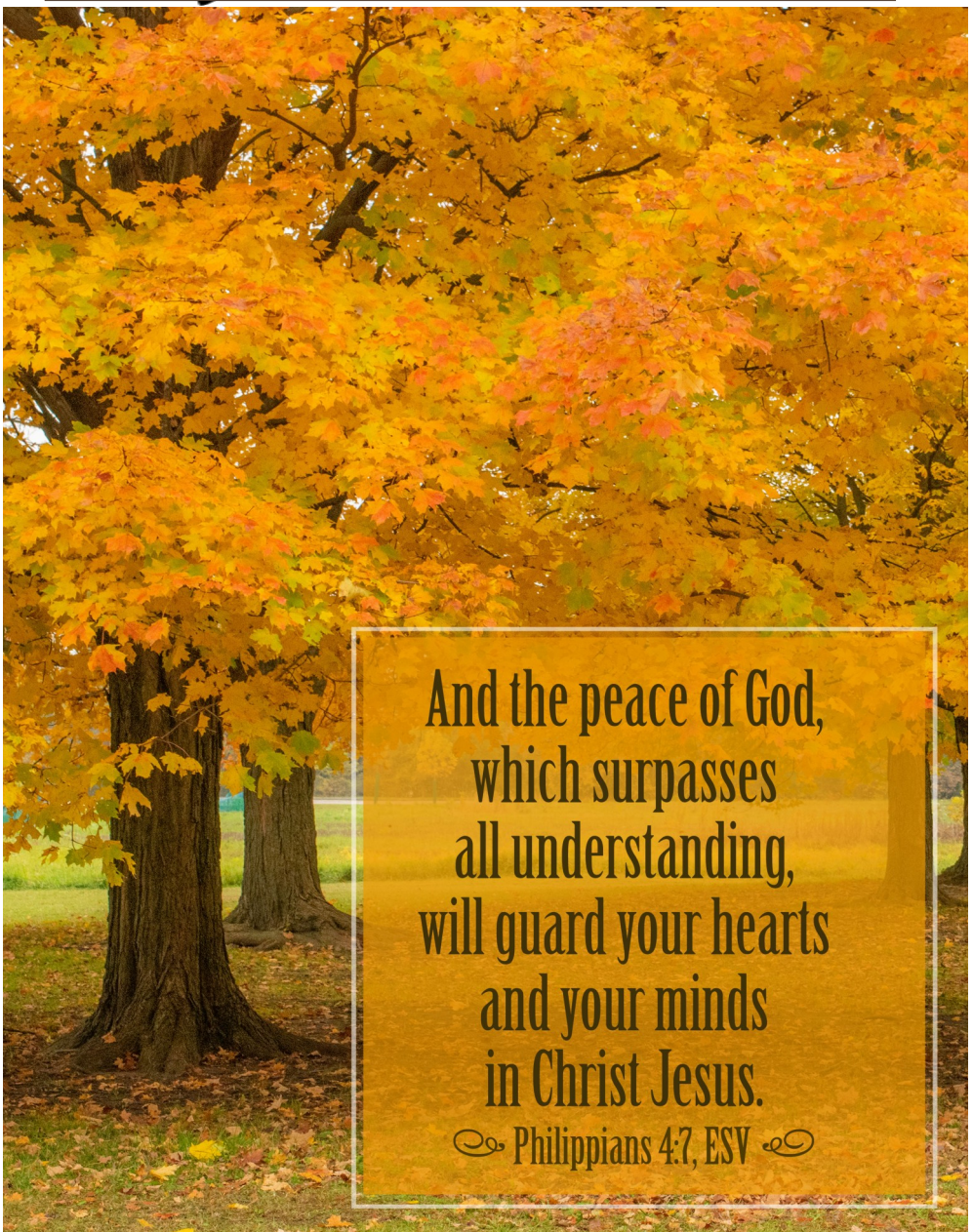
October 2026 Volume 46, Issue # 10

MOTLEY UMC

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

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A word from Pastor Jonathan

October 3rd is World Communion Sunday. This is a reminder that all Christians who celebrate communion are united by following Christ Jesus and his teachings, even when we worship differently. Let us celebrate the diverse ways people follow Christ and seek God.

October 20 and December 15 are the first two dates I have volunteered to lead a chapel service for Lakewood Care Center (2 PM), Pines (3 PM), and Manor (4 PM). If you want to help lead or help worship, let me know. We will be providing a small service for the residents of each location on those dates.

Also, we have Church Conference at Sauk Centre UMC at 1 PM on October 24th. Let me know if you want to attend; they want an approximate head count. We may set up carpools if anyone is interested but does not want to drive.

I'd also like people to remind me to get the ingredients for my family's rye bread so I can bake some loaves for the Annual Bazaar & Bake Sale on November 7th.

I have been enjoying getting to know people at the meet and greets. If I haven't seen you I may call and chat or visit you some Friday. If you would rather be called or visited some other time than a Friday let me know.

"You said dress up as a Bible character ... and my character is Leviathan."

. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 30 – Game Day, 1 pm

October 4 – Sunday Worship Celebration w/Holy Communion at 10 am; First Sunday Potluck

October 5 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am; Circle of Friends, 1 pm

October 7 – Game Day, 1 pm

October 11 – Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am

October 13 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am

October 14 – Fall Turkey Dinner, 4:00 – 6:30 pm

October 15-16 – MEA Break

October 18 – Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am; Merge Intent Vote

October 19 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am

October 21– Church Council Meeting, 10 am; Game Day, 1-3 pm

October 24 – Church Charge Conference at Sauk Centre UMC, 1 pm

October 25 – Sunday Worship Celebration, 10 am

October 26 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am

October 29 – Game Day, 1 pm

October 31 – Community Pancake Breakfast at 9 am; Trunk or Treat, 4 – 6 pm

November 2 – Monday Morning Bible Study at 10 am; Circle of Friends, 1 pm

November 4 – Game Day, 1 pm

November 6 – Bazaar Set-up, 9 am

November 7 – Minnesota Deer Rifle Season Opener; Annual Bazaar & Bake Sale, 9 am – 3 pm

Other Events:

Bone Builders is meeting on Tuesday & Friday Mornings, 10 am

TOPS is meeting on Tuesday nights at 6:30 pm.

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 October 4, we will celebrate World Communion Sunday. Please have bread and juice ready if worshipping with us via Zoom on **October 4**.

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

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

Monday Morning Study

Monday Morning Bible Study via Zoom

Time: Time: Every week on Monday at 10:00 am. You will want to pick up a copy of the September/October Upper Room at the church for use during the study.

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

Meeting ID: **868 2685 8534**

Password: *Contact Liz*

Church Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, at 10 am (*Note the time change*.)

The MotleyUMC Church Council meeting is an open meeting where input from church members and friends is welcomed. I do record a transcript using Zoom, so you can attend via Zoom in addition to in person at MotleyUMC.

Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2183526466

Meeting ID: 218 352 6466 Password: *(Contact Church)*

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On Sunday, November 1st, Pastor Jonathan will lead us in a very special service. We will be honoring Rod Enberg; Sally Hansen; Forest Leslie; Carol Jean Kramer; & Terry Farber; saints who have gone to their heavenly home.

Following the service will be Potluck, and all are invited to fellowship and remember our saints, both here and in heaven.

COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

SATURDAY

October 31, 2026

9—10:30 AM

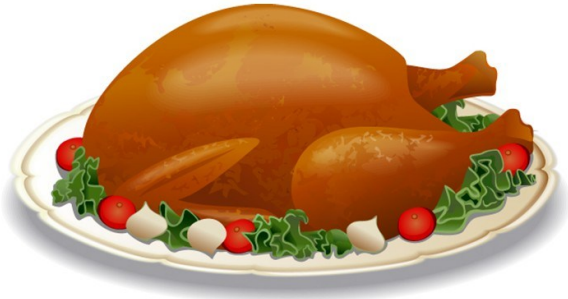
Community Breakfasts at MotleyUMC are on the last Saturday of each month. The next one is October 31st, from 9-10:30 am.

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 Potluck after service on Sunday, October 4th. Bring a dish to share if you can; stay and enjoy the food either way!



FALL HARVEST TURKEY DINNER

WEDNESDAY

October 14, 2026

SERVING FROM:

4:00 – 6:30 PM

Motley United Methodist Church
847 3RD Ave S
Motley, MN

Turkey Dinner
With all the trimmings

ADULTS - $15.00
6-12 YEARS - $7.00
5 & UNDER FREE

Fall Turkey Dinner

The Fall Turkey dinner is on Wednesday, October 14. We will be doing prep on Tuesday & Wednesday. There are sign-up sheets for everything in the fellowship hall. It takes many hands to make this dinner a success. We thank you in advance for your help!

Support local students by dining out! Area restaurants are competing for awards in *Best Meal*, *Most Tickets Sold*, and *Most Funds Raised*. Try 'em all and cast your vote for **Best Meal**!

Each participating restaurant donates a portion of the proceeds from meals sold during these featured dates to help sponsor SPARKS Mentors for students in our local schools.

The August Featured Meals are done,

but there are four opportunities in October:

- **Tuesday, October 6**

o **Spot Cafe:** Special of the Day – $15 *(All proceeds go to SPARKS Mentoring)*

o **Vintage Golf Course Grill:** Birdie Wrap ($18) or Vintage Turkey Wrap ($18)

o **Saturday, October 10**

o **Still Lefty's Bar & Grill:** Chinese Entree ($15) or Combo ($20, available at 5:00 PM)

o **Tuesday, October 13**

Tower Pizza: Spaghetti Dinner ($15) or Mini Pizza Meal ($10)

Presented by: SPARKS Mentoring of Staples-Motley
Contact: Call 320-761-9022 or 218-218-0291
Facebook: SPARKS MENTORING

A MOTLEY COMMUNITY EVENT
ON SATURDAY October 31, 2026
Trick or Treat from 4:00 – 6:00 PM
Set-up at 3:30 pm

Sunset will be 6:04 pm in Motley, MN

Inside the Motley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall (to avoid weather complications) 847 3rd Ave S, Motley, MN

Trunk or Treat is a safe way for our children in the community to go trick or treating.

All members of the community are invited to participate, decorate their trunk (table), wear a costume, or even set up a game. In today's world, many parents work, it's a Saturday night, and it is a great way for the community to work together to make it a safe environment for our children. Motley businesses will also be participating in Trunk or Treat. They will have an orange pumpkin in their store window to let the children know they are welcome.

Will our cackling witch be there?

Come and see!

Happy Halloween!

MOTLEY UMC

Upper Room Devotional

The September/October 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.

Game On!!!!!!

Almost Every Wednesday of the month From 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

No Game Day on October 14 for Fall Turkey Dinner.

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!

If you like to bake, how about making some tasty treats to be sold at the Church Bazaar on November 7th? Home-baked bread is always a top seller. So, if that is your thing, consider baking a loaf or two. Some other goodies to make would be: bars, cookies, pies, candies, and quick breads. Please have your bake sale items to the church by noon on Friday, November 6th. If you have any questions, please contact Shirley Watson or Paula Johnson.

SANTA DAY

Santa Day was a success last year, and we are doing it again this year on December 5th from 10 am – 1 pm.

It's a day that children can shop for their family members. We need gifts in every category, especially gifts that kids will enjoy giving. Gift bags are also needed.

When you are out shopping, look for good deals this fall and pick up a few items that can be used for Santa Day. If you wish, you can make a donation, and someone else will do the shopping.

It is a fun day, and the excitement of children is priceless.

Look for sign-up sheets as the date in December gets closer. Thank you!

Haiti Partnership Update

Thank you so much, everyone, for your August Noisy Offering contributions. Including First United in Little Falls, the Vacation Bible School donation, and the funds collected on Sunday, August 30, the total offering received was $840.37. Those funds went to underwrite the mobile medical/dental clinics in Sobier and Yvon the week of September 14-17. Again, thank you for your generosity.

The last Noisy Offering for 2026 will be received on Sunday, November 29. So, it is not too early to begin gathering up your loose change for this special offering. Currency and checks made payable to the Haiti Partnership are also welcome and appreciated.

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon at the Motley Fairgrounds! Presented by the Motley Community Events Organization, Fall Fest is packed with activities, games, delicious food, and entertainment for all ages.

Event Details:

- **Date: October 10, 2026**
- **Time:** 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Motley Fairgrounds (Motley, MN)

Activities & Attractions

- **Giant Pumpkin Contest:** payout of $0.25/pound paid to 1st & 2nd place winners
- **Kids' Costume Parade (NEW!):** Parades through the festival every hour—wear your best costume!
- **Horse-Drawn Trolley Rides (NEW!):** By Lester Bain
- **Power Bungee Jump (NEW!)**
- **Face Painting:** By the Staples Motley Girls Tennis Team
- **Pumpkin Decorating:** Decorate a pumpkin to take home for Halloween
- **Decorate Trick-or-Treat Bags:** All supplies provided
- **Petting Zoo:** By Cedar Acres
- **Bean Bag Tournament & Musical Chairs:** Fun with prizes to be won
- **Bouncy Houses & Photo Booth**

Food & Drinks

- **Live DJ:** Free music playing all day!
- **Food Vendors:**
  - Something Good
  - Iron Waffle
  - Anchor North
  - SS Kettle Corn
  - **Beer Garden:** Serving beer and seltzers

Staples Area Chamber of Commerce Presents: Hometown Harvest

Gather with family and friends for the annual Hometown Harvest festival! Brought to you by the Staples Area Chamber of Commerce, this full day of autumn festivities features local vendors, live entertainment, family activities, and great food.

Event Details:

- **Date: Saturday, October 3, 2026**
- **Location:** Northern Pacific Park (Staples, MN)

Scheduled & Timed Events

- **10:00 AM – 1:00 PM:** Face Painting
- **11:00 AM – 1:00 PM:** Pumpkin Walk
- **11:00 AM – 2:00 PM:** Live Music by Prairie Smoke Band
- **11:00 AM & 3:15 PM:** Magic Performances by Professional Magician Nick Sharpe
- **12:00 PM – 2:00 PM:** Chili Cook-Off
- **1:00 PM – 3:00 PM:** Professional Photos with Sammie
- **3:00 PM: 2nd Annual Kiddie Costume Contest & Parade**
  - **Line-up & Check-in:** Begins at 3:00 PM on the main stage with Event Director, Kylie.
  - **Age Groups:** 0–4, 5–8, and 9–12.
  - **Details:** The parade moves from the main stage toward the pumpkin patch, where costumes will be judged with prizes awarded for best costume in each age group.
- **7:30 PM:** Movie in the Park (Hosted by Women of Today)

All-Day Activities & Attractions

- **Pumpkin Patch**
- **Tractor Display**
- **Bounce Houses & Kids' Games**
- **Vendor Market & Local Business Booths**
- **Caricature Drawings**
- **Food Vendors:** Tommy Z's Dion's Burgers

Thank You to Our Sponsors

- **Community Partners:** Arvig, Staples Motley Area Arts Council
- **Harvest Sponsors:** Kiahkreations, Essentia Health, Staples Ace Hardware
- **Community Supporters:** Mid-Central National Bank (MCNB), Ray's Tobacco
- **Harvest Friends:** Staples World, Stepping Grounds Coffee Shop, Rose Lens Imagery, United States Legion, Brewed for Two

MOTLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
COUNCIL MINUTES
September 16, 2026, 3:30 pm

Present: Robin Kramer, Sherry Frisk, Cindy Spilman, Jomyla Choate, Pastor Jonathan Holland, Chris Rosvold, Steve Sandberg

Pastor Jonathan opened the meeting with a prayer at 3:27 pm.

Minutes: A spelling correction of Kristi's name; Robin moved to accept the updated August 19 minutes; Cindy seconded, and the motion carried.

Finance Report: None at this point; just received the last of the August statements. There was an issue with the balance sheet checking account balance; Kristi is checking with CDM to resolve it. The end-of-August bank statement balance was $15,815. Information will be forwarded to the Finance Committee when available.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Jonathan attended an area clergy prayer meeting but missed the gathering at Lakewood Hospital because he was ill. He signed up to provide a chapel service, the first of which would be on October 20, and plans to recruit volunteers, including help with music.

Confirmation class at Park UMC was scheduled to begin that evening, and Jonathan might need to leave the meeting early to attend.

Pastor Jonathan shared the Minnesota Conference Vision statement: "The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ, who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections." He emphasized that the vision is intended to guide daily life, not only church activities.

There was a discussion about the need to be transparent about who is welcome to participate in various activities, specifically whether any have unstated expectations. To do otherwise risks the church being perceived as unwelcoming.

Meet-and-greet gatherings were both already happening and being planned, with the first one coming up on Friday.

Jonathan described meet-and-greets as an opportunity to get to know church members. He may also visit people who do not attend one of the gatherings, sometimes with little notice, depending on circumstances.

Trustees: Finance office door re-keyed; master keys still work. The door closers into the sanctuary were previously replaced, so they no longer bang shut. A lock on a back door was also repaired. Robin has spent time spot-cleaning the carpet and will continue to do so. Full carpet cleaning will probably be held off until after Christmas with the large number of activities coming up before then.

SPRC: None.

UWF: Jomyla reported that approximately 15 people planned to attend an event at Park United Methodist Church on Saturday, where Anna would speak about her life in the Amish community and her life after leaving it. The plan is to meet at the church at 8:45 am to carpool.

No one had signed up to attend the Fall gathering for Headwaters and Aurora Sky on the 26th.

The local United Women in Faith (UWF) unit became inactive two years ago; it is time to revisit whether there is enough interest to reactivate it. Jomyla is preparing a mailing list for letters and an article for the Breeze. She was considering a Christmas potluck and discussion in early December, perhaps after Sunday worship or on a Saturday, rather than automatically returning to the former second-Wednesday schedule. Jomyla also noted that the national level had changed the structure for individual units, and this would be considered.

Haiti Partnership: Jomyla said the church had received a good offering, as previously reported. Four days of mobile medical clinics began that Monday: two in Sobier and two in Yvon. Jomyla said they appeared to be going well and hoped to provide an update on Sunday. The next noisy offering will be in November, a month with five Sundays.

Memorial Committee: The new parament cabinet was

installed in the sacristy and filled; Cindy is arranging a plaque recognizing the three memorials that funded it. Some additional changes are still needed for the banner-holding rods. Appreciation was expressed for the banners currently displayed in the church, and there was discussion about obtaining a smaller banner for Communion Sundays.

Old Business: Usher/Greeters: The council discussed the need for a volunteer call list of ushers for funerals and other special events, including funerals without a funeral home. The group agreed that ushers need not be men and that a notice should be placed in the Breeze asking members whether they would join a call list.

There was discussion about the services with Staples, conversations with people from Staples UMC, and what the process for deciding things going forward would look like based on the guidance received so far.

Bible distribution is scheduled for October 4. Four children are expected, and Cindy confirmed the date should work for their families.

The first Saturday breakfast of the season is scheduled for September 26. After discussion, the group felt preparations were generally under control.

Sherry reported that the turkey dinner was under control: needed items had been ordered or purchased. Squash might not be available, but other preparations were in place. Game Day will not take place on October 14; we need to make sure that is communicated.

The lefse-making date was not confirmed during the meeting. We will settle on a date soon.

Sherry said the bazaar plans are progressing: 13 craft tables have been confirmed so far, and other confirmations are still pending. We would like to collect current vendor contact details and information about the items they plan to bring so future bazaar planning and promotion are better organized.

Santa Day preparations had begun. People are already talking about it, and some items have started arriving. A big box

is currently in the conference room for them.

New Business:

The council agreed to move its Wednesday meetings to 10:00 AM, beginning in October and continuing through May. The adjustment removes some Wednesday evening timing issues.

Date for Fall Charge Conference: The council selected Sauk Centre on October 24 at 1:00 pm. The church Charge Conference will require advance preparation and announcements through several channels, ideally two or three times before the event. We should have 3-5 people registered in advance.

We need to have things ready for council approval at our next meeting, particularly the pastoral compensation forms, which should come through SPRC. The church can submit its current leadership list and ask Charge Conference to authorize the church council to fill remaining positions later. Jonathan would prefer not to make too many leadership changes immediately because of lack of familiarity, but we do need a replacement for the SPRC chair. We have no recommendations for member removals to be approved; that process has not been pursued and is lengthy.

The group discussed names to include in the All Saints remembrance on November 1. Sherry and others favored including people with meaningful connections to the church rather than risk overlooking them.

The next council meeting is on October 21 at 10 am. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm .

Respectfully submitted, Chris Rosvold

A **Church Charge Conference** will be on **October 24 at 1:00 PM** at the **Sauk Centre UMC**. We need **3 to 5** people from the church to attend, though all members are welcome. The hosting church will provide drinks and other refreshments, and attendees are asked to bring a dish for a potluck. Please let Pastor Jonathan know if you are interested so we can give an approximate head count.

Calling All Women!

At the end of 2024, the Motley United Women in Faith unit decided to become inactive and revisit reactivating the unit in two years. That time has come. By the end of 2026, it is hoped that there is enough interest from women of the church to reactivate the unit at the beginning of 2027.

The National Office of UWFaith has relaxed many of the guidelines for the organization. Tentatively a gathering is being planned for early December. A letter is being prepared to go out to all women of the church to obtain their interest of participation in the group. If you have questions about the reactivation of the Motley UWFaith, please contact Jomyla at jomylac@gmail.com or 218-575-3161.

United Women in Faith

Important Vote on October 18

On October 18, both MotleyUMC and Staples UMC will be taking a vote to see if there is an intent to merge. That is the only decision we are asked to make at this point. This vote will gauge the congregation's pulse on merging. This is the statement of intent in question from Motley's side:

It is the intent of Motley United Methodist Church to merge with Staples United Methodist Church. The details of the merger and a final vote on the merger will follow some intentional & detailed work together.

Do you affirm the intent to merge? (Yes / No)

"Be the reason someone smiles.
Be the reason someone feels loved
and believes in the goodness in people."

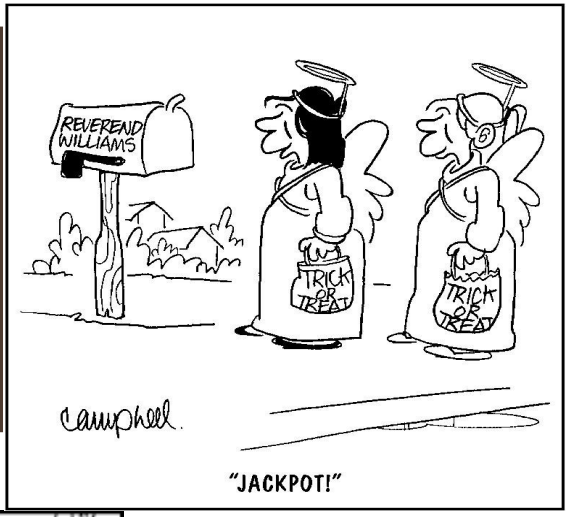
— Roy T. Bennett, author

Make Lefse

On October 19-20, we will be preparing lefsa to be sold by reservations only. We need workers on Monday, October 19th, 9 am - 3 pm, and on the 20th at 9 am if we haven't finished the project on the 19th. Sign-ups for both lefse preparation and lefse purchase are on the table in the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Take a moment to thank Pastor Jonathan for coming to MotleyUMC.



"JACKPOT!"

"Trick or treat. I'm an usher."

BREEZE DEADLINE

In order to get the Breeze published and out in a timely manner, all Breeze articles are due on the 21st of each month. Thank you!
Sherry

Serving You in October

October 4: Liturgist: Liz Curren
Greeters/Ushers: Bill & Fran Kokett
Coffee Time: **Potluck**

September 11: Liturgist: Ming Rosvold
Greeters/Ushers: Robin Kramer & Florence Berndt
Coffee Time: George & Pat Toschak

September 18: Liturgist:
Greeters/Ushers: Linda Guptill & Rick VandenAvond
Coffee Time:

September 25: Liturgist: Jo Philipp
Greeters/Ushers: John & Shiley Watson
Coffee Time: Jomyla Choate

WINTER SNOWBIRDS

Please let the church secretary know your winter address and when you will be leaving. We want you to keep up on what is happening in our church while you are away.
Enjoy your warm winter months!

"I'm not real comfortable with using these as offering plates during our harvest celebration service."

OCTOBER
Birthdays & Anniversaries

October Birthdays

3 - Sheila Robinson
4 - Steven Thomson
4 - Katherine Collman
5 - Randy Carlson
8 - Vicki Schmidt
10 - Hadlee Jean Fuller
13 - Bryan Kavanaugh
15 - Vern Peterson
19 - Liz Curren
23 - Al Larson
29 - Linda Mudgett

October Birthdays (Cont.)

30 - Les Rogers
31 - Marie Macheel
31 - Margie Solem

October Anniversaries

5 – Joshua & Alisha Hafften
11 – Ben & Tracy Frisk
15 – Tim & Darcee Bell
19 – Philip & Paige Cooper
22 – Andrew & Morgan Ortloff
25 – John & Shirley Watson
29 – Harvey & Connie Macheel

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:

October 4: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19 (UMH 750); Acts 4:5-12; Matthew 21:33-46

October 11: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23 (UMH 829); Acts 8:14-25; Matthew 22:1-4

October 18: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99 (UMH 819); Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 22:15-22

October 25: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17 (UMH 789); Acts 10:44-48; Matthew 22:34-46

Liturgical Colors: **October 4 - October 25: Green**