



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

Midway Locust Grove Church



Volume 36
 Number 8
 August 2023

Locust Leaves

Welcome, Welcome!

After months of hard work, a mountain of effort by an army of volunteers, and a solid partnership with Love Columbia, we are excited to welcome the first family into our Danny Coleman Memorial Transformation Home!



Beyond
 the Pulpit

**Pastor
 Ben Lee**

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THIS MONTH

Sundays —

Women's Bible Study 6 to 7 p.m.
 Midway Students 5 to 7 p.m.

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 68

Wednesdays —

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

Second Wednesdays —

Compassionate Friends 4—5 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

Sunday August 6, 4 to 7 p.m.

Midway Students Pool Party

Tuesday, August 8— Noon

Tuesday Lunch at
 Midway Heights Baptist Church

Wednesday, August 9, 6 to 9 p.m.

Family Fun Night at Midway Golf

Monday, August 21, 7:00 p.m.

Ministry Council

Shereka Leverett and her children, Belle, Rosalyn, and Creed, along with Shereka's mother, Shirley, will move in next week. The Leverett family is an answer to our prayers, and you will enjoy getting to know them just as much as Shayla, Jessie, Kelley, and I have over the past month. We do not doubt that their time with us will be good for their family and every bit as good for our congregation. Please join me in warmly welcoming the Leverett family to Midway Locust Grove!

Likewise, after many months of searching, processing countless resumés, and interviewing many candidates, we are pleased to announce that our Pastor Parish Relation Committee has hired a full-time Administrative Assistant. Catherine Shanahan is an answer to our prayers and comes to us with a wealth of experience in administrative work. Louise, Jim, Roger, and I are highly impressed with her and have every confidence you will be too.

Once we complete the onboarding process, Catherine will run our office, which will be open 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. In addition to office administration, she will be the first point of contact for members, guests, and the general public, fielding all questions, comments, and concerns. She will also serve as a quarterback of sorts, ensuring that all incoming information is distributed through the proper channels to the appropriate people. Catherine's organizational skills, and attention to detail, will be an incredible gift to our congregation. Please join me in warmly welcoming Catherine to Midway Locust Grove!

A lot is going on around here. Most days, it feels like we are trying to take a sip of water from a fire hydrant. Yet in it all, through it all, God is so faithful. The Leverett family, and Catherine Shanahan, are living proof. Welcome, welcome, to Midway Locust Grove!

Peace,

Ben

Ministries & Missions



Family Fun Night August 9

Our August Family Fun Night will be held on Wednesday, August 9, at Midway Golf & Games from 6-9 pm. We have reserved the outdoor pavilion from 6-9 pm to serve as a hub for all the fun, and we will provide sno-balls via the VooDoo Sno truck from 7-8 pm!

Beyond that, games, food, and beverage will be a la carte. Each family/individual will be able to choose what's best for them; here are the options:

GAMES -

Option 1: *Unlimited Pass* - 2 hours of unlimited mini golf, go-karts, batting cages, driving range, foot golf, par 3 = \$30/person

Option 2: *Punch Card* - Designated number of attractions per person. Guests can choose between a round of mini golf, a go-kart ride, 4 batting cage tokens, a medium bucket of driving range balls, a round of foot golf, or a round on the par 3 course.

2 Attractions=\$13/person

3 Attractions=\$19.50/person

4 Attractions=\$26.00/person

FOOD & BEVERAGE:

No outside food or drinks may be brought in. You may order pizza, hot dogs, snacks, ice cream, and beverages at their concession stand or go in and have a meal at 44 Tavern.

We had to give them a rough head count by Wednesday, August 2. **If you plan to go, please contact me immediately with the number of people we can expect, and we will add you to our tally!** What better way to send summer out with a bang than food, fun, and fellowship with your church family? We sure hope you can make it!

Peace, **Ben**

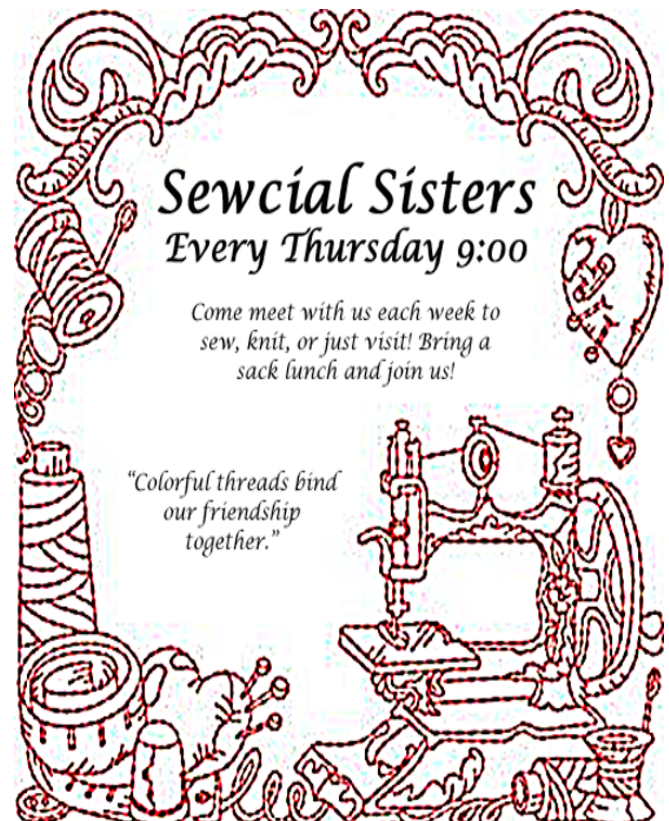
TREASURY NOTES

By **Nedra Moreau**

Contributions during July were a little off the normal receipts, totaling about \$17,000. Hopefully, this is due to summer vacations and other things happening. I am confident things will pick up as school starts and other things move back to more normal.

We are doing well with the Firm Foundation challenge, both with the work being done and the funds and pledges received. It is exciting to think the sanctuary will soon be done and we can move back into it. However, we still need more gifts and pledges in order to fully meet the financial challenge.

Please continue to pray for our church as we work toward our financial goals. Thanks to everyone for all you are doing!





Kudos

We are so proud of our granddaughter, Ellie Lichte. She ran track at the Show Me Games Track & Field Event. She placed 1st in the 1-mile and 1st in the 2-mile! She is quite the runner, and seems to love doing it (don't know where she gets that gene!!). She also ran Cross Country at the Show Me Games and placed 1st for her age group, and came in 6th for all runners under the age of 20. She will be in the 7th grade at Lexington Middle School and plans to run cross country and track.

Kathy and Clete Koehler



Happy Birthday

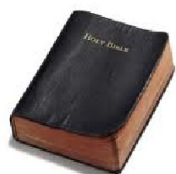
August 2023

2 Louise Stanley	11 Enzo Le
2 Marj Reed	17 Barry Stoll
2 Jessica Kempf	19 Addison Frink
3 Sheldon Toepke	22 Barb Harville
4 Beth Hager H. Prado	24 Johanna Roberts
5 Margaret Butzlaff	25 Raylin Burkart
5 Paige Hovis	26 Dalli O'Neal
5 Patrick Persinger	26 Mike Thomas
6 Shirley Forinash	28 Joe Boillot
7 Jayden O'Neal	29 Larry Henneke
10 Addie Cunningham	30 Tony Martin

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.

Twice Blessed Warehouse Moves In-House from Church

Due to renovations at the sanctuary, the collection of items has been moved from the church basement to a warehouse and storage space at the mission shop.





*By Evan Hughes
Director of Student Ministries*

Mission Retreat June 30-July 3

“Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.”

The above verses framed the mission retreat Midway Students took at the start of July. We went to Camp Jo-Ota in order



to deep clean cabins and shelters. The selected verses were to remind us of our purpose in going on the retreat, learning to focus on the needs of

others rather than our own cares.

To be honest, I wasn’t sure how well our students would embody the above verses during our mission retreat. However, my expectations of the group were blown out of the water. During the first minutes of cleaning the camp, I quickly realized that our youth had an impressive



work-ethic, both as individuals and as a team. The students selflessly cleaned the dark, dusty, and dirty corners of many cabins and shelters at Camp Jo-Ota. All the while, smiles and laughter from the students made the experience quite enjoyable.

When we left the church on Friday, we were friends, but certainly not family. But, through our team-building experiences throughout the weekend, we came back deeply united as brothers and sisters in Christ. In fact, a highlight of the retreat for everyone was completing the on-site obstacle course, which required plenty of teamwork. Between rope crossings, trust falls, and wall scaling, we grew closer both physically and spiritually.



Oh, and it would be a crime for me to not mention the hours we spent at the pool. The only thing special about this concrete rectangle of water was the diving board, which we used quite a lot. However, with the fun we had swimming the pool could have qualified as the most exciting water-park in the world.

We were able to have so much fun together because we became more than just friends, we became family. I am so grateful to the Lord for all the good he provided through the retreat. It is my hope that Midway Students is becoming a solidified program within our local church. It is deeply evident to me that our youth care about their journey of faith, and they appreciate the countless congregants who support their journey.



Baptism

Goldie Drew Gessling

Worship on July 30 opened with the baptism of Goldie Drew Gessling, daughter of Andrew and Mandy Gessling, as family and friends joined Rev. Ben on the sidewalk of our outdoor sanctuary. Goldie is also the granddaughter of Marlin and Tami Gessling, niece of Kendall and Heather Gessling, cousin to Abigail and Isabelle Gessling and Evan Hughes, and sister to Gabriel, Gideon, Garrison, and Gavin Gessling.



Sanctuary gets a firmer foundation



Work continues on new flooring in our sanctuary. The existing floor has been removed down to and including most of the original structure and later repair work. In respect for those who built the sanctuary for occupancy in 1870, a few boards that were still usable remain in the new floor. Coleman Home Repair Company is the contractor for the renovations.





The new floor follows the original designed slope toward the front. The foundation was checked for needed repairs and upgrades, and a vapor barrier was placed on the ground. Work has begun on the altar area and alcove leading to fellowship hall.

Meanwhile, work has begun on the downstairs area which will become the sanctuary for the Midway Youth. The walls have been removed and the furnace moved into the store room at the far end. New bathrooms upstairs are the third phase of the renovations.



Sweet time at the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri

A big thank you to those in our church who participated in the Give Back Day on July 25 at the Food Bank. We bagged approximately 5000 lbs of sweet potatoes that had come from North Carolina and Georgia. The hard workers included Gyla Elmore, John and Margaret Preus, Marsha Coleman, Mariea Caruthers, Beth Luetjen, Mike and Betty Fuemeler, Barbara Sumner, Dwain Hovis, Jill and Roger Walker, Bree Martin, and Louise Stanley.



GORGEOUS GIRLS

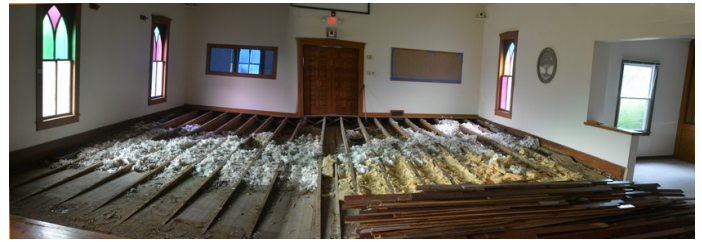
Join us for lunch!

Monday, August 28, 11:00

Big Mama's Cafe

3510 I-70 SE

Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd
like to come
kkoehler1976@gmail.com



**Due to replacement
of the sanctuary floor,
there will be a
Second Tuesday Lunch
August 8 at the
Midway Heights
Baptist Church.**



Check the Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to Angie Gerzen for preparing these boards for our information and fun.





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Vegetables. Vegetables. Vegetables... gardens are hopefully producing lots of vegetables. Zucchini seem to be everywhere. I fry them, make apple butter out of them, and make cheesy casseroles. Here is one of my favorites. Enjoy! *Hope Burkart*

Cheesy Zucchini Casserole

2 medium zucchini, slices thin, do not peel.
2 medium tomatoes, peeled and chopped.
1 medium onion, sliced and separated.
1-2 cups grated cheddar cheese.
3 slices bacon, cooked and crumbled.
Butter.
Salt and pepper.
Bread crumbs.

In a buttered casserole dish, layer zucchini, onions and tomatoes.

Dot with butter and scatter cheese and bacon over each layer.

Salt and pepper lightly.

Mix bread crumbs and melted butter and spread on top.

Bake at 400 degrees covered for one hour; uncover for last 20 minutes.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
August 8, Noon.
At Midway Heights
Baptist Church.**

Poet's Corner



Readers are invited to share their original writings here. Send items to the editor or deliver them before or after Sunday worship.

Thanks to Carolyn Doyle for sharing this from her Columbia Garden Club's newsletter.

For the Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce really Love one another

No Garden is Complete without Turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help one another

To conclude, we must have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends.

Water freely with Patience and Cultivate with love. There is much Fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow

It is Back to School time at Twice Blessed.

We have an assortment of school supplies: lunchboxes, backpacks, notebooks, pencils, glue, and crayons so we can get our families prepared for going back to school.

We have had lots of blessings bestowed on Twice Blessed in the last month. We thank Ryan and Laura Cunningham for a 10x16 shed that they no longer had a use for and donated to Twice Blessed. We will be able to house all our items for the Christmas Store in this shed. Also a big thanks to Perry Luetkemeyer and Jim Johnson for moving the shed from Cunningham's and setting it up at Twice Blessed. When weather allows the doors will be repaired and painting done. We also appreciate all the volunteer help in moving the remaining Twice Blessed items from the church basement to the store. Many hands made short work and we truly appreciated it.

Thank you to Duane Perry for doing some needed repairs and repainting our Blessing Box.

Our neighbors on the "other hill", Midway Baptist Church, took up a collection of personal care items for Twice Blessed during their Vacation Bible

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



Open Aug. 3 & 17

Twice
blessed

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church

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

School. Thank you so much for two tubs of items that they brought to the store.

Our new customer numbers continue to increase. We have been called upon from some assistance agencies in Columbia for special needs and we have thankfully been able to accommodate.

Thank you to our church family and our community for all the blessings and support you continue to give to Twice Blessed. We are truly humbled.

Blessings,

Glenna and Jill

Galatians 6:2 Carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.





MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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
YouTube: mwlocustgrove
Instagram: @mwlocustgrove

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

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

Volume 36 Issue 8 August 2023

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

**Tuesday Lunch will be
at Midway Baptist Church
Aug. 8 due to remodeling.**

The Back Row **By Gene Baumann**

Of all the many blessing God has bestowed on me, I think my favorite is that I am easily entertained. This came to mind recently as I attended a Saturday evening 50th wedding anniversary celebration for a retired Columbia police officer.

I presumed correctly that most of those attending would have quite a few years of age on themselves. As anticipated, I did not know very many people there, but did know at least half those at our table. Now I wish I could claim the other half as long-time friends.

As the evening went on, I began to notice the most commonly asked question was "What's their name?" as people

walked by or left after stopping to chat. I must admit some comfort in knowing that I am not alone in my inability to remember names.

That was Saturday night. The next morning at church I found myself asking myself that same question, "What's their name?" about more than a few of our newer members here at Midway Locust Grove. It may take a while, but I hope to eventually know and will remember their names. I realize it is part of the aging process, but will not curse my memory because of my years.

I have absorbed a comment I read somewhere recently and think of it often at our morning coffee sessions when folks complain about getting old. The admonition is to not complain about growing old; too many people aren't given the privilege.