



Motley Free Methodist Church

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

Pastor Jim Johnson: pastorjim05@brainerd.net 218.352.6888

<http://www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com>

October 2022

A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Luke 10:1-4 (HCSB) *"After this, the Lord appointed 70 others and he sent them ahead of Him in pairs to every town and place where He Himself was about to go. He told them: The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few. Therefore, pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest. Now go; I'm sending you out like lambs among wolves".*

I was on a conference call the other day with our Conference Superintendent and a bunch of other pastors. One more time, the theme was "Are we making Disciples?" Supt. Carl challenged us all, again, of the importance of intentionally making disciples or it will not happen. I agree with this thought completely and want to do a much better job of that myself and do a better job of training others to do so also. More on that later.

Many of you, that were here last Sunday, heard me share statistics on how many in America are abandoning the faith. "Christians" are becoming fewer and fewer with each passing generation. The "none's" (no religious affiliation) are the fastest growing group of people in America. You also heard me say that according to George Barna and his many decades of gathering statistics, "loss of biblical belief is prevalent among pastors in all denominational groupings" and "Americans with a Biblical worldview has been cut in half" in his 30 years of doing what he does.

I could go on and on about the desperate need for intentional discipleship making, but I will not. I will only say this, the probability of these statistics is partly because of the lack of churches being intentional about making disciples. How do I conclude that? Supt Carl mentioned this tragic statistic too; "less than 5% of churches have reproduceable disciple making programs." It becomes fairly easy then to figure out that 95% of today's churches are not making disciples who in turn make disciples. When that happens, and apparently it is happening, we get the results in America that we are seeing and getting today, with this mass exodus of church attending people no longer interested in attending church and worshiping corporately. That brings to me two announcements that I hope will be opportunities to do something about that here in this congregation.

First, **beginning Sunday morning October 9th at 9:00 am** (during the first service) there will be a new class, led by Keith Olander, called "Share Jesus Without Fear." I would encourage many of you to go to this class. Please prayerfully consider learning how important it is for all of us to be able to share our faith in Jesus with others.

Second, I am willing and wanting to hold a training class for anyone that is interested in learning more about being a disciple-maker and perhaps even becoming one. There is a fair amount of good material out there to assist in this, and I have some basic material from DTI (Discipler Training Int'l) to help us learn the importance of disciple making (Mentor training). Then to learn more of what it looks like to train/mentor/disciple others to a closer walk with Jesus, who in turn will be able to do the same thing in time.

Are you interested in this? Please let me know and I will be happy to have some training sessions to equip others to also be mentors and disciple makers.

Lastly, let me say thank you again to all the staff and volunteers who make everything happen here. Thank you. God bless you, keep serving. " Let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not". Gal. 6:9

There are souls to rescue friends, there are souls that need Jesus Christ, and/or to be encouraged, or disciplined. Will you be part of that effort?

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
Nursery Schedule	3
Youth News	3
Children's Programming Information	4
AWANA News	4

Upcoming Events

- *October 2- Communion Sunday & New Member Welcome
- *October 4- New Bible study at 6:30pm on Tuesdays:
"The Character of a Follower of Jesus."
- *October 8- Next Women's Meeting at 9:00 am
- Baby shower for Deb Trana at 10:00 am
- *October 9- Casey Reynolds Preaching
- Beginning a new study on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am called "Share Jesus Without Fear." In Fellowship Hall
- *October 16- Matt Urspringer Preaching
- Baby dedication after 2nd service
- *October 17- BOA meeting 6:30 pm
- *October 24- MCCL Fall tour meeting here at 7:00 pm
- *October 30- Children's Christmas program practice begins during 2nd service



Small Group Information:

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** 9:00 "Share Jesus Without Fear" Class
Begins October 9th
- **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 evening** 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall

- **Wednesday morning** 9:30 in Fellowship Hall
- **Wednesday afternoon** 12:00 noon prayer time
- **Wednesday evening** 6:00 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

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Help and encouragement after the death of a loved one

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. We know it hurts, and we want to help.

Tuesdays
September 13- December 13, 2022
6:00-7:30 pm

GRIEF SHARE

A Note From: Jennifer Kloss (Administrative Assistant)

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the entire Church family. Words simply cannot express my gratitude for the gracious and friendly welcome you have given me. I have been greatly moved by the exceptional kindness and words of encouragement from so many of you. I look forward to serving you all as the new administrative assistant here at Motley Free Methodist Church.

If you have any needs or suggestions, please don't hesitate to let me know. Though I'm not as familiar with as many of you as Linda was, I do look forward to meeting and connecting with you all. I trust you will offer me time and grace as I attempt to learn all your names and faces.

I'd like to thank Linda for taking the time to train me and for giving me the best support possible in this time of transition. I wish her the very best in this new season of life. She will be missed greatly here. I can only pray that I will be able to provide the Church with the level of service that she was able to for so many years.

I'd also like to thank Pastor Jim for his support and his patience with me as I learn this new position.

Thank you all for blessing me with this opportunity!

Jennifer



Women's Ministry News:

The women's group met for a wonderful devotion on worrying less, taken from Matthew 6! God is so faithful! The women's group continues to reach out to those in need.

In September, Pastor Jim married 3 couples, whom the women's group has given marriage devotionals to. The women's group sent out 5 prayer shawls to those sick or having surgeries! Thank you to those of you using your talents to serve our sick or hurting by bringing a little joy through making prayer shawls & lap blankets! You are a blessing!!

The card ministry for those in care centers also remains in place! If anyone enjoys sending cards to those in the care center and would like to have a partner, please contact Jess & she will help you find someone to send cards of encouragement to! We thank all of you who are currently encouraging others through the card ministry! God bless you & your efforts!

October is Pastor Appreciation month! We try to encourage our pastor throughout the month with thoughtful gifts or encouragement. It is a heavy burden to bear being the shepherd of 100's. Please consider uplifting our pastor sometime throughout the month of October. Our new administrative assistant, Jennifer Kloss, has a daily calendar in her office. If you would like to sign up for a day to bless the pastor, please contact Jennifer! Thank you for praying for Pastor and encouraging him as he ministers to the body of Christ & the city of Motley.

Also in October, the women's group will host a baby shower for Debra Trana. Deb is having another boy & is registered at Wal-Mart. The shower will be held Saturday, October 8th at 10 am. There is a sign up if you would be willing to bring food items to share! Thank you in advance for being a blessing to the Trana family!

Lastly, at our October meeting the women's group will once again plan and sign up for 40 Thanksgiving boxes and 15 gift cards! The group will put together 40 boxes at the November meeting. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, & cannot make the Saturday, October 8th meeting, please feel free to sign up on the back table for needed items. Bring items in to the church on or before Friday, November 11th! We will put the boxes together & delivering on Saturday, November 12th!

Please know that you are all invited to any & every women's ministry meeting. We have a time of devotions, prayer, planning & projects!
Thank you all for your support!

If you have questions regarding the women's ministry, please call: Jessica Judd at 218.296.2441

Youth News:

September started off with Craig doing the lesson. September 9th and 10th the youth group went to the Kingdom Youth Conference in the cities. A special thanks to Denise Olander, Amy Winter and Josh Horstmann for chaperoning for Kingdom Youth.

September 14th was the Fall Festival, a kickoff for AWANA. Many of the youth helped with the Fall Festival and are helping with AWANA. September 28th was See You at the Pole, a student led prayer time. Students across America met at the school's flagpole to pray. Also, on the 28th we had a movie night. We watched the movie *Family Camp* by the Skit Guys.

Jess starts off October continuing in the book of John. October 6th is Bring Your Bible to School Day. October 12th is the first B.A.Y Rally of the school year. We will have pizza at 5:30 and leave for the B.A.Y Rally at 6pm. This year the B.A.Y Rallies will be held in the Northern Pacific Center. **October is also when each person going on the Mission Trip needs make a \$50.00 deposit**

If anyone is interested in becoming a mentor for one of our youths, please let us know. We will try to make a good match between an adult and a youth.

If we can be of any help to any of the youth, please text, call or message any of the Youth Leaders. 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

Nursery Schedule- First Service/Second Service

Please invite your family & friends to join us here at Motley Free Methodist Church & Let them know...

OUR NURSERY IS OPEN FOR BOTH SERVICES!

October

- 10/2- Diane J. & Shaun L./Pat B. & Clara N.
- 10/9- Melaine S. & Mistalove/Sheri J. & Clara J.
- 10/16- Jennifer K. & Clara J./Jane C. & Janet S.
- 10/23- Brenda R. & Clara J./Brandi N. & Clara N.
- 10/30- Diane J. & Shaun L./Marisela & Clara J.



If you would like to help in the Nursery this coming year, please call the church to speak to **Jennifer Kloss**

or email

JenniferMFMCGmail.com



In Children's Ministry News:

In children's Programming news, Fall Festival was a fun evening with many new young families in attendance. We pray that they will be encouraged to come try church and our children's programming! With the kickoff of the Fall Festival, Awana is underway for another year! Thank you to all the volunteers and those bringing and sending your children! May we hide the word of God in these precious hearts!

Nursery care continues during both services! If you would be interested in serving in the nursery, please see Jennifer Kloss, as she is now heading up our nursery care program! Children's church during the first service continues each week led by Sheri Johnson and Marisela Vasquez. Our Sunday school classes during the second service have undergone a minor change since August. Jason Caldwell will be moving up to lead our early elementary students (grades 1st-3rd). Jason, with the help of Jared Leehy, will be using the Bible-In-Life curriculum. Jennifer Kloss will now be leading our preschool and Kindergarten aged children, also using the Bible-In-Life curriculum. Traci Birkholtz leads our upper elementary students!

Starting on October 30th, Sarah Bendson will begin our children's Christmas Program practice during the second service time frame! If you would like your child to participate in this year's children's program, please have them at the church during our second service for weekly practices! This year's children's program will be held Sunday, December 18th at 10:30 am! The Children's program is always a delight, and we look forward to what the children will learn and share!

If you have any questions regarding children's programming, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441



THANK YOU to all who attended and served at our annual Fall Festival!

Awana Club is underway, and it is growing! New this year, we started a Puggles program for 2-year-olds. We have over 45 kids registered for Awana and over 30 adults and teens helping. It's never too late to join our Awana club, if you know any kids, please **keep inviting them to club!** Kids from age 2 through 6th grade are welcome.

In the next few weeks, kids will be finishing their start zones (gospel message), receiving their handbooks (weekly teaching and memory verses) and receiving their uniforms. We make sure every kid that comes has a Bible of their own, and we will be providing bags to keep and carry all their materials to club. Thank you church for making this club available for free to our children!

In October, we are going to have Bring a Friend night, and Crazy Hat/Hair night. **No club over MEA break.** In early November, we will be filling Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We are in need of **donations**, as we emptied our stash of toys and hygiene items last year! See Dorothy Odenthal or check out the back table to sign-up for **food donations** to feed our kids each week.

Church family, **we need your help** to make this club year a success! Please **pray for our leaders.** As always, there are health needs and other struggles. While giving us the opportunity to grow more Christ-like, these struggles can also be difficult and discouraging. Be watching for **prayer cards** to take home and pray for individual kids in our club as they learn to know, love, and serve Jesus. Thanks again for serving Jesus by loving our kids!

Schedule:

Oct. 5th – Bring a Friend Night

Oct. 12th -Crazy Hat/Hair Night

Oct. 19th – No Club MEA Break

Oct. 26th – Regular Night

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Curtis & Linda 6pm - Prayer
2 9am - First 10:30am - Second	3 6:30pm -	4 6pm - GriefShare 6:30pm - Bible	5 9:30am - Bible 11am - Prayer 12pm - AA 3:30pm - AWANA 6pm - Youth Group	6 Bring your Bibles 6pm - Young 6:30pm - Men's 6:30pm - Women's	7 Matt's Wedding 10:30am - Ladies' 12pm - AA	8 Deb Baby Shower 9am - Women's 6pm - Prayer
9 Casey Speaking 9am - First 10:30am - Second	10 L.A.P.S. 6:00-8:00 6:30pm -	11 6pm - GriefShare 6:30pm - Bible	12 9:30am - Bible 11am - Prayer 12pm - AA 3:30pm - AWANA 6pm - Youth	13 6pm - Young 6:30pm - Men's 6:30pm - Women's	14 10:30am - Ladies' 12pm - AA	15 6pm - Prayer
16 9am - First 10:30am - Second	17 6:30pm - BOA 6:30pm -	18 6pm - GriefShare 6:30pm - Bible	19 9:30am - Bible 11am - Prayer 12pm - AA 3:30pm - NO 6pm - Youth Group	20 6pm - Young 6:30pm - Men's 6:30pm - Women's	21 10:30am - Ladies' 12pm - AA	22 6pm - Prayer
23 9am - First 10:30am - Second	24 MCCL Meeting 6:30pm -	25 6pm - GriefShare 6:30pm - Bible	26 9:30am - Bible 11am - Prayer 12pm - AA 3:30pm - AWANA 6pm - Youth Group	27 6pm - Young 6:30pm - Men's 6:30pm - Women's	28 10:30am - Ladies' 12pm - AA	29 6pm - Prayer
30 9am - First 10:30am - Second	31 6:30pm -	1	2	3	4	5

Motley Free Methodist Church
BOA Meeting Minutes
September 19, 2022

Devotional /Prayer—Pastor Jim Johnson read from Mark 16:15 and Matthew 28:19 giving an account of the Great Commission given by Jesus. He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Less than 5% of the church has reproducible believers. The church has been commissioned to go out and save the lost and make disciples. It is the body of believers’ responsibility to make disciples both outside and within the church. Pastor Jim questioned, “What do we do” and “How do we create a culture that invites new people to church?” Pastor Jim offered to train up people for discipleship.

Secretary Report— Motion to accept was made by Craig Weigel and 2nd by Tim Judd. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report—Motion to accept made by Traci Birkholtz and 2nd by Kevin Swecker. Motion carried.

Old Business—Prayer was offered by board members.

New Business—

- **Three Year Evaluation**—A ministry effectiveness/pastor evaluation survey will be handed out to the congregation next Sunday during both services. All the surveys will be returned to Jennifer, the church secretary, that same day.
- **New Members**—there are six new applicants for church membership. Pastor Jim has recommended them all. The board approved all six. Their names are; Kristen Odenthal, Stacie Swecker, Dayna Mertens, Joshua Hoemberg, Jennifer Kloss and David Cuppy. Motion to accept made by Barbara Hirscheby and 2nd by Kevin Swecker. Motion carried. New membership books available to those who are interested in membership.
- **MCCL**—Fall meeting will be held at the church on October 24th at 7p.m. This meeting is open to the public. Posters have been distributed to the community. The church will provide refreshments.
- **Treasures Position/Compensation**—the treasurer cannot be a voting member of the Board if they are a paid employee. A decision has not yet been made on compensation.
- **Assistant Pastor Position**—Casey Reynolds and Matt Urspringer are interested in the position. The Board has decided to interview both candidates on October 17th. The Pastor, along with the Board, will proceed with the interviews starting at 4:30 and 5:30 and will be followed by the Board meeting. Pastor Jim asked that all Board members come up with three questions each to ask the candidates. Both candidates will be asked the same questions. A new assistant pastor will be voted on that evening or within that same week. The position will start on January 1st, 2023.
- **LAPS Roof Repairs**—the Staples LAPS office building is in need of financial assistance for roof repair. The Board agreed to give LAPS \$10,000. Motion to accept made by Craig Weigel and 2nd by Carla Leehy. Motion carried.
- **Annual Budget Conversation in October**—Pastor Jim wants to finalize the 2023 Budget line item amounts by November. The Board will be discussing the Budget during the next BOA meeting. The budget will go before the congregation for a vote in January 2023.
- **Evangelistic meetings at Hewitt Nazarene**—Pastor Jim will be teaching in Hewitt October 9th-12th. Casey Reynolds will be preaching on October 9th. Matt Urspringer will be giving the message on October 16th.

Keeping the “Main Thing” the main thing—

- **The Widows ministry** has established a Core Team to meet bi-monthly to discuss the progress and plan future events for the ministry. Minutes from the meeting were made available to the Board.
- **Making Disciples**—Pastor Jim asked, “How do we create a culture of urgency among believers to make disciples?” He said that we need to pray and ask for God’s leading. We need to invite the lost to know Jesus Monday thru Saturday too. This is important to the survival of the church. Pastor is open for suggestions on ways to reach the lost.
- **Missions Sunday**—Pastor Jim suggested that we have a missions Sunday in October or November.
- **Other**—the Board agreed to display a poster of Voice of the Martyrs and related materials.

Closing prayer—Pastor Jim Johnson

Present—Pastor Jim Johnson, Kevin and Melaine Swecker, Casey Reynolds, Carla Leehy, Craig Weigel, Jessica and Tim Judd, Traci Birkholtz, Barbara Hirscheby