

# THE BREEZE

*When they saw*

**THAT THE STAR  
HAD STOPPED,**

**THEY WERE OVERWHELMED WITH**



*joy.*

**MATTHEW 2:10, NRSV**

## **Our Church's Vision:**

*To become a growing, difference-making, enthusiastic,  
and faith-filled Christian community.*

## **Our Church's Mission:**

*Reach with Christ People Where They Are.*

## **The Gospel Imperatives:**

*Growing in Love of God and Neighbor  
Reaching New People  
Healing a Broken World*

## **Our Guiding Principle:**

*Do all the good we can, by all the means we can,  
in all the ways we can, in all the places we can,  
at all the times we can, to all the people we can,  
as long as ever we can.*

**Check us out:**

**Church Website with official multi-month  
church calendar: [www.MotleyUMC.net](http://www.MotleyUMC.net)**

**On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/motleyumc](http://www.facebook.com/motleyumc)**



Do Some Good Every Day

**The Motley United Methodist Church**

**Worship Service via Zoom Meeting & in-person**

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 1 – New Year's Day
- January 4 – Epiphany Sunday Worship Celebration w/Holy Communion at 10 am; First Sunday Potluck
- January 5 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am
- January 7 – Game Day, 1-3 pm
- January 8 – Red Cross Blood Drive, noon to 6 pm
- January 11 – Baptism of the Lord Sunday Worship Celebration at 10 am
- January 12 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am
- January 14 – Game Day, 1-3 pm
- January 18 – Sunday Worship Celebration at 10 am
- January 19 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am
- January 21 – Game Day, 1-3 pm; Church Council Meeting, 3:30 pm
- January 25 – Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am
- January 26 - Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am
- January 28 – Game Day, 1-3 pm
- January 31 – Pancake Breakfast at 9 am
- February 1 - Sunday Worship Celebration w/Holy Communion at 10 am; First Sunday Potluck
- February 2 - Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am; Circle of Friends, 1 pm
- February 4 - Game Day, 1 pm
- February 8 - Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am
- February 9 - Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am
- February 11 - Game Day, 1 pm
- February 14 - *Valentine's Day*
- February 15 - Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am
- February 16 - Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am
- February 18 - Game Day, 1 pm; Church Council, 3:30 pm; Soup & Bread Supper, 5:15 pm;  
*Ash Wednesday* Lenten Service, 6 pm
- February 22 - Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am
- February 23 - Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am
- February 25 - Game Day, 1 pm; Soup & Bread Supper, 5:15 pm; Lenten Service, 6 pm
- February 28 – Pancake Breakfast at 9 am

## **Church in-person or on Zoom.**

Sunday morning worship at MotleyUMC is at 10 am and can be attended in person at MotleyUMC or via Zoom.

On January 5, we will celebrate worship with the Holy Communion. Please have bread and juice ready if worshipping with us via Zoom on **January 5**.

Where: In person at MotleyUMC and on Zoom.

When: 10 am

MotleyUMC <https://zoom.us/j/973954278>

Meeting ID: **973 954 278** Password: *(Contact Church)*

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### **Monday Morning Study**

Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom

Time: Every week on Monday at 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86826858534>

Meeting ID: **868 2685 8534**

Password: *(Contact Liz)*

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### **Church Council Meeting at 3:30 pm on January 21.**

I will be recording the meeting transcript using Zoom; the option to attend via Zoom does, therefore, exist. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting as we communicate what is going on, plan, and conduct the business of the church .

Zoom Meeting ID: **218 352 6466**

Password: *(Contact Church)*

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### **Other Events:**

**Bone Builders** is meeting on Tuesday & Friday Mornings, 10 am  
**TOPS** is meeting on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm.

## **Thought for the Day**

*Our hope is not in the new year, but in the One who  
makes all things new. —Anon*



# **COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**

## **SATURDAY**

***January 31, 2026***

**9—10:30 AM**

Community Breakfasts at MotleyUMC are on the last Saturday of each month. Next is on January 31<sup>st</sup>, from 9-10:30 am. No charge; this is an opportunity for members of the community to come together and share a meal. There will be a donation basket to support the Motley Area Food Shelf.



Motley United Methodist Church

847 3RD Ave S in Motley

*We will have a Potluck on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, after the church service. Bring a dish to share if you can; stay and enjoy the food either way!*



## **Game On!!!!!!**

Every Wednesday of the month through February **From 1:00 to 3:00 pm.**

In January on January 7, 14, 21, and 28.

**Cards, Dice, Board Games, Dominos**



### **BOARD GAMES:**

Aggravation, Cribbage, Rummikub

### **CARDS:**

UNO, Skipbo, Hand and Foot, 500, Golf, Phase 10

### **DOMINOS:**

Mexican train, Fives

### **DICE:**

Yahtzee, Farkle

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME- No Charge**

Refreshments will be served

Bring your own favorite game, and we will play with you!





## Motley Community Blood Drive

Motley United Methodist Church

847 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S - Motley, MN

Thursday, January 8, 2026

From 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm



Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: Motley Community to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to  
RapidPass®

***Health emergencies don't pause for holidays or game day.  
Donors are needed now. Step off the sidelines and roll up  
a sleeve to help patients in need.***

***Come to give January 1-25 for chance to win trip for 2 to  
Super Bowl LX in California! [rcblood.org/SuperBowl](https://rcblood.org/SuperBowl)***



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

**Be part of something big. Make an appointment.**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

In July of 2026, our church will be having vacation bible school. We need to start planning. Anyone interested in helping, please let Cindy Spilman know.

## Poinsettias in our Christmas worship services:



Given by Diane Reyer  
In memory of our parents  
Walter & Geneve Reyer.

Given by Diane Reyer  
In memory of  
Our Grandparents Ella & John Reyer.

Given by Donna Farber & Family  
In memory of Mick Farber.

Given by Jo Philipp, Linda Hane, Forrest Skeesick,  
Jade, Sam, Logan, Christina, Chase, Jett, Josie, June  
In memory of Carrie Philipp Anderson, Shalee, our Parents,  
Grandparents, & Great-grandparents.

Thank you to everyone who blessed our Christmas worship celebrations with the Poinsettias. I've named the ones that were given as tributes, but we have also been blessed with others that appeared.

***Merry Christmas!***

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**Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Eve offering; we collected \$1035 to help a local family. Planning on more news in February.**

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## **THANK YOU!**

**Santa Day was a Huge SUCCESS!** Thank you to everyone who participated in Santa Day on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. We had about 139 children come and shop at our "store" for their families, and the church was full. From buying presents to setting them out, to preparing and serving food, to registrations and shopping helpers, to organizing the gift tags and bagging & wrapping the presents (and more!), none of this would have been possible without the efforts of all of you!

Thank you, thank you, thank you for being a blessing to the children and the community!

# MOTLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

**November 19, 2025, 3:30 pm**

Present: Linda Townsend, Sherry Frisk, Cindy Spilman, Liz Curren, Pastor Greg, Gayle Quinn, Robin Kramer, Jomyla Choate, Chris Rosvold

Pastor Greg opened the meeting with a prayer at 3:35 pm.

Agenda: Christmas Flowers added, Liz moved & Linda seconded to approve amended agenda.

Liz moved to accept October 15 minutes; Robin seconded, and the motion carried. Liz moved to accept Church Conference minutes, Jomyla seconded, and carried. Sherry noted that the Church Conference was a very enjoyable experience this year.

## **Finance Report: October 31, 2025**

Income breakdown from the November Bazaar:

Lunch	\$415.00
Bake Sale	\$579.00
Lefsa	<u>\$257.00</u>
Total	\$1,251.00 + Vendor Rentals

October Lefsa Sale \$770.00

Money for "No Fall Dinner" October and half of November \$2,155.00.

Santa Day is coming up in December, and there is over \$1500.00 in that fund. I will write a check to whoever buys items for the event.

The Trustees will be refinancing the mortgage in January. The loan amount is approximately \$338,000. We have around \$61,500 in the bank as of November 15, and there will be more coming before the year-end. I propose that everything in the bank on December 30 should be paid on the mortgage, except \$20,000 in reserve. I am estimating that it would amount to around \$50,000. If the Trustees add the \$30,000 from the Congregational Trust Fund, we would be able to refinance at \$258,000, and with the \$5,000 per month payments, the loan would be paid in full in five years, and we would save \$36,000 in interest.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Townsend

Discussion regarding the proposal submitted via the Treasurer and Finance committee. Motion by Jomyla to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Liz, carried. Motion submitted by the Finance Committee to spend down the checking account to \$20,000 on December 31, to pay principal on the mortgage prior to the refinancing of the mortgage in January. Seconded by Gayle and passed.

We thank Linda for her service as treasurer for all of these years; she said that would help to close out 2025, unless the person taking over would rather that she did not.

**Trustees:** Robin contacted the Trustees regarding the proposal from the Finance Committee that we include the value of the Congregation Trust Fund in paying down the principal on the mortgage. She reported that she received approval from a quorum of the Trustees to close the Congregational Trust Fund for that purpose. There was a discussion of Dennis Rutland and the individuals who set up, funded, and managed the fund, and our appreciation of what they did.

Pastor Greg did request the contact information for snowplowing and the salt/sand service.

**SPRC:** Nothing new to report.

**Haiti Partnership:** Will be meeting on November 30 via Zoom to discuss current projects. The last Noisy Offering of 2025 will be at the end of November. The expected coffee price increase occurred with an average of \$1/bag.

**Memorial Committee:** Some new winter-themed banners were ordered in honor of Mick Farber, expected arrival in the next few days.

**Pastor's Report:** The commissioning paperwork will be submitted before Thanksgiving. Advent study starts tonight at 7 pm. Still haven't decided on the Christmas Eve offering, any ideas, send them to Pastor Greg. He will be off on December 28. There will be additional Conference meetings in February that he will need to attend; those dates will be announced later.

**Old Business:** The response to the bake sale was amazing by

our church members was amazing! Robin had lots of soup back in the lunchroom and that went well. There were 13 vendors, and they reported that business was okay; not overwhelming, but okay. Perhaps more advertising is needed? Discussion that we may want to consider ending at 2 pm, since most business was done by 1 pm, with very few people after that.

Cindy did reach out to a few people about planning for VBS. Looking at possibly evenings the week of July 12. We have had dinner with that and would like to do that again. Still determining the scale of events we want to do, but will definitely need leadership.

Santa Day coming up quickly on December 6, still need a lot of presents and are out shopping for them now.

**New Business:** Discussion about whether a sign on the outside door is needed for the AED device. Discussion about issues with the alarm keypad not seeming to work; passed to Trustees for follow-up.

Ideas for the Christmas offering to be given to Pastor Greg. We will ask people to bring their own Poinsettias for Christmas, as Williams is not available for ordering. Chris will publish a list of recognitions for those he is notified about. Question about whether the church would be open to having the Historical Society or the Garden Club hold meetings at the church. Chris requested notification if they chose to meet here, so it can be added to the calendar. Liz moved that they be allowed to meet here, with the caveat that a church member be present. Chris seconded, carried.

A request that the church hold game days every Wednesday through February.

A discussion that we should start wearing name tags again on Sundays; it was something that we got out of the habit of doing during COVID. Chris will make and put out new ones as necessary.

Legal Aid will be doing tax preparations here on Tuesdays in February and March. Chris will be adjusting his hours to be here during those hours, plus on Tuesdays and Wednesdays in January for people to come in and sign up. This was preapproved with the Trustees.

**The next council meeting** is on January 21 at 3:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Rosvold



## A Perspective Shift — Birth and Blessings

**December 26th, 2025 Newsletter**

**A personal reflection of the different experiences of pregnancy around the world**

*by Mallory Webster, Communications Manager*

I clearly remember the day I found out we were going to have a baby. The world seemed to shift — everything paused as my husband and I thanked God for this gift of life, and began planning what life would look like with this new blessing.

My pregnancy came at an interesting time. At 9 weeks pregnant, my husband and I traveled to Guatemala City, Guatemala to capture stories of Midwest Mission's impact in the world.

I was extremely excited as I always am when I get to visit our recipients. But, I'll admit, my pregnancy added some nervousness. I hadn't had my first appointment yet, so I was in this odd state of wondering "is this really real?" and also knowing that the constant nausea pointed to "yes, this is absolutely real."

My expectation was to go, spend time with people, and come back and share the life-transformation that is happening

because of people like you who give time and resources to people you may never meet.

And that did happen! We were overwhelmed as we heard story after story of someone's life changed, or even saved, because they received Rice and Soy Blessing Bags, or an elderly woman in tears because she could go to church again after receiving a wheelchair, or a group of women who learn to sew on Midwest Mission sewing machines, which became the outlet for discipleship and truly deep community and transformation.



But, the biggest imprint on my heart was unexpected, and was only made because of the unique timing of this trip.

There I was, barely pregnant (at least compared to the 6½ months pregnant I am now!), full of worries and expectation, but hit over the head (metaphorically of course) with *perspective*.

We had the opportunity to visit a local clinic run by a Parish. Because of the insanely busy traffic of Guatemala City (I'm talking what could take 30 minutes at 3am could take 4 hours at 9am), these neighborhood clinics are vital for patients to receive life-saving care.

This clinic in particular was very important because it had the only sonogram machine available in the area. There were many hospitals that didn't even have the simple capability of an ultrasound. The OBGYN would be in a couple days a week, and the street would be lined with expecting moms who eagerly awaited the chance to be seen by a doctor.

I arrived in Guatemala anxious because I had to wait one more week to see our baby for the first time, but while there, I realized so many families never get the comfort of knowing if everything is okay. They don't get the ultrasounds and the doctor appointments, the checkups and the choices, or the

birth-plans.

**It made me think back to my time in Honduras this past March.** We had the chance to visit a Maternity Clinic in a rural community outside of San Pedro Sula.

We toured the quaint clinic — the only clinic accessible to hundreds, maybe thousands, of women living around this area. It was honestly a great clinic. It had air conditioning, multiple exam rooms, and a delivery room (interestingly translated to the “Expulsion Room”) with the necessary equipment, including Midwest Mission Birthing Kits. This was more than most clinics were blessed to have, but it was still the bare minimum compared to our U.S. standards.

We met with Midwives who walk into the mountains, helping women deliver their babies in less-than-ideal conditions. Birth in houses with dirt floors and animals running around, women who had never had the opportunity to see a doctor, praying everything was okay.



Midwest Mission Birthing Kits are *vital* both at the clinic and for Midwives doing house calls. Two receiving blankets (one literally used to receive the baby), umbilical cord clamps, soap, a wash cloth, a scalpel, surgical gloves, a hand towel, and two trash bags. That’s it. That’s what they use to bring new life into the world.

***What a change of perspective for me as I journey through pregnancy and anticipation.***

Now, I sit writing this newsletter, three months away from giving birth, even more overwhelmed with **perspective**, and a realization of the blessings I have.

**My experience:**

After finding out I was pregnant, I called my doctor and scheduled an appointment. Around 11 weeks, I met with my doctor, got lab work and an ultrasound, able to see that little peanut

swimming around for the first time. I learned about what the next months would look like — the other appointments I'd have, the “to do's” and “not to-do's,” the choices to make like which hospital I want to give birth in, if I wanted to register for any classes, and if we wanted genetic testing done. At 20 weeks, we had our anatomy scan, finding out we are having a little girl who is healthy. I began working on my baby registry as my loved ones excitedly asked where I was registered.

Delivery will be in a well-lit, clean, and sterile environment with many nurses and doctors checking in on me and the baby. Resources and doctors will be available if any complications arise.

I could go on.... But you get the point. Every piece of this experience is a blessing I refuse to take for granted. And, I know this isn't even the experience all women get in the United States.

### **Many women's experience, especially in developing countries:**

Hope the long walk (miles and miles) to the clinic is worth it and the doctor is in, and the equipment is working so they might be able to see their baby.

Lots of prayer.

Deliver the baby as safely as possible — hopefully in a rural clinic that's well-equipped, but also likely at home, with the bare minimum.

And for some, they receive the blessing of a Birthing Kit to make those less-than-ideal circumstances a little safer, a little easier, and a little more comfortable.

No appointments, no birth plans, little-to-no resources.

**It's all about perspective.** And, coming out of the Christmas season, I can't help but think through Mary's position as an expectant mother, nervous, full of anticipation, and giving birth in circumstances that mirror many mothers' around the world. It wasn't the bright and sterile hospital room, but the dark and dirt-covered, yet holy night of birth that brought the Savior into

the world.

I hope my ramblings of my own perspective shift help you see your own blessings in life, and see the world through the eyes of women who come from different circumstances than many of us.

In reflection of the Christmas season, this December, we have made the goal of raising funds to send **2,000 Birthing Kits to expecting mothers in 2026.**

2,000 mothers will be able to breathe a sigh of relief, knowing they have what they need.

2,000 babies will be able to safely enter the world because of the gift of a Birthing Kit

Midwives and doctors will be empowered through these tools and will receive the hope that comes from them. And don't forget, each Kit is packed with a prayer card. Every person involved will know people they might never meet have surrounded the birth in prayer.

It's really quite beautiful.

**\$12** provides a Birthing Kit to an expecting mother in need.

**This end-of-year, would you consider giving the gift of one, two, maybe ten Birthing Kits?**

We are blessed, and out of our blessings we give so that more people may have what they need in Christ's name.

If you'd like to give the gift of a Birthing Kit, you can give online at [midwestmission.org/christmas](https://midwestmission.org/christmas) or send a check with "Birthing Kits" in the memo to 1001 Mission Drive, Pawnee,



Thank you to everyone who participated in the final Noisy Offering of 2025 on November 30<sup>th</sup> to support the work of the Haiti Partnership. We collected \$239.33 Thanks again!

## Serving You in January

**January 4:** Liturgist: Linda Townsend

Greeters/Ushers: Greg & Linda Townsend

Coffee Time: Potluck

**January 11:** Liturgist: Liz Curren

Greeters/Ushers: Bill & Fran Kokett

Coffee Time: Sandbergs

**January 18:** Liturgist: Sherry Frisk

Greeters/Ushers: John & Shirley Watson

Coffee Time: Leslie/Ortloff

**January 25:** Liturgist: Bernice Thomson

Greeters/Ushers: Bernice Thomson & Paula Johnson

Coffee Time: Jomyla Choate

Dear friends at Motley UMC,

Thanks so much, once again, for your kindness to us this Christmas season. We are so appreciative of the cards, gifts, and kind words you've given us. We are very blessed.

With much love, Dawn and Gary Timbs

### Thank you!

I want to say thank you for the generous gifts that I have received from my church family again this Christmas.

I also want to thank all of you for what you do that makes it possible for what I do as a secretary and as an IT support person; there are many who do things behind the scenes that I am blessed to see. I want you to know how much I appreciate you!

Chris Rosvold, Secretary, Motley UMC

# JANUARY

## Birthdays

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - John Watson     | 16 - John Paananen     |
| 2 - Bryan Carey     | 17 - Jim Greig         |
| 3 - Sharon Stone    | 17 - Lukas Savage      |
| 4 - Jason Macheel   | 18 - Jodi Reeck        |
| 5 - Matthew Sams    | 20 - Samantha Sullivan |
| 5 - Greg Ciesluk    | 22 - Alisa Olson       |
| 6 - Gary Timbs      | 23 - Sally Miller      |
| 9 - Kathy Morey     | 23 - Teyler Gabiger    |
| 12 - Dani Gordon    | 23 - Austyn Ploshnick  |
| 12 - Arline Nelson  | 23 - Morgan Ward       |
| 13 - John Miller    | 29 - Rebecca Paananen  |
| 13 - Cara Spilman   | 30 - Doug Copley       |
| 14 - Jared Eischeid | 30 - Lois Frisk        |
| 16 - Neal Spilman   | 31 - Shirley Watson    |

You are encouraged to read and meditate on these scriptures each week as an act of personal devotion. Such a practice promises to pay rich dividends in your spiritual journey and prepare your heart for a more fruitful worship experience.

The appointed Scripture lessons for:

**January 4:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 (UMH 795);  
Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**January 11:** Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29 (UMH 761);  
Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

**January 18:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11 (UMH 774);  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

**January 28:** Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (UMH 758);  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

**February 1:** Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15 (UMH 747);  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12

**Liturgical Colors:** January 4-11: White or Gold; January 18—  
February 1: Green