



# LOCUST LEAVES

## Small Groups

As I shared a few weeks ago, toward the end of a Sunday morning teaching, the next step in the life of our local church is establishing and launching sustainable small groups. There are many ways to go about small groups, but after meeting with a friend and colleague, Roger Ross, I think the direction and organization of our small groups has become clear.



Beyond  
the Pulpit  
**Pastor**  
**Ben**  
**Lee**

Our short-term goal is to launch 4 small groups. Each small group will require 3 volunteers to be successful: 1 host, 1 leader, and 1 apprentice. A host is simply the person/family willing to open their home for a small group to meet. The leader is the person who will keep the meeting flowing in order and will help guide the conversations throughout the evening. The apprentice is the person who will intentionally watch and learn in preparation for the time when the small group is no longer small and births another group.

The plan is to have the 4 hosts, 4 leaders, and 4 apprentices become a small group in and of themselves for this Fall semester. I will lead this group of volunteers through the structured process of what their meetings will be like. The goal will be for the volunteers to become highly comfortable launching their groups next Spring semester. This way, no one is left to "wing it," and we can be sure that each small group is on the same page, allowing us all to move forward in the same direction.

If you are interested in hosting, leading, or apprenticing a small group, please get in touch with me in the next few days. If you are not interested in volunteering to serve in these roles, please begin to consider committing to a small group next Spring. One of the most important things to think through is which day of the week and what time of the day would best fit your schedule regarding availability to meet. Finally, let's all begin to pray over our small group ministry. Pray we are found faithful in obedience to God's leading, that new relationships are formed within our congregation, and that we all continue to grow in knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of God and God's ways.

Please join us for worship.  
Sunday School: 10:30  
Worship: 10:30

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## THIS MONTH

**Sundays —**  
Women's Bible Study  
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
2nd and 4th Sundays  
5 to 7 p.m.  
Midway Students

**Mondays — 6:30 p.m.**  
Boy Scout Troop 68

**Tuesdays — 7:00 p.m.**  
Learning Ladies ZOOM Bible Study

**Wednesdays —**  
Midway Hotel Lunch—Noon  
Choir Rehearsal — 6:29 p.m.  
**Second Wednesdays —**  
Compassionate Friends  
4:00—5:00 p.m.

**Thursdays — 9-4:00**  
Sewcial open sewing  
Yoga at 11:00  
Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.  
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed

**Tuesday, August 9—Noon**  
**Second Tuesday Lunch**

**Saturday, August 20 — 7 p.m.**  
Family Fun Night

**Saturday, September 3**  
Loaves and Fishes

Peace,  
Ben

# Ministries & Missions

## Women reading 1 Samuel

The Learning Ladies Zoom Bible Study will be reading the Book of 1 Samuel in August. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 with a prayer time at its conclusion.

The study group is open to all women regardless of their age or knowledge of the Bible. For more information, contact Marjorie McFann at 573-445-5650 or [mjmcfann@hotmail.com](mailto:mjmcfann@hotmail.com).

Another women's study group meets from 6 to 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings if this time frame does not work for you.

## TREASURY NOTES

*By Nedra Moreau*

Our offering for July was slightly under budget. We collected about \$16,300, but our monthly budget number is \$17,000. For the year, we are still averaging over \$18,000, so we are okay.

Apportionments are paid to date, and we have a good balance in our checking account. Financially, we are in good shape.

A special "Thanks" to everyone for what you are doing.

**Join us for  
Second Tuesday Lunch  
August 9, Noon.  
Bring a dish and friend.**



## GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, August 22  
11:00 a.m.

House of Chow  
Crossroads Shopping Center

Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd  
like to come  
[kkoehler1976@gmail.com](mailto:kkoehler1976@gmail.com)

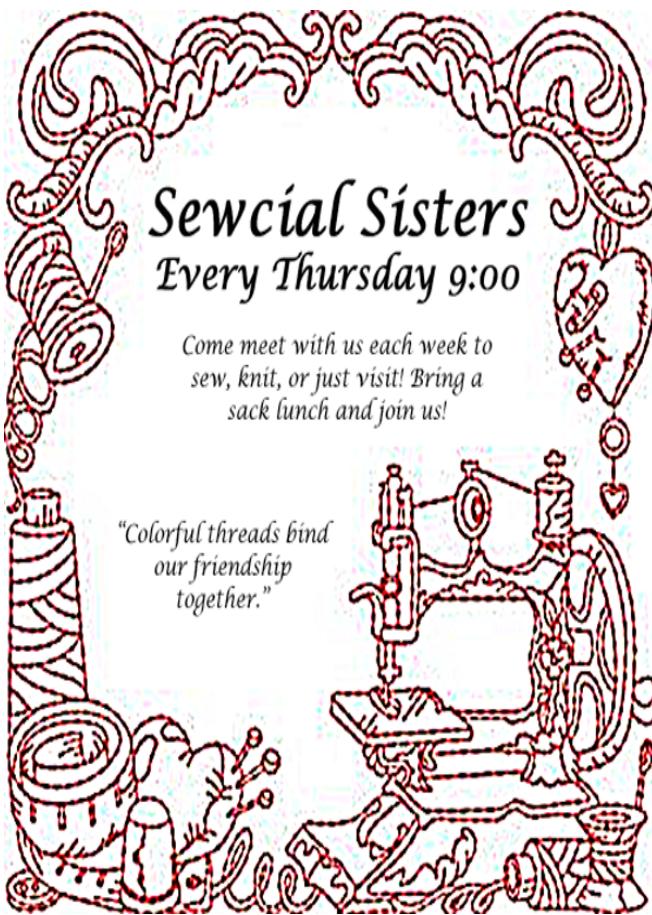
## *About the Gorgeous Girls!*

Please join us for the *Gorgeous Girls* lunch. We hold these lunches on the 4th Monday of each month, at a different restaurant each time. Sometimes we have a road trip for lunch - Boonville, Fulton, Macon.

The Gorgeous Girls began when our dear friend, Leon Brown, passed away. Some of us took Helen to lunch and decided we needed to do this more often. We came up with the name Gorgeous Girls because that's what Leon called all the ladies - I secretly think he couldn't remember names, so everyone was "Gorgeous"!

I have an email contact list of those who would like to be reminded of our lunch. It also gives me an idea of how many to expect so that I can give the restaurant a heads up. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know and I'll add you to the list.

Each month there is also a note in the Locust Leaves as to where and when we are meeting. It's a great way to get to know the ladies and meet new friends. No meeting, no dues, no minutes, no program - just lots of fun!



## Sisters pray as they sew, honor veterans with quilts

The Sewcial Sisters have been doing a lot of praying this last month. We have had many requests of friends and families that needed our prayer support!!! God is Good and has been listening!

We are excited to have an opportunity to make some quilts for Central Missouri Honor Flight. After following our friend Clete Koehler's flight, Kathy informed us that quilts were given to each person at the end of their journey. Central Missouri Honor Flight can use more donations. We are going to stay with patriotic colors, red white and blue.

All are welcome on Thursdays to sew at church!!

*Beth Luetjen*

## Loaves and Fishes continues to feed the hungry

July 2 was our opportunity to serve at Loaves and Fishes. With the generous donation of hamburger meat from Bill and Dale Graff we were able to serve sloppy Joes, potato salad and baked beans with cookies and brownies for dessert. Thank you to all that donated desserts and or helped serve. We served 97 plates and had enough left over to be used at The Truck Stop on the following Wednesday. Our next time to serve will be September 3.



*Dinner is served, July 2, by Locust Grove volunteers, from left to right, Tim Abrams, Beth Luetjen, Gyla Elmore, Sherri Perry, Jill Walker, and Roger Walker.*

*(Photo by Rev. Ben)*



**By Susie Bass Moore**

## **Midway Neighbors**

August 11, 2021, we shared our first meal with our Midway Neighbors at the nearby Midway Hotel. Ben Lee first had a vision of this relationship in 2017. Ben is a prayerful visionary that was called by God to be our fulltime minister in the midsummer of 2020.

February 2021, Ben started building relationships with residents and management at the Midway Hotel. After many discussions with the Hotel Management, we were finally approved to provide weekly lunches for the residents at their Pavilion. Since that time, we have only missed one Wednesday due to ice and snow.

Initially there were a few of us from Midway Locust Grove Church that volunteered to provide meals. Now we regularly have anywhere from 10 to 12 people from our church to prepare meals and visit with the 30 to 50 Hotel residents that join us each Wednesday. Together we have formed a community that grows deeper in friendship each week.

We are so blessed to be a part of each other's lives. The relationship is a partnership of people that deeply care for each other. We feel free to pray over the meals and those of us in need... sometimes it's a resident and other times it is a Locust Grove Church member.

Only God could form this shared bond we have. He alone deserves the glory and honor for knitting our hearts together.

We have celebrated Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, and now we are planning together our first year anniversary of shared Friendship Meals on August 10<sup>th</sup>.

Some of the special blessings and events that have occurred are a friend that came to us one Wednesday in excruciating pain and one of our Locust Grove Church members heard his cry and loaded him in his truck and took him to the Emergency Room, and that man ended up having Emergency Surgery and being admitted to the hospital. The next week the man could not wait to thank the friend that took him.

Our Church Fishermen hosted a fish fry one Wednesday for our Hotel Friends.

We have spontaneously sung Amazing Grace together accompanied by a friend from the Hotel on his guitar.

Several friends from the Hotel have come to Locust Grove Church to worship services and recently many gathered at the Hotel Pavilion for the Locust Grove Live Stream.

Two Children from a wonderful family at the Hotel were able to go to Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp. One of the young Mother's at Locust Grove Church wanted to make sure the children had every item on the camp list of needs and took them shopping. Another Mom from our church gave money for ice cream treats afterward.

A couple from the Hotel had debilitating health issues that required hospitalization, followed by physical therapy rehabilitation, now residing at Parkview Assisted Living can Live Stream and share

*(Continued on Page 10)*

# Family Fun Night

**Saturday, August 20, 7:00 p.m.**

Join friends and family on the lawn of Midway Locust Grove UMC for a Nacho Snack, games, and a movie. We will have a scavenger hunt and activities on the lawn prior to an outdoor movie. This is a free family event, so invite members of the community.

We hope you can come and enjoy this summertime family fun before your fall activities begin.



# Kudos

Colten & Callie Kempf were very active in the Boone County Fair this year that occurred July 19-23. Colten participated in three projects - country hams in which he earned a blue ribbon, dairy goats which he earned Best Doe in Show while showing his goat Nora, and market goats where he showed two Boer goats and earned one Best in Class! He sold his market goat at the Livestock Auction on Friday night.

Callie was also very successful in her endeavors. She entered three separate sewing/clothing projects - a poncho, skirt, & sundress - and all earned a blue ribbon and qualified for the state fair! She also showed her dairy goats and did well in the goat obstacle course. She entered a country ham earning a red ribbon as well. But the accomplishment she is most proud of is winning 2022 Boone County Fair Princess.

A lot of work was put into these projects and their efforts were well rewarded! They look forward to attending the state fair in a couple weeks and also preparing for next year's projects! *Jessica Kempf*

# Happy Birthday

**August 2022**

<b>2</b> Louise Stanley	<b>20</b> Rod Rogers
<b>2</b> Marj Reed	<b>22</b> Barb Harville
<b>2</b> Jesse Kempf	<b>25</b> Raylin Burkart
<b>4</b> Beth Hager H. Prado	<b>26</b> Dalli O'Neal
<b>5</b> Patrick Persinger	<b>26</b> Mike Thomas
<b>5</b> Paige Hovis	<b>28</b> Joe Boillot
<b>7</b> Jayden O'Neal	<b>30</b> Tony Martin
<b>10</b> Addie Cunningham	<b>31</b> Susan Zahringer
<b>19</b> Addison Frink	

*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.*



*Thanks and well-deserved kudos also to Travis and Jessica Kempf for sharing their story.*



# Happenings

Two special happenings blessed worship on July 10. At right, Jordyn Moore played a medley of patriotic music to continue the tradition of special music during the choir's summer break. Below, Lloyd and Barbara Sumner came forward to activate their membership in the church after several months of attendance. Members of the congregation welcomed them to the church family following Rev. Ben's induction ceremony.



In another special music performance, choir members Beth Hager-Harrison-Prado and Maggie McPherson performed a worship medley during worship services on July 24.



Things are happening around us all the time if we will only notice them. . .



*Jeff and Rena Crane opened the July 24 worship service with their baptism by Rev. Ben, witnessed by family members Mandy Crane and Jessica and Travis Kemp with their children, Callie and Colton. The congregation offered congratulations following dismissal of the worship service.*



*The July 24 worship service concluded with a Service of Reception into the congregation of Lee and Karla Sommer and two more generations of their family, daughter Laurel, her husband Kieth Groh, and granddaughters Kylie and Teagan. Kieth's mother,*

*Pat Groh (far right in photo) stood with the new members during the service. In photo at right, Karla proudly shows the first time they could check the "Member" box on the July 31 attendance card. Welcome to our growing congregation.*



### *Communion on the lawn, July 3*



## Greetings from Carol and Dick Millspaugh in San Diego

Although we are many miles from our Midway Locust Grove Church, and have not been able to visit there for over a year, we still think of the congregation with warmth and appreciation. We look forward to seeing you when we can visit again.

Right now, I am able to see the service on YouTube, and it's a blessing to also "see" Jim and Glenna, the choir, the congregation and the sanctuary as well as Ben your new pastor. You have been and continue to be in my prayers- and *always will be*. Also, I would ask to be in your prayers too, as I have been dealing with some heart issues in the last several years. I hope to be part of a Trial here in mid-August to try out a new procedure which we hope can be helpful.

Thank you in advance for your prayers and your caring, and know that Dick and I would be glad to show you San Diego if you are out this way! God bless all of you.

Sincerely, Carol Millspaugh  
[carolmbbb@gmail.com](mailto:carolmbbb@gmail.com)



Carol served as pastor of Locust Grove from 1985 to 1997. Dick served as Chaplain for Boone Hospital Center and taught a Sunday School class at Midway Locust Grove. Photo by Jane Bensussen

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

Thanks to Jane Bensussen for preparing this month's boards.



# In Memoriam



## Cathey Gayle Caruthers Clark.

*Editor's note: With the recent interment of Cathy's ashes in the Village of Locust Grove, we asked her mother, Mariea, to share Cathy's story with us.*

### **My Cathey Girl.**

**By Mariea Caruthers**

Dates: June 11, 1973 to August 3, 2018.  
Interment of ashes July 30, 2022.

#### The Dash.

Cathey was a hugger. She taught us how. Reminding us often.

She was always a teacher.

Cathey loved kids. One of her first jobs was taking care of them in the church nursery. Those kids now have kids of their own. Leutjen. Frink. Burkart. Others. She earned a double major at Stephens College—preschool and early elementary. She taught at a private school in Lee's Summit, and decided that although she loved the kids the parents were just too much to handle.

She then nannied for a family. After she moved back to Columbia she nannied for the White family for several years while Pascale (Pascale's Pals) was having treatment.

She loved coloring with her nephews. Telling them about good books. One is an artist. One is an actor.

She was very interested in rescuing animals. She fostered several for Second Chance and organized their holiday picture days and delivery of photos. She also adopted several—Great Dane and two Newfoundland, six cats. Etc. A hunting dog she gave to her brother. He learned some wrestling moves from her. That red headed girl in red rubber boots.

Cathey learned to knit in 4-H. She was a 4-H camp craft director during her college years. About the time she got married a neighbor had sheep, so the next step was learning how to spin. She was an expert. Then weaving; an expert because she started with a difficult pattern and wouldn't leave mistakes in anything.

She relished crocheting hats without a pattern. The former fashion designer for the playhouse at Stephens College has several of her colorful hats.

Color—Cathey could pick up three different, random colors and she made them work together.

We demonstrated our craft at the Boone County Heritage Festival at least ten years. She loved teaching others about how cloth was made. Natural fibers—wool, silk, alpaca, etc. She loved it when the boys ran across the lawn to see what that spinning machine she used was.

I inherited her spinning wheels, weaving looms, knitting needles. Stash of fiber. Trying hard to keep them warm.

She went deer hunting with her dad. Once. She'd rather read than fish. Reading—she didn't hear anything once she started. A former pastor gave us a hint. He said find a key word that gets her attention. We did and it worked. Into adulthood. Ice Cream. Every time!

After being diagnosed with brain cancer in 2006 she started a new battle. She tried everything the doctors told her about. She fought for 12 years. She never complained. Just figured out how to function using her non-dominant hand. And loved her therapists. She never gave up.

We miss that girl/woman who is still giving us lessons. Thank God we got to raise this challenging human.

*Mariea and Earl*



# The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering  
Mary Kaye's  
Food Ministry

Let's make a quick bean salad for a hot summer day! This is a quick side dish made with ingredients you have on the shelf. Great addition to your BBQ or Sunday dinner.

Enjoy!  
Hope Burkart

## Bean Salad

1 (14.5 oz) can green beans

1 (14.5 oz) can wax beans

1 (14.5 oz) can light red kidney beans

### Dressing

1/2 cup sugar

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1/2 cup vinegar

Drain beans. Mix dressing and pour over beans. Refrigerate overnight before serving.

## ***CORRECTION FROM LAST MONTH:***

For last month's Cranberry Salad recipe from Lou Pegues, we listed as the first item 1 lb of Ocean Spray cranberries. That should have been one bag, the standard size bag which actually weighs just under one pound. Please make this correction when you prepare this salad. Sorry for the error.



## View from a Pew — *Continued from Page 4)*

Midway Locust Grove Worship Services with other residents. This is a blessing as the there is no chapel there.

A few of us from Locust Grove Church family were able to celebrate and witness a 5<sup>th</sup> grader from the Midway Hotel graduate from Midway Heights Elementary and receive the Presidential Scholastic Award for Math and Science.

If one of our friends is absent on Wednesday Lunch Day, we feel the gap. The concern for one of us being absent and not in fellowship is real. Often, we gather around one of our friends that is burdened and pray hard for them. These are mutual relationships. Our friends reach out if one of us from Locust Grove Church is absent.

God has knitted us together in community in a way that only He can, and this is only our first year together.

A young man from Columbia and his baby boy heard about our Wednesday lunches and decided to come and visit with us. That led him to start coming to the Locust Grove Church Men's Bible Study. Soon one Sunday his wife and child came with him to church. They have expressed interest in joining the Locust Grove Church.

The community of friendship with our Hotel Friends and Locust Grove Church Members helped this young man to step into the position of Spiritual Leadership for his household.

These relationships are divinely appointed and ordained by God. We are so grateful, and just think this is our first year. We know and trust that there is more to come with the on-going guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is truly adventure in Christ.

Midway Locust Grove  
United Methodist Church

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

Open August 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

Stop on by and see our new and improved, larger showroom!

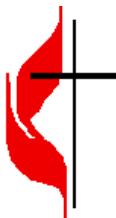
It was hotter than “all get-out” inside and out this month...but that didn’t stop our customers. The heat won’t be an issue much longer, neither will the cold this winter, thanks to a MOST generous donation from Dennis and Nancy Palmer of Coastal Electric, of a whole-house furnace and air conditioner! Stay tuned for more on this amazing gift in next month’s edition of Locust Leaves.

We’re still frantically working to organize the new storage annex, but a balmy 120 degrees is a bit of a prohibitive work environment. Little by little we’ll get ‘er done!





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Facebook: @mwlocustgrove  
YouTube: mwlocustgrove  
Instagram: @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.***

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## **The Back Row**



By Gene Baumann

Without getting political about it, I think we can agree that most of the news we hear about the various aspects of our government is negative.

Imagine my glee when I read the story below that brought a smile to my face and a warm glow to my heart.

Surely you are aware of the construction of new highway bridge over the Missouri River near Rocheport. My cynical side presumed it would be named for some influential politician from the area; then I ran across this story that MODOT had announced the naming of the bridge "The Lance Corporal Leon Deraps Interstate 70 Missouri River Bridge."

Leon was born November 13, 1986, near Jamestown, the son of a veteran mom

***Find the hidden circuit rider in this issue.***

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and a veteran Marine father. He grew up running in the soft hills and creek bottoms of the Missouri River Valley. Always obedient, he was a good student, anyone's friend, and loved by all.

He went from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout with numerous achievements along the way. He participated in many sports in school at Jamestown, was a member of FFA, and was prom king his senior year.

He pre-enlisted in the Marines while a senior in high school. Upon graduation in 2005, he left for his Marine training, which he completed in February 2006 and was deployed with members of his unit to Iraq.

He was killed Saturday, May 6, 2006, in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, and is buried in Cedron Catholic Church Cemetery near Jamestown.

I will think of Leon and all other veterans known and unknown every time I cross the bridge in the years ahead. Thanks, MODOT.