



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**

**Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.  
Women's Bible Study  
Meeting on ZOOM only.**

**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 6:30 p.m.  
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed**

**February 8 — 12:00 noon  
Second Tuesday Lunch**

**February 9 — 4:00-5:00 p.m.  
Compassionate Friends**

**February 18 — 10:30 a.m.  
Sewcial Sisters Lunch for Teachers**

**February 21 — 7:00 p.m.  
Ministry Council**

**February 25 — 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Family Fun— Pizza & Bingo**

*Midway Locust Grove United Methodist*



Volume 35

Number 2

February 2022

# Locust Leaves

## What Do You Say?

When our family moved here to serve alongside you in the summer of 2020, the number one desire of Midway Locust Grove UMC was to rebuild a healthy children's ministry and attract young families to worship among us.



Beyond  
the Pulpit  
**Pastor  
Ben  
Lee**

With this in mind, launching a children's ministry was a front-burner focus. Our leadership team began to fast, pray, and vision. In time, Midway Kids came into reality! With the overwhelming support, we created a remarkable space for the ministry to function, invest in the very best children's Bible curriculum available, and obtain top-shelf audio and visual technology. Thank you for stepping up to the plate and providing the means for us to be obedient to the Holy Spirit's leading.

From its inception, Shayla Roop has served this ministry from a place of deep conviction and poured herself into all things Midway Kids. Simply put, this ministry area would not be what it is without her leadership. Very early on, Shayla went to work and assembled a fantastic team of volunteers willing to teach the Sunday morning Midway Kids lessons. This team's devotion to excellence is apparent as we see children come bounding down the hall after worship, literally bouncing with joy. We love to see them nearly bubbling over in anticipation of sharing their memory Bible verses with their parents. As a Pastor, the highlight of any given Sunday is when one of our children comes to recite their memory verses to me. I can see glory on their faces as they speak the word of God!

As with any success, there have been bumps in the road here and there, but the Lord (through our congregation) has been proven faithful again and again. To be honest, we are in the midst of one of these bumps right now. While we have plenty of teachers, we are extremely short on guides. Each Sunday morning, we are required to have one male and one female guide in the room in addition to the teacher. As a guide, you might help a child find the scripture verse for the day in their Bible. Or you may sit beside a child who is a little shy and not feeling entirely comfortable yet. Truly, you will simply be present to make a difference in a young person's life. No preparation or prior experience is needed, just commit, show up, and be available to help our children grow in grace.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it." We need guides to direct our children, so what do you say? Will you volunteer to serve the next generation here at MLG? If so, please get in touch with Shayla at: [sroop@cpsk12.org](mailto:sroop@cpsk12.org). I know she will be relieved to hear from you!

Peace,  
*Ben*

# Ministries & Missions

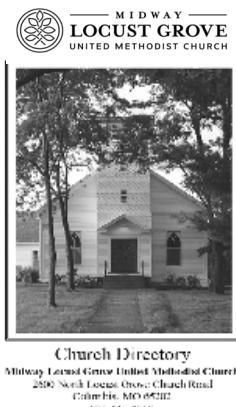
## Women's Bible Study

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 you can email her at [mjmcfann@hotmail.com](mailto:mjmcfann@hotmail.com)

## Church Calendar, Directory updated



Kaufman, and Jana Wirth for making the directory possible.

Please be sure to pick up your copy of the new 2022 Church Calendar. We are so grateful to Laurel Groh for taking the lead on this project. In addition, the updated 2022 Church Directory is available. Thanks to Gene Baumann, Robyn

## THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE YOUR CHURCH ....

*Offering Counters are needed after church.* There are two volunteers who count and tally the offering for the weekly church deposit. This is not a difficult job, although there is a procedure to follow. You will be trained, and you will be counting the offering 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 so that you know ahead of time when you're committed. It will be posted on the bulletin board, so if you have something come up, you can switch with someone. Please consider volunteering. This is not a huge commitment but one area at MLG where you could be of service. Contact me if you have questions or need more information. Thank you.

*Kathy Koehler*

Call (h) 875-8772 - leave a message, or email me: [kkoehler1976@gmail.com](mailto:kkoehler1976@gmail.com)

## Fellowship Hosts 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.

*Kathy Koehler*

## Price of cemetery plots to increase March 1

The Cemetery Committee met on December 5 to discuss the rising costs of maintenance. A motion was made and passed to increase the cost of gravesites to \$300. Sites in Columbia are five to ten times higher than that at our beautiful Village of Locust Grove. The new rates will start on

March 1, 2022. If you have thought about a spot in our cemetery, this would be a good time to reserve your final resting place. The map at the cemetery entrance is up to date showing open spaces. If you have any questions, please contact Cemetery Committee Chair Kevin Yaeger at 573-819-9210.



# TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

January did not begin well, since we had to cancel church two Sundays. However, in spite of that, our offering for the month totaled \$13,000. This is pretty good for a difficult month. Hopefully, we will not have to miss Sundays during the remainder of the winter.

We are in the process of developing a budget for 2022. As we are growing, an addition to staff and programming are being considered. This will, of course, cause an increase in the budget. Preliminary figures reflecting the potential additions show a total for the year of about \$200,000. This is easily doable, since we collected more than that in 2021. It does mean we will need to average about \$16,700 per month, or in round numbers, \$17,000. Please pray with me that we can meet this challenge as we each prayerfully consider our part in this growth plan.

And as always, thanks to everyone for the many ways you are serving our church and our community.



## Condolences

### Rev. Marvin Moore

**January 10, 1944 ~ January 30, 2022**

Rev. Marvin Richard Moore was born January 10, 1944 and died January 30, 2022, at Hilton Head, SC, after undergoing heart surgery two weeks prior.

He graduated from U High in Columbia, and attended church at MWLGUMC until the 1970's. He returned to MU for an undergraduate degree, and received his Masters of Divinity degree at SMU in 1993.

He then served Methodist churches in Texas for many years, semi-retiring to pastoring the Hardeeville UMC in Hardeeville, SC where he currently lived with Leigh. He is survived by his wife Leigh, son Don Moore (Denise), daughter Kimberly Strawn (Kevin) and Leigh's son Justin.

He is also survived by siblings, Bob Moore (Suzi), Judith Moore, Janice Bradley and Jane Elledge (John) and grandchildren Kourtney and Kameron Strawn; and Clay Moore. Marvin's parents, Morris and Udema Moore were longtime MLGUMC folks, prior to their passing. Marvin enjoyed his calling for preaching and singing for the Lord.

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



## Living Last Supper

*Luke 22: 19" Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me. And he did the same with the cup, saying, "this cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. But see, the one who betrays me is with me, and his hand is on the table. For the Son of Man is going as it has been determined, but woe to that one by whom he is betrayed. Then they began to ask one another which one of them it could be who would do this."*

We are looking for a few good men! That's right, some of our faithful church women have requested that we repeat our production of the "Living Last Supper", which has been done at least 3 times previously at Midway Locust Grove, most recently in 2009. And, with the success of Ben's ministry and men's bible study, we finally have many men attending church! So, Sherri Perry and I are hoping and praying that some of you will step up to the plate and volunteer to be a part of this.

At the last supper in the upper room,

Jesus shocks the disciples by telling them that he must die, and that one of them will betray him. They are stunned by this news. The artist Leonardo Da Vinci captured this moment in his famous painting of the last supper. The disciples are portrayed sitting at the table with Jesus in the center; each looks startled and surprised.

The "Living last supper" is a special Maundy Thursday church service mini-drama that attempts to bring this scene to life, and based upon biblical research, has each disciple briefly speak about what he might have been thinking on that fateful



*This recruiting poster did its job filling the slots.*

night. Each man representing a disciple will give a brief summary of what "his" disciple accomplished after the Resurrection and for the rest of his earthly life.

Each Disciple's "part" is short. Some are only a few sentences. The longest is 2 short paragraphs. While it is best to memorize the part, it is possible to use visual aids so that if memory falters you can read your part discreetly.

At the time of this writing, we have a volunteer to portray Jesus! But we still need more men to sign up for the part of a

*(Continued on Page 9)*

# In Memoriam



## Keith Sumner

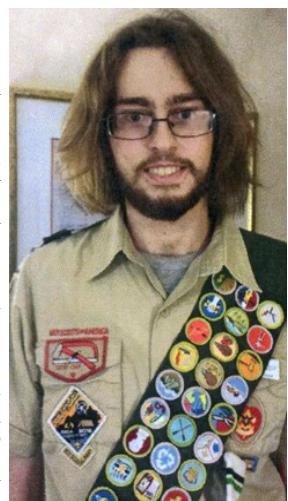
September 3, 2002 ~ January 3, 2022

We offer our prayers and condolences to Lloyd and Barbara Sumner of our congregation on the death of their son, Keith L. Sumner. Keith was born on Sept. 3, 2002 in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and his life ended abruptly in a tragic auto accident north of Columbia on January 3.

The family moved from Ardmore, OK to the Columbia area in 2016. Keith attended Hickman High School and had just completed his first freshman semester at the University of Missouri.

Keith was active in the Hickman band; recently earned the rank of Eagle Scout with BSA; and enjoyed cooking, bird watching, and composing and recording his own digital music. Keith had strong work ethics and worked as a Shift Manager at Pickleman's Restaurant for several years and recently started as a part time IT tech at Gravity Diagnostics as he transitioned into college.

Keith's family extends its condolences to the families of others whose lives ended in



## Happy Birthday February 2022

<b>1</b> Lee Sommer	<b>14</b> Steve Luetjen
<b>4</b> Dakota Jones	<b>14</b> LeeAnn Martin
<b>6</b> Jessica Martin	<b>16</b> Teagan Groh
<b>8</b> Bill Wegener	<b>20</b> Clay Moore
<b>8</b> Missy Barnes	<b>20</b> Robyn Kaufman
<b>11</b> Flo Praiswater	<b>23</b> Karla Sommer
<b>14</b> Jaxyn Moore	<b>26</b> Herb Stanley
<b>14</b> Wick Lee	

*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.*

the accident, Christopher McClain, Carmella McClain, and Jessica McKinlay.

Keith is survived by his parents, sister Jennifer Wolf and her husband Joseph Mangieri, girlfriend Kamryn Kreitz, and many other family members and close friends in Missouri and abroad.

Rev. Ben Lee conducted funeral services on January 15, in the Locust Grove sanctuary with visitation at 10 to 11a.m., and services and interment at 11 to 12 p.m., followed by a memorial luncheon provided by members of the church.

Arrangements were under the direction of Parker-Millard Funeral Service & Crematory, 12 East Ash Street, Columbia, MO 65203.

*He has called you into his presence;  
yet in my wounded heart  
the fond remembrance of you  
can never die.*

## Methodist Foundation helps pay for improvements

On January 11th, 2022, Rev. Laura Murphy from the Missouri United Methodist Foundation presented our church with a \$5,000 grant to help with our Future Glory Challenge. She is a retired Pastor and Director of Development for the Foundation.

Rev. Murphy joined us for Tuesday lunch then lead us in prayer and presented the money. She travels to Missouri churches and gives programs free of charge on a wide range of topics.

Our church is looking into one program called “Putting Your House in Order”. It includes how to take care of financial affairs, wills and trusts, planning your service of remembrance and burial wishes. And so much more.....

Thank you to Rev. Murphy and the MUMFoundation. Take time to visit the Foundation’s website at [www.mumf.org](http://www.mumf.org)

Beth Luetjen



*Rev. Ben and Beth Luetjen accept the check from Rev. Murphy during the lunch. Rev. Murphy then addressed the group. Below, Kathy Koehler coordinated the luncheon in the absence of Helen Brown who was dealing with some health issues. Cletus Koehler made it a team effort with a program on driver training, giving the group a quiz featuring questions from the driver's license exam.*





# Family Fun Night!

Friday, February 25  
6:00 - 8:00 PM

**Pizza Served at 6 pm!**  
**Bingo starts at 6:30!**  
**All ages welcome to play!**

FREE to attend & all are welcome!  
Invite friends, family & neighbors!



2600 N Locust Grove Church Rd.

## Your Prayers in regard to the Prayer Team:

We have 10 prayer warriors who have dedicated time every day to pray for the requests written on the backs of the "connection cards" signed every Sunday. Prayer requests can also be requested to any of the 10 prayer warriors any day of the week.

We as a team are committed to keep your requests confidential. We pray for each request every day for one month unless specified to be on the list longer. We love seeing God working through answered prayers and also gain joy when we are kept informed on prayer outcomes such as successful surgeries, or changes being prayed about actually happening.

We want our church family to feel confident about putting their requests in the hands of people who genuinely care and pray fervently.

Those on the team are: Gene Baumann, Marjorie McFann, Leslie Durrant, Bob and Suzi Moore, Karla Sommer, Margaret and John Preus, Kathy Hughes, and Ben Lee.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions you may have.

It is our pleasure to serve our church family in this way.

*Margaret Preus*

## By Leslie Durrant

As of this writing, Pine Ridge Lakota reservation is still under “red” condition with regard to COVID-19. The Oglala Sioux Tribe is restricting access to the Reservation except for permanent residents. Therefore, once again it is unlikely that we will be able to send a group of volunteers out to the Rez this summer.

I participated in a Zoom conference call last week with Re-Member’s Director and several long-time dedicated volunteers. We learned that conditions on the reservation are bad. The same inflated food and gas prices that are hitting us are hitting them harder, as this is one of the poorest counties in the US, and unemployment is about 85%. Many have lost loved ones to COVID. Native Americans have high rates of diabetes, making them more vulnerable to severe COVID.

Re-member has asked interested folks to help in the following way: Since we probably can’t go to the Rez this year, we are sponsoring: **“Operation Donation”**. This will involve creating a series of customized backpacks for different vulnerable groups on the Rez.

I was asked to head up the backpack drive for elders. I was given a suggested list of items to put in both a man’s and a woman’s backpack. New or gently used backpacks/items are suggested. Here are the lists:

### Elder Man’s Backpack:

**Socks, gloves, winter knit hat, tooth paste and tooth brush, T-shirt, XL, puzzle book, disposable razors, personal wipes.**

### Elder Woman’s Backpack:

**Socks, gloves, winter knit hat, tooth paste and tooth brush, T-shirt, XL, puzzle book, Depends (4 in a baggie), personal wipes.**



If you are interested in putting a backpack or two together, please label it as a man’s or woman’s and bring it to church. Kathy and I will be collecting them.

Additionally, several of us have been sponsoring a vulnerable individual on the reservation for a period of time. Sherri Stewart Has been sponsoring a reservation school-teacher. While she has steady employment, she has suffered devastating losses during the past 2 years, specifically her two young adult sons. One died of COVID, and one died of a brain hemorrhage. She struggles with grief. Bill and I have been sponsoring a young adult who has moved away from the Rez and learned a trade (welding). He was raised by his grandparents, as his parents were hopelessly drug addicted. He had been “making it” on his own, with a welding job and his own apartment off the Rez, but he recently took in his younger sister, who is alcoholic. He is big-hearted and wants to help her, but she is manipulative and is making his life very difficult.

Kathy Hughes is also sponsoring some individuals. Sponsoring these folks isn’t easy, and often involves long telephone calls and other types of help. However, it is rewarding, and isn’t this what Jesus calls us to do? I am reminded of the hymn: “Here I Am, Lord”,, and the words: **“I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send? Here I am, Lord, is it I lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.”**

Have you too heard the call of the Lord in the night to help some of the poorest people in North America? If so, I hope that you will prayerfully consider lending your help to this effort. Thank you!

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

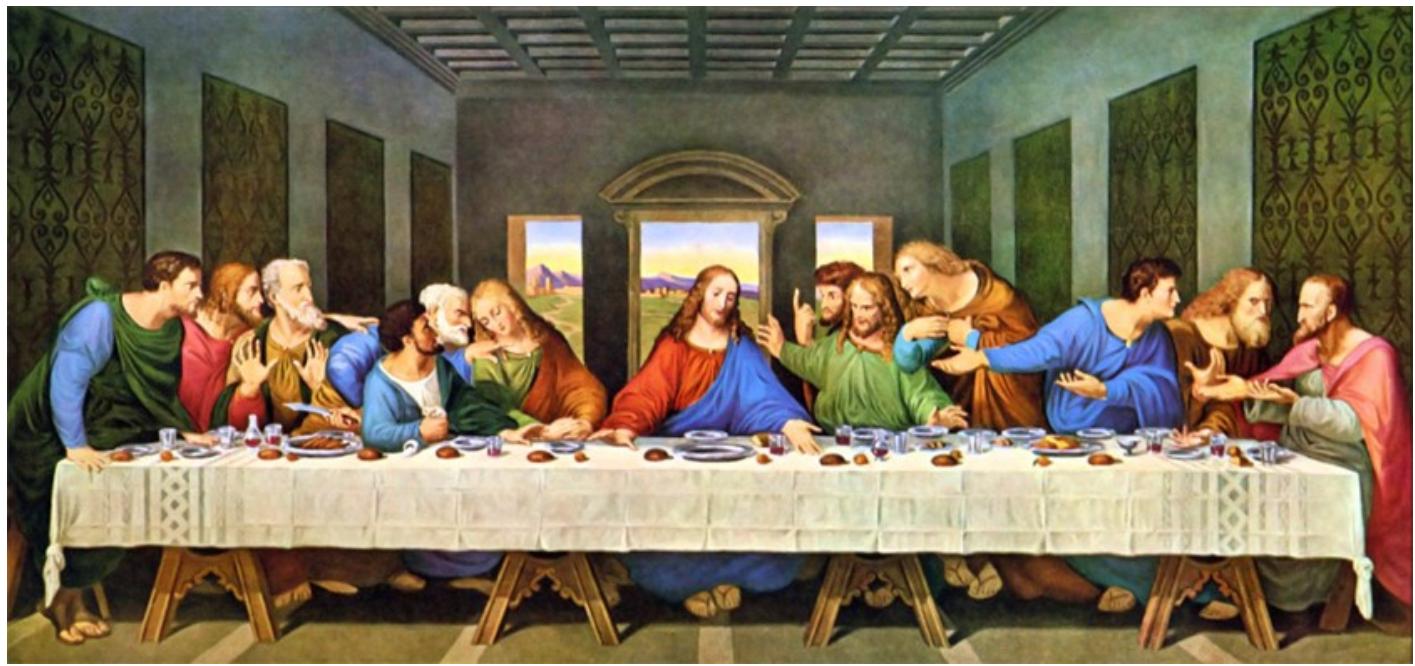
disciple.

The best gift that you will receive for agreeing to be part of this special service is that as you learn about “your” disciple and hear the other disciple’s stories, your faith will grow. I have seen this production at least 4 times and each time I have come away with an even greater awe for the power of Jesus’ Resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost in transforming these men from simple, ordinary folk like you and I into men that changed the world! Men that would not stop preaching the Word even though they were threatened with death repeatedly! And finally, men that went willingly to their deaths, praising God and forgiving their murderers while dying, for all to hear.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, they were not afraid, and they knew that they were preaching the Truth.

Please prayerfully consider participating in this service. The sewcial sisters have agreed to help with the creating robes for participants! A few short rehearsals will be needed. The parts are posted in the fellowship hall, and there is a sign-up sheet. Thank you so much for considering our request to be a part of this, and helping to proclaim the Truth about our Savior, and the effect that he had on changing the lives of these humble men, who went on the change the world!

***Editor’s note: Before we went to press with this issue, all the roles in this presentation were filled, thanks to those volunteering to help with the portrayal.***



*The Disciples as we know them, left to right: Nathaniel — Bill Wegener; James the Lesser — George Wieberg; Andrew — Chadd Fuemmeler; Judas Iscariot — Ben Lee; Peter — Travis O’Neal; John — Keith Andersen; Jesus — Tony Martin; Thomas — Jon Klaas; James the Greater — Leon Basham; Philip — Kendall Gessling; Matthew — Warren Filbert; Jude Thaddeus — Bill Roop; Simon the Zealot — Joe Burkart.*



# The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering  
Mary Kaye's  
Food Ministry

Roses are Red Violets are Blue here is a Valentine recipe for you!

Quick and easy but elegant looking casserole to serve your honey with a nice salad and bottle of wine.

Enjoy!

*Hope Burkart*

## Pork Chops & Rice

4-6 pork chops  
1 small onion cut into sliced rings  
2 cans Cream of Mushroom Soup  
4 cups Minute Rice uncooked  
4 cups water  
Paprika to taste  
Salt and pepper

Brown pork chops. While browning, mix water, rice and soup. Pour into 9x13 casserole pan. Lay sliced onion rings on top. when pork chops browned lay on top of onions. Sprinkle with paprika. Cover with foil and bake 350 degrees for 30-45 min-

**Join us for  
Second Tuesday Lunch  
February 8, Noon.  
Bring a dish and friend.**



## A near disaster at The Brick Chapel

Prior to the Civil War, the Midway Methodist Church was known as The Brick Chapel, built with on-site hand-made bricks. The chapel was the scene of many dramatic incidents. One near tragic one was during the Civil War when, one Sunday morning Federal troops interrupted the services and took all the men outside. Mrs. Cyrena Lyons tried to intercede but was pistol whipped into submission.

The women were locked in the church and the men lined up outside to be shot. John Lyons asked that he be allowed to pray. What the Federals didn't know is that Mr. Lyons was well known for his long prayers. As he continued, someone noticed a cloud of dust rising from Bowman Hill across from the church.

They instantly shouted, "Bill Anderson! Bill Anderson!" The Federal troops noticed the dust and didn't wait to see if it really was the infamous guerilla leader or not. They mounted their horses and rode away, leaving their intended victims safe and sound.

The cloud of dust was raised by the horses of two quite peaceful riders on their belated way to church.

Midway Locust Grove  
United Methodist Church

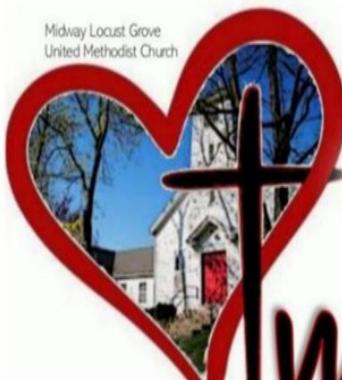
*Basic necessities free of charge  
to those temporarily in need*

**Open Feb. 3 & 17**

**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

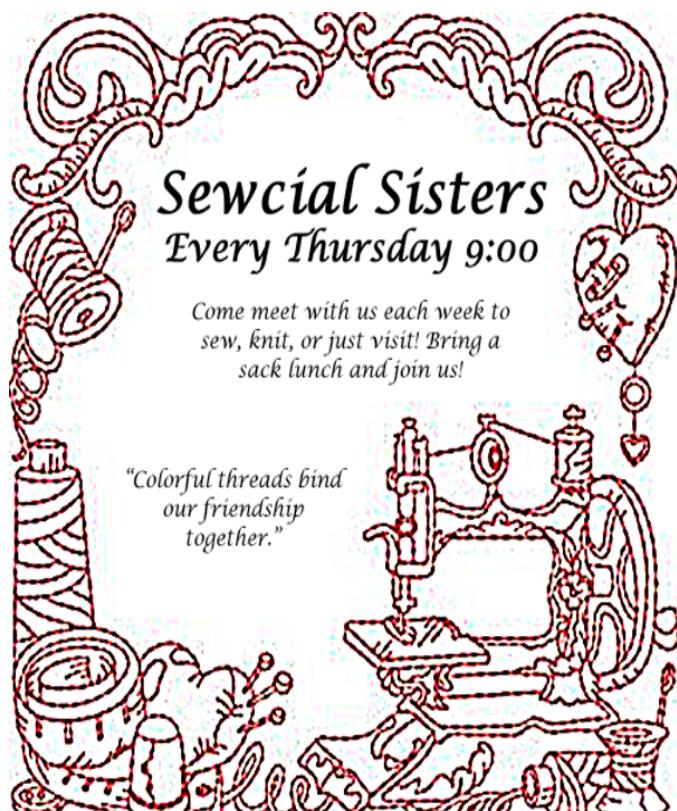




## Sewcial Sisters continue projects

The Sewcial Sisters will continue to meet and work on Mission Projects in 2022. We will be providing a soup lunch to all teachers and staff at Midway Elementary School on February 18. We always welcome any new “stitchers” to come and join us every Thursday at 9:00 a.m.!!

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





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](mailto:mwlocustgrove@gmail.com)  
Email: [blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com](mailto:blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com)  
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:***

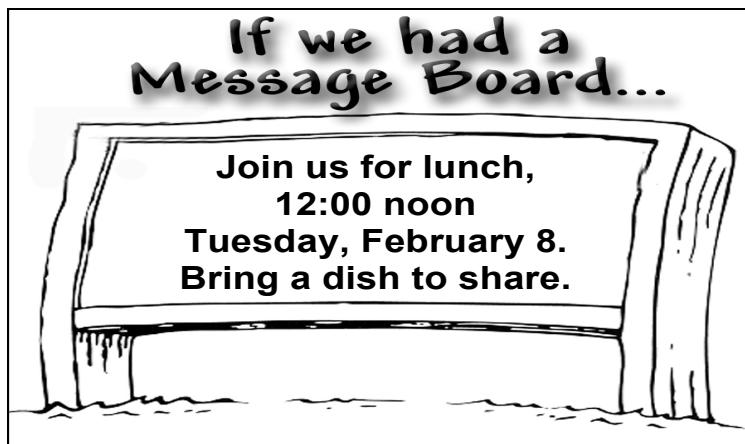
***To celebrate God's presence in everything we do, bring our neighbors to Jesus and fellowship in our church family, develop them to be followers of Jesus, and equip them for service ministry and life missions to communicate God's word, in order to magnify God's name.***

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann  
[Rocheport@aol.com](mailto:Rocheport@aol.com) 445-1998

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

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

*Volume 35 Issues 2 February 2022*



## **The Back Row** By Gene Baumann

Those of you who have been around our church a while may recall my obsession with a newly published book in 2002, "When God Winks."

In his introduction, the author Squire Rushnell wrote, "This book will validate your feelings that there's more to coincidence than meets the eye."

"It also fosters hope for the dreams of the future by unveiling the wondrous map that has quietly guided you along the path of your past.

"God has been winking at you."

He has winked at me many times in the past 20 years, and continues to do so, as he does for you, even if you don't realize it.

As I was putting together this issue of Locust Leaves. I felt the need for a photo of out cemetery, The Village of Locust Grove. You can see that photo at the bottom of page two.

After taking the photo, as I was leaving slowly along the driveway, looking into the mass of grave markers, the CD in my truck started playing a song, "Wishing You Were Somehow Here Again."

It stopped me in my tracks, an emotional wreck as I marveled at the coincidence . . . no, the *Godwink* . . . that had occurred. I play this CD all the time when I'm driving, but for it to appear at that moment had to be divine intervention as I thought about my wife and the many friends and loved ones who reside in The Village.

That song will play in my mind, if not on the truck radio, with every future visit.