



# Motley Free Methodist Church

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## October 2024



**Jim Johnson**  
**Senior Pastor**

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**Acts 13:1-3 (NKJV)** *Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, now separate to Me Barnabus and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.*

- Ever since the New Testament/Holy Spirit filled, church began; churches have been sending out missionaries to do a new work of God in yet another place. You all know that we support missionaries (both local and around the globe) and missionary work from this church and I truly believe that God honors that effort.

Sometimes, the local church is also called upon to plant/start churches that are closer than “overseas”. What do I mean? Many churches in America and beyond see “church planting” as their mission. They are intentional about taking a group of their own people and, after much prayer and fasting, starting a new work someplace else, other than in the local church they came from. Kind of like the verses mentioned above.

Church planting is not new. Our denomination and conference have had goals about this for years. Some new churches have been started and some have been started and didn't make it.

Conference Superintendents and I have been praying about this for several years, for Motley FMC. Praying about what specifically? Praying that if God would want us to, to be able to start a church plant somewhere other than Motley.

Casey and I attended a workshop this spring in Janesville WI to learn just a little more about church planting, and we both came away with the thought that “maybe God would have us attempt to plant a church in or around Leader, and/or maybe even in Wilderness Park”. We both had the same thoughts, and we had not discussed this with each other before that.

We visited Wilderness Park (4- 5 miles east of Leader) and prayed. We've been talking about this idea with the BOA here off and on all summer.

I have also been in contact with the Wilderness Park association president, who in turn has spoken to the rest of the Wilderness Park BOA and after our inquiry to them about having a church service there—they have said that it is not really possible there as they are their own homeowner's association.

We are still praying about and focusing on the Leader area, even though Wilderness Park is “off-limits”.

I have said all along; “if it is not of God, it is a colossal waste of time. But if it is of God, may we not miss this opportunity to advance His kingdom someplace other than our own church building.

Remember what I shared with you last week about our new Motley FMC Mission— *“To introduce people to Jesus Christ and to help them grow in maturity in Him”*

That is our desire, in and around Motley and wherever else God would send us.

Will it be easy? It never is. The enemy will see to it. BUT when you read what God did through “sent ones” in Acts, you can see that even though there is opposition, there are great rewards in seeing people come to faith in Jesus Christ and be transformed by the power of His Spirit.

What does all this mean to Motley Free Methodist Church. MFMC would be the sending ones. We do not have all the answers by any means, but we are asking you to pray.

Pray for this opportunity. Pray for whomever may be willing to be part of this exciting church plant. Pray for God to open doors and close doors as He sees fit. Pray for direction. Who will go and help with this work? What can we do for music? Will people just be part of a prayer team there.

Is there a place to meet? Is there any cost to a start-up like this? Who will lead? Probably Pastor Jim, at least to some degree. Jim may or may not be the one to carry the work forward longer term. We will need to seek the Lord for that one too. Currently, Casey and I and your BOA are simply asking; please pray about this. All of it.

Yes, we have a lot going on here in Motley right now, but we also have a lot of gifted people here in Motley and the “harvests fields are ripe”.

Yes, there is uncertainty. Yes, there are plenty of unknowns yet. BUT if God is in this, we dare not miss this opportunity to do what He would have us to do.

Our new Mission for Motley Free Methodist Church is this; **“To introduce people to Jesus Christ, and to help them grow to maturity in Him”**

That is it; that is our goal.... all over this region, to the glory of God! We believe that, with God’s guiding, this can happen in another location too. Would you like to be part of that? Please let Jim or Casey know. We need a team, willing, prayed up and ready to serve.

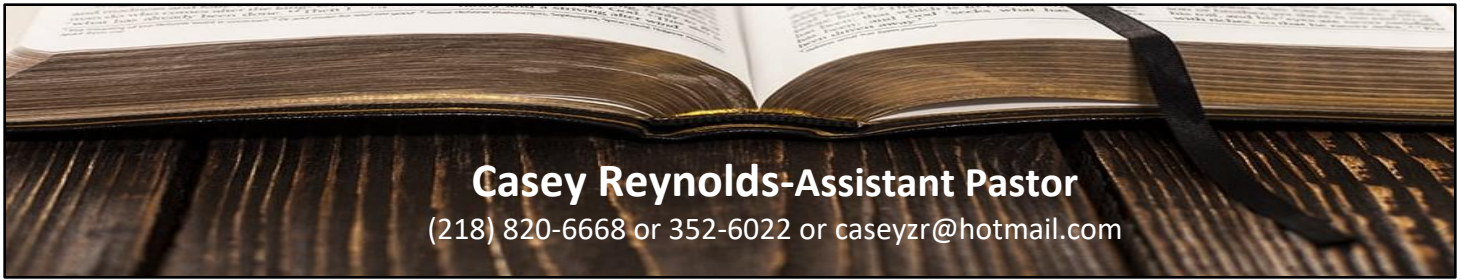
Other than that, please get involved in one of the many current ministries here. Sunday morning bible studies and Sunday morning Sunday school for kids. AWANA, youth group, weekly Bible studies. Wednesday evening church services. Care Center services, Celebrate Recovery, Greif Share, funeral support ministry, women’s ministry and a few other things that are going on here now. To God be the Glory friends!

Pray and use your “talents” brothers and sisters. Oh, it is good when the people of God come together with one objective in mind, that is to advance His Kingdom and bring Him glory whatever and however that looks like.

Will you join in and be a part of something that will make a difference for eternity? Please at least pray.

Serving Jesus, serving you and this community for the glory of God.

Jim



**Casey Reynolds-Assistant Pastor**  
 (218) 820-6668 or 352-6022 or caseyxr@hotmail.com

*Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, And so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;<sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. Proverbs 3:3-6*

- I was asking my TNT AWANA group this week if they read their Bibles. Overwhelmingly most of them said yes, most weekly, and many daily. Then I asked them their favorite book of the Bible, and many had a favorite book New and Old Testament. Then I asked them their favorite Bible verse. To my surprise there were many 10-15 of a group of 20+ had and quoted their favorite verse. Church this warmed my heart and encouraged me greatly.

One of the kids quoted Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

I needed that reminder this week which led to this letter. We get so caught up in all the business of life, ministry, school, bills, children, and a multitude of other things. I just needed to take some time and meditate in this verse and allow God to calm my heart. Trust in God’s mercy and His truth. Tie them around your neck write them on your heart, trust in the Lord and His plan for your life, even when it doesn’t make sense. Many times, it doesn’t! Acknowledge He is sovereign and in control and rest in that promise. When we do this, He will direct our path and He is good, and His ways are better. How do we do this? We take a lesson from our AWANA children and spend time in the word, time in prayer, time gathered with our brothers and sisters in the church house and in each other’s homes. Then, taking that wonderful message of love, hope, and peace to those around us.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. That is what I needed to hear. I hope you find it helpful also.

Praying for you Church, Assistant Pastor Casey

<b>Staff Hours</b>		
<p><b><u>Pastor Jim:</u></b> Friday: Off</p>	<p><b><u>Pastor Casey:</u></b> Monday: Off Tuesday-Friday: 9 am-5pm</p>	<p><b><u>Tatum:</u></b> Thursday: Off Monday-Wednesday, Friday: 8 am-3 pm Out of office: Maternity Leave (Around 6 weeks)</p>

**Nursery Schedule:**

Date	First Service	Second Service
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	Margaret F. & Clara N.	Pat B. & Clara J.
October 13 <sup>th</sup>	Samantha & Dayton	Kristin D. & Clara J.
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Carla & Dale L.	Marisela & Clara J.
October 27 <sup>th</sup>	Melaine & Mistalove	Brandi & Clara J.

# Want to get involved? Here are some of our events and studies:

## Upcoming Events:

**Date October 4**—CMA Meeting in dining hall & Wedding Practice

**Date October 5**-Carly Smith Wedding here

**Date October 12**-Women's Meeting at 9 am

**Date October 19**-Jack Johnson Wedding here

**Date October 20**-Kenny K here to speak on VACA

**Date October 21**-Board of Administration Meeting at 6:30 pm

**\*Wednesday Evening Service every Wednesday at 6 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
- \*Adult Sunday School Class in the dining hall with Keith Olander
- \*10:30 am Sunday school classes for children during second service
- \*10:30 am adult small group in the dining hall
- \*6 pm Celebrate Recovery (Changing days in the future)

### Monday

- \*6 pm Bible Art Journaling Group

### 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 in the fellowship hall with Al Fortier
- \*11 am prayer group in the nursery
- \*3:30 AWANA Clubs
- \*6 pm Youth Group
- \*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

### Saturday

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

### **Crisis Line and Referral Service**

"We are a non-profit organization that is available 24/7, 365 days a year, serving 6 counties: Aitkin, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrison, Todd and Wadena.

We provide confidential, anonymous telephone support to people in distress and crisis, connecting them with the resources needed for positive change.

Our Crisis Line and Referral Service is run by volunteers. **We are currently looking for new volunteers to become part of our team.** Our volunteers can work from the comfort of their home."

If you are interested, please fill out the Volunteer Application Form (on the back table in the foyer) or contact Lynn Meza with any questions you might have.

Lynn Meza  
Volunteer Coordinator  
218-839-8140

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# Women's Ministry Meeting Minutes

-Luke 12:22-31 *Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap; they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life<sup>[a]</sup>? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.*

God is so faithful to us as individuals, the body of Christ in Motley, and as citizens of not only the United States of America, but more importantly, Heaven! The Women's ministry team came together as they do the second Saturday of each month and had a time of devotions led by Hope Johnson, prayer and a little business meeting! Following the meeting, the women's ministry team likes to show the love of Jesus to those getting married or having babies by throwing showers for them. This month we threw a bridal shower for Carly Smith who will be married here on October 5, 2024, by Pastor Jim. It was a beautiful shower with devotions led by Jane Callis, grandma to Carly! Thank you to everyone who is a blessing to not only our immediate church family but those all around us! What a gift you are!

In October, the women will meet on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 am where we will plan for November's Thanksgiving boxes! October is Pastor appreciation month, and we really do love and appreciate the time, dedication and hard work our Pastor's put in to serving Jesus, this body and community at large! Kristen Odenthal has put together a calendar of days to bless our Pastor's and she will be giving text messages or calls of reminders to those who have signed up. It is not too late, if you are still interested see Kristen Odenthal or simply bringing in your gift to our Pastor's! Also, in October the church kicks off Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection! There will be free boxes in the foyer to take and fill as well as pamphlets with instructions on how to fill a box. If you simply would like to donate to these boxes financially rather than pack a box you can see Jessica as she will collect monies to go to cover the shipping of the boxes! Collection week will be November 18-25, 2024. We greatly appreciate everyone's contribution to being the light of Jesus to those both in Motley and around the globe! We invite ANYONE to come to any women's meeting, as together we continue to strive to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our body and beyond!



**\*\*Shoebox Collection Week: November 18-24, 2024**

*If you have any questions about the Women's Ministry or upcoming projects, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441, [jessleejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:jessleejohnson@yahoo.com), or on messenger. 😊*



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## Children's Education

-September brings about a new school year and with going back to school a change in classes for many children! We are always SO thankful for our dedicated staff who teach our children! Thank you for using your gifts to serve this body and Jesus! We also encourage all of our adults to please PRAY for our children! They need you!

Raising up the next generation for Jesus is vitally important! Is God calling you to help with our children? If you are wondering how or where you can serve in the children's ministry, please see Jessica Judd!

A Reminder of MFMC Current Children's Programming:

**Sunday Morning during both services** Nursery Care is available for children birth through 36 months.

**Sunday Morning at 9 am** we offer Children's Church during the sermon with Sheri Johnson & Marisela Vasquez

**Sunday Morning at 10:30 am** we offer Sunday School Classes for ages 3 years old through adults

\*Preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> Graders are with Kim Reynolds & Kristin Ross

\*3-4<sup>th</sup> Graders are with Sarah Bendson

\*5-6<sup>th</sup> Graders are with Jason Caldwell & Adrian

\*Teens are with Chris Neal & Rob Ross

**Wednesday Afternoons at 3:30-5:30** we offer AWANA clubs for children 2 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Wednesday Evenings at 6-8:00 pm** we offer Youth Group with Craig Weigel & Jessica Judd

**Thursday Evenings at 6 pm** there is a Young People's Bible study in the Judd's home

\*\*By the end of October, Sarah Bendson will start the **Children's Christmas Program Practices** during the second service!

If you would like your child(ren) to participate, please make sure they are in Sunday school classes each week!

Thank you for your help.

*As always, if you have any questions regarding children's programming in any capacity, please contact Jessica Judd - Christian Education Director 218.296.2441 or [jessleejohnson@yahoo.com](mailto:jessleejohnson@yahoo.com) or Jessica Judd on Facebook Messenger! 😊*

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- Thank you all for helping and attending our Fall Festival. What a wonderful night, with beautiful weather, lots of fun and 63 kids registered for club this year! (Kids can start anytime, and we always have room for more!)

We are starting the year off learning about God. He is trustworthy, loving, faithful, and patient. Finally, this month, we will learn that God is always at work.

We love to have fun at AWANA! In October, we are having a crazy hat/hair night, Dot your leader night and a F.R.O.G. night where we will wear green and learn to Fully Rely on God!

In mid-October, please be watching on a Sunday morning for little prayer people, with a child's name and age on it, for you to take home. Please pick a child and pray for them by name; for good health, a productive school year, safety and healthy family life, and most importantly that they will come to know Jesus and follow Him throughout their whole life!

Mid-November we are filling shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. If you would like to donate items, there will be a labeled tote in the foyer for donations. Thank you for serving Jesus by loving our kids!

### Schedule:

October 2<sup>nd</sup> –FROG Night

October 9<sup>th</sup> –Regular Night

October 16<sup>th</sup> –Crazy Hat/Hair Night

October 24<sup>th</sup> –Dot Your Leader

October 30<sup>th</sup> –Regular Night

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## Youth News

- September started off with Jess continuing her lesson in the book of Genesis. September 11<sup>th</sup> was the Fall Festival with a wonderful turnout. September 25<sup>th</sup> was See You at The Pole where Youth meet at their school flag pole to pray for their school year.

October starts off with Craig doing the lessons. October 3<sup>rd</sup> is Bring Your Bible to School Day. We encourage all our youth to take a photo with their Bible at school and we will post them on the Youth Facebook page. October 9<sup>th</sup> is the first B.A.Y. Rally of the school year. Then rallies are held in the Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd. We will have pizza at 5:30 and leave for the rally at 6pm.

Looking ahead. On November 27<sup>th</sup> we will have a pizza, testimony and game night.

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



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### Motley Free Methodist Church BOA Meeting Minutes September 16, 2024 6:00 PM

**Members Present:** Pastor Jim Johnson, Carla Leehy, Mike Horstmann, Alan Marshall, Kevin Swecker, Brandi Neal, Craig Weigel, & Jessica Judd

**Devotional & Prayer:** Pastor Jim gave a devotional out of Blackaby on Acts 4:13.

**Sec. Report:** Motion made by Craig to accept secretary report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** Motion to accept treasurer's report made by Jessica 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alan motion carried.

**Old Business:** Tatum on Maternity leave

**New Business:**

\*Kevin will be attending the C.A.R.E. meeting 9-17-24 and bring back any information to the board.

\*Motion made by Craig and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mike to accept Advantage bid on getting the gutters done. Motion carried.

\*It was decided to hold off until spring and get 2 bids for parking lot seal coat and crack fill.

\*Motion was made by Kevin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jessica to give Vickie Reynen 1300 dollars toward her request. Motion carried.

\*Pastor Jim asked the Board to look at the budget and start thinking about next year's budget.

\*Facebook issues have been being looked at it is through all Free Methodist Churches.

\*Celebrate Recovery is coming to a close; then we will have some meetings and see where we will be going forth or not in the future.

\*Wilderness Park has not approved our church to use their club house for a church service. Please be in prayer.

\*Request from Police Chief –decided not to take him up on offer, unless the city would like to donate to our "Community outreach" fund.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Next meeting** will be on October 21, 2024, at 6:30 pm.

Carla Leehy

# October 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	<b>30</b> - 6pm Bible Art Journaling	<b>1</b> - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>2</b> - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA Clubs - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	<b>3</b> - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judd's - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>4</b> <b>Wedding Practice</b> - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting - 6pm CMA Meeting	<b>5</b> <b>Carly Smith Wedding</b> - 6pm Prayer Meeting
<b>6</b> - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	<b>7</b> - 6pm Bible Art Journaling	<b>8</b> - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>9</b> - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA Clubs - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Bay Rally	<b>10</b> - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judd's - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>11</b> - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting	<b>12</b> <b>- 9am Women's Meeting</b> - 6pm Prayer Meeting
<b>13</b> - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	<b>14</b> - 6pm Bible Art Journaling	<b>15</b> - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>16</b> - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA Clubs - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	<b>17</b> - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judd's - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>18</b> - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting	<b>19</b> - 6pm Prayer Meeting
<b>20</b> <b>Pastor Kenny Visiting from VACA</b> - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery	<b>21</b> - 6pm Bible Art Journaling <b>- 6:30pm BOA Meeting</b>	<b>22</b> - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>23</b> - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA Clubs - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	<b>24</b> - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judd's - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study	<b>25</b> - 10:30am Ladies' AA Meeting - 12pm AA Meeting	<b>26</b> - 6pm Prayer Meeting
<b>27</b> - 9am First Service - 10:30am Second Service - 6pm Celebrate Recovery staff meeting	<b>28</b> - 6pm Bible Art Journaling	<b>29</b> - 6pm Grief Share - 6:30pm Bible Study	<b>30</b> - 9:30am Bible Study - 11am Prayer Group - 12pm AA Meeting - 3:30 pm AWANA Clubs - 6pm Night Service - 6pm Youth Group	<b>31</b> - 9am Sewing Circle - 6pm Young People's Bible Study at the Judd's - 6:30pm Women's Bible Study - 6:30pm Men's Bible Study		