandi Neal and Carla Leehy

Visitors: Kim Reynolds, Sye Reynolds

Devotional/Prayer: Pastor Jim read 1 Peter 2:9 from Blackaby's Experiencing God Devotional

Secretary Report: Motion to accept secretary's report made by Harry Brown, 2nd by Jerry Haase. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept made by Craig Weigel, 2nd by Kevin Swecker. Motion carried.

New Business:

- V.A.C.A. Banquet March 22nd. Motion to give \$11,000 for 2 scholarships was made by Kevin Swecker, 2nd by Craig Weigel. Motion carried. Tatum and Sye are going to the banquet and will deliver the check.
- Background checks will continue as is.
- Kevin Swecker and Carla Leehy will be on a committee in response to Active Shooter training.
- Food packing April 12th at Church of Christ in Staples. Volunteers needed.
- **Good Friday/Easter/Palm Sunday:** we will have a breakfast on Easter Sunday.
- **Pillager Grad Blast:** Motion made to buy 10 Bibles and 10 - \$25 gift cards by Craig Weigel, 2nd by Jessica Judd. Motion carried.
- **Parking Lot Reseal/Resurface:** Pastor Casey will have quotes for redoing the parking lot next BOA meeting.
- **Addition for Kitchen/Building Fund:** Motion to reestablish 5th Sunday offerings for building fund made by Craig Weigel, 2nd by Jerry Haase. Motion carried.
- **Motley June Fest:** Motion made to do a Gold sponsorship again this year by Kevin Swecker, 2nd by Craig Weigel. Motion carried.
- **New Members:** Motion made to receive new members by Kevin Swecker, 2nd by Harry Brown. Motion carried. 5 new members will be introduced and received soon.
- **Bishop Hawkins** – Africa request for funds to help feed children

BOA meeting was closed in Prayer by Pastor Casey

Next meeting will be April 21, 2025

Submitted by Carla Leehy

April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	2 - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	3 - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judds - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	4 - 9:30am Last Truth Project Bible Study for the season - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting	5 - 6pm Prayer Meeting
6 - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	7	8 - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	9 - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	10 - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judds - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	11 - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting	12 - 9am Women's Meeting - 10am VBS Meeting - 6pm Prayer Meeting
13 Palm Sunday - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	14	15 - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	16 - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	17 - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judds - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	18 Good Friday - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting - 6pm Good Friday Service	19 - 6pm Prayer Meeting
20 Easter - 8-10am Easter Breakfast - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	21 - 6:30pm BOA Meeting	22 - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	23 - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	24 - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judds - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	25 - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting	26 - 10am District Pastors Meeting - 6pm Prayer Meeting
27 - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	28	29 - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	30 - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group			