

Please join us for worship.

Sunday School: 10:30

Worship: 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

Men's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.

December 11 — 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Twice Blessed Christmas Store

December 12 — 6:00 p.m.

Christmas Dinner & Program

December 14 — 12:00 noon

Second Tuesday Lunch

December 21—6:00 p.m.

Darkest Night Service

December 24—6:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service

December 25

Christmas Day

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist



Volume 34

Number 12

December 2021

Locust Leaves

Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

December is here, and this time of year can be hectic! There is so much going on, and our days are quickly filled with the hustle and bustle. Most years, December feels like an all-out blitz for the first 25 days of the month, then we slow down and begin to take it easy with friends and family the final 7 days of the month.



Beyond
the Pulpit
**Pastor
Ben
Lee**

There is so much to be done, gifts to buy and wrap, travel plans to make (unless you drew the short stick and are hosting), office parties, white elephant gatherings with friends, and on and on it goes. Add in that this is 2021, and many outlets are promoting that Christmas might be canceled because shipping containers are backed up for miles off the coast of California, and the whole season can get very stressful.

With this in mind, I would like to offer a blueprint for peace found tucked away in a letter from Paul to the church at Philippi. He writes, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

And so, this is what I am asking we do together as a church body for December. Each day, every day, of this month, let's commit to these 3 simple steps: 1. Don't Worry. 2. Pray, tell God what you need. 3. Thank God for what He has done. We will experience a peace that exceeds anything we can understand when we do. Who doesn't want some of that?

My prayer for us is that all 31 days are spent the way most of us only spend the final 7 of the month, entirely focused on faith, family, and friends. As cliché as it sounds, I pray we Christians remember the true reason for the season, the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

Peace,
Ben



Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study continues studying the book of Joshua. The study is open to women of all ages and stages. You don't have to be a Biblical scholar to participate. The Bible is for everyone.

The women meet via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 7:00. The sessions last approximately an hour with prayer time following.

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

Darkest Night Service — December 21st, 6:00 p.m.

For those who have experienced loss, the holidays can be a particularly painful time—stirring up grief and conflicting emotions in acute ways. Join us on the night of the winter solstice (the longest and darkest night of the year) to pause and recognize the losses that leave this season feeling long and difficult.

Together we will explore a space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance to find strength to get through the holiday. This service is for everyone who has experienced loss AND for those who wish to offer support to those who are grieving during this time. *Erin White*

2022 Fellowship Host Schedule Posted on Bulletin Board

The 2022 signup sheet for hosting after-worship fellowship has been posted. The sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the office. Fellowship is important to our MLG church family - it gives us an opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones. I encourage everyone to join us after worship for a time of fellowship and food. I would appreciate it if you could please volunteer to take a couple of Sundays to host this year. Thank you.

Kathy Koehler

Offering Counters Needed

Each Sunday after church, there are two volunteers who count and tally the offering for the weekly church deposit. This is not a hard job, although there is a procedure to follow. You would be trained, and if we have enough returning volunteers, you will be counting with someone who has done this before. If we get enough volunteers, I would hope that you would only have to count at the most, six times per year.

I will set up a schedule for the year and post it on the bulletin board, so if you have to switch with someone, you can. Please consider volunteering to help. Contact me if you have questions or need more information.

Thank you, *Kathy Koehler*

Call (h) 875-8772 - leave a message, or send email to me at kkoehler1976@gmail.com.

TREASURY NOTES

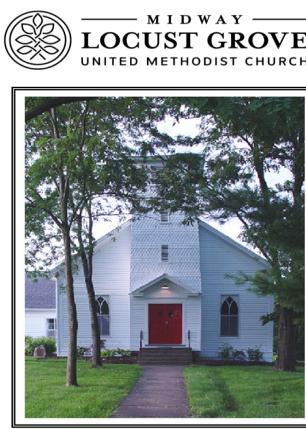
By Nedra Moreau

November has been another good month for contributions. Our total for the month is \$22,566. The increased amount is due to some extra amounts received. For the year, we have received \$181,865, which averages \$16,533 per month. This is over budget and will help with meeting our goals and objectives. Our apportionments are paid in full for the year, and we still have a nice balance in our general fund account. We continue to receive monthly contributions for the Future Glory Fund. Most of the expenses associated with the Future Glory project have been paid.

If you are interested in setting up automatic transfers from a bank account for your contributions, contact me and I will help with that. There are also forms on the table that you can complete and return to me.

Thanks, everyone! I think this is the best year ever for our church--in attendance, participation, and giving. I have experienced both good and lean years here, but for me, this one really stands out as the best! Let's keep it going.

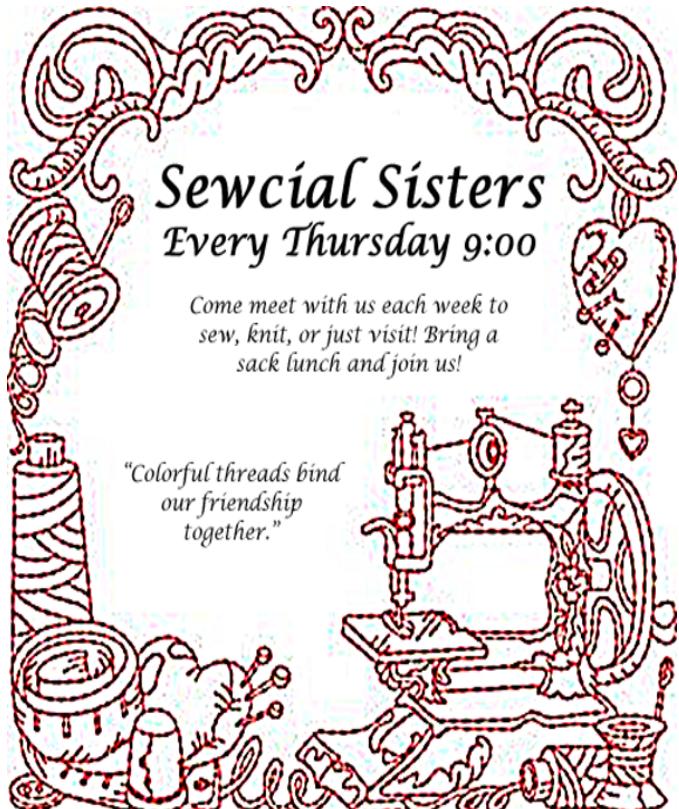
Church Directory being updated



Church Directory

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church
2600 North Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202
573-445-4667

Another update on the Church Directory is underway. Copies will be available on the welcoming table in the Fellowship Hall shortly after the first of the year. A church calendar for next year is also being prepared.



The Sewcial Sisters are taking a road trip to Quincy on December 2nd and 3rd. We will be stopping in quilt shops on the way to Quincy and back home. We are going to see the musical "Beauty and the Beast" starring Kathy Koehler's niece.

The Sewcial Sisters are also excited about helping at the Twice Blessed Christmas Store on December 11th.

We invite anyone who wants to join us on Thursdays at church for fellowship and fun. Contact Beth Luetjen if you have questions.



This bumper sticker is available on the welcome table at Sunday worship.



“Tenting Tonight”, or “The Word Became Flesh and Pitched His Tent Among Us”.

“And the word became flesh and pitched his tent among us, and we gazed at his glory; glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth”
John 1: 14, (Revised English Version)

As the days grow shorter and the planet tilts toward winter, I find myself longingly remembering summer. This happens every year; I’m a warm weather person and I dread winter. But this year I find myself remembering especially the camping trips of my youth.

As kids, my sisters and I loved tent camping with my Father and uncles; we’d go up to the wild Adirondack wilderness of upstate New York. We loved the hiking, swimming, and evenings sitting around the campfire listening to my Uncle Sylvester regale us with old family stories. And we even loved sleeping in a tent. There was nary a thought of using a camper or trailer for my frugal father – it was always a tent. And we loved it! Today, the idea of tent camping is no longer so appealing – sleeping on hard ground is not easy on older bodies, and having to get up in the middle of the night.....well, you get the picture!

Ben shared with us, in Discipleship, that there is an inexpensive tool available online that renders the original Greek or Hebrew meaning of each word in Scrip-

ture. I downloaded it and became intrigued while reading the first chapter of the gospel of John. With this tool (Strong’s Concordance), I learned that the famous verse about the incarnation of Jesus, in John, which I had learned as “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us”, is actually best translated from the original Greek as “And the Word became flesh and “pitched his tent” among us”(skenoo from 4636; to tent or encamp, i.e. (figuratively) to occupy).

I love the mental image that this translation conveys: a picture of Jesus as the humble servant that he was, one of us while on this earth. A Savior who wasn’t afraid to get right down in the middle of the fray of humanity and get his hands dirty. An accessible neighbor who was always close at hand when he was needed. Someone who shared both the joy and the discomforts of living in modest means on this Earth. Someone we could call on day or night.

Tents, or tabernacles, figure prominently in the Old Testament. The earliest shelter built by the Israelites to worship Yahweh in was a tabernacle. It was built to the very exacting specifications that God gave to Moses, and was portable, so that the Israelites could carry it as they moved through the Sinai peninsula on the way to the promised land. There were 3 sections to the tabernacle when it was erected, an outer court, and 2 inner courts, one of which was called the “Holy of Holies because it housed the Ark of the Covenant. God had commanded that the Israelites make a sanctuary so that he could “dwell” among them. But this time the Hebrew word for dwell is not skenoo, or tent, but “shakan”, which means to reside on a permanent basis. God was telling the people Israel that he would

(Continued on Page 11)



Thank You

Dear church family,

In late 1997, I first came to this church after the death of my step-father, in Ozark MO, and I'd seen how my mother was loved and supported by her church during that difficult time. I knew I needed that church family, and found it at Midway Locust Grove, especially when my husband died, in February 1999.

This church has been an integral part of my life since then, and that love and support was strongly reinforced a month ago when my daughter Meg passed away. The service was lovely, just what Meg's husband asked for, and the meal afterward perfect, and much appreciated.

Beth and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your love and continued support.

Carolyn Doyle

The first time I walked into MLGUMC was for my own step-father's funeral. I loved how this church family wrapped itself around Mama and our family then, and am so grateful that you wrapped us all up again last month.

With so much gratitude,

Happy Birthday

December 2021

1 Connie Wieberg	13 Leslie Brown
3 Steve Green	15 Betty Fuemmeler
6 Bob Grant	16 Michele Hager H. Prado
8 Billy Cook	17 Cooper Martin
9 Gale Bensussen	20 Laura Cunningham
9 Mariea Caruthers	21 Andrew Gessling
10 Tim Praiswater	31 Jordyn Moore
11 Dale Graff	
12 Leslie Utterback	

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.



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.

Time. The Paradox. . .

I had too much of it

Until you gave me some of yours.

Now there is never enough.

Gene Baumann

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

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

Thanks to Stacy Lee for creating the boards for December.



Please take a tag to remind you to help Twice Blessed with needed items.

GREETINGS FROM DELL

Dell Cunningham sends hello from her new home in Fayette. She wishes everyone a happy fall and hopes to hear from her church family.

Please send large print messages to her at the following address:

**Dell Cunningham
The Lodge
542 State Route DD
Fayette, MO 65248**

Thanks to everyone who has encouraged us and prayed for us. We are so grateful for your friendship.

Sending our very best to all,
Dell and Jane



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHANCEL CHOIR

We need a little
CHRISTmas

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 12, 2021

**6:00 P.M. CHOIR PROGRAM
AND SING-ALONG**

**Desserts to Follow
Hosted by the Choir**

**Rumors Are that Santa Will Join Us
After the Choir Program!**

All Saints Day of Remembrance October 31

The memories of those who died in the past year were revisited October 31 in the morning worship service and again in a luminary service that evening in the Village of Locust Grove Cemetery.

Those recognized in the ceremonies were: Olive Graham, Robert "Bob" Rogers, Betsy Wharton, Rev. Russell

Branch, Ferd Lightner, George Marsden, Gary Hughes, Earl Waddell, Shirley Wegener, Judy Barnes, Leon Brown, Meg DeVries, and Dan Coleman. In worship, the names were read with a moment of silence and the steeple bell ringing for each.

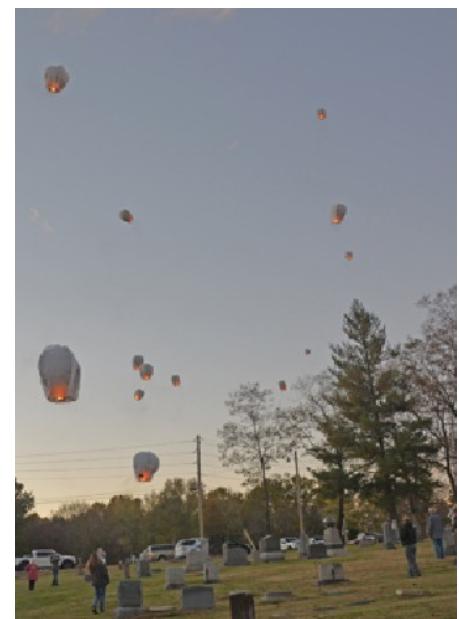
See page 9 for the evening luminary ceremony in the cemetery.





Following instructions and signing of the luminaries by family and friends, the group walked to the cemetery, when they inflated the luminaries by lighting flammable tile attached to the bottom of each one.

Upon command when all were inflated, the tributes were released to begin their flight to places unknown.



The Christmas Store

Sponsored by



Saturday, December 11, 2021
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

In lieu of "Adopt-a-Family", of which this church was always so supportive and took to heart, Twice Blessed's Christmas Store will reach even MORE people in need of a hand up within our own community!

The more items you donate, the more people we can serve!

Any large-sized donations please hold on to until closer to the event, due to our very limited storage space!

IF you know of anyone who may need this service, PLEASE feel free to spread the word!

**Gifts Needed For
Children & Adults
Age 0-110!**

HAVE FUN
Be Creative
**Because of YOU it WILL be a
Merry Christmas For Many!**



**Watch for Sign-Up Sheets
for Santa's Helper Elves!**

(Continued from Page 4)

View from a Pew

never leave them but would journey with them daily and rest with them at night. Indeed, God appeared as a pillar of cloud, on top of the Ark during the day, and a pillar of fire by night if travel was required after dark. The Israelites were also living in tents, or tabernacles, during the 40 year journey to the promised land.

In contrast, Jesus was with us on Earth only a short time; his incarnation was to be brief. The image of pitching a tent perfectly evokes the temporary status of Jesus' earthly mission. Tents are transitory, usually erected for short periods of time.

Paul and Peter, in their letters, refer to the human body as a tent. And, given our short lifespan in comparison to eternity, this analogy is apt. Peter's second letter has a sense of urgency to it. He is trying to get his message across, knowing his death is imminent. He says in 2 Peter 1:13. "*I think it right, as long as I am in this body (Greek = tent or skenoo) to refresh your*

memory, since I know that my death will come soon

Finally, Paul, in 2 Corinthians, also compares our bodies to "earthly tents" and gives us this glorious assurance of the permanence of the believer's place in Heaven, in contrast to our brief earthly lives: "*For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.* "(1 Corinthians 5: 1-2).

During this Advent season, let's remember what's really important: we live short lives in temporary bodies, but we have a Savior that loved us enough to come down to earth and experience what it felt like to be human, enduring cold, hunger, and pain, like us. And after he surrendered his tent, he went back to Heaven to prepare a place for us, a permanent place, where we, as believers, will live with him forever.

Hallelujah!

Leslie Durrant

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





Advent is here...

The Advent wreath began as a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles (all colors are used in homes in Europe). What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

As Advent wreaths began to be used by congregations on Sundays in some places in Europe and America beginning in the late 19th century, several adaptations were made to make them work better in public worship spaces. Candles needed to be larger and more uniform than the "daily candles" handmade or purchased for home use. They also needed to be more uniform in color to fit with other décor in the sanctuary. That is why candles used in the Advent wreath are usually purple or blue, to coordinate with color of the paraments used during this season.

This shift in context from home to public use also made it important in the eyes of some for the candles to be given a meaning more than simply marking time and increasing light. This led to special ceremonies being developed for lighting these special candles each week.

As this practice began to catch on by the mid-twentieth century, several church supply houses who sold Advent wreaths and candles for public worship also developed resources,

banners, and bulletin covers assigning a theme to each week, and thus each candle, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. Those themes were Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace, in that order.

Today, almost no one uses those one-year lectionaries, so those themes may not always fit the scriptures we hear in worship. The one exception is the Third Sunday of Advent, where the current lectionaries have continued to support the centuries old observance of "Gaudete" or "Joy Sunday." That is why church supply houses often offer rose or pink colored candles for the wreath for use on this day.

So how may we talk about the meaning of the Advent wreath today?

We can reclaim the original home use of marking time with the hope of increasing light as we await the return of Christ, that day when "The city no longer has need of the sun or the moon to shine upon it, because the glory of God illuminates it, and its lamp is the lamb."

And we can develop meanings or themes for each week based on the focus of the scriptures themselves. After all, the candles and the wreath are an accessory, not an end in themselves. Their meaningfulness comes from how we use them to point toward Christ, the world's true light, who was, and is, and is to come.

This content was produced by Ask The UMC, a ministry of United Methodist Communications



Midway Kids add to worship November 21

Our Sunday School class of Midway Kids added a special touch to worship with a song, "In the Beginning," November 21.

Beth Luetjen, who directs the musical portion of the Sunday School, directed the kids in their animated performance.





Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

The Kitchen Cabinet

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! May you all have a blessed 2022.

The holidays are upon us and we all think of sweets. Here is a simple vanilla pound cake you can either serve plain with a cup of spiced cider or serve with your favorite berry sauce.

Enjoy! *Hope Burkart*

Vanilla Pound Cake

1 cup shortening
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
2 TABLESPOONS vanilla extract (not a mistake)
3 cups flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup butter milk*

Glaze

1 cup confectioner's sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 to 2 tablespoons milk

In large bowl cream shortening and sugar till fluffy. Add eggs one at a time and vanilla.

Combine flour, baking powder and baking soda and add to creamed mixture alternate with buttermilk.

Pour into greased and floured 10-inch tube pan.

Bake 350 degrees for 55-60 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes before removing from pan to wire rack. Drizzle glaze on top.**

*If you don't have buttermilk you can mix 1 T of vinegar to 1 cup milk to make "buttermilk"

**May add food coloring (red/green) to make it festive.

Reminder of the Gorgeous Girls Lunch Bunch

Last month a few of us met for lunch and decided it would be a fun thing to do each month. We were deciding on what to call this lunch bunch and came up with Gorgeous Girls, in honor of our dear friend, Leon Brown. He thought each one of us was gorgeous – at least that's what he called us!

We are going to meet the **4th Monday of each month at 11:00**. Each month, a new place. Since the holidays are upon us, we will officially begin the Gorgeous Girls Lunch Bunch on **Monday, January 25 at 11:00 at D.Rowe's**. Each month we will have a new volunteer pick the place for the next month and make necessary reservations (if possible). So, come join us for some fun places to eat that you may have not even thought of. If you're like me, I tend to frequent the same restaurants, so I'm looking forward to trying new places, new cuisine, and visiting with new/old friends.

If you are interested in being on the list for the Gorgeous Girls Lunch Bunch, send me an email and I'll add you to the list. Each month, I'll send out a reminder email to those on the list with all the details and ask that you *RSVP to me* so that we know how many to expect.

Looking forward to a new adventure together!

*Kathy Koehler
kkoehler1976@gmail.com
(home) 573-875-8772 (leave a message)*

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

Christmas has come early to Twice Blessed this year! We are the proud and ever so excited recipients of two large, benevolent donations. The first being given in honor of our own Gary Hughes: a memorial commemorating the love he had for this church and for this mission. The second was a grant given through Veteran's United. Both gifts will be applied to the expansion of our existing building, adding much needed storage.

There are no words to express our gratitude for these two most generous gifts!

Update from Twice Blessed

We had a busy November with a record number of families served. The number of new clients continues to increase as well. We're busy getting ready for the Christmas Store. If YOU know of anyone who may be having a difficult time and struggling to provide a Christmas for their family this year, please let them know about our upcoming event, which will be held from 10:00-2:00 on Saturday, December 11th.

PS— we could use a few candy canes for Santa to pass out that day! AND – if you have any wrapping boxes/bags for the wrapping station we could use them, as well!

Jill and Glenna

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


Open Dec. 2 & 16
Twice blessed


Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00

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

Christmas Is Coming & We Need Your Help!



**Twice Blessed is sponsoring our
First Annual Christmas Store
for area families who need a little help
this holiday season.**

This is your perfect chance to re-gift or donate those unused items gathering dust in your basement and take advantage of upcoming sales and clearance!
Bicycles...Toys...Games...Costume Jewelry...
Gifts for ALL ages – something YOU'D like to get!



M I D W A Y
LOCUST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202



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Church phone: 573-445-4667
Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
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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

Forty-plus years ago, my late wife, Mary Kaye, had joined the choir here at our church. Then, as now, every Wednesday night was practice night, and it was my job to drive her to the church.

As those of you who knew Mary Kaye, you will remember she loved to feed people. She combined those two interests, cooking and singing into a tradition that continues for me today in a somewhat altered pattern, but still a continuation of weekly visits.

Each Wednesday, she would prepare a variety of food items for our dear friend, Dell Cunningham to enjoy for most of the next week. After dropping Mary Kaye off at the church for choir practice, I would

Find the hidden circuit rider  in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.midwaylocustgrove.com

Volume 34 Issues 12 December 2021

If we had a Message Board...

Join us for lunch,
12:00 noon
Tuesday, December 14
Bring a dish to share.

take the food to Dell and we would visit until it was time to get back to the church.

After Mary Kaye died in July of 2017, I continued those Wednesday night visits, although without food except for occasional stashes of chocolates.

Dell was a treasure of local history, having been born about a mile up the road from our church in 1916. She often told of walking to church with her family in her youth after joining the church.

While Dell was able to remain at home due to her daughter Jane's incredible act of caring for her, after four years it became evident that she needed to be in a care facility, which she is now, at age 105. She always mentions Mary Kaye's food service

My goal is to maintain one constant thing in her life; I hope to visit her at least once a week, with an occasional stash of her favorite chocolates.