



Motley Free Methodist Church "In His Grip"

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

September 2021

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A Few Words from Pastor Jim:

Acts 6:3-4 "Therefore brethren, seek out among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the word".

You remember this story from Acts 6? The Hellenists were upset because their widows, seemingly, were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the answer from the Disciples was simply, "it is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables".

That is where verses 3 and 4 come into play.

What does this mean for us at MFMC? We too have widows; lots of them. We too want to take care of them and visit them and check in on them from time to time and make sure they are ok. They may need a ride to the Dr or the dentist or the grocery. They made need someone to talk to. But we do want to be intentional about looking after them. The scriptures instruct us on such matters.

So, what does that mean? We would like to have a leader with a team to help over see this group of people.

The leader will keep the records of widows and keep a record of important dates. The leader with the help of a team of 6-8 others will also check with these widows and see what their needs are and help them get to where they need to be and maybe just stop for a prayer and a visit from time to time.

Are you interested in being a part of this team? We sure could use you and your help. NO ONE will have to do it all, a team will help make sure it is done. We would like to put this team into place yet this fall. Please let Linda Beebe or Jim know if you would be willing to be part of that team and we will train and pray and "appoint you over this business".

You may or may not be aware of this, but we have around 35 widows here among us. I believe that it would be a beautiful thing for us to be able to minister to widows outside of the church family, at some point, too and maybe tell them about Jesus. What do you think? Will you pray about this? Will you help?

Awana is already upon us again. Praise the Lord we get to minister to our communities' children. We need your help! I hope that you saw the nice presentation that Jennifer Mallory did a couple of weeks ago speaking to the needs for Awana. Will you pray about this too friends? We cannot do any of these ministries without the body functioning as a "body". Remember 1 Corinthians 12?

Have you got a heart to disciple others? Would you like to be trained to disciple others? You recall; once Jesus disciplined the 12, He commissioned them to "go and make more disciples". We need to do the same. Disciple making is intentional too. It will not happen on its own. We have a number of new believers among us right now, they all need to be mentored and disciplined. I am going to do what I can for them, would you like to help? Please let me know if you want further training in disciple making and we will help, so you can be that disciple maker too. And, please let me know if you would like to mentor one of these new believers.

Lastly, do you like to pray? The church of Jesus Christ needs to pray, and prayer needs to be intentional. I love this quote from former Editor of the Light and Life Magazine and Pastor Doug Newton "we pray because God deserves our praise" and "Prayer is where we join God in speaking His will into existence". I will explain that further in today's message.

Will you commit to pray friends? Pray for America, revival, the church. Pray for the lost to come to faith in Jesus Christ. Pray that we (MFMC) will do God's will. Pray for our children and families and the leaders of the nation as well as the church. Pray for young families, pray for the sick and those that have lost their loved ones.

Oh, people of God may we pray like never before and like eternity depends on it.

Friends and people of God; if the church is not intentional about speaking to others the good news of Jesus Christ and if the church is not intentional about making disciples, or loving our neighbors and being "salt and light". The church will soon cease to exist.

People of God, the American church is slipping away. You may think that is being over dramatic, but please inform yourselves on what is happening with the church of America. It is slowly dying. We need revival of the Holy Ghost kind. Only God can do that.

God can and may bring new life.....but not unless we , His people, humble ourselves and pray and seek His face and repent of our sins / turn from our wicked ways. That is His people He is directing to do that. Only then will God forgive us and heal our land.

Friends, let's pray, let's fast, lets seek His face, lets be the hands and feet of Jesus in a whole new way while there is still time.

Personally, I want to do all I can for His Kingdom and His glory, but imagine what would happen when hundreds of us avail ourselves to the work of the Kingdom, to the glory of God.

Serving Jesus and serving you. Jim

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Upcoming Event

- *September 1-AWANA Training 6 pm
- *September 11-Women's Ministry Meeting at 9 am
- *September 15-Fall Festival/AWANA Registration Night 5:30 pm
- *September 17-18-Kingdom Youth Conference
- *September 19-Badge Sunday & Pot-Luck Dinner
- *September 20-BOA Meeting at 6:30 pm
- *September 22-First AWANA Night/BAY Rally for Youth

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

September turns the page towards Fall programs and preparing for major events in the Church. We would like to invite you to deepen your faith and build on your knowledge of Scripture. We have many Bible studies that will resume after the summer break. I will be teaching a series on **Malachi** (last book of the Old Testament) beginning Wednesday, September 15, at 9:30AM in the Church Fellowship Hall. No need to register...just come and learn.

Would you consider volunteering with our children's AWANA program? Perhaps assist our Sunday School programs by being an adult presence in the classroom? Would you even contemplate starting a small group at your home for singles or young families? We're only limited by our imagination and initiative. We would love to help you start and get going.

Let us also remember our charge for 2021, 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

Blog: <https://charlesmfmc.blogspot.com> Twitter: @FreeMotley or <https://twitter.com/FreeMotley>

MeWe: <https://mewe.com/group/60073fcb987324725d4d5056>

Women's Ministry News:

A few women came together on Saturday, August 14, 2021. There were devotions led by Sheri Johnson on 1 Thessalonians chapters 4 & 5. The topic was on being encouraging to one another. Our church body is such a blessing to us, how can we encourage each other today?

The women looked over the card ministry sign-up sheet and a few more names have been added if anyone is interested in sending cards of encouragement, please see Jessica Judd and we will pair you up! The women's ministry group continues to try and get out prayer shawls to those having surgeries, hospitalized, with cancer or having lost a loved one, we apologize as this summer has been so busy, we have gotten a little behind, but hope to get that all caught up! Thank you again to those who continue to make the prayer shawls!

On Sept. 11, we will have our next Women's Ministry meeting, where we will plan a baby shower for Carly Smith to be held on Saturday, October 9th at 10 am (Carly is Jane Callis' granddaughter.) We will also discuss Pastor Appreciation month coming in October 2021! On Wednesday, September 15 at 5:30pm we will host our annual Fall Festival in conjunction with kicking off AWANA registration Night and Youth group! We encourage any and all to come. We are also looking for donations and help with games! If you have any questions regarding the women's ministry, please contact Jessica Judd at 218-296-2441 😊

Youth News:

August started off with Jess doing the lessons. August 11th was the last Community Picnic for the year at Ernie Converse Park and the end of summer youth picnic at the Judd's on the 25th.

September starts off with Craig doing the lessons. September 15th is the Fall Festival starting at 5:30. The Fall Festival is a time to kick off our fall youth activities both A.W.A.N.A and Youth Group. On the 17th & 18th the Youth Group is going to the Kingdom Youth Conference at Redeeming Love Church in Maplewood. September 22nd is See You at The Pole in the morning and the first B.A.Y. Rally at Tornstrom Auditorium in the evening.

Looking ahead, October 1st the youth will be doing an event called Box City. The youth will sleep in boxes outside to raise money for the Food Shelf each participant needs to raise at least \$50.00 to pay the rent on their box for the night. October 7th is Bring Your Bible to School Day.

Please keep our youth in your prayers as they have or will be soon starting back to school.

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





In Children's Ministry News:

Starting in September a few changes will take place for our children's programming: During our second service children's church will return to 3 children's classes! Pre-K, Early Elementary and Upper Elementary. Thank you to Jason Caldwell, Jared Leehy, Barb Hirschey, and Jennifer Mallory for continuing to teach. The teachers asked if we could remind parents to come pick up their children following the classes for safety purposes! First service children's church will remain the same, dismissing during the message to have a time for the children to hear their own Bible stories in the basement with Sheri Johnson and Marisela Vasquez. AWANA programming will resume on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 3:30 pm, they are in need of many hands, please see Brandi, Traci, or Jennifer today! Also, the Fall Festival will be held Wednesday, September 15th at 5:30 pm. We will have supper, games, hay rides, bounce house, AWANA/Youth Registrations and more! Young or Older, come join us for an evening of FUN!!!! We need many hands to run games, if you are interested in helping with the meal or donations, please see Jess 😊



AWANA begins **September 22nd**! We are so excited to see all volunteers and kids again, every week for fun and learning. We will have our **AWANA leader orientation/training on Wednesday September 1st at 6:00 P.M.** We need ALL helpers to attend, as we will be discussing schedules, roles, exceptions, and answering any questions you may have!

Everyone is invited to our **Fall Festival September 15th, at 5:30 P.M.** See the sign up on the back table to help with food and games. Registration for Awana is at this event, so invite your neighbors and relatives!

It takes the whole church to successfully disciple our kids in God's truth. Please be in prayer for our kids and families. As you consider how **you** can use your unique talents and abilities in raising up the next generation, be watching for information about donations for food, shoebox items and store items.

See Traci Birkholtz, Jennifer Mallory, or Brandi Neal if you have any questions. **Thank you for serving Jesus by loving our kids!**

Schedule: September 1st -6:00 P.M. Awana Leader Orientation at the Church; **September 15th** – Fall Festival 5:30; **September 22nd** – First Night of Awana!; **September 29th** -Bring a Friend

Motley Free Methodist Church
BOA Minutes
August 16, 2021

Devotional/Prayer—Charles Mallory read from 2 Timothy 1:7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. Also, reading from Henry Blackaby, stating that the only fear for a Christian should be the fear of God and not a fear of man. Fear does not come for God. God gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us. Trials and persecutions can cause doubt where fears of the unknown can become overwhelming. Pastor said that through prayer we should ask God to give us the wisdom of discernment. His prayer quoted St. John Viannay—“...love God till the last breath of my life.” Sec. Report—Motion to accept by Marisela Vasquez, second by Chris Neal. Motion Carries
Treasurer Report—presented by Linda Beebe. Motion to accept by Barbara H., second by Craig Weigel. Motion carries.

Old Business:

- **Awana Fall Schedule**—no updates
- **Fall Festival**—Discussed with Jessica Judd. Start of Awana kickoff. There are still needs for food/candies for Fall Festival. A Bouncy House has been donated to the church.
- **Kitchen Upgrade**—no update.
- **Youth Mission Trip Update**—Craig Weigel intends to speak to the Mission Site team leader and higher ups about their recent negative experiences at the Youth Works Mission Trip. He will be looking into other options for next year. Overall, the youth had good experiences providing service work and being exposed to many different people. Chris Neal asked about the possibility about doing our own mission trip. The response was that it takes a lot of work.

New Business:

- **Lutheran Social Service Request**—Request for donations at Staples Site to help feed seniors in Staples/Motley. No contact # was left for a follow up. Put on hold until further information is provided.

Keeping the Thing the, “Main Thing”

- **Widows Ministry**—discussed a possible church presentation sometime in September. Linda B. has accumulated possible presentation material. Jess Judd suggested starting a card ministry for widows. Chris Neal suggested that the church get a head of Dept. person. Pastor Jim Johnson wants us to be intentional with outreach.
- **Millennial Outreach**—Pastor spoke about the need to brainstorm and form an intentional outreach to gather the Millennial back into the church. He said, “If we don’t intentionally outreach the Millennial and Generation Z, the church will cease to exist.” The board discussed how to draw these age groups back. Charles stated that they dynamics of family have changed. There are single women and younger adults with kids... Suggestions were—Go to them, pray about it, use the Awana Program to bring young parents in.
- **The Church has an ultimate goal to make disciples.** Bible Studies are not necessarily intentional in making disciples. We need to keep praying and thinking about it.
- **NCC Meeting**—Dale Leehy and Jennifer Mallory will be ordained. Three Delegates are attending; Marisela Vasquez, Linda Beebe, and Carol Weigel. There will be a total of thirteen church (MFMC) people attending.
- **Pastor Jim Johnson Vacation**—August 30th-September 13th the pastor will be out of the office.
- **Badge Sunday**—September 19th, will serve a meal after the second service. A Token of appreciation will be presented before the congregation at both services. Gift Cards will be presented for a \$25.00 to Bricks. Motion made by Craig Weigel, second by Marisela Vasquez.
- **Other**—1. We will be putting Bibles and Hymnals back in the sanctuary. 2. Craig Weigel and Jessica Judd voiced concerns for the youth who are turning 19 or graduating from High School and still want to attend Youth Group. The church policies will be reviewed and distributed to BOA, by Pastor Jim and an amendment may be made at the Sept. BOA meeting.

Next Meeting—September 20, 2021

Closing Prayer—Pastor Charles, Help us to seek sound council and guidance for clarity and intervention to set up a more intentional ministry. Holy Spirit, help us to reach out and touch more lives.

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