



Motley Free Methodist Church "In His Grip"

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

September 2020

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<http://www.motleyfreemethodistchurch.com>

A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV) *Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.*

This is some really good advice for the church anytime, but maybe especially good at a time like we are experiencing right now in America and the world.

Tensions are high. Anger seems to be the order of the day; impatience is today's accepted norm and it seems like kindness and humility have "left the building".

Now, brothers and sisters, is the time for followers of Jesus to display these "salt and Light" characteristics more than ever to a world that is struggling in darkness, to see that there is some light.

Now, fellow followers, people need the Lord. The Harvest fields are indeed ripe and just because there is a "pandemic" going on, just because racial tensions are at an all time high, just because some think that police departments can and should be "defunded".....the church of Jesus Christ, needs to demonstrate these virtues and especially love , right now more than ever.

Are these trying times? Yes, emphatically yes.... not just because of Covid-19, but because of depression, suicide, loneliness and despair, and kids having to go back to school with masks all day long added on top of the pandemic.

Now, the church needs to be the church outside of the church. I have said this often this spring and summer friends, but we really need to be the hands and feet of Jesus right now to our co-workers, our neighbors, our relatives, our unchurched friends. We really do.

As God's people, right now, we need to live out these verses.... *as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

The longer this Covid-19 issue is around, the harder it is getting for so many.

Can you imagine being in a nursing home (or at home alone) and not having any visitors for months? Can you imagine the strain on families that have sick and dying loved ones in the hospital and, at best, maybe one person can go see them?

Or consider this; how many people are just going to stop going to church, because they haven't been able to go or have chosen not to go now for nearly 6 months. How many will never return?

Friends, we need to pray. And may I remind us that during the week we do pray.

We still have 2 different times of prayer here at the church each week. Ladies gather to pray at noon on Wednesdays and we (mixed group) gather to pray on Saturday evenings at 6pm. You are welcome to join these times of prayer.

People of God, we need to pray.

Check this issue for what Awana is going to look like this season and pray for that ministry.

Our schedules have all been turned upside down. BUT we can still love our neighbors. We can still be an encouragement to someone who needs it. We can still be compassionate to those we encounter. Will we?

God is at work in and through these difficulties friends. God is at work and He will be glorified. Let us not bury our heads in the proverbial sands of life and hope this all just goes away, but rather be used of God in everyday living and life for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.Serving Jesus and serving you, Jim

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Upcoming Event

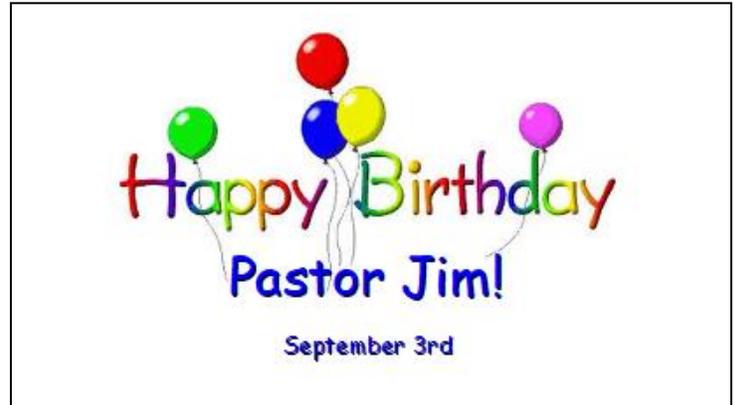
ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO GOVERNORS DIRECTIVES: Please stay tuned!!

- *Sept. 12-Women's Meeting at 9 am
- *Sept. 16-Fall Festival 5:30 pm
- *Sept. 21- BOA meeting 6:30 pm
- *Sept. 23- AWANA starts 6:00 pm
- *Sept. 26- Pray For Our Nation 11:00 am

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

September is usually associated with transition. The Labor Day weekend signals the end of summer and the start of the new school year and the Fall season. We continue to transition our way back to a more "normal" schedule while still taking the precautions related to COVID-19.

We still have Bible studies ongoing and events forthcoming! Our Fall Festival and AWANA children's program "sign-up" is September 16th from 5:30-7PM here at the Church. We are hosting *Franklin Graham's "Prayer Walk"* from 11AM-1PM on Saturday, September 26th. We continue to offer Sunday worship opportunities via Facebook, YouTube, 91.9FM, and "in person" at 9AM and 10:45AM.

Overall, we are seeing great results in our media platforms. We gained one more "follower" on **Twitter** and stand at 84 people. We had **3,400 views** in the last 30 days with an average of **92 people visiting** and interacting with our Twitter page each day. Through our Twitter page, we had, **2,294 people** access our weekly bulletin, monthly newsletter, Vacation Bible School (VBS) program, Sunday worship services, and Pastors' sermons (MP3 audio). And, finally, our Church **blog-page** published 4 new articles with **491** 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

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

Twitter: [@FreeMotley](https://twitter.com/FreeMotley) or <https://twitter.com/FreeMotley>

Women's Ministry News:

At the August women's meeting we recapped what happened at the July meeting which included: collecting funds for Back to School Fair, the church collected the \$500.00 they were looking for from each church. Our first community picnic was July 8th with 103 people in attendance. The youth sale was held July 16-18th, best sale we have ever had! 6 people were baptized on July 26th! Then, we talked about holding our first ever family VBS July 27-31st. VBS Served 25 families with 54 different children and 9 youth! We also continue to give out marriage devotionals to those our pastors marry, prayer shawls to those having surgeries, baby blankets to new babies, and we are trying to start pairing all those in care facilities with someone in the body to bless them with monthly cards! If you are interested in sending cards to someone in the care center please talk to Jess ASAP! Jess talked with Debbie B about a painting event, she will get back to her when she feels comfortable to start back up. The CE Meeting was held Aug. 4th and we are in need of someone(s) to help as a second with Jennifer's class! For the August meeting, we did not have a specific project we were working on, so we just discussed the upcoming months, as they will get pretty busy with women's group projects, which we always encourage the body to be involved in!! The August community picnic served 146 meals with 134 in attendance. MN Teen Challenge Reps were here Aug. 30th, we had already purchased a case of Bibles from the Women's ministry group and people in the body brought items for the men back in March when they were originally scheduled, in addition, the BOA had decided as it was the 5th Sunday, the entire offering would be going to help MNTC. Saturday, September 12 at 9 am will be our next meeting. At this meeting we will discuss the upcoming Fall Festival as a kick off to this year's AWANA program! We will need many hands to help run and disinfect the games! We will also plan a baby shower for Tayah Carry, due with her first set of babies in November! We will also discuss pastor appreciation for October! We hope many of you will consider joining us Saturday, Sept. 12th at 9 am! If you have questions regarding the women's ministry, please see Jessica Judd or call at 218-296-2441

Youth News:

August started with Jess doing the lessons. August 12th the youth participated in the last of the Community Picnics at Ernie Converse Park. August 26 was the Youth Group Picnic at Tim & Jess's house.

September starts off with Craig doing a lesson on Proverbs 6:16-19. September 16th is the fall Festival to help kick off this year's A.W.A.N.A and Youth Group.

Please pray for our youth and Youth Group. This pandemic is affecting our youth in ways that we may never know. Their whole way of life has been turned upside down from the way they do school, church or just being with friends. Pray for their families, many of our youth come from broken and unchurched homes.

Looking ahead 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:

On August 4, 2020 a small group met to discuss children's programming needs and plan for the fall! Children's church first service is going well and has no needs at this time. Second service children's programming plans to change curriculum starting Sunday, September 6th to Trackers put out by seedbed.com. The children will now start studying the old testament. They will meet all together to watch a brief video clip, then slip into their smaller groups led by Jennifer Mallory for the older kids and Jason Caldwell for our younger children. If you are willing to help sit in with Jennifer or Jason please see one of them today, as per our policies we like to have 2 adults per class.

Jennifer Mallory will also head up this year's children's Christmas program. She has found a cute little program called Stories of the Savior! Practice will begin on Sunday mornings starting the first week in November and the program will be held second service, Sunday, December 13th at 10:30 am! Thank you, Jennifer for your willingness to head this up!

AWANA programs have been on hold waiting for school districts to come to a decision, as they move forward, so will our AWANA clubs. The directors are busy planning and preparing for the 20-21 school year! Please lift them up in prayer and check in with Brandi or Traci to see if you could be of help!

Our Harvest Festival will once again be a kick-off night for our AWANA clubs and Youth fall programming! It is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16th at 5:30 pm! Please bring your families for a fun evening and registration night!

VBS this year was a bit different, but a fun event that 25 families participated in and 54 different children! We were grateful for the opportunity to share the love of God with these families and pray it was a meaningful time for them all hiding God's word in their heart! We look forward to next summer's VBS June 21-25, 2021 Rocky Railway!

Youth Group had a fantastic sale! They continue to meet every Wednesday evening! Most monthly events have been put on hold due to restriction, but they will continue to try and come up with fun things for our youth as allowed! Mission Trip has been rescheduled for July 2021! Nursery is still available for parents to use during this time of COVID 19 but will remain unstaffed during this time frame! Thank you for your understanding!

If you have any questions regarding children's programming, please contact Jessica Judd 218.296.2441 or jessleejohnson@yahoo.com
MFMC Christian Education Director 😊



AWANA club will begin on September 23rd!

We are changing things a bit to make club possible. First, we will have club from 6:00- 7:30 Wednesday evenings. This is the same time as youth group. We also plan on live-streaming club on our Facebook page (M.F.M.C. AWANA). Second, our club this year will be a family AWANA, meaning that the adult that brings a child stays with that child the whole night. We will remain in the new sanctuary the entire club time, but we will still have all the elements of regular club including: opening, singing, game-time, large and small-group times.

Church family, our greatest need at this time is people willing to bring kids and stay with them all night! Do you have grandchildren, or neighbor kids that need a loving adult to guide them in a relationship with Jesus Christ? Please consider bringing them to AWANA on Wednesday nights, or participate online! Thank you for serving Jesus by loving our kids!

Schedule:

Sept. 16th-Fall Festival 5:30-7:00, **Sept. 23rd** -First night of AWANA 6:00-7:30; **Sept. 30th** -Regular Night 6:00-7:30

Present: Pastor Jim Johnson, Carol Weigel, Craig Weigel, Tim Judd, Linda Beebe, Marisela Vasquez, Chris Neal and Alex Griffith

Guests: Jessica Judd, Dan Posner

Devotional/Prayer: Tozer/Matthew 9:37-38 "Times of Extraordinary Crisis" How can God use us in these extraordinary times? Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Secretary Report - Chris made a motion to accept the July 13, 2020, minutes and Marisela 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
- Children's Church/Classes – will remain the same
- Adult Classes/Bible Studies – will remain the same, **Tuesday Evening starting September 15, @ 6:30**
- Teen/Youth Sunday School Classes – **Chris N. will be starting Sept. 6 in the Fellowship Hall, 9:00-10:00**
- Lunches/Food in Church – will remain the same
- Mask mandate- will remain the same

New Business:

MNTC – scheduled to visit August 30, 2020. 4-6 members will be here to share their testimony.

AWANA- It will be "family style", like VBS. It will run the same time as Youth Group, 6:00-7:30. We are looking for some staff to be listeners and registration. Families will remain in the Sanctuary the entire time.

Cahills- They will be here Sept. 25th-Oct. 3rd. They will share on Sunday, Sept. 27th, tentatively. We are looking for housing for the week. If you feel you can house them please speak to Pastor Jim or Pastor Charles A.S.A.P.

Dave Greaver (Todd County Chaplin)- There will be a golf fundraiser on Sept. 12, please see flier on bulletin board. We will be sponsoring him \$1,000.

Marie Rose- She has asked for prayer concerning starting up a Saturday evening fellowship to reach the unchurched in their area.

Anonymous- asked if the church would be interested in receiving her cabin as a donation. Although this is a wonderful offer, after much discussion the board has decided to decline the offer.

Next meeting tentatively to be held on September 21, 2020 at 6:30.

COME JOIN US FOR THE
Motley Free Methodist Church
FALL FESTIVAL

awana & youth registration games
 hay rides
 cotton candy
 "to go" supper

WEDNESDAY
 SEPTEMBER 16
 5:30-7 PM

LOCATION: MFMC PARKING LOT

Teen/Youth Sunday School

Chris Neal will be starting up a teen Sunday School during 1st service, 9:00-10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall, starting September 6, 2020

Pray For Our Nation

Special prayer time- 11:00 am-1:00 pm & 6:00-8:00 pm
 September 26th
 Here at Motley Free Methodist Church



America is in trouble like never before in our lifetime. As you know, we have no hope, outside of God. We must call on His Name in faith, repent of our sins, and ask Him to heal our land.

I would like to invite you and your church to join me, my family, and thousands of other believers for a prayer march in our nation's capital in just a few short weeks. On Saturday, Sept. 26, we will assemble at the Lincoln Memorial and make our way to the U.S. Capitol. We will stop at several points along the way to pray and ask God to heal the divisions in our nation, guide our leaders, protect our religious freedoms, and pour out His Spirit on America.

Let's come together to show all of Washington—and the nation—that the church of Jesus Christ believes in the power of prayer and that we need more of God in America, not less. Will you stand with us in calling out to God and praying that our nation will turn to Him?

Franklin Graham

Coming Soon!

Senior Moments Group

Bible Study and Fellowship

2nd Mon./month

- Music, Hymns, DVD
- Bible Study
- Lunch
- Game time

For more information, please see Dan Posner