

Locust Leaves

Please join us for worship.
Sunday School: On hold
Worship: 8:30 and 10:30

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THIS MONTH

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop 68
Evening Yoga, 5:30 — 6:30

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study
Meeting on ZOOM only.

Wednesdays — 6:29 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays — 9-3:00
Sewcial open sewing
Yoga at 11:00

September 4
Serve Loaves and Fishes

September 14 — 12:00 noon
Tuesday Lunch

September 16— 7:00 p.m.
Ministry Council

September 19 — 2:00-5:00
Give Back Day

Men's Bible Study

"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work." - 2 Timothy 3: 16-17



Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee

We are very excited to be launching our Men's Bible Study on Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 pm. This will be a time for the men in our community to get to know one another better while growing in our knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of scripture. All are welcome, and a person certainly does not need to be a member of our congregation to attend.

Over the years, I have journeyed with many men who have confided in me that they are intimidated by scripture. Some are not great readers, others have a tough time comprehending the Bible, and then there are retention issues. Personally, I have struggled in each one of these areas. If you do, please know that you are not alone. I want you to know that you can come to our Thursday night meetings, and you will never be put on the spot.

You won't be called on to read aloud or asked any deep theological questions. You will have the opportunity to be as involved as your comfort level allows. We will start with the book of John if you'd like to read through chapter one a few times before the 16th.

This will be a community-wide gathering, so please be intentional to invite family, friends, co-workers, and any other men you think would enjoy a little fellowship. Tell them all they can relax and just come as they are, and we are a very laidback group. I am very much looking forward to our time together!

Peace,
Ben



TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

BREAKING NEWS

We will begin the study of the book of James on Tuesday, September 7. We will be meeting virtually only via zoom because of the uptake in Covid cases.

ALL WOMEN OF VARIOUS AGES AND STAGES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

For more information, contact Marjorie McFann, 573-445-5650 or mjmcfann@hotmail.com

FELLOWSHIP HOSTING COMING BACK

Fellowship after church is back! We will begin hosting fellowship after church when we come inside this fall. *The first date for refreshments will be October 3.* I have put a volunteer sheet on the bulletin board and *would appreciate volunteers.*

Fellowship after church services has always been a big part of who we are at MLG. This is a great way to fellowship and get to know your MLG church family. Because of the size of our congregation now, I am asking for two host families each Sunday. This doesn't have to be anything big - it's not lunch!

For those of you new to hosting, in addition to coffee & lemonade, here are a few things we have offered in the past: veggies & dip, fruit, quick breads, cheese & crackers, cookies, coffeecake, etc. If you volunteer but then find out that it won't work with your schedule, I ask that you please find a replacement. There are instructions for making coffee and lemonade posted in the kitchen. If you have any questions or need additional information, please see me.

Thank you in advance for volunteering to host.

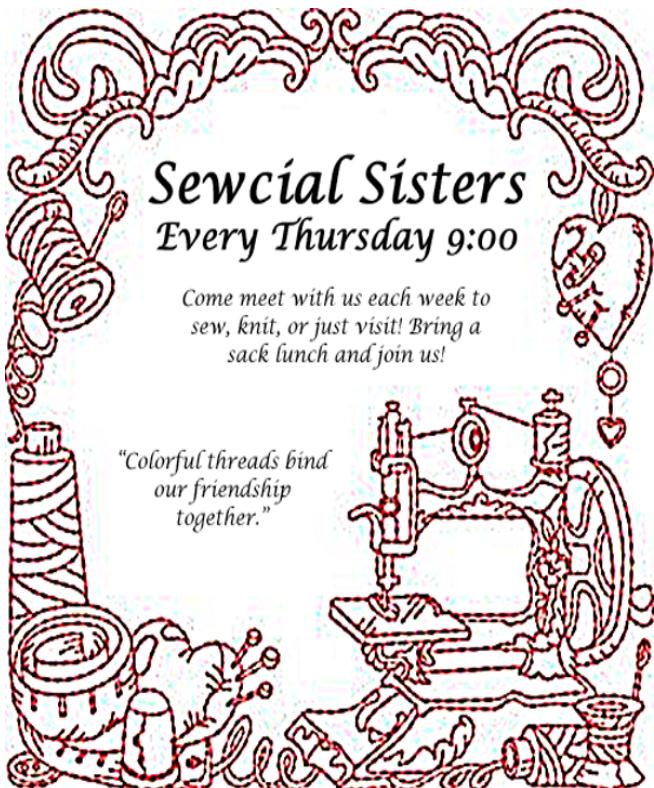
Kathy Koehler

Phone: 875-8772 (leave a message)
email: kkoehler1976@gmail.com

August has been another good month for church finances. The offering totaled slightly more than \$15,000, even with not having a service on the last Sunday of the month. For the year, we have received \$126,450, which averages \$15,806 per month. This is well over what was budgeted. Some of our expenses are slightly over what was budgeted, but many areas are much lower. We have a healthy balance in our checking account, and all apportionments are paid to date.

The Future Glory Challenge is going well. We have \$55,367 in pledges and gifts, so we are close to meeting the challenge. It would not take many more gifts or pledges to take us to the top. Thanks to everyone for your response.

Thanks also to Kevin and all who helped with the new sign, and to all those who are constantly volunteering and working around the church. What a great church family we have!



Figit Quilts



While on one of our quilt retreats, the Sewcial Sisters met some other quilters who were making figit quilts for a nursing home housing Alzheimers patients.

Figit quilts are little (18x20) lap quilts with items attached that patients can play with, feel, zip, button, etc. They are basically a busy box for adults.

These are fascinating to these patients and it will keep their attention for hours. They are much needed. So, we thought the congregation could help us by supplying some of the items we use to sew on the quilts.

Here is a list of things that may be around your own house:

Ribbon (all kinds and colors), buttons (as large or larger than a quarter), beads (any kind any color), zippers, Velcro, fabric scraps that have a texture or are very soft, metal rings, key rings, old keys, pockets cut off blue jeans (with some fabric to spare around the pocket), zippered notebook pencil holders with clear plastic windows, shoe laces, stuffed toys from McDonalds , jingle bells, buckles that connect on a strap, neckties, beanie babies, ponytail holders, barrettes, stickers, embroidered patches, etc.

Margaret Preus





Earl Waddell

April 14, 1956 – July 9, 2021

The beautiful soul of Earl Warren Waddell was welcomed into heaven on July 9, 2021. A celebration of life memorial service was held on Saturday August 14, 2021 at Midway Locust Grove UMC, with internment at the church cemetery. A luncheon was provided.

Earl was born on April 14, 1956 in St. Louis, Missouri to Charles Earl and Gracie Mae Waddell. The family moved to St. Charles, Missouri where Earl grew up. He attended Francis Howell High School in Weldon Springs, MO, graduating in 1974.

Earl went on to attend the University of Missouri in Columbia, where he graduated with a double degree in Horticulture. After graduating college, Earl continued to call Columbia his home. He found a spiritual home at Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church, where he also became a choir member. He departed his earthly home for eter-



nity in the heavenly home Jesus prepared for him.

Earl had many interests. While growing up he obtained Eagle Scout rank, played trombone in Francis Howell High School bands and developed his love of music and plants. He worked at Total Environments Nursery for many years, until it closed. His knowledge of plants and landscaping was eagerly shared with all, from customers to friends and family, earning him much respect as a sought-after expert.

In addition, Earl was a student of all things nature and history. He enjoyed writing poetry and shared them with many, some written specifically for individuals. His passion for dogs led to him having many pets over the years.

Earl is survived by his mother, Gracie Mae (Watson) Waddell, sister Barbara (Joe) Boillot, sister Janet Hood, brother Robert Waddell and sister Gloria (David) Miller. He is also survived by niece, Mindy (Ryan) Earley, nephew Charles (Shelby) Miller and niece Lynnea Waddell and three great nephews Jack, Zachary and Liam Earley. In addition, many cousins, aunts and uncles survive him. Earl's father, Charles Waddell preceded him in death.

See Page 7 for a tribute to Earl.

Though MLGUMC was established in 1817, the rumor that the choir directors have been around since then are untrue.

They are, however, anxiously anticipating another season of worshipping in song with a wonderful group of people and want to invite YOU to be a part of it.

Regular Wednesday night rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 8th at 6:29 p.m. and we want YOU to join us!



In Memoriam



Leon Brown

November 1, 1940 – August 23, 2021

Long-time member of Locust Grove, Leon G. Brown, 80, of Columbia, Missouri, died on August 23, 2021. He was born in Skidmore, Missouri, on



November 1, 1940, to Harlan and Beatrice (Smith) Brown. He married Helen Margaret Roberts in Maitland, Missouri, on January 22, 1961, and she survives. A visitation will be from 2 to 3 p.m., Saturday, September 25, 2021, at Midway Locust Grove UMC, 2600 N Locust Grove

Church Rd., Columbia, MO 65202. A Celebration of Life service officiated by Pastor Ben Lee starts at 3 p.m. The burial will follow at the church cemetery. Family and friends are welcome for a fellowship meal afterward.

Leon's greatest joy was being with his family. His life-long hobby was collecting and restoring farm toys. Leon was a farmer for the majority of his life and employed at Hy-Vee for the last 14 years, where he was honored with the Local Legend award as he never knew a stranger.

Survivors include his wife, Helen; daughter Shari (Rick Law) Brown Rogge of Maryville and son Scott (Julie) Brown of Columbia; grandsons Kyle Rogge, Connor Rogge, Michael (Emily) Brown, Mark Brown. Additional survivors are sister Peggy and brothers Keith (Charlotte) and Dale. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Parker-Millard Funeral Home, Columbia, is in charge of local arrangements and will have a live stream link of the service on their website. Memorial gifts are suggested to Midway Locust Grove UMC Church.

Happy Birthday

September 2021

14 John Preus	17 Lara Cox
14 Sheri Stewart	17 Logan Hovis
14 Shari Thomas	20 Margaret Preus
16 Lou Pegues	28 Helen Brown

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.

Judith Ann Barnes

June 21, 1943 – July 30, 2021



Our condolences to Russell and Missy Barnes and family on the death of Russell's mother, Judy, July 30.

A celebration of life was held on Saturday, August 21st here at the church. Visitation was from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon, with a private family service and meal following the visitation.

Family was everything to Judy. She loved nothing better than getting together at family gatherings, whether it be holiday celebrations, family reunions, or dinner with her kids, grandkids and great-grandson. She recently celebrated her birthday surrounded by her children, grandchildren, great-grandson, and sisters. After family, Judy also treasured precious family heirlooms that connected her to family, both present and past. She was also an avid collector of lighthouse keepsakes. She touched many lives and will be greatly missed.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents and daughter Tamilee. She is survived by her sons: Russell Barnes (Missy) of Columbia, and Lannie Barnes (Katie Roof) of Columbia, grandsons: Jesse Barnes (Jordan), Nick Barnes, Matthew Barnes, and great-grandson, Eli, all of Columbia.

She is also survived by her siblings: Ada Lancaster of Columbia, Robert Reichel (Jody) of Idaho, Darlene Held (Alfred) of Bunceton, and Virginia Schmidt (John) of Bunceton.

August 1—Gavin Gessling Baptisms August 22—Kempf Family

August began with Andrew and Mandy Gessling bringing their son Gavin Wayne to be baptized by Rev. Ben. Gavin was born May 3, 2021. He joins brothers Gabriel Luke, Gideon John and Garrison Mac in being baptized at Locust Grove, all wearing the same gown and cap worn by their father for his baptism. Grandparents are Marlin and Tami Gessling and Tony and Tammy Ramsey, and the late Randy McDaniel.

Later in the month, the Kempf family, Travis and Jessie and their children Callie and Colton came forth for their baptism services.

Congratulations to both families on this important time in their lives.





To Earl

"And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed....to till it and keep it." Genesis 2: 8, 15.

During this extraordinarily challenging year, many of us have lost family and friends. Every one of those lives leaves behind a legacy: an enduring impact. Earl Warren Waddell, a long-time member of this church and good friend to many, will not soon be forgotten.

Earl had a keen intellect, and had earned no less than 4 university degrees, including in business, biochemistry, forestry, and horticulture. He especially loved to learn about God's creation, the natural world. This love of nature led to his interest in native peoples, especially the Cherokee. Earl had a big role in having part of our cemetery designated as a Northern Cherokee burial ground.

My daughter Rachel worked closely with Earl in the last 4 years of his life, landscaping at local homes. Rachel loved working with Earl. He was unfailingly patient, kind, and a wonderful mentor to her. I hired them to landscape my yard, and it has never looked better. Rachel has fond memories of pruning Earl's beloved elderberry bushes in his garden and tasting the home-made juice he



Leslie delivered this eulogy for Earl at his funeral.

made from them. At the end of each landscaping job, Earl chose his favorite venue to celebrate at with Rachel: Clover's Natural Market. There they would share a snack of grape tomatoes and tangerines.

Earl had a long history with this church. He sang in the choir for years, and participated in church dramas, including the 1993 "Living Last Supper", and also portrayed John the Baptist at another event. After all, who better to portray the rugged prophet who subsisted on wild honey? Earl also enthusiastically participated in church pot-luck suppers, always bringing a plant-based casserole from produce grown in his abundant garden. And he always brought friends with him – to share in the bounty. Bill and I always chose to sit at Earl's table, because we were assured of meeting some new and interesting people.

Bill recalls Earl as always eager to help his friends, sharing his knowledge of plant care. When squash beetles were threatening Bill's spaghetti squash, Earl patient explained exactly how to eradicate them. It worked. Earl was unfailingly positive, never complaining or cynical. Even as he suffered back pain and other work-related ailments, he would always say, like the old Beatles song, "It's getting better, it's getting better all the time". Earl was such a wonderful friend, unsparing with his support and praise. He always greeted Rachel with the words: "How are you, my fine human". And he always introduced Bill and I as "my groovy friends", or, "These are my groovy people".

Earl had a great sense of humor and was a master of the corny joke. One I heard him tell recently went like this: "There was a lobster who refused to share his food. So, his friend scolded him for being so "shellfish".

In Genesis chapter 2 we are told that God planted a garden in Eden and placed the man he had created there to till it and keep it. The garden was planted by God immediately after he had created the man, and before the creation of the first woman.

With his life's work, Earl was following God's original plan for man, to be a gardener.

It is hard to say goodbye to this generous, kind, fine human, and groovy friend. But my grief is eased by picturing him as he is now, tending and keeping God's Garden. And, as Earl himself would say (and how he ended every telephone conversation with me), "Toodles, my friends!"

New Highway 40 sign welcomes folks to Locust Grove



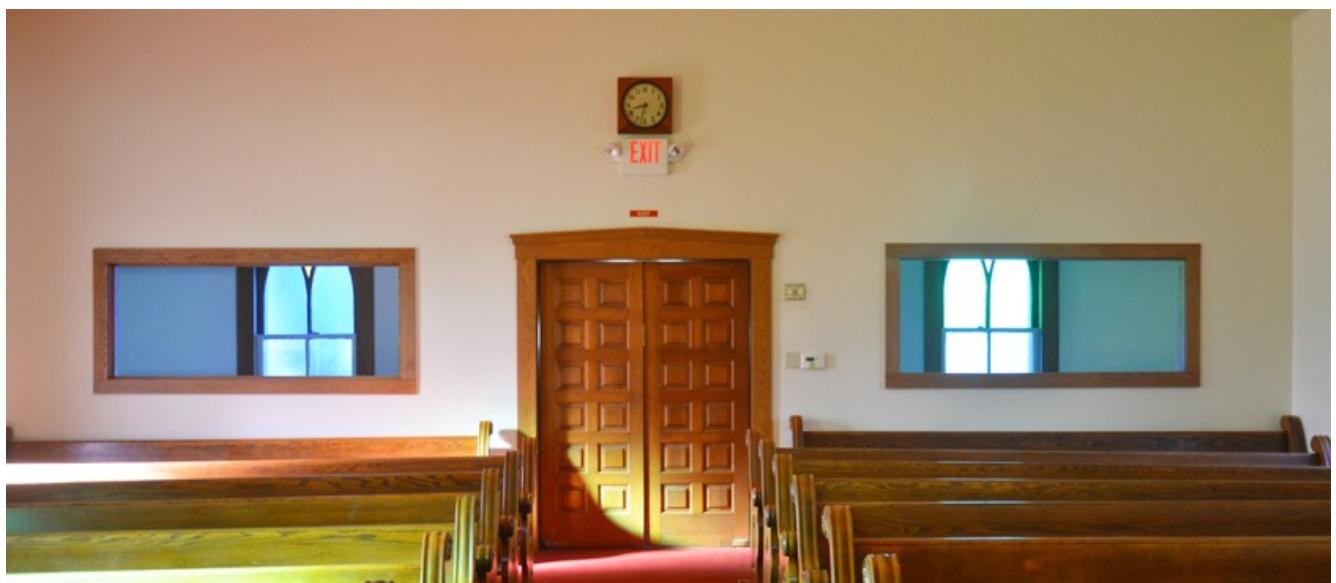
Throughout the month of August, Kevin Yaeger gathered various teams of volunteers to build a new road sign at the corner of Highway 40 and Semon Road to alert drivers they were approaching the church.

The team shown above were on hand for the attachment of the painted sign to the base structure, leaving only some solar lighting and the landscaping remaining for completion of the new welcome to the vicinity of the church



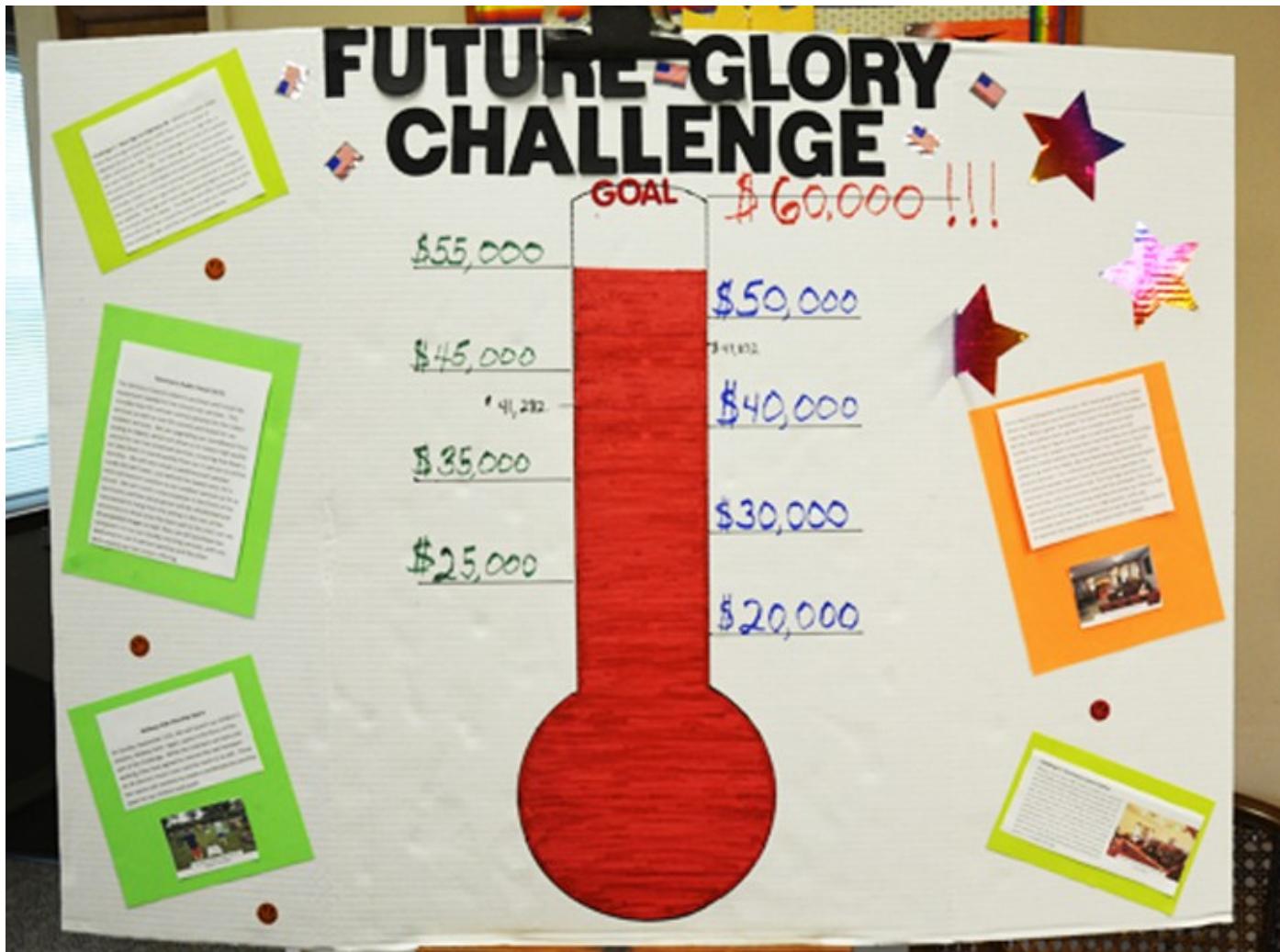


Progress in the Future Glory Challenge



In addition to the new highway sign featured elsewhere in this issue, these photos show the progress being made on other remodeling projects. In top photo the frosted glass has been removed to open the sanctuary to the Fellowship Hall, which is being used for worship seating. Middle photo shows the windows for the Comfort Room on the left and audiovisual control room on the right. In photo at right the enlarged youth classroom is a work in progress at the end of the hall in the education wing.





The Future Glory Challenge is nearing its goal of \$60,000 dollars toward funding several projects. See reports on these projects elsewhere throughout this issue of Locust Leaves.

Loaves and Fishes September 4. Coordinator Sherri Perry and her crew served 85 meals at Loaves and Fishes Saturday evening September 4.



Blessing students ,
teachers and backpacks

During worship August 22, students of all ages and classes came forward with their backpacks for a blessing of the coming school year. Teachers were included in the blessing of backpacks and totes. In the photos, Shayna Roop passes out symbolic reminders of the blessing.



September Give Back Day



twice
blessed

Sunday 9/19/21

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Seasonal Switch Day!

Volunteer Sign-Up At Church

Check the Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall for information and inspiration.

Thanks to Jane Bensussen for creating the boards for September.



Nicaraguan missionaries share experiences with Locust Grove

Eli & Leah Lee, of Religion to Relationship Ministries, were with us on Sunday, July 25, as

Eli preached the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Then the Lees shared their testimony with us, including a slideshow, that evening. The congregation made a love offering to help support the mission.



The Lees mission is in the remote parts of Nicaragua, out in the rain forest with the Miskito Indian tribes.



*The Will of God never takes you
where the Grace of God will not protect you.*



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Oldie But Goodie...

I love to collect recipes and found this one I received several years ago from Mrs. Hunt who was one of the cooks at Midway Elementary. It is an easy delicious fresh salad dressing.

Enjoy,
Hope Burkart

Red Celery Seed Dressing

2 cups vegetable oil
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup vinegar
3/4 cup ketchup
1/2 Tbsp dry mustard
1/2 Tbsp salt
1/2 Tbsp dry onion
1/2 Tbsp celery seed
1/4 Tbsp paprika
1/4 Tbsp garlic
Mix until well blended - refrigerate

This is the custard ice cream I made for church ice cream social.

Cheryl Nolke's Vanilla Custard Ice Cream

4 eggs
2 cups sugar
2 boxes Jell-O vanilla pudding
Pinch salt
1 T vanilla
12 oz Cool Whip
1/2 gal milk (approx.)

Mix together and pour into ice cream canister.
Add milk to bring to fill line.

Process ice cream with ice and rock salt for 45 min. to hour.

Place in freezer till set.
I hope you enjoy these sweet treats.
Hope Burkart

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
September 14, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**

Fun and Movie Night collects school supplies

The second Fun/Movie night on the lawn provided school supplies for Midway Heights Elementary as well as games and the movie, "Toy Story" for those attending the event August 21.



A special message to and from Twice Blessed . . .

Twice Blessed had really good attendance during the month of August with several new faces each time we were open.

We have the following updates about getting more storage down at the Twice Blessed annex. We have received a very generous memorial donation. Also, we are in the final stages of receiving a possible grant from Veterans United.

At this time, we are trying to get a couple of construction estimates for adding on an addition (unfinished interior walls) to the existing building to be used for storage only. If these estimates are cost prohibitive, we will proceed with purchasing a 10ft x 14ft storage shed to be set on the existing adjoining concrete pad. With this additional space we will be able to move the Twice Blessed inventory now stored in the church basement down to the Twice Bless annex.

Give Back Day will be Sunday, September 19th from 2:00-5:00 PM. There will be a sign up sheet posted for 8-10 volunteers to help move Fall/Winter inventory from church to Twice Blessed, stock shelves, and move Spring/Summer inventory back to the church basement for storage.

Thank you to everyone for your continued prayers and support of this important mission for our community and beyond.

Glenna and Jill

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church

Basic necessities free of charge to those temporarily in need

Open July 1 & 15



Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays

12:00 – 5:00

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



Note: Stay tuned for news on an upcoming Christmas Store event sponsored by Twice Blessed!



2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202



Pastor: Rev. Ben Lee
Church phone: 573-445-4667
Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
Email: mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
Email: blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
Facebook: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.facebook.com/mwlocustgrove)
YouTube: [mwlocustgrove](https://www.youtube.com/mwlocustgrove)
Instagram: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.instagram.com/mwlocustgrove)

Ministers: The Congregation

Our Mission:

To celebrate God's presence in everything we do, bring our neighbors to Jesus and fellowship in our church family, develop them to be followers of Jesus, and equip them for service ministry and life missions to communicate God's word, in order to magnify God's name.

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann
Rocheport@aol.com 445-1998

The Back Row



By Gene Baumann

The Ups and Downs of life

One of the advantages of being forced into deep cleaning house is that you find some treasures you forgot you had. Such is the case recently, as I searched Locust Leaves files for poems written by Earl Waddell. I found this remarkable item written by the prolific author, Anonymous. It is too good to not share again.

Find the hidden circuit rider in this issue.
Visit our Web Site: www.midwaylocustgrove.com

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Today was the absolute worst day ever,
And don't try to convince me that
There's something good in every day,
Because, when you take a closer look,
This world is a pretty evil place.

Even if
Some goodness does shine through once in a while,
Satisfaction and happiness don't last
And it's not true that
It's all in the mind and heart
Because
True happiness can be obtained
Only if one's surroundings are good.
It's not true that good exists.
I'm sure you can agree that
The reality
Creates
My attitude.
It's all beyond my control,
And you'll never in a million years hear me say that
Today was a good day.

Now read this from the bottom to the top.