



# Motley Free Methodist Church

## "In His Grip"

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

January 2021

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### A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV) *For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God, that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Hallelujah! Isn't that really good news, people of God?

2020 has challenged us all. This past year has challenged us to be the church outside of the church. I hope we will keep doing that. What do I mean by that; loving the Lord, loving our neighbors, being salt and light every day and making disciples, outside of the 4 walls of this building.

This past year has changed many of the things that we would call "normal". VBS, youth mission trips, funerals, weddings, to name a few..... have all been changed this year.

2020, once again, has seen the loss of life in our church family, in our community and in your circles of life.

BUT God's love for us has not changed. I am so thankful that we can count on that when it seems like nothing else is very solid right now.

I am praying for 2021, and for God's mighty power to be evident. I am praying for the salvation of multitudes of people in our communities, our nation and billions around the world. I am praying for transformation. I am still praying for revival..... I would ask you all to keep praying too for these things and more. To God be the glory!

I don't know any better than you do what this new year is going to bring..... but I do know this, we can count on God to be with us no matter what the year brings. Later in this month, we (MFMC) are going to have our annual meeting. Normally, that would mean a sit-down meal together (with members and non, alike) and we would talk about the state of the church and do some voting on the next years BOA, budget, etc.

This year, due to the coronavirus and restrictions, it will not be like that. BUT we will have an informational type meeting at our services on January 24<sup>th</sup> and after that second meeting we will invite anyone and everyone who wishes to sit in on the meeting to do so, immediately after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. Our target start time will be noon. We will be in the main sanctuary so that we can "social distance" to some degree, but we will not be having a meal. We will be brief so that you can get on to the rest of your day and lunch.

Anyone, that has not been in attendance this past few months due to the coronavirus, is absolutely invited (member or non) to be here that day. Those members, who want to join in at noon that day, will be offered the chance to vote as normal.

We will have some informational handouts for you and pass out ballots to those who are eligible to vote.

Charles and I will offer a "membership" class on Sunday evening the 10<sup>th</sup> or the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month also. We will attempt to have those new members informed and approved by the BOA before the 24<sup>th</sup>, but not sure if we can pull that off or not.

Our goal for our congregation this new year will be as it has been for some time. Love the Lord, love people and make disciples. It is our desire to continue to offer bible study opportunities to anyone that wants to continue their walk with Jesus and to grow in their faith. There are bible studies being offered now and there will be more in this near future.

We want to offer discipling opportunities too. Where we intentionally come together to learn and grow and make disciples who will make disciples.

We will keep offering our students (youth and younger) learning and growth opportunities. We are hopeful that this new year we can do things more like we have in the past without so many restrictions.

It will still be our intent to support both local missions (MNTC, LAPS, MCBI radio, BAY etc.) and to support our missionaries and Children's ministries around the globe, in Pakistan, Kenya (Africa), Costa Rica etc.

Brothers and sisters, we exist to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. We exist to love. We exist to make disciples. We exist to glorify God and bring people to the cross and to a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that is transformational and eternal. We exist to glorify God.

My prayer for this near year is that God will lead us, will unite us and use us in whatever ways he sees fit to advance His Kingdom, here and around the world.

Thank you for being part of this family. Thank you for living for Jesus, walking with Jesus, and seeking Him daily. Thank you for contributing your time, tithes and talents. We could not do what we do without you and we praise God for you all.

Together may we glorify God in all we do.

Looking forward with hopeful anticipation towards 2021.

Serving Jesus and serving you, 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
Nursery Schedule	3
Youth News	3
Children's Programming Information	4
AWANA News	4

## Upcoming Event

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

- \*Jan. 9-Women's Meeting at 9 am
- \*Jan. 24- Annual Meeting

## 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



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## Young Adults

We have hope and the eternal promises of God not only already fulfilled, but those yet to come. May it be our prayer for 2021 that we live awakened by the sobering reality that all the events surrounding the return of Jesus Christ are already underway. We must live ready! *Watching. Waiting. Expecting!*

We pray that 2021 will be a new year of self-surrender to the things of the world where we are driven with passion towards the things of God so that we are not caught unprepared for the return of Christ. Are you ready? Your family? Friends? Neighbors? Let's keep each other accountable this new year in preparation of the Second Advent!

We continue seeing positive results in our media platforms. We **started** a new **video Bible study** in the book of Titus. They are 30-minute lessons that go "verse by verse" explaining the letter as written by the Apostle Paul to Titus. **Seven lessons** have been recorded to date.

We gained **two** more people on **Twitter** and stand at **94** followers. We had **3,400 views** in the last 30 days with an average of **89** people **visiting** and **interacting** with our Twitter page **each day**. Our Twitter page allowed **2,897 people** to access our weekly bulletin, blogs, monthly newsletter, weekly AWANA program, Sunday worship services, Pastors' sermons (MP3 audio) and our video Bible study. And, finally, our Church **blog**-page published **2 articles** with **369** checking in to read.

As we have concluded 2020 and now set the course ahead for 2021, my charge for us is adapted 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](mailto:charlesMFMC@gmail.com)**

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

**Twitter:** @FreeMotley or <https://twitter.com/FreeMotley>

## Women's Ministry News:

The women's group has certainly been the hands and feet of Jesus throughout 2020! Projects included: Diaper Bags for Lakes Area Pregnancy Support, Collection of Items for Teen Challenge and a case of Bibles, giving out 5 marriage devotionals to newlyweds, 19 partners for Cards for the Care Center, given out 35-40 prayer shawls for those who have been sick or had surgeries, donated \$500.00 to CARE committee for back to school fair, baby shower gifts and blankies, the women have had a sewing circle group on Thursday mornings at 9 am-making blankets for others, pastor appreciation gifts, 32 Thanksgiving boxes and 15 gift cards, 82 Christmas goodie bags, and 12 poinsettias to remember loved ones of Pastor Jim's funerals. Thank you!

Without the helping hands of our body, all of these blessings would not have been possible! We appreciate all of you.

The women's group meets monthly, the second Saturday of every month at 9 am! Please feel free to join us for any or all meetings! There is a devotional and update of past and upcoming events/projects the ladies' group is working on and a completion of those projects!

Our January meeting will be "Help Saturday", January 9th at 9 am we will be collecting items for LAPS (Lakes Area Pregnancy Support.) We will collect a boy and girl bag to be donated as well as items to fill those bags. If you are interested in helping please sign the clip-board on the back table in the foyer!

If you have questions regarding the women's ministry please contact Jessica Judd. For sewing circle information, please contact Jennifer Mallory!

## Youth News:

December started off with Jess doing the lessons on the Christmas story. One of the lessons was Nativity Escape Room game. The competition was fierce and it was fun watching youth solve the puzzles revolving around the birth of our Savior. December 16<sup>th</sup> was our annual Youth Group Christmas Party. Our party was a little different this year due to social distancing. Normally we play a dice game where you roll dice and steal someone else's presents, it usually gets kind of wild. This year we had a devotional and played bingo. We had enough small gifts that everyone won at least twice.

January will be Craig's turn to do the lessons. January 27<sup>th</sup> is the next B.A.Y. Rally. The Youth Group wants to wish everyone a very happy New Year.

Looking ahead. Our mission trip destination in July has been changed. Most of the reservations in Montana and South Dakota have already closed to groups visiting this summer. We have decided to go to Rapid City South Dakota, while there we will work with organizations that work with the needy and disabled in the area.

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](mailto:cbweigel@hotmail.com) or

Jessica Judd (218)296-2441 [jessleejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto: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:

Happy New Year! With the close of 2020, we look forward to what the Lord will do in our children's programming in 2021!!! Every January, the children's programming leaders get together to plan for the coming year! We want to thank all of you who work with our children/youth in some capacity. It has been a different sort of year, yet we found new ways to continue to reach out to our communities' children. The addition of children's bulletins, continuing as much children's programming as possible, including a family VBS and family AWANA program with options of joining us over Facebook live, have helped bridge the gap that happened this year with COVID! We are thankful for your diligence, hard work and good ideas!! Children's Church during the first service, Sunday school classes during the second service, AWANA programming on Wednesday evenings, Youth Group on Wednesday evenings and a Youth Sunday School class during the first service will continue into the New Year! We will look forward to planning this year's Vacation Bible school. We pray by June we will be able to run a fairly normal VBS but will plan for whatever may come! May we continue to be led by His spirit as we strive to lead our children and youth to a closer walk with Jesus in 2021! If you are interested in helping in children's programming or have questions, please contact Jessica Judd! 218.296.2441, [jessleejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:jessleejohnson@yahoo.com) or message me on Facebook/Messenger.



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great time during Christmas Break celebrating the coming of our Lord and Savior!

We have lots planned for January. Clubbers are going to learn about how God wants us to love Him, and what he expects from us. They are also going to discover how and why God transforms us. Along the way we are going to have some fun with catapults, crazy hats/hair, and glow sticks! We have also re-scheduled dot your leader night for January 20<sup>th</sup>. It is not too late to join the fun. We have plenty of space for families to social distance.

Schedule:

**Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>** - Regular night; **Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>** - Crazy Hat/Hair night; **Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>** - Dot your leader night (Rescheduled) **Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>** - Glow Night

\*As a reminder, if we need to cancel for bad winter weather, announcements will be on both the church and club Facebook pages.