



Locust Leaves

Please join us for worship.

Midway Kids: 10:30

Worship: 10:30

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Calendar

Sundays —

Women's Bible Study 5:00 p.m.
Midway Students 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 68

Last Monday of Month —
Gorgeous Girls Lunch: 11 a.m.

Wednesdays —

Midway Hotel Lunch—Noon
Choir Rehearsal — 6:29 p.m.

Thursdays — 9-4:00

Sewcial open sewing

Yoga at 11:00

Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

This Month

Tuesday, April 9 — Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch
Fellowship Hall

Tuesday April 9 and 23 - 1:30 p.m.
Prayer Ministry
Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 18 — Noon - 5 p.m.
Twice Blessed Shop

Monday, April 22—11 a.m.
Gorgeous Girls Lunch
Cheddars in Columbia

Can I Get a Witness?

This year's Lenten season was incredible, and the Easter season has been fantastic so far! Beginning with worship on Palm Sunday morning, flowing through our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday offerings, extending to our Easter Egg Hunt & Lunch with the Easter Bunny event, and culminating with the worship services on Resurrection Sunday, I sensed a sweetness in the Lord's presence unlike any I have ever experienced in a communal setting. As always, the Lord's timing is perfect. You see, from Sunday morning, March 24, to Sunday morning, March 31, we had a combined attendance of 811 people here at Midway Locust Grove! Pause for a moment and let that sink in. We are witnessing a move of the Spirit that is more significant than any of us, and it is incredibly humbling to be a part of it. Many thanks to all of you who made last week possible with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.



Beyond
the Pulpit
**Pastor
Ben Lee**

Peace,
Ben

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

March has been a good month for giving. Our regular offering was \$23,000+, and we collected \$10,207 for Firm Foundation. Along with memorials and other giving, we did very well.

Thanks to everyone for your support!

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## Kudos

Ellie Lichte, granddaughter of Clete and Kathy Koehler, is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Lexington (MO) Middle School and had her first track meet of the season recently. She set the school record in the 1600 meter with a time of 5:41. She also tied the school record for the 800 meter at 2:37. Kathy reports that Lexington has a great track team and an outstanding cross country team. Kudos to Ellie for her great performances.

## Prayer Ministry Group to meet twice monthly

The Prayer Ministry group has had its first two meetings.

The 1<sup>st</sup> meeting we went over the different kinds of prayer. We will be studying more about each type of prayer at each meeting. We asked what people wanted to learn from these meetings and received some amazing answers.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting, Catherine Shanahan, Margaret Preus, and Karla Sommer talked about prayer of adoration. We learned all the different names of God and what attribute each name described. We had time

for individual prayer or group prayers the last half of our time.

From what we have heard from participants, they feel it is time well spent. We will be praying for the spiritual growth and needs of our church body, praying with each other for each other, and for unity and peace of our congregation. Our main goal is that the Holy Spirit will be the guiding force in this time together.

Anyone who would like to join us is always welcome. April 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1:30pm will be the meeting times this month.





## Denise Ann Lasley

December 14, 1962 - March 12, 2024

A member of our congregation, Denise Ann Lasley, 61, of Columbia, MO passed away Tuesday, March 12, in Columbia, from a lifelong battle with cancer. We express condolences from the congregation to Denise's daughter, Lindsey, and her husband Jeff and their daughter Lilly, of our church family.

Family & friends gathered April 6 at



Midway Locust Grove Church. A private family graveside service was held in Memorial Park Cemetery. Denise was born December 14, 1962, to Carlton and Janet (Heines) Krueger of Elgin, IA, the middle daughter of three sisters.

She married Sam Lasley on March 21, 1987, in Lancaster, MO and in this union two children were born, Logan and Lindsey. They relocated their family to Columbia, MO in 1989.

Denise had a true passion and love for learning and teaching. She graduated from Valley High School in Elgin, IA in 1981 and completed her higher education at Ellsworth Community College & Northeast Missouri State and earned her master's degree online from Lindenwood University.

She began her teaching career at various locations around Missouri including a Director of Head Start in Kirksville. She worked for the Columbia Schools District

## Happy Birthday April 2024

|    |                |    |                   |
|----|----------------|----|-------------------|
| 3  | Nora Fuemmeler | 17 | Will Green        |
| 4  | Gene Baumann   | 18 | Leslie Durrant    |
| 9  | Bill Graff     | 22 | Jerry Wirth       |
| 11 | Denise Moore   | 23 | Barb Sumner       |
| 11 | Amie Butler    | 26 | Garrison Gessling |
| 16 | Mandy Crane    | 27 | Lynda Baumgartner |

*If someone's name does not appear here and they do have a birthday this month, please let us know by email and we will update our records.*

as a Speech Pathologist for 24 years before retiring in 2016, however returned to work part-time/as needed until 2018.

Denise and Sam enjoyed many years of buying, selling and trading farm toys, they had an online business, Lasley's Farm Toys.

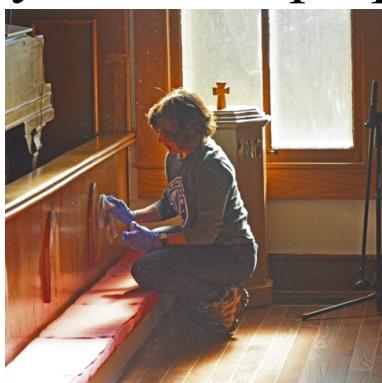
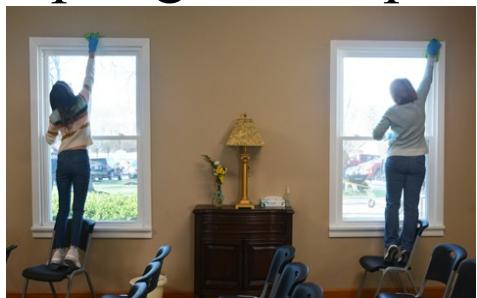
Denise had many talents including playing the flute and piano and singing hymns.

She is survived by her son, Logan (Megan) Lasley; daughter, Lindsey (Jeff) Weaver; grandson Tucker James Lasley, and granddaughter Lilly Grace Weaver all of Columbia; mother, Janet Hoins of Iowa; sisters, Debbie (Jim) Matt of Iowa and Deanna (Roger) Arendt of Georgia; and stepbrothers, Bill (Craig) Spitzer; several nieces and nephews and loving extended family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sam Lasley, father, Carlton Krueger; father-in-law Robert Lasley and other family members.

Denise will be deeply missed by her family and friends; her hope - what others have learned from her, is that God is in charge. Stay humble, tell your stories, love and be kind.

Memorial contributions may be made to Midway Locust Grove Church, Missouri Cancer Associates and the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

# Spring Cleanup Day March 9 preps for Easter Sunday



*A large crowd of volunteers appeared at the church March 9 for the annual Spring Cleanup Day, both inside and out, in preparation for the customary large attendance for Easter worship. Lunch was served when the workers were finished.*





# Condolences

## Dana Bolin

October 23, 1948—March 23, 2024

We offer condolences to Dale and Bill Graff in the loss of Dale's sister, Dana Jeanette Bolin, 75, of California, MO, who died on March 23, 2024 at the University of Missouri Hospital with her loving family by her side. She was born on October 23, 1948 in California.

Dana was a 1966 graduate of California High School. She went on to further her education and received a Merit in Art at Christian College in 1968. She received her bachelor of science at UNLV and her master's degree in 1993 from Lincoln University, and her counseling degree in 1997. She became a licensed Clinical Counselor in Illinois in 2009 and was on the State Board of Behavioral Sciences in Iowa and Illinois.

She had a calling for helping and teaching students, especially children that needed a little extra help getting their high school degree. Services were on Wednesday, April 3 at the California United Methodist.

## Gloria Renfro

August 11, 1940—February 6, 2024

Longtime church members may remember Gloria Renfro, our pianist from 1970 to 1985. Gloria, 83, died February 6th in Columbia, where she was born.

Gloria and her husband, Larry, had two children, Scott and Suzanne. She was preceded in death by Larry and Scott, and is survived by Suzanne, three grandchildren, two great grandchildren, a sister Anne and brother Bill.

A graveside service was held on February 29th at Memorial Park Cemetery in Columbia

Lynda Baumgartner discusses missionary opportunities at lunch



Midway Locust Grove Church aspires to provide awareness, education, and service opportunities within the following service areas: Local, Regional, and International for members of our church.

The program presented by Lynda Baumgartner at the Second Tuesday Lunch March 12, provided a brief review of organizations and activities that Church members are currently participating in.

Lynda included in her comments some recollections with Orant Charities, a foundation that supports missions in Malawi, Africa. Lynda published a report on her June 2021 trip to Malawi in the July 2021 issue of Locust Leaves.



# Third Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch With the Bunny



Volunteers filled 2,000 plastic eggs with candy for the egg hunt. While awaiting the hunt, there were activities and Lee Ann

Martin's baby goats to cuddle. Meanwhile, Stan Frink and crew prepared the hotdogs and hamburgers for the lunch that followed.



Coordinator Shayla Roop gave the sign and the hunt began. The bunny arrived just in time for lunch and added more candy to the young hunters



## *Easter Sunrise Service celebrates the ‘Son’s rise’*



About 60 members of our congregation gathered at 6:45 Easter morning to worship the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, which occurred on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary about 30 AD.



Rev. Ben was joined by Teagan Groh, whose vocals complemented his message for the resurrection and wiping away of our sins. In addition to the sunrise service, the regular service was held in the sanctuary at its regular time.



# Holy Week

*The somber Maundy Thursday service told the story of the crucifixion of Jesus, followed by communion in commemoration of the Last Supper.*



*Palm Sunday was greeted with the traditional march of the palms by the choir and Midway Kids.*



*Christmas Day had a sunrise service (See Page 7 for that story) and a regular service in the nearly full Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. Note a portion of the 21 Easter Lilies that were given in memory or in honor of a loved one to decorate the altar for the service.*



*Following the service the congregation gathered on the front lawn for the release of the butterflies which had been distributed to the congregation as larvae, to be returned on Palm Sunday for release on Easter. The traditional flowering cross was available again for family photos.*



*Rev. Ben released the butterflies into the freedom of nature.*



# The Flashlight

By Catherine Shanahan

Once when I was on a nighttime flight we flew over Kansas and the view out of my window was almost complete darkness. Only a very few lights could be seen on the ground below. Then, as we flew on, we reached an area where there were more lights, then more lights closer together, then a lit-up city. As I peered out of my window the Holy Spirit began speaking to me. The following is the analogy that I received.

Imagine God looking down upon the earth. He sees almost complete blackness covering the earth; our world being covered by sin and spiritual darkness. Through the darkness He sees small beams of light shooting up. Some beams are quite spread out, some are closer together, and some join together to form larger beams of light that light up entire areas. These lights represent our prayers shooting up to heaven.

We, down here, are walking around in darkness. When we accept Christ, we are given the light of God; let's call this our flashlight. Now, a flashlight gives us the power to cut through the darkness, but it can only do that if we first put good batteries in it and then turn it on. We can stand there with a flashlight in our hand and still be in as much darkness as the person next to us.

What are the batteries for a Christian's flashlight? Faith, Hope, and Love. How do we charge our batteries? By taking in the Word of God. We read, listen to, and meditate on the Word of God.

What is the on/off button? Prayer. Prayer takes our faith, our hope, and our love, and turns them on.

When a Christian prays, the beam of their flashlight pierces the darkness. And when our prayers are directed to our Father, and according to the Father's will, that beam goes straight up to His throne. Imagine God, on His throne, His eyes searching the blackness of earth, and He sees your little light. He sees that you are calling out to Him. That is powerful.

What is even more powerful is when we pray with

others. When we pray together, we unite our beams of light. Now imagine God looking down and seeing all of these beams of light joining together to break through the darkness. This moves His heart more than we can imagine.

When one prays, it is powerful. When two or three join together, the beam is bigger and brighter. When one -hundred, or one-thousand, lift up their beams it is amazing. And when there is worldwide prayer, the darkness cannot contain it! This is why we need to not only pray alone but, gather with others to pray.

We can join in prayer with someone from a different city, state, or country. Imagine two people, each with a flashlight, aiming their beams at one point in heaven. The beams may start off far apart, but as they go higher and higher they blend together until they are one.

We have been given, by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, the power to reach God. He gave us the right to, and instructed us to, pray straight to God. Your prayers matter. Your prayers catch the watching eye of God.

We must pray according to God's will to be assured that He will act. What is God's will? We find His will in His Word. We can always be assured that in His heart He wants all people to come to His son for salvation. He wants all people to show mercy, kindness, and love. He wants us to love not only our brothers and sisters, but our enemies. He wants all people to trust in Jesus for all things. He wants all nations to look to Jesus for direction. He wants Israel to welcome Jesus as Messiah and King. He wants evil to be overcome. He wants His children's spirits, souls, and bodies to prosper according to His plan for them. He wants His children to long to know Him more. He wants our praise and thanksgiving for His loving-kindness. As we pray for the things on God's heart, our beams grow brighter and brighter.

So don't stand there in the darkness with dead batteries. Don't stand there and not turn your flashlight on. Pray. Pray at all times. Pray in your heart. Whisper your prayers. Shout your prayers. Sing your prayers. Join with others and pray. You have the power to break through the darkness of this world and reach the only One to whom we should be grateful and the only One who can change things. Pray.



# The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering  
Mary Kaye's  
Food Ministry

## Welcome Spring!

Here is a refreshing fruit dip to serve with crackers. Enjoy.

*Hope Burkart*

### Pineapple Dip

3 - 8 oz pkg cream cheese

1 cup sugar

1 1/2 cup finely grated cheddar cheese

1 - 20 oz can crushed pineapple , `drained

Ritz crackers

In your mixer, beat cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Add cheddar cheese and pineapple and mix . Refrigerate before serving with crackers.

**Join us for  
Second Tuesday  
Lunch  
April 9, Noon,  
in Fellowship  
Hall.**

## GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, April 22,  
11:00 a.m.  
Cheddars  
In Columbia

Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd  
like to come  
kkohler1976@gmail.com



**A Special Gift from Hannah Clark –  
Hand Embroidered Onesies!**

**Watch for an upcoming opportunity to  
have one of these for your newborn!**



*Basic necessities free of charge  
to those temporarily in need*

Midway Locust Grove  
United Methodist Church

**Open  
April 4 & 18**

**twice  
blessed**

**Open 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
12:00 – 5:00**

The little white building  
on the corner of  
Henderson and Locust Grove Church Road



## Midway Market

**May 4, 2024 9 AM – 3 PM**

**Drop Off Donation Dates:**  
**April 14, 12 – 2 PM**  
**April 23, 4 – 7 PM**

**Large Item Pick Up:**  
**May 3, 3 – 6 PM**  
 (please contact Jessie Kempf to arrange)

### Yes Please!

#### **Homemade Craft Items**

(jewelry, sew, artwork, etc.)

#### **Baked Goods**

#### **Plants, Flowers, Starters for the Garden**

#### **Homegrown/Farm Things**

#### **Kitchen Small Appliances**

#### **Dishes in Sets**

#### **Bakeware/Cookware**

(in Good Condition)

#### **Housewares/Decor/Books**

#### **Gently Used Adult Clothes**

#### **Baby & Kids Clothes**

#### **Toys/Games**

#### **Gently Used Shoes**

#### **Blankets, Sheets, Quilts**

#### **Accessories(belts, jewelry, etc)**

#### **Furniture**

#### **Gently Used Sporting Goods**

We are hosting our first Midway Market Fundraiser! Think glamorous garage sale meets craft/bake sale. We NEED your help to make this event a great success for Midway on a Mission!

We are looking for donations of "treasures, not trash" for our sale. Please see our list of Yes & No items for the sale. If you can look around your home or work and find items that you are willing to donate, we would love to take them off your hands! And, if you like to make things, we will have a special "make & bake" section at the sale for items donated that are new/homemade. All items will be sold and all funds will be donated directly to Midway on a Mission. If the items are not sold, they will be donated to Twice Blessed, or another local charitable organization. You don't need to price anything! Our volunteers will price before the sale!

### No Thank You's

**Any Stained, broken, torn, damaged, or very used Items**

#### **"Promo" Items**

(t-shirts, coffee mugs, pens, etc.)

#### **Outdated Electronics**

(large TVs, VCRs, monitors, etc.)

#### **Automotive Parts**

#### **Partially Used Personal Care Items**

#### **Weapons**

#### **Paint or Household Chemicals**



## MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road  
Columbia, MO 65202

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Administrative Assistant: Catherine Shanahan  
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YouTube: [mwlocustgrove](https://www.youtube.com/mwlocustgrove)  
Instagram: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.instagram.com/mwlocustgrove)

***Our Mission:  
We exist to  
gather in grace,  
grow in Christ,  
and go share the Gospel.***

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann  
[Rocheport@aol.com](mailto:Rocheport@aol.com) 445-1998

## The Back Row By Gene Baumann

I've been doing some searching through our church history the past few weeks, and have run across some interesting things. One of them is shared below, I don't know its origin or if it was ever published in Locust Leaves. I hope you will try the test.

There are names of 16 books of the Bible mentioned in the paragraph below. See how many you can find. A minister found 15 books in 20 minutes. But it took him weeks to find the sixteenth one. Let's see how much time it takes you.

"I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the Bible

***Find the hidden Bible in this issue.***

Visit our Web Site: [www.mwlocustgrove.com](http://www.mwlocustgrove.com)

*Volume 37 Issue 4 April 2024*

***If we had a  
Message Board...***

***Tuesday Lunch will be  
at noon on April 9  
in our Fellowship Hall.***

were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph."

Let me know if you find all 16 of them; we'll try to come up with an appropriate prize for the first one to do so, or have a drawing from all who find them. While I do trust you, I will need proof, so circle the names as you find them. Good luck!