



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, August 6—6 to 8 pm**  
Family Fun Night  
Midway Golf & Games

**Tuesday, August 13— Noon**  
Second Tuesday Lunch

**August 18**  
Blessing of the Backpacks

**Monday, August 26**  
Locust Leaves Deadline

Midway Locust Grove Church



Volume 37  
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August 2024

# Locust Leaves

## Embracing the Power of Community: Moving from "Me" to "We"

In a world that often emphasizes individualism and personal achievement, it's easy to fall into the trap of focusing solely on "me" and my needs. Yet, as followers of Christ, we are called to something greater: a vibrant, supportive community where we transition from "me" to "we."

At the heart of our faith is the call to live in unity and love with one another. The early church exemplified this beautifully in Acts 2:44-47, where believers come together, share everything in common, and grow in faith as a united body. Their commitment to each other created a strong, loving community that thrived and drew others to Christ.

In our church, this vision of community is just as crucial. When we focus on the collective "we," we understand Christian fellowship's true essence. It's not just about attending services or participating in events but about genuinely investing in each other's lives.

### Why Community Matters

•**Support and Encouragement:** Life is full of challenges, and having a community means having people to lean on during tough times. Whether through prayer, practical help, or a listening ear, our church family provides the support we need to navigate life's ups and downs.

•**Spiritual Growth:** We grow stronger in our faith when we journey together. Sharing our experiences, studying Scripture in groups, and discussing our spiritual insights help us deepen our understanding and commitment to Christ.

•**Shared Mission:** The Great Commission calls us to go into the world and make disciples. As a unified community, we can accomplish more together than alone. Our collective efforts in outreach and service have a more significant impact, reflecting God's love and grace to those around us.

### How to Foster a Stronger Community

•**Get Involved:** Join a small group, volunteer for church activities, or reach out to a fellow member. Your involvement enriches not only your own experience but also strengthens the bonds within our church.

•**Build Relationships:** Take the time to get to know others on a deeper level. Share your story, listen to theirs, and create meaningful connections beyond surface-level interactions.

•**Practice Forgiveness and Grace:** No community is perfect, and conflicts may arise. Approach these situations with a heart of forgiveness and a willingness to reconcile, knowing that our unity is worth the effort.

•**Celebrate Together:** Acknowledge and celebrate each other's milestones and achievements. Whether it's a birthday, a new job, or a personal victory, rejoicing together fosters a sense of belonging and shared joy.

As we continue to grow and serve together, let's remember the powerful words of Ecclesiastes 4:9: "Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor." Let us embrace the shift from "me" to "we," cultivating a community where love, support, and faith flourish.

Together, we can continue to build a church that reflects Christ's heart and serves as a beacon of hope and love in our world.



Beyond  
the Pulpit  
**Pastor  
Ben**

Peace, *Ben*

# Ministries & Missions

## Family Fun Night Aug. 6

We hope you can join us on Tuesday, August 6 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Midway Golf & Games for our August Family Fun Night.

We have reserved the pavilion for a gathering space. You will find fun outdoor yard games such as Jeng, CornHole, Battleship, Checkers, CONNec Four, two Bocce Ball courts, and more for free entertainment

You can purchase passes for two attractions for our group rate of \$13 per person. Some of the attractions available will be mini-golf, go-carts, batting cages, etc. You may go back and purchase more than one person if the kids want more.

Contact Shayla Roop with any questions. We hope to see you and your family there.

Shayla Roop, 573-406-4349 or [sroop@cpsk12.org](mailto:sroop@cpsk12.org)



*The Midway Kids once again enhanced worship on July 28 with an enthusiastic musical performance, under the musical direction of Beth Luetjen and Director of Children's Ministries Shayla Roop.*

## TREASURY NOTES

*By Kelley Frink*

In July, we received \$34,000 in donations, which is a great month for the middle of the summer because donations typically drop in the summer months.

On average, for the first seven months of the year we are receiving around \$32,000 a month. Some of that is Firm Foundation money, so it is not all going to operations, but we are able to cover ongoing expenses with the contributions received.

Hope everyone is having a great summer and staying cool! As always, let me know if you have any questions. Kelley

~~~~~  

**Thank You**

My great-grandaughter, Elly, was in MU's Children's Hospital in mid-July. And her family received free sack lunches from Ronald McDonald House, packed by Midway Locust Grove!! They were so appreciative! Thank you, those who helped with this. Carolyn Doyle

*(Editor's Note: See pages 6-7 for the story behind this service)*

**Know something nice  
about someone?**

**Let us know about it  
for KUDOS.**

# In Memoriam

## Chrystal Tenney June 15, 2024

Our dear, sweet friend, Chrystal Tenney, mother, wife, friend, and long-time resident of the Midway Motel, passed away on June 15, 2024, after many years of illness. A funeral service will be held at our church on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.

If anyone would be able to provide transportation to and from the motel for the service, and/or help provide and serve a light lunch after the funeral, please contact Suzi Moore.

For someone who was afforded so little in life, this would be a beautiful outreach for our church.

*God promises  
a safe landing,  
not a calm passage.*

# Happy Birthday August 2024

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 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.*



Our Lay Speaker program is serving us well, as Keith Andersen, left, and Erin White, right, filled the pulpit the final two Sundays in June as Rev. Ben was called away by the death of his father.







## Getting to know you

*With the recent and continuing growth of our congregation, it seemed a good idea to revive a feature from earlier years of Locust Leaves. We will feature someone in each month's issue, alternating new and longtime members. Thanks to LeeAnn Martin for coordinating the series.*

### Billy and Jill Cook

If you remain around Locust Grove Church any time at all, chances are you will be on the receiving end of a service from Billy or Jill Cook. Both are longtime active members who enjoy helping others, and live just a short distance northeast of the church.

Billy Cook and Jill Moreau were married at Locust Grove on March 20, 1976. Jill had grown up in the church with her parents Harry and Hazel Moreau and brother, Daryle; Billie attended Sunday School under the legendary Lloyd Daly's teaching, joining the church when he and Jill married.

Billy is retired from the University of Missouri, where he was Building Trades Supervisor for the University Hospital. Jill is retired Program Coordinator for Mizzou Online.

Thanks to their daughter, Kelsey and her husband Andy Strubel, Billy and Jill have achieved grandparent status, with Jackson, age 10, Cohen, 7, and Emmalyn, 1-1/2.

Kelsey is a Behavioral Specialist for K-12 at the Boonville School System. Andy is a Loan Officer for Veterans United in Columbia. The Strubel family resides in rural Rocheport.

Other family members for the Cooks are four-legged; Elly is a chocolate lab, also known as Billy's Shadow. She has her own car with Billy as her chauffeur. Then there's Gracie Mae, the cat; what more can be said,



except that she too shadows Billy wherever he goes, seeking equal attention.

Billy enjoys fishing, hunting, woodworking, cooking, and of course, chauffeuring Elly around.

Jill's favorite pastimes are reading, playing with grandkids, volunteering at Twice Blessed, and attending grandson's baseball and football games.

Billy's proudest moments are watching his family and grandkids develop into young people of good value.

Jill's proud memory is when Glenna Johnson approached her four years ago and asked her to partner in opening Twice Blessed, the free mission store. She was surprised that she said yes, but it has been very rewarding and humbling to be part of the project.

Both have expressed their confidence in and appreciation for Rev. Ben's teaching, and both encourage wider participation by the congregation in all matters of what is happening in the church.

Back to the opening description of the Cooks' interest in helping, chances are Billy will cook and serve you either a hot dog or burger at one of our special activities; Jill will greet you as you visit Twice Blessed. And that's just for starters.





## Second Tuesday Lunch celebrates our independence



Instead of listening to a program at the July Second Tuesday Lunch, those attending actually presented the program in the form of a trivia quiz on Independence Day. The group received several pages of questions, all relating to July 4, took time to write out their answers, then shared their answers as the questions were read aloud. The August 13 meeting program will return to a more conventional format, as Roger and Jill Walker will discuss their historical tour of Italy.

A painting of a man and a woman in a room. The man is standing and looking at a book, while the woman is sitting at a piano. A sign in the foreground reads "KEEP CALM AND JOIN THE CHOIR".

Though MLGC 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.

**KEEP CALM AND JOIN THE CHOIR**

Regular Wednesday night rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:29 p.m. and we want YOU to join us!





## Two Give Back Days feed Ronald McDonald residents

***By Jessica Kempf  
Missions Committee Chair***

July means Give Back Day for our congregation! The Mission Committee chose a great organization to help, the Ronald McDonald House. We decided to split our time into two days.

The first day, we had six volunteers pack over 85 lunches for families. These lunches were delivered by the Ronald McDonald House to University Hospital, Boone Hospital and the Thompson Center, and allows the families to stay with their children at the care facility without having to worry about lunch.

The second day, we prepared dinner for the 40+ guests staying at the Ronald McDonald House. We had many volunteers contribute food items and we had five volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House put those ingredients together to make a delicious hot meal – Mexican rice casserole, salad & cookies.

Both groups received a tour of the brand new home that just opened in June of this year and is located at the corner of College and Stadium. The house has 24 rooms plus a day-pass room. It has several family room areas, a large kitchen, and common facilities like laundry room, office,



outside seating and more to accommodate families who have children receiving care at many of the local hospitals in Columbia. We look forward to serving this organization again soon!

Mark your calendars for our next Give Back Day on September 27, which will be preparing dinner for veterans' families at the Fisher House, 5-7pm. Our 2024 Give Back Days will culminate with a brand new event, the Midway Prayer Walk on November 9. Please stay tuned for many more details as this event is planned – it is one that you will not want to miss!





*Our first group prepared lunch to be delivered to the hospitals on July 19, the second served dinner in Ronald McDonald House on July 25.*





# Poe't's Corner

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

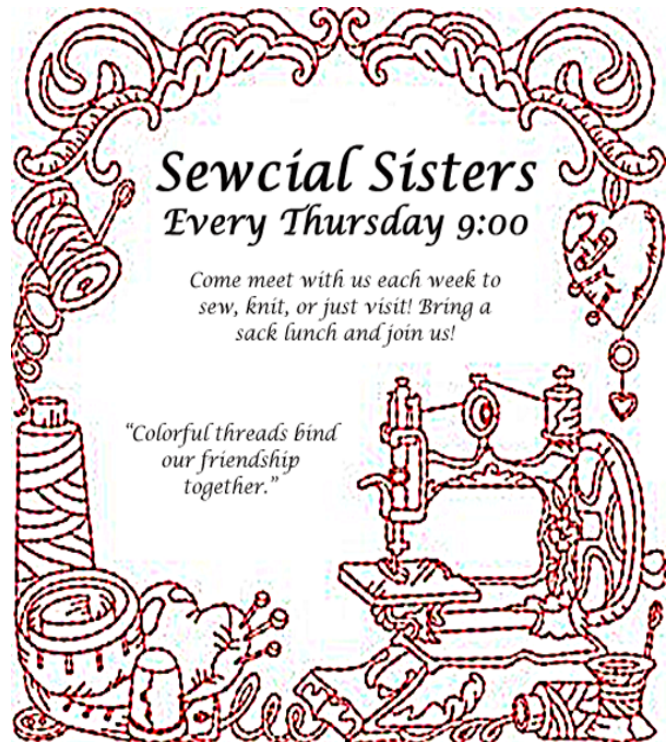
## Time — the Paradox

Time. I had too much of it ,  
until you gave me some of yours.  
Now there is never enough..

*Gene Baumann*

## New bench for front lawn

Marsha Coleman has donated a new bench for the front lawn of the church, near the sign. The gift is in honor and memory of her late husband, Dan, who died October 24, 2021. The couple were active members, of Locust Grove before moving to Callaway County, and Marsha has renewed her active role in our congregation.





The six church members who are headed to Re-Member on the Pine Ridge Reservation, in Sept, are getting excited. We continue to meet monthly for fellowship and education on native culture, customs, poverty issues – and to get to know each other even better, as we get ready to travel to South Dakota.

We have collected around 200 heavy, warm coats to take with us for distribution before the frigid winter weather hits. Our congregation has a long history of responding in an amazing manner when asked to contribute toward mission projects. So, we are asking for contributions of WARM gloves, hats, scarves, snow pants

# ON THE REZ

*With Kathy Hughes*

and snow boots. Temperatures this week are tickling 100 degrees in Missouri, so it is difficult to think in terms of 20 below zero. But the Rez will typically see its first blizzard before October – often in the week or two following Senior Week at Re-Member.

So, as you are shopping for back to school items, or Christmas gifts for the grandchildren, will you please consider adding one warm hat, or pair of snow gloves or boots for the children and adults on the Rez trying to survive the bitter weather we know is coming.

Pilamaya – thank you in Lakota

## There's no place like home

It was a surprise homecoming recently for Don and Denise Moore when they appeared at Sunday worship. They were visiting family in the area from their home in Arizona, and Don's childhood church was a must.

Don is a third-generation Locust Grover and nephew to Bob Moore of our congregation.

Both returned to familiar territory and sang with the choir while in worship July 28; Don was a regular member of the choir, Denise performed occasionally before they moved to Arizona in 2019.

Lee Ann Martin greeted them when they arrived for worship, and they were greeted by folks following worship as they left the choir loft. They have since returned home.





# The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering  
Mary Kaye's  
Food Ministry

**August** is usually too hot to cook so lets make a sheet pan dinner with pork chops and veggies!

*Enjoy!*

*Hope Burkart*

## Pork Chop Sheet Pan Dinner

1/2 lb small red potatoes, washed and cut into quarters

8 oz petite carrots

3 T olive oil, divided

1 package dry ranch dressing and seasoning mix, divided

4 bone-in center cut pork chops about 1/2 inch thick

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Coat a baking sheet with cooking spray.

In a bowl, combine potatoes, carrots and 2 T of olive oil. Add 2 T of ranch dressing mix and toss till evenly coated. Place on baking sheet.

Brush pork chops with remaining 1 T olive oil and sprinkle with remaining ranch seasoning mix. Arrange pork chops between potatoes and carrots on baking sheet.

Bake 25 minutes or until pork is no longer pink and veggies are tender.

\*Turn chops over about halfway through cooking time.

\*May substitute chicken thighs for pork chops but may need to increase baking time.

\*May also add additional veggies such as quartered onions, asparagus, etc.

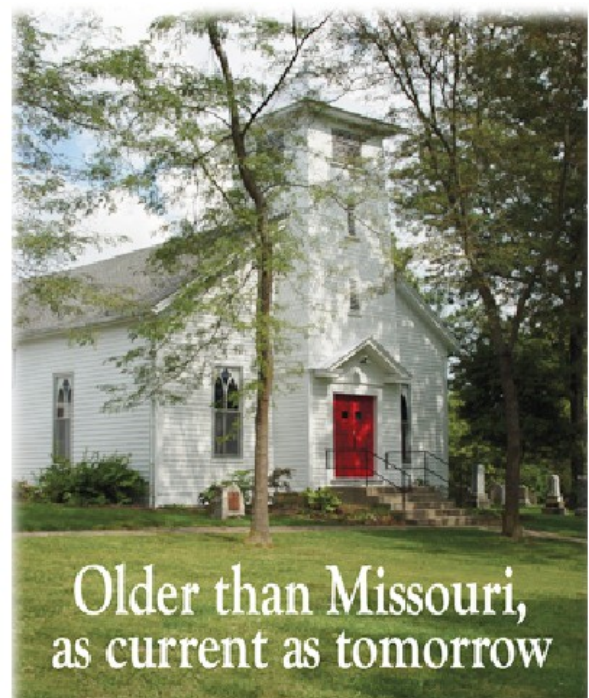
## GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

**Monday, August 26,  
11:00 a.m.**

**Kobe Steak House  
2511 Broadway Bluffs  
#247**

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



Older than Missouri,  
as current as tomorrow





Twice Blessed is averaging 15 - 25 NEW customers per session, so our usual amount of "staple items" is quickly depleted! Thank you all for your constant and continuing support!!! So if you are able .... keep those basic supplies comin' our way!

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

Midway Locust Grove  
United Methodist Church

**Open  
August 1 & 15**

**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

**Celebrating Our  
4<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY**

**Twice  
blessed**

Without your continued support this would not be possible!  
Thank you!!

Check the  
Bulletin Boards  
in Fellowship Hall  
for information  
and inspiration.  
Thanks to  
Angie Gerzen  
for preparing these  
monthly boards.





## MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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Administrative Assistant: Catherine Shanahan  
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Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438  
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Facebook: @mwlocustgrove  
YouTube: mwlocustgrove  
Instagram: @mwlocustgrove

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

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

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

Volume 37 Issue 8 August 2024

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

**Tuesday Lunch will be  
at noon on August 13  
in our Fellowship Hall.**

## The Back Row By Gene Baumann

### ***The Uncommon Mullein***

***One person's weed is another person's flower.***

While doing some spring weeding a dozen or so years ago, I spared one intruder whose velvet leaves reminded me of lamb's ear. Although it was just outside our front door, I thought it was nice enough to keep. I've had one every year since, and this year's may be my best.

This simple act of mercy launched me into a search that almost became an obsession. As I described the weed to my friends with some expertise in such things, I got a variety of suggestions as to the name of this plant. None was certain enough to satisfy me, which led me to the internet, where I found a lot of information about the Common Mullein.

The plant was too impressive to be common and too pretty to be a weed, I thought, so I let it continue to grow. It reached six feet tall with a stalk of yellow blossoms. The weed has become easy to spot along Mid-Missouri roadways now that we know one intimately.

In its formative days, the weed resembles the popular lamb's ear plant's soft velvety silver-green leaves. Presumably a bird deposits the seed as no other mullein resides in the area.



Much of the mullein's beauty requires a closer look. From the center of the rosette, a stalk emerges to display yellow blossoms. As the stalk grows more blossoms form, creating a continuous display all summer into fall.

Technically known as *Verbascum thapsus* of the family Scrophulariaceae, the plant was brought to America by the Puritans as a medicinal herb, a use which continues today. One website offered bottles of Mullein Leaf in 30, 60 or 350 capsules ranging in price from \$6.10 to \$42.24.

The puritans made tea and ointments from the leaves as a cure for lung diseases, rheumatism, burns, rashes, and ear-aches. Today it is classified in herbal literature as an expectorant, promoting the discharge of mucus, and demulcent, soothing irritated mucous membranes.

The value of the plant goes beyond its medicinal use. The leaves once were worn in the shoes to improve circulation and as a buffer to thin soles. The soft leaves have been used by children as doll blankets, and the tall stalks were dipped in tallow and used as torches.

These uses have led to many nicknames, many more colorful than Common Mullein. It is known by the names Miner's Candle, Velvet Dock, Flannel Flower, Beggar's Blanket, Candlewick, Grandmother's Flannel, and a long list of colorful names.

I hold to my philosophy that the simpler things in life are often the best. My encounter with the Common Mullein convinces me of the validity of that outlook.