



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.
Midway Students
5 to 7 p.m.

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

Thursday, December 8
Sewcial Sisters Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11

6:00 p.m.

Choir's Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 13 —Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

Advent

November 27—December 25

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist



Locust Leaves

Volume 35

Number 12

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Intentional Invitations

Just after our family moved here in the summer of 2020, I asked you all to share the names and addresses of family, friends, and neighbors you would like to invite to church. During that time, you were very faithful in sharing lists of folks with me, and I began writing each person a handwritten invitation to worship. I wrote three notes per day, and by the end of that first semester, everyone on the list had received a personal invite. Well, it's time to do it again!

The holiday season, followed closely by New Year's, is one of two times per year when folks are most likely to accept an invitation to church. Each week, as part of our Mid-Week Check In's, I encourage you to be intentional in inviting family, friends, and neighbors to come with you to worship. I want to join you in that endeavor in the coming weeks.

If you have individuals or families you have been consistently inviting to worship but have not seen here on a Sunday morning; I would like to drop them a note in the mail. If you have had folks in mind for a while but have not mustered up the courage to extend the invite, I would also like to write them. Sometimes a note from us will lead those you know to initiate the conversation with you, making it much easier to break the ice.

If you will email me their names and addresses (blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com), I will write three daily notes and drop them in the mail. This way, together, we can reach more people and welcome them into our authentic faith community. So who are you thinking of right now? Let's be intentional about inviting them soon!



Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

LEARNING LADIES ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Do you want to learn more about Saul and David? If so, join the Tuesday women's Bible study. The group is studying the book of Samuel. The study is open to women of all ages and knowledge of the Bible. The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights via ZOOM. For more information, contact Marjorie McFann, mjmcfann@hotmail.com or 573-445-5650.

New Church Directory in the works

Louise Stanley and Jane Bensussen have been working on updating the Church Directory, and are ready to start the process. In December, we will be updating and



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

printing a new directory for 2023. We have had many new folks attending our church and would like to include everyone who wishes to share their contact information. If you have changed any of your information recently or have attended and are not included in last year's directory, please fill out the form on the welcome table.

Please send the information to Jane Bensussen jbesuss@aol.com

We had another good month for income, collecting over \$19,000 for our offering. This is well above what is required for the budget. For the year, we are averaging over \$19,000 monthly, so we are doing well. Our apportionments have been paid in full, and we have a nice balance in our general fund account.

In addition to this, we collected a total of \$2,602 for our new chairs. The generous donors who had issued the match challenge contributed \$2,016, which is the cost of half of the chairs. So due to the generosity of those contributing for chairs, we actually collected \$586 more than the \$4,032 that was needed for the purchase.

The overage amount will be used for other equipment as needed. We still need to buy another chair dolly for moving the chairs, but that is unavailable at present. It looks like we will have to wait on that, just as we had to wait on the chairs to become available.

The lease on our printer/copier is due to expire soon, so we will be looking for one that is more user friendly. If there is anyone in the congregation who has expertise in office machines, and who would be willing to help in this process, please contact me.

We could really use your assistance. My home phone number is 573 881-2730, and my email here at church is nmoreau.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

**Know something nice about someone?
Let us know about it
for KUDOS.**



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Canceled for December.
Mark your calendar for
January 23, 2023. Location
to be announced in
January Locust Leaves.
Merry Christmas.

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

Happy Birthday

December 2022

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

*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.*

*Do for others what you want them
 to do for you. Matthew 7:12*

Loaves and Fishes team serves 163 meals

November Loaves and Fishes was shared with Boy Scout Troup 68. They meet at our church on Monday nights. While Kevin Yaeger and Stan Frink and company were frying fish, potatoes and hush puppies our Boy Scouts were busy fixing green beans and desserts.

The Boy Scouts even changed their camping weekend to help us serve.

We served 163 plates of food that night. As portions were getting slim we had a Good Samaritan stop by with a large tray of fried chicken and cheesy potatoes.

If you have never helped serve before please think about it. It truly is a Labor of Love and very humbling. Our next time to serve is January 7, 2023. Steve and Lynda Baumgartner have already donated 2 hams for us to make Ham and Beans.

Thank you all for your support!

Sherri Perry





MIDWAY STUDENTS

By Evan Hughes
Director of Student Ministries

I am simply amazed by the group that God has gathered together since launching Midway Students. The youth that attend every Sunday night are incredibly fun to be around, and each week I look forward to the time we will share with each other.



At the start of this month, we had our very first Midway Students give back day! By partnering with Services for Independ-

ent Living, we were able to remove a large patch of an invasive plant in the backyard of a lady named Mary-Kate.

This was a project she had wanted to take care of for over 15 years! Next spring she plans to fill this area in with beautiful native plants. While we do not have any pictures from the day (yes, I am the type of guy who completely forgets to take them) I can assure you that we were on our hands and knees in the dirt working hard.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported Midway Students, including the parents bringing their sons and daughters, those who have provided wonderful dinners, and those who have offered prayers and encouragement. Because of this church's constant generosity, I am confident that Midway Students will thrive for years to come.

With love,

Evan


It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. . .




Thank you to Sherri Perry and her team of decorators, Duane Perry, Gilbert and Barb Harville,

and Robyn Kaufman for bringing the season to visual glory. At right, Ryan and Laura Cunningham light the first of the season's Advent candles in worship.



GIVE THE GIFT OF MOBILITY



Mobility Worldwide®
MO - Columbia

Providing **Mobility Carts** to the world's most vulnerable since 1994.

Mobility Carts are three-wheeled, off-road wheelchairs operated by hand power. Built by a faith-based, non-profit, volunteer organization, **Mobility Carts** are delivered at no cost to people in developing countries who are unable to walk due to illness, disease, birth defects or injuries, including those caused by landmines.



Give Back session a blessing for worldwide recipients

Inspired by a presentation at the October Second Tuesday Lunch, a group from our church gathered for a Give Back Work Session November 14. Coordinated by Louise Stanley, the group spent several evening hours assisting in the creation of mobility carts at the founding center for Mobility Worldwide in Columbia.

A brief description of the organization is shown on the flyer cover at left. It was founded in Columbia in 1994 by Methodist Minister Mel West in association with a missionary and product designer in response to a tragic loss of mobility in Zaire due to land mines and polio.

A production shop was opened in 2000, and of the more than 90,000 carts deployed to over 100 countries, more than 29,000 of them have been deployed from Columbia. *(Continued on Page 8)*



Some jobs need describing to the volunteers, others can be handled by the skills brought to the job. All are equally important to the completion of a cart and getting it ready to be shipped to its future very proud and appreciative owner.





The Columbia facility recently announced a goal of making 50 carts a week in 2023, making the need for more volunteers even more critical. Please call them at 573-886-7877 if you are interested in helping.

According to the June newsletter, as of June 15, 750 carts have been built this year. For 2021, a total of 1,518 were built, and 21 shipments were made to nine countries. This was the result of 14,400 hours of work by over 200 volunteers, whose efforts were valued at \$431,280.

Executive Director Gary Moreau made the presentation at our church lunch, expressing the need for volunteers to handle the many steps in the production of a cart. He reports in his newsletter that production is down this year due to supply shortages and reduced volunteer participation. They have averaged 30 carts per week, and hope to average 50 per week in 2023.

As our Locust Grove team discovered, there are many small tasks required to build a cart, but until they are done, the rest of the process is at a stand still. If you are looking for a great way to spend an hour or two, nothing could reward you more.

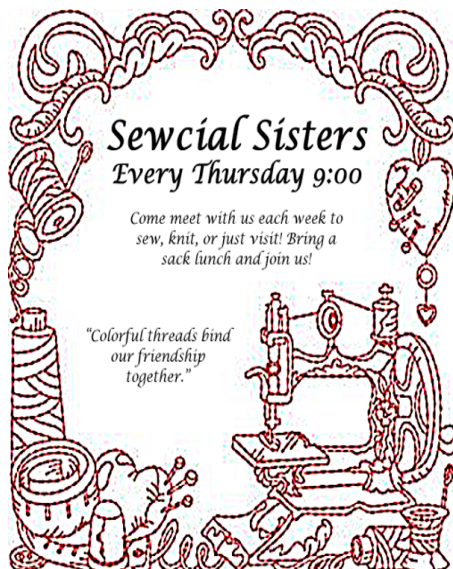
Fourteen hard workers showed up to help construct hand cranked, three-wheeled carts. A big thank you to Mariea Caruthers, Matt and Tim Praiswater, Gene Baumann, Margaret and John Preus, Beth Luetjen, Clete and Kathy Koehler, Jana and Jerry Wirth, Keith Andersen, Evan Hughes, and Louise Stanley.

Again, thank you to all of you who donated your time and talent. Donations are always welcome. Mail your contributions to Mobility Worldwide, 4825 E. Industrial Dr., Columbia MO 65201 c/o Gary Moreau.



In addition to carts, used sewing machines also are popular items to distribute worldwide.





Sisters to celebrate December 8

The Sewcial Sisters will be celebrating Christmas together on December 8th with food, gifts and friendship.

We continue to sew together on Thursdays from 9-4ish and always invite others to join us.

The last couple of months we have prayed hard for each other and families in our church. We have experienced many health hardships that only the Lord can ease!! Our prayer circle is strong. God is Good! Merry Christmas!

Poet's Corner

Crossing the Bar

By Alfred Lord Tennyson

Sunset and evening star,
And one clear call for me!
And may there be no moaning
of the bar,
When I put out to sea,

But such a tide as moving
seems asleep,
Too full for sound and foam,
When that which drew from out
the boundless deep
Turns again home.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of
farewell,
When I embark;

For tho' from out our bourne
of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to
face
When I have crost the bar.

All-Church Christmas Program December 11th 6:00

All-Church Christmas Program December 11th 6:00

Somewhere in My Memories



Annual Choir Christmas Program
Sunday evening, December 11, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Featuring the Chancel Choir and Midway Kids
Dessert to follow in the Social Hall
with a visit from Santa!

(alternate snow date 12/18/22)



MIDWAY
LOCUST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

All-Church Christmas Program December 11th 6:00

All-Church Christmas Program December 11th 6:00



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

***Oh Holy Night, the stars are brightly shining.
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.***

December is here and as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us be thankful for all our blessings!

Here is an alternative to serving turkey or ham. With prices going up at the grocery store a nice salmon filet can be a nice change. *Hope Burkart*

Spiced Salmon

1 - 2 lb salmon filet

Topping:

2 Tblsp packed brown sugar

1 Tblsp soy sauce

1 Tblsp melted butter

1 Tblsp olive oil

1/2 tsp garlic powder

1/2 tsp ground mustard

1/2 tsp paprika

1/2 tsp pepper

1/4 tsp dill weed

Dash salt

Mix topping ingredients and brush over salmon. Place salmon, skin side down on an oiled baking sheet. Grill, covered, over medium heat or broil 4 in. from heat until fish just begins to flake easily with fork, about 10-15 min.

The Burkart & O'Neal families would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Fellowship Hosts Needed

We will begin food and fellowship after church starting in January. It will be a little different now as it's been decided to only serve refreshments once a month. I am asking for 2 families to volunteer each month. The date of the month you choose to host will be up to you. It's flexible – whatever date works best for you will be when refreshments are served. A signup sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the office, so please fill in the blanks – your name, phone, and fill in a Sunday date for the month. If there are questions, please contact me. Thank you.

Kathy Koehler

kkoebler1976@gmail.com

(h) 573-875-8772

Volunteers needed at Midway Heights Elementary School

You can make a difference in the lives of the children at Midway School by volunteering in the classroom. Through Locust Grove Church, we will sponsor a program of volunteerism that would include tutoring, reading, assisting teachers with special projects, and providing treats for the approximately 30 teachers at Midway. If you would like to help out, sign up in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a process to meet the requirements of the school district which will include some paperwork and a background check.

Contact Louise Stanley or Shayla Roop if you have questions.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
December 13, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**

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

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

Open Dec. 1 & 15

**Twice
blessed**

*Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00*

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




Merry Christmas.
Thank you for supporting our
Christmas Store December 3
and our shop all year long.
Glenna and Jill

Honoring our Saints. As the photo below shows, the congregation stood November 6 in honor of those saints who have gone before us. As Erin White read the names of those we lost in the past year, friends and

family stood in memory of them. Those honored were Dell Cunningham, Charlotte "Elaine" Frink, Marvin Moore, Don Randall, Thelma Randall, Keith L. Sumner, and Edward St. Clair Walker





MIDWAY
LOCUST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST 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

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

Find the hidden circuit rider  in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 35 Issue 12 December 2022

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

**Join us for lunch,
12:00 noon
Tuesday, December 13
Bring a dish to share.**

The Back Row By Gene Baumann

We had a great crew at Mobility World-wide November 14, helping build mobility carts to be used around the world.

If you attended the October Second Tuesday Lunch, you learned about these remarkable three-wheeled personal energy carts operated by hand power for those who have lost the use of their legs.

Inspired by Director Gary Moreau's presentation, our church decided to have a Give Back Work Day at the Columbia facility, sharing both professional and newfound skills in cart building.

When I finished taking photos of our crew at work in the various aspects of the building process, I put the camera aside and

began assembling some sort of bracket which required three bolts placed in a metal framework, an integral part of the cart.

After learning the most efficient technique for my job, I felt I was playing an important role in the many steps of producing a cart.

It was a simple, but very rewarding, task; but the greatest reward crept into my thoughts the next day, when I realized that those parts I was assembling would find their way to someone in a far-away land who otherwise would be crawling on their hands and knees wherever they wanted to go.

I was one small part of an enormous team effort which has created 90,000 carts since 1974, with more than 29,000 of those coming from the program's birthplace here in Columbia. Be proud, MLGUMC.

See the photos in the center pages of this issue of *Locust Leaves*.