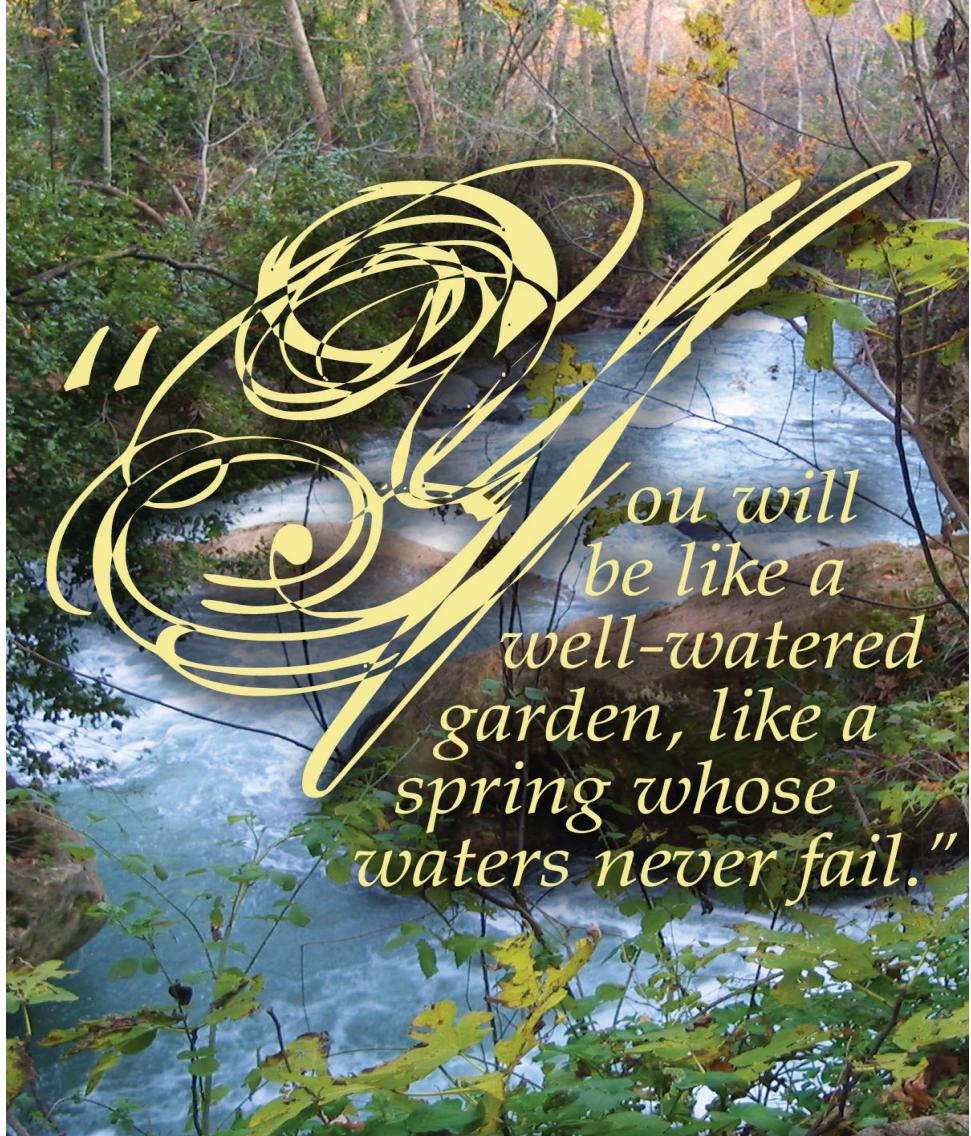


THE BREEZE



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

On Facebook: www.facebook.com/motleyumc



Do Some Good Every Day

The Motley United Methodist Church

Worship Service via Zoom Meeting & in-person

Pastor: Greg Leslie Cell: [\(218\) 731-9302](tel:(218)731-9302) (Call or text)
E-mail: pastorgleslie@gmail.com

Secretary: Chris Rosvold
(218) 352-6466 or (612) 221-1111 (preferred, call or text)
crosvold@motleyumc.net

Sherry Frisk: Breeze Editor (218) 352-6137
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February Message from Pastor Greg

Good February All,

I want to begin by thanking all of you for everything you did for my dad's funeral. I also want to thank you all for supporting my family through prayers, cards, and messages. He really loved being a part of the church, his faith was strong, and he was a great father and husband. Again, thank you.

Today, after church, Stephanie and I decided it was time to get out of the house and go for a walk. Our property is filled with birch, pine, and spruce trees, a few oaks, and some maples. As we walked through the snow, which was deeper than expected, my lab was right on my heels, nudging me along. At one point, she even ran between Stephanie's legs. The sun was shining, and it was above zero. Honestly, we couldn't ask for a better day.

I bring this story up for a reason, that sometimes we need that earthly connection. We need the snow filling our boots, and the cold breeze nipping at our noses. We need to see how God is in action, even when the weather tries to stop us from being outside. There is nothing better than feeling the sun beating on your face, even as the cold tries its hardest to force you back inside. God wants us to connect. God wants us to care.

“Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

February 18th is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. For 40 days, we will prepare ourselves for what is to come. Each Wednesday night, we will come together for a soup-and-bread meal starting at 5:15, then move into worship at 6:00. This year, I will be sharing the services with Pastor Beth Pottratz.

I hope you all are connecting with God this winter. Just keep the world in your prayers.

Blessings,
Pastor Greg Leslie

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 3 - AARP Tax-Aide Tax Prep, 9 am - 3 pm

February 4 - Game Day, 1 pm

February 8 - Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am

February 9 - Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am

February 10 - AARP Tax-Aide Tax Prep, 9 am - 3 pm

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 17 - AARP Tax-Aide Tax Prep, 9 am - 3 pm;
Shrove Tuesday / Mardi Gras

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 24 - AARP Tax-Aide Tax Prep, 9 am - 3 pm

February 25 - Game Day, 1 pm; Soup & Bread Supper,
5:15 pm; Lenten Service, 6 pm

February 28 – Pancake Breakfast at 9 am

March 1 - Sunday Worship Celebration w/Holy Communion at 10 am; First Sunday Potluck

March 2 - Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am;
Circle of Friends, 1 pm

March 3 - AARP Tax-Aide Tax Prep, 9 am - 3 pm

March 4 – Game Day, 1 pm; Soup & Bread Supper, 5:15 pm;
Lenten Service, 6 pm

March 8 – Daylight Savings Time begins; Sunday Worship
Celebration, 10 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 February 1, we will celebrate worship with the Holy Communion. Please have bread and juice ready if worshipping with us via Zoom on **February 1**.

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*)

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*)

Church Council Meeting at 3:30 pm on February 18.

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 for the upcoming seasons, and conduct the business of the church .

Zoom Meeting ID: **218 352 6466**

Password: (*Contact Church*)

Ash Wednesday worship

February 18th in-person and on Zoom

We will be gathering on Wednesday nights either in person or via Zoom at 6 pm during Lent for worship.

We begin our journey in ashes; there will be the imposition of ashes for those who are attending in person.

MotleyUMC <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89091428858>

Meeting ID: **890 9142 8858** Password: (*Contact Church*)



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY

February 28, 2026



9—10:30 AM

Community Breakfasts at MotleyUMC on the last Saturday of each month. Next is February 28th, 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.

Lenten Soup & Bread Suppers

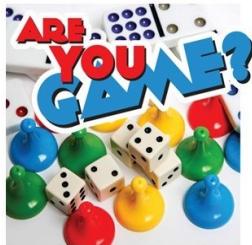
February 18 will be Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent; we are planning to have services on Wednesdays at 6 pm and a light soup and bread supper at 5:15 pm at the church. **If any group, family, or individuals wish to sign up to host the soup & bread supper, please let me know or sign up on the list in the fellowship hall. Thanks! Chris Rosvold**

*We will have a Potluck on Sunday,
February 1st, 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 March From 1:00 to 3:00 pm.



In February on February 4, 11, 18, & 25.

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!



Ash Wednesday

5:15 pm Light Soup & Bread Meal
6:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday Service with imposition of ashes will be on February 18 at 6 pm at MotleyUMC. A light soup & bread meal will be served at 5:15 pm prior to service.

Get your taxes done for free.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will be located at the Motley United Methodist Church.

Appointment Sign-up at the Motley United Methodist Church when open.

Pick up the Intake Booklet to complete prior to your appointment.

Tax Preparation: Tuesdays from February 3, 2026, to April 14, 2026.

Appointments Only — No Walk-in Tax Preparation

TUESDAYS ONLY 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.



Working for You

We'll help you get every tax credit and deduction you've earned.



Welcoming and Free

The program is open to taxpayers of all ages. AARP membership is not required.



IRS Certified

Our volunteers are trained and IRS certified every year.

To find a site near you, or to get information about virtual services, visit aarpfoundation.org/taxaide or call us toll-free at 1-888-227-7669.

Other Events:

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

Upper Room Devotional

The January/February Upper Room Devotional is available in the church fellowship hall in both normal & Large Print editions. Stop in on Sunday morning or during the week when open to pick one up.

**MOTLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
January 21, 2026, 3:30 pm**

Present: Sherry Frisk, Jomyla Choate, Linda Townsend, Cindy Spilman, Liz Curren, Pastor Greg, Jo Philipp, Robin Kramer, Chris Rosvold, Pastor Beth

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

Agenda: Easter Flowers & Chicken Dinner added & next meeting date corrected, Liz moved & Robin seconded to approve amended agenda.

Liz moved to accept the November 19 minutes; Jomyla seconded, and the motion carried.

Finance Report: December 31, 2025

The Trustees transferred the entire balance of the Congregational Trust Fund to the mortgage, which was \$32,421.00, and the church transferred \$49,529 overage to the mortgage, leaving approximately \$20,000 in the checking account. By doing this, we reduced the mortgage principal from \$338,206 in November to \$248,658 in January. The Trustees will be refinancing the mortgage in January. We will continue to pay \$5,000 monthly, and the loan will be paid in full in five years or less.

We interviewed Elizabeth Blackburn, who runs a bookkeeping service in Motley, and she agreed to serve as our Treasurer. She will start training with Linda at the church office on January 23 (will be delayed until January 30 due to weather) and will be paid \$20.00 per hour. Following her training, she will be added as a signer to the checking account at First International Bank and Trust. They require that we update all signers at that time, and we need Council approval. That would mean deleting Linda Townsend, Alice Sunde, and Mick Farber, then adding Elizabeth. Official signers would be: Elizabeth Blackburn, Chris B. Rosvold, Roberta E. Kramer, and Jeremy Reeck. Minutes from this Council meeting approving this must be provided. Also, since Elizabeth is new, we will need oversight from the Finance Committee.

She will email them reports, such as a monthly balance sheet and an income and expense report, and ask for questions or approval. Those notes will then be sent to the Council for a vote of approval and filing.

One more thing to decide at this time is the apportionments to be made to the Conference 2026. In 2025, we gave \$862.95 per month. For 2026, they are asking for \$1,173.75 per month. I would suggest a compromise of \$1,000 per month. We need a vote from the Finance Committee.

W-2's and 1099s will be filed by the payroll service by the end of January. December balance sheet attached.

Respectfully submitted, Linda Townsend

Chris moved & Jomyla seconded to accept the Finance Report as presented.

Motion from the finance committee to change the signers to the church's First International Bank checking account to **Elizabeth A Blackburn, Chris B Rosvold, Roberta E Kramer, and Jeremy R Reeck**, as noted in the finance report. The motion was seconded by Liz Curren and passed unanimously.

Motion from the finance committee to pay \$1000/month on apportionments. Pastor Greg made an appeal for us to seriously consider paying the full apportionment amount to the Minnesota Conference, which would be an additional \$2085 over the course of the year. He also listed what benefits the church gets from the conference, which includes a pastoral appointment (i.e. him as pastor), support of the Conference Supervisor (who was in church with us on November 23), the One Matters Award last year, as well as other administrative services provided by the conference.

Jomyla noted that another reason to pay our apportionments in full is because it has a better reflection upon our pastor. General agreement, but concern about overriding the Finance Committee recommendation. Liz moved to table the motion until next month, and Greg will communicate with the Finance committee. Motion tabled.

Linda mentioned that in the past, we have taken an annual distribution from the Trust Fund in January of either 4% or 5%, which would be either approximately \$12,000 or \$15,000. Since we have enough funds in checking to pay the bills, we will hold off on taking that distribution; Trustees can authorize a distribution later in the year if necessary. No action is needed now.

Elizabeth will need to know to distribute the funds collected at the community breakfasts to the Food Shelf at the end of March; the April community breakfast is dedicated to C.A.R.E.

Pastor Greg & the church council thanked Linda for her service as treasurer for all of these years!

Trustees: The alarm system keypad was replaced yesterday. Codes still work. Pastor Greg noted that the alarm system rearmed itself after a while; we will need to get that checked out.

Robin will talk with Jeremy about the possibility of revisiting the fundraiser (last done over 10 years ago), aimed at further reducing mortgage principal and engaging new congregants not involved with the original building campaign. Consensus to consider post-chicken dinner fundraiser possibly in July; committee to be formed.

SPRC: Recent changes in the appointment change process now require open SPRC involvement and congregation awareness; the appointment process is now more transparent. Pastor Greg has indicated willingness for an appointment change (process started ~ November/ December 2025), and Liz & Russ needed to sign off on that response. The SPRC Committee (Liz, Russ, Dorothy, others sought) is working to diversify and prepare for transition; people are encouraged to suggest additional SPRC committee candidates of diverse ages/& backgrounds.

UWF: Jomyla noted that the Headwaters Spring Gathering was not on the calendar. Corrected.

Haiti Partnership: Update will be published in the upcoming Breeze newsletter.

Memorial Committee: Looking to purchase new banquet tablecloths; the existing ones are mostly stained. Also looking to upgrade the banner storage in the sacristy; what we have now is inadequate and hard to use. Will see if we can get something better built.

Pastor's Report: Thank you to everyone who helped with the family and the funeral for Greg's dad. He really appreciated that.

Greg will be meeting with the Board of Ordained Ministry for interviews on February 2-3, 2026 (for provisional membership; full ordination requires two more years). Pastor Greg gave more details on the United Methodist Church interview and ordination process, and who is involved. Pastor Beth shared contrasts with the Lutheran Church ordination process.

Old Business: VBS: Pastor Beth agreed to co-chair with Cindy. Planning phase: Seeking to determine budget, needs, supplies; fund availability confirmed; suggestions for fundraising/ public appeals as needed. Tentative dates: July 12-16, 2026 (Sunday-Thursday evening format, final night program for families). Details such as curriculum, activities (crafts, music, offering/ mission projects), to be planned and reported next month.

AARP Tax-Aide tax appointments begin February 3rd (Tuesdays, 9 am–3 pm, through April 14th) and will be held in classrooms. Sign-ups and preparation packets in the fellowship hall.

New Business: Game Days every Wednesday will be extended through March. Will promote on the city calendar.

Easter Breakfast, April 5th, will replace the regular first Sunday potluck; need an organizer, yet.

Easter Flowers: Williams is open for flower orders (info to be gathered and published by next meeting).

Chicken Dinner: April 22nd. Uncertainty of sourcing supplies due to Bricks' sale; contingency planning underway.

Ash Wednesday & Lenten Services: Ash Wednesday on February 18th, 2026; service at 6:00 pm, soup/bread meal at 5:15 pm (sign-up to be circulated). Discussing rotating leadership for midweek services between Pastor Greg and Pastor Beth; potential for joint Holy Week services.

The Christmas Eve offering totaled around \$1,135. It was a great blessing, thank you!

The MotleyUMC website is in the process of being completely redone, past sermons from November onward are now posted and available as audios and videos.

The next council meeting is on February 18 at 3:30 pm. The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm .

Respectfully submitted, Chris Rosvold



It's Time To Register For Camp! Registration is open for the **2026 Camp Minnesota Summer Camp Season!**

Get ready for an amazing summer packed with outdoor fun, creative activities, meaningful worship and Bible study, and plenty of time to make new friends and unforgettable memories. Come experience **Christ, Creation, and Community** this summer! Check out the [upcoming camp sessions at Camp Minnesota](#) website and pick your favorite camp location: [Northern Pines](#), [Koronis Ministries](#), or [KoWaKan Adventures](#). Camp listings and registration information are on the [Camp Minnesota website](#). Signing up for camp is easy! There are multiple ways to register for camp:

ONLINE

Directly access the [**Campwise online registration site**](#) to register, or search through the complete list of Camp Minnesota [**Camps and Events**](#). Then click on “Register” in the camp description. Contact the Camping Office for login and password assistance.

PHONE

To register by phone call toll-free **855-622-1973** Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Central Time)

MAIL

Download, print, complete, and mail the [**paper registration**](#) form to:

Camp Minnesota
122 W. Franklin Ave, Suite 400
Minneapolis, MN 55404
(Make checks payable to **Camp Minnesota**.)

EMAIL

Download, print, and complete, the [**paper registration**](#) form. Then scan and email completed form to
[**camps@campminnesota.org**](mailto:camps@campminnesota.org)

Registration incentives for 2026!

NEW - We have **DOUBLED** the **Bring-a-Friend discount to \$50 off** for each new camper you bring to camp! Check out the details at www.campminnesota.org/incentives.

Early Bird Credit - Register by April 30 and receive a **\$25 camp store credit!**

The Minnesota Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church offers [**Camp Minnesota Camperships**](#) to help with the costs of camp because we believe that every child should have a Christian camping experience, and no camper will be turned away due to a personal lack of funds. We have scholarship funds available to campers who need them most, based on personal and family needs. Before registering, check with your local church to see if they assist with the cost of registration.



In Memory of Forest D Leslie, Jr.

July 26, 1949 ~ January 11, 2026

Forest Daniel Leslie, Jr. ("Frosty"/"Sonny") passed away on January 11, 2026, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis from congestive heart failure and kidney disease.

Frosty was born July 26, 1949, in Mahnomen, MN, to Forest "Frost" and Ethel "Dolly" Leslie. He married Sharon "Clausen" Leslie on June 12, 1971, in Mahnomen, where they lived on the family farm. In 1986, the family moved to central Minnesota, where he was employed at John Wiese Ford in Sauk Centre for 29 years.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, camping, and especially woodworking. He was always working on a project.

Frosty is preceded in death by his parents, Frost and Dolly, and his black lab, Dutches.

He is survived by Sharon his wife of 54 years, 4 children Karla, Dan, Greg (Stephanie) and Mike (Katie), 7 grandchildren Joey (Tonya) Winch, Abby (Nathan) Russ, Morgan (Andrew) Ortloff, Olivia (Carson) Berg, Zoey Leslie, Hunter Leslie and Bentley Leslie, 4 great-grandsons Ashton, Zeke, Camden and Elliott, a great-granddaughter on the way and his beloved golden retriever, Emma.

The funeral service was held at The Motley United Methodist Church on Friday, January 16, 2026



Love is **PATIENT**,
Love is **KIND**.
It does not **ENVY**,
it does not **BOAST**,
It is not **PROUD**.

1 Corinthians 13:4-6

WE LOVE
BECAUSE HE FIRST
LOVED US.

1 JOHN 4:19, NRSV

News from Our Partners in Haiti

In mid-December, four medical & dental clinics were held in the communities of Sobier and Yvon. Because you care, 262 patients were able to receive care close to their homes instead of having to make the long and possibly dangerous trip to the hospital. It's important to know that the people are partners



in their care. A nominal fee is charged; this fee is waived if OPB2M determines the person cannot afford it. In total, \$389 was collected. This money is used for future

clinics. The people of Yvon and Sobier send their love and appreciation!

Wesnet sent photos of the nurse clinic, which operates DAILY, Monday – Friday, in Yvon. They have named this clinic “Grace Clinic” because it is by God’s grace that we continue



to work together to make access to healthcare possible. This clinic is funded by the proceeds of the Goat Project that the Haiti Partnership initiated alongside our Haitian partners.

He also sent photos of one of the homes that we have



been helping to build. The Goat Project, clinics, and homes have changed the lives of our friends who live up that rutted mountain road! Thank you to

everyone for caring and making a difference!

Our liaison and friend, Wesnet, traveled from Migahoane to Port



-au-Prince the week of January 19 for the EMH (Methodist Church of Haiti) Annual Conference. The roads are dangerous, with the gangs still firmly in control of the nation's capital. We ask for continued prayers for all attending to arrive safely and to return safely to their homes when the conference concludes.

Wesnet also included a financial accounting of the projects that we are working on together – the two houses and the secure room for the clinics in Yvon. Our Haitian partners contributed funds as well as project management to these projects.



"Away in a meadow all covered in snow
The little groundhog looks for his shadow
The clouds in the sky determine our fate
If winter will leave us all early or late."

Don Halley



For God so loVed the world
thAt he gave his
onLy
begottEn
SoN,
thaT whoever
belIeves
iN him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.

(John 3:16, NKJV)

*"Love is not only something you feel,
it is something you do."*

--David Wilkerson

Vacation BIBLE SCHOOL

Cindy Spilman & Pastor Beth Pottratz have agreed to co-chair the MotleyUMC Vacation Bible School.

Thank you for stepping up for the children!

VBS is scheduled for July 12-16.

They will present an outline of their plans at the February Council meeting, and more information will be available in the March Breeze.

THANK YOU!

It is official, Linda Townsend has retired as Church Treasurer. Thank you for your time, efficiency, and for keeping our books in order. You were appreciated more than you know. Linda is being replaced by Elizabeth Blackburn, an experienced accountant. Enjoy your free time, Linda!



Serving You in February

February 1: Liturgist: Jomyla Choate

Greeters/Ushers: Linda Mudgett & Granddaughter

Coffee Time: **Potluck**

February 8: Liturgist: Jo Philipp

Greeters/Ushers: Linda Guptill & Rick VandenAvond

Coffee Time:

February 15: Liturgist: Sharon Sandberg

Greeters/Ushers: Steve & Sharon Sandberg

Coffee Time: Jomyla Choate

February 22: Liturgist: Ming Rosvold

Greeters/Ushers: Mike & Ming Rosvold

Coffee Time: Mike & Ming Rosvold



Easter Breakfast will need someone to coordinate it. **There will be no potluck on Easter Sunday, April 5.**



**American
Red Cross**

Thank you for giving blood!

The Red Cross had a blood drive at MotleyUMC on Thursday, January 8. We collected 8 Power Red units and 26 Whole Blood units, for a total of 34 units, exceeding the goal of 27. We had 30 appointments across 43 scheduled online slots and 32 presenting donors, including two first-time donors. Thank you to everyone who helped with setup, check-in, hospitality, take-down, and, of course, giving blood!

Our next drive is scheduled for May 19th. 22



FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February Birthdays

- 11 – Dean Holmberg
- 11 – Joan Holmberg
- 12 – Kassandra (Sullivan) Nelson
- 13 – Jeremy Reeck
- 13 – Mike Stevens
- 13 – Becky Sullivan
- 16 – Beau Frisk
- 17 – Lynn Bastian
- 19 – Sharon Sandberg
- 22 – Maurice Erickson
- 26 – Greg Townsend

February Anniversaries

- 9 – Les & Elaine Rogers

A THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

*“All you need is love.
But a little chocolate now
and then doesn’t hurt.”*

—Charles M. Schulz

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:

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

February 8: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10) (UMH 833); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20

February 15 : Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 (UMH 739) or Psalm 99 (UMH 819); 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

February 18, Ash Wednesday: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17 (UMH 785); 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32 (UMH 766); Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

Liturgical Colors: February 1-8: Green; February 15: White or Gold; February 18 - March 1: Purple