



Motley Free Methodist Church

"In His Grip"

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

August 2020

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A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Hebrews 12:14 (NIV) *"Make every effort to live at peace with all men and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord".*

There are a lot of things in America right now that are not very peaceful, aren't there?

The writer of Hebrews reminds us of two profound truths here in one verse; first, we are instructed to attempt to live at peace with every one....and if that directive wasn't quite enough, the writer says "live at peace with all men and be holy".

So, we are called on to be holy while striving to live at peace with everyone around us.

As I look over the landscape of our nation today, I see that it is going to take a real effort, to live at peace with all people. A real effort that in today's atmosphere of hatred, bitterness, killing, resentment, and entitlement will not happen without the leading and the power of the Holy Spirit of God helping us to achieve this directive.

This will not happen on our will power or our own might. We, as followers of Jesus Christ, must depend entirely on the Spirit of God to lead us in times like these.

Secondly, this verse then reminds us of this profound truth.... "without holiness, no one will see the Lord".

Did you catch that friends? First of all, we cannot and will not ever be holy outside of the shed blood of Jesus and our placing our faith completely in HIM.

And when we have repented of all sin and placed our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, **then** we are called upon to live holy lives in an unholy world.

Impossible, you say? Once again, you are right.....impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit of God living in us.

The real challenge here as I see it is to remain holy in the sight of God, while everything around us is not.

But we cannot just give in and say it cannot be done, because this verse implies that it can be done and it must be done if we ever plan to see the Lord.

Wow, I think we are going to need to fast and pray to be a holy representation to this very unholy world we have found ourselves living in today. May God be praised through his church.

Our lives have all been disrupted this spring and summer completely; all of us. But God has not changed, his directives to His people (the church) has not changed and the "Commission" (Go therefore and make disciples....) that He has instructed us has not changed either.

Whether we are meeting together in the building or not, whether we are meeting without masks or not, whether we have decided to stay home and view on FaceBook Live or whether we are attending in person; God has not changed His direction and directives to the church.

We must still love our neighbors and love our enemies. We must still be salt in our communities and "light" to the darkness. None of this has changed.

And, as I mentioned from the pulpit last Sunday, we must not allow the devil, that father of all lies, that murderer from the beginning to divide and make bitter God's church.

At this point, we will attempt one more community picnic. That will be at the Converse Park on August 12th.

At this point, we do not know what we will do for AWANA, or how it will look for us this fall. (maybe on July 30, we will know more of what schools are going to do)

At this point we do not know when we can minister to families by feeding them, at their loved one's funerals again.

At this point, we have no idea how long this "mask mandate" is going to last, but our position is the same as we stated originally "as of July 25, 2020, per the executive order 20-81 people in Minnesota are required to wear face covering in all public spaces and businesses" and further "if you come to church without a mask, we will not be asking of your specific condition" and lastly " please remember that there are many people in our churches and communities that are actually more comfortable knowing that masks are being worn".

May we seek to honor the Lord first and love our neighbors as God would have us too.

May we serve Him faithfully, not in fear and in trepidation but in confidence God will guide and God will be glorified, one way or another.

Thank you to all who helped make VBS a reality, to some level, for the children that could come. God bless you all.

Serving Jesus and serving you.

Pastor Jim

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Words from Pastor Jim	1
Upcoming Events	2
Small Group Information	2
Young Adult Ministry	2
Women's Ministry Information	3
Youth News	3
Nursery Schedule	3
Children's Programming Information	4
AWANA News	4
BOA Minutes	5

Upcoming Event

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO GOVERNORS DIRECTIVES: Please stay tuned!!

- *Aug. 3- Christian Ed meeting at 5:30
- *Aug. 8-Women's Meeting at 9 am
- *Aug. 12-Community Picnic at 5:30

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
- 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



Love. Grow. Serve.

Young Adults

August is upon us as we begin to realize the end of the summer season is not too far away. I am sure that is the least of our worries right now as the desire for this pandemic to end is more prevalent. We are still experiencing modifications to all our procedures and "rules," so we greatly appreciate your flexibility and adaptability to the various changes.

We do have one event that you can help us with. Our August "Community Picnic" will be on August 12th from 5:30PM to 7:30PM at Ernie Converse Park here in Motley. Let us know if you can help prepare meals, master the grilling of hotdogs/hamburgers, or assist with serving.

Everything else is holding steady. Our Young Adults ministry continued to reach out via **Twitter** with **5,600 views** in the last 30 days with an average of **138 people visiting** and interacting with our Twitter page each day.

Through our Twitter page, we had, **2,424 people** access our weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, Sunday worship services, and Pastors' sermons (MP3 audio). And, finally, our Church **blog-page** published 3 new articles with **313** checking in to read.

We pray that you have a blessed month ahead. Keep watch on Facebook and Twitter for future announcements regarding opportunities to serve with the Church. Blessings to you all!

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

Women's Ministry News:

The Women's Group met on Saturday, July 11 at 9 am. The Women's group along with the church family donated the \$500.00 requested to the CARE committee for this year's school supplies. The Women's group also decided that if individuals wanted to still bring in some school supplies for children in our church, we would set a table in the foyer for them to pick up donated items!

Also, the women's group decided to try and pair each of our Care center or nursing home residents with a partner in the body to send them encouraging notes or cards on a monthly basis (at a minimum), if you feel you would like to send cards to someone, please let Linda or Jess know so we can get each one a partner. Thank you for your help in loving our body!

The sewing group on Thursday's has started back up and will now be headed up by Jennifer Mallory. If you have any questions regarding sewing/crafting group, please see Jennifer!

Thank you to all who continue to make prayer shawls, we continue to give them out as needs arise.



The women's group gave out one marriage devotional in June.

Our next women's meeting will be Saturday, August 8th at 9 am! Everyone is invited to join us!

Youth News:

July started off with the Community Picnic on the 8th. July 16th, 17th and 18th was the Youth Group garage sale. The sale this year was a great success, thanks to tons of donations and lots of help. The sale was one day longer than usual and we made over \$8,300. Thanks to everyone that donated items and their time. A big thank to Tim and Jess for hosting the sale. The end of July was VBS week with a family VBS due to COVID 19.

Jess will continue with lessons in August. August 12th is the next Community picnic at Ernie Converse Park from 5:30 to 7:30. August 26th is the end of summer Youth Group picnic at Tim and Jess's house.

Looking a head if any youth are interested in going on the Mission trip in July 2021 please talk to one of the Youth Leaders.

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



Due to Covid-19

We will not be staffing our Nursery as of right now. Parents are welcome to sit in the Nursery and supervise their child 0-3 yrs. old if they need to.

We are sorry for any inconvenience.





In Children's Ministry News:

Our children's church has started back up with children's church available for children both services! Sheri Johnson along with Marisela Vasquez will continue to lead the 1st service children. Jennifer Mallory and Jason Caldwell lead our children during the second service. The nursery is still open for families to use; however, it is still not being staffed at this time. Thank you for your understanding.

Vacation Bible School has just wrapped up for another year! VBS was very different this year being a family VBS and only 1 hour long. July 27-31, 2020 from 6-7 pm. The children and their families came for a time of music, Bible verses, Bible Stories, Chadder's theatre and each family was sent home with crafts and snacks! Thank you to all who attended and helped us have some form of Vacation Bible school for our children!

There will be a Christian Ed meeting on Aug. 3 at 5:30 pm.



We are still praying and discussing what our AWANA club will involve in the fall. No matter what happens we still need you, church family, to develop relationships with our kids and help teach them a biblical worldview. Please be in prayer about how you may be involved, and be watching for sign-up information and start dates! September will be here soon!

Coming up this year:

Truth and Training (3rd - 6th graders) will be working in a book called "Discovery of Grace" where they will learn about the Character of God, His Word the Bible, and His Son Jesus. They will also be learning about the Fruits of the Spirit.

Sparks (Kindergarten-2nd graders) are working at their own pace through 3 books that give an overview of the whole Bible.

Cubbies (Pre-school) will be working in a book called HoneyComb, where they will learn about God as the Creator, that Jesus loves us and saves us and wants us to tell others about His love!

BOA MINUTES – 07/13/2020

Present: Pastor Jim Johnson, Pastor Charles Mallory, Traci Birkholtz, Carol Weigel, Craig Weigel, Tim Judd, Linda Beebe, Chris Neal and Alex Griffith

Guests: Jessica Judd

Devotional/Prayer: Tozer/Rev 3:17

Secretary Report - Craig made a motion to accept the June 15, 2020, minutes and Alex seconded that motion. All agreed, motion carried.

Old Business:

Re-opening Updates

- 50% Capacity/Social Distance – will remain the same
- Start Times – will remain the same; 9:00 & 10:45
- Children’s Church/Classes – will remain the same
- Adult Classes/Bible Studies – will remain the same
- Teen/Youth Sunday School Classes – considering changing to first service to help families worship together
- Lunches/Food in Church – will remain the same

New Business:

Community Picnic – Was a success with approximately 103 people served. Likely that the August picnic will be handled the same way.

VBS – July 27 through 31st, 6-7 pm - Reservations requested. Children will be accompanied by an adult. Family style VBS will consist of Opening/Story-time, and Chatter Theater. Each child will be sent home with a snack and craft.

MCBI Radio – Traci made a motion to continue with a \$600 (one-month) weather sponsorship, Alex seconded that motion. All agreed, motion carried.

MNTC – scheduled to visit August 30, 2020. 3-4 members will be here to share their testimony.

Urbandale FMC Roof Project – A new roof is needed for the FM church in Iowa. Their loan for \$33,000 is more than they can handle, with monthly payments of \$500. After discussions, the board decided we had the ability to bless them as we have been blessed. Craig made a motion to donate \$16,500 towards their loan. Traci seconded that motion. No further discussion, motion carried.

Good in the Hood – This ministry was started by pastors at our Bloomington FMC. They provide food to those in need. Traci made a motion to donate \$1000 towards their Food Drive Program. Craig seconded that motion. No discussion, motion carried.

Next meeting tentatively to be held on August 24, 2020 at 6:30.