



# Motley Free Methodist Church

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

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## A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

**Isaiah 1:4 (NIV)** *Ah sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evil doers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the Lord; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on Him.*

I don't mean to be negative on this 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the year 2022, with this scripture.....but I ask myself, does this not describe the current conditions in America?

This does not necessarily apply to every individual, but as a nation, we are just like Israel of Isaiah's time. We have turned our back on God. We have spurned the Holy One of Israel.

Why do I mention this?

What an opportunity the church in America, the church in central Minnesota, the church in Motley has, to do something about this condition we find ourselves in.

"What do you mean Jim"

As we embark on this new year, would you be willing to write down and pray for an individual or two this year? Write their name in your bible or someplace where you will be reminded to pray for them and their salvation, or their return to the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray for those names often, pray for them to commit their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord!

Maybe even pray for opportunities to share your faith with people this year.

Friends, if we are not intentional about inviting people to church and inviting people to Jesus Christ as Lord, they're not to likely to ever come to either one.

NO, I am not taking the credit for someone's salvation, God does that...but the bible is crystal clear on this matter, the church is to tell others the "Good News" of Jesus Christ. The church is to "love our neighbors" and the church is to "make disciples". These are not suggestions to the followers of Jesus; they are what we are commanded to do.

None of these things happen on their own. We must be intentional about this. **That is why I am asking for every one of us to pray for a person or two this year, pray every day until they come to faith in Jesus Christ.**

We, as part of God's collective church, must be intentional about the "harvest fields" Jesus spoke of.

On Sunday January 9<sup>th</sup> we will plan to have our annual meeting for the Motley Free Methodist Church, after pot-luck dinner together after the 2<sup>nd</sup> service. We will have a short meeting which includes electing some delegates to represent MFMC at our annual NCC Conference meetings June 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is welcome to attend, and we welcome all "members" to vote on these delegate positions.

May I say again, **thank you so much for your faithfulness in tithing** and giving to the Lord and this church. Because of your faithfulness in this, we have been able to minister to countless others in the name of Jesus.

You already know that we support missionaries in Africa, Costa Rica, Pakistan and more, not to mention we support Teen Challenge and L.A.P.S., B.A.Y and MCBI radio.

But because of the faithfulness of your giving, we have also helped 2 FMC pastor's wives in critical situations and we have helped dozens of our own widows to a small degree, we helped put a roof on a church in Africa and drill a well in Central America. I say Praise God, for the opportunity to do these things and more. God bless you.

I want to say a huge Thank you again to all teachers too. Awana, Youth group, small group bible studies, women's ministry, VBS and more, Thank you. None of what we do is possible without you. Thank you too for praying, oh how we need to pray and seek the face of God in times like these.

Lastly, remember the challenge from our current Superintendent? **"Every church has a minimum of 1 clearly defined ministry outside the church—to reach the lost for Jesus"**. I am praying about this too; will you pray with me?

Serving Jesus and serving you, Jim

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# Upcoming Event

- \*Jan. 8-Women's Meeting at 9 am
- \*Jan. 9-Annual Meeting and Pot-Luck Dinner
- \*Jan. 17-BOA Meeting at 6:30 pm
- \*Jan. 22-Blayne & Emily Wedding
- \*Jan. 24-Christian Ed Meeting at 6 pm

## 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.

- Sunday morning 9:00 Children's Church
- Sunday morning 10:30 Adult Sunday School
- Sunday morning 10:30 Youth Sunday School
- Sunday morning 10:30 Children's Church/Sunday School
- Sunday evening 6:00 Men's Discipleship Class
- Tuesday morning 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday evening 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday morning 9:30 in Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday afternoon 12:00 pm prayer time
- Wednesday afternoon 3:30-5:30 AWANA
- Wednesday evening 6:00 pm Youth Group
- Thursday evening 6:00 Youth Bible Study at the Judd's house
- Thursday evening 6:30 Men's Group
- Thursday evening 6:30 Women's Bible Study
- Saturday evening 6:00 prayer group at the church



## Young Adults 2022

I wrote last January that: *"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..."!* We hope that 2021 was a year of spiritual awakening, renewal, and growth in faith, Scripture, and holiness. We must always strive to become less driven by the world, and more radically obedient towards God. May we stay on this journey even more passionately in the year 2022! We are here to help you with that journey! Let us make this trek through 2022 together.

We will be starting our next Bible study of **Habakkuk** on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 9:30AM in the Fellowship Hall. This minor prophet questions God's "fairness" in governing His creation. Much like today, we can sometimes question God's "fairness" in why evil seems to flourish while "good" is punished. Hope you can be a part of this study.

Our **Twitter** page (@FreeMotley) gained a new "follower" and we stand at **97** members. We also had **1,829** checking in for access to church activities such as worship services, blogs, newsletters, bulletins, and weekly events.

We also **joined** two more **social media platforms** and now offer outreach through **5 platforms: GAB, Telegram, GETTR, MeWe, and Twitter**. We will continue to reach out on the Church Facebook Group page as well. We hope one or more of these connections is of interest to you.

We also published **5 blog articles** that reached **353 readers** over the last month. We hope you enjoy reading and sharing them. One of our goals for 2022 is to expand our blog articles to a weekly **podcast**. We will definitely let you know when that becomes a reality. We also publish the **sermons** which I preach here on the website "Sermon Central." December 12th's "Choose Joy" on Isaiah 16:3-4 had 252 downloads across 80 countries globally in December.

And with a new year, we offer you our new "**memory verse**" for 2022, from **John 13:34-35**: *"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."* It is true that they will know we are Christians by our love. As Young Adults, let us stay connected, bound together in love, and moving forward, together, growing in our faith.

**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)**

**Young Adults - Church Web: <https://www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com/young-adults.html>**

## Women's Ministry News:

On December 11, 2021 the women came together at 10 am had a time of devotions, light luncheon and packed 100 cookie trays to give to our widows, elderly, and those around us who may have needed some cheering up! We are so thankful to those who contributed to these trays with cookies or fruit, those who came together to pack the trays and also those who delivered them! They blessed many!

The women's group also gave out 15 poinsettias in remembrance of lost loved ones. This group continues to strive to reach out each month with helping, encouragement, and love!

Thank you to everyone who has helped with the many projects through out the 2021 year.

The women's group has given out around 30 prayer shawls or quilts this year, started a card ministry for those in the Care centers, marriage devotionals to those getting married, held new baby showers and given many baby quilts, quilts and financial donation to the women's shelter in Brainerd, bought 2 cases of Bibles for the MN Teen challenge and collected items to send with them, monetary donation to help with the back to school kits through the CARE committee in Staples, pastor appreciation gift cards, forty two Thanksgiving boxes and fifteen gift cards!

We are so grateful for this giving body who also supplies abundant help and food for the many funerals we serve each year! You ARE a BLESSING!!!! Thank you!

The January meeting will be held Saturday, January 8 at 9 am. During the January meeting, we will be putting together hygiene kits for the homeless. If you are interested in this project or donating items there is a sign-up sheet on the back table in the church!

If you have questions regarding women's ministry, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441

## Youth News:

The youth group would like to wish you a Happy New Year! Our youth group has been blessed in 2021! We regularly have 20-30 youth in attendance each and every Wednesday evening all year long. We are blessed to see them bringing their friends and encouraging others to join us and get to know more about Jesus Christ our Savior! We continue to pray for their daily walk and strength in an increasingly "strange" world we find ourselves in, trusting God has a great plan for each and every one of them. Our youth are strong, resilient and can do great things for the Lord! This year we started a youth praise team, the youth went on a mission trip to South Dakota, helped purchase picnic tables for the picnic shelter at Ernie converse park through our annual youth sale funds, had another amazing youth sale, had monthly activities to try and encourage our young people to bring their friends! Every year we encourage our youth to get into the word of God and this year many took on that challenge, some just a verse at a time, but several went through the entire Bible again for which we are proud and grateful for their commitment to Christ and knowing His word! The youth also held their first ever entirely youth led service! We recently had a youth lead our Wednesday devotions with several other youth possibly leading in the future! We are training up the next generation of leaders in this group, and that is EXCITING! Thank you to our youth leaders for their dedication! Craig, Tim, Josh and Jess continue to lead our youth! As we step into this New Year, Craig and Jess continue to share the role of Youth Directors and take turns switching months with leading the Bible lessons! We are always excited to see new youth come and join us, if you know any young people, please invite them to come Wednesday evenings 6-8 pm! Also, this year we had one youth want a "youth mentor." If anyone is interested in being a youth mentor or encourager (praying for, sending cards to, maybe even going out to eat or do a Bible study once in a while with one of our youth, please let Craig or Jess know!) Our young people always need love and encouragement in Jesus Christ as they grow and learn to be our next heads in the church! Thank you for your support of our youth in 2021. May God Bless you and our youth again in 2022!

## Nursery Schedule- First Service/Second Service

### January

12/2- Jennifer & Jenny M./Brandi & Clara N.

12/9- Diane J. & Linda B./Sheri J. & Clara J.

12/16- Melaine S & ?/Jane C./Clara N.

12/23- Jennifer K. & ?/Brenda R. & Clara J.

12/30- Jennifer & Jenny M./Brandi & Clara N



If you would like to help in the Nursery this coming year, please see Linda Beebe.



## In Children's Ministry News:

December held our annual children's Christmas program, which was a delight again this year! Thank you to Jennifer Mallory, Barb Hirschey, and Jason Caldwell among others who helped plan, practice and pull off this year's pageant! It is always so much fun to watch our children share their gifts and talents and the love of God with our community! Thank you, young people for your participation and willingness to share your gifts!!!

As we jump into 2022, we will be restarting our second service nursery! Thank you to those of you who have already volunteered on the list, we are scheduling you in and will be up and running! We want to offer great care for our littlest treasures! We are blessed with growing body and we thank you our many volunteers! You are SO important!

Children's church during our first service will continue as usual. Second service offers Sunday school classes for preschool-Kindergartners, with Jason Caldwell, Early elementary class with Barb Hirschey, upper elementary class with Jennifer Mallory and youth with Chris Neal & Jon Tabatt!

Wednesday evenings at 3:30 pm AWANA will kick back off after Christmas break on Wednesday, January 5! We are so thankful to our dedicated AWANA staff! It is vitally important to hide the word of God in our Children's hearts and minds!

Wednesday evenings we also offer youth group at 6-8 pm-we encourage any and all youth to join us for weekly lessons, worship, games, and snacks!

\*Mark you calendar: Monday, January 24, we will have our annual Christian Education meeting to look at the 2022 planning and ideas for all our children's programs! Hope you will join us!



Happy New Year Church family! Even though it is a new year, we are only part of the way through our AWANA club year. Looking back, our Christmas Party was a wonderful gift-wrapping, leader-decorating, and cookie eating time! I cannot thank you enough for donating such wonderful item for the children to buy at the store. Also, thank you to the leaders who planned and wrapped presents and were decorated as trees!

In January, we are going to continue learning about The Bible, and how it teaches us about history, and how to live. The Bible is powerful and active and is our guide! We will have fun with glow sticks and a pirate night where we search for God's treasure.

How can you help? First, keep **praying** for our leaders and kids, and please keep **inviting** kids to AWANA- we have room for more! Second, we are still **feeding** kids after school, check the back table for to sign-up to help. Thank you for serving Jesus by loving our kids!

Schedule:

**Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>** – Regular Night; **Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Glow Night; **Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>** -Regular Night;  
Jan. **26<sup>th</sup>** – Early Out, and Pirate Night

**Motley Free Methodist Church**  
**BOA Meeting Minutes**  
**November 29, 2021**

**Devotional/Prayer**—Lead by Pastor Charles Mallory. Being that it is Christmas time/we consider our faith in general/ what about the Kingdom... Taken from the Free Methodist Way the Free Methodist is a kingdom building church. In Luke 2:49, Jesus asked his parents, "Why were you searching for me? Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house? John 18:36 Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place." In Dr. Philip Ryken 's Tale of Two Kingdoms he speaks of two separate kingdoms; the kingdom of the world marked by the wicked in chains, and the Kingdom of God. God's Kingdom is not here in full yet. His rule has not completed its widest extent. (Daniel 7:27) Pastor Charles prayer was that we continue to be a kingdom building people and that leadership will keep looking to the sky for Jesus. We should be in prayer about our business of being a kingdom building church.

**Secretary Report**—Tim Judd motioned for a correction of October Secretary Report minutes to change the motion to approve from Tim Judd to Craig Weigel. Noted change Motioned by Craig Weigel and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marisela Vasquez. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report**—Motion to accept by Chris Neal and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Swecker. Motion carried.

**Old Business-**

- **Sewer Update**—Kevin Swecker reported that Phil Bjerga dug up the street and found that the issue at hand is the cities problem and not our churches.
- **2022 Budget**—the budget will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 9, 2022.
- **HRA for Office Administrator**—Pastor Jim Johnson based an amount of insurance provided for Linda on the guidelines for time of employment (hours of service). The expense added to the proposed HRA amount is \$2,500. Barbara Hirschey motioned to accept and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marisela Vasquez. Motion carried.

**New Business—**

- **David Wold**— a request made by Dave Wold, of financial support for a church plant, Water Room Project in Guatemala for the amount of \$2,350.00 Chris Neal motioned to support the project with \$2,350. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Judd. Motion carried.
- **Dan Posner**—Sending out a postcard to thank the community for services provided and inform them of church service times along with an invitation to come. A proposal was made to donate \$200.00 to help with the expenses. Motion to accept Barbara Hirschey 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Swecker. Motion carried.
- **Henriette Church**—There is an upcoming financial concern to assist with medical bills for the Pastoral family. Kevin Swecker suggested setting aside money from the Year End budget. No set financial amount was decided upon at this time.
- **C.A.R.E. Ministry**—Motion made by Craig Weigel to donate \$250.00 and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Neal. Motion carried.
- **Live Nativity at Pillager**—Motion to donate \$1,500.00 made by Kevin Swecker and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marisela Vasquez. Motion carried.
- **Motley House Fire**—Church will donate \$1,500.00 in gift cards; One card Wal-Mart, one Fleet farm to assist Nelson family with needs. Motion to accept by Craig Weigel, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marisela Vasquez. Motion carried.

**Yearend Giving—**

- **A) MNTCL/ Bridges of Hope Warming House.** \$1,000.00.
- **B) My Neighbor to Love Mission Village Project**—Brainerd location goal to house twenty mini houses for families in need. Long Term \$1,000.00 Motion to accept by Tim Judd 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kevin Swecker. Motion carried.
- **FM World Missions**—giving \$2,500.00 Motion to accept Barbara Hirschey 2<sup>nd</sup> Chris Neal. Motion carried.
- **Kingdom Youth Conference**—giving \$1,500.00 Motion to accept Tim Judd 2<sup>nd</sup> Craig Weigel. Motion carried.
- **BAY Youth for Christ--** \$1,500.00 Motion to accept Craig Weigel 2<sup>nd</sup> Marisela Vasquez. Motion carried
- **Food Shelf -Motley**—giving \$1,000.00 Motion to accept Kevin Swecker 2<sup>nd</sup> Barbara Hirschey. Motion carried.
- **MNTC**—giving \$2,000.00 Motion to accept Chris Neal 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin Swecker. Motion carried.
- **Henriette Church**—to be determined.

**Delegate Ballots**—Pastor Jim handed out the Nominating Committee Report for 2022. The board discussed voting process and candidates.

**Other**—Pastor Charles Mallory reemphasizing the importance of millennial outreach to our community.

**Closing Comment**—Pastor Jim Johnson asked the board to continue to pray that God would lead the way and that the church would focus on helping our community. He also stated that although our attendance has dropped 20 % since Covid, the giving has increased. The harvest fields are still ripe. He thanked the Board for their service at Motley Free Methodist.

**Present**—Pastor Jim Johnson, Pastor Charles Mallory, Linda Beebe, Tim Judd, Jessica Judd, Craig Weigel, Carol Weigel, Kevin Swecker, Marisela Vasquez, Barbara Hirschey