



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries & Missions	2
Birthdays	3
Midway Students	4
Prayer Team	5
Disaffiliation issue	6-7
God's Will for You	8
Vacation Bible School	9
Kitchen Cabinet,	10
Twice Blessed	11
The Back Row	12

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

Monday, February 13 — 6 p.m.

Vote on disaffiliation

Tuesday, February 14 —Noon

Second Tuesday Lunch

February 17-20

Midway Students Ski Trip

Monday, February 20 — 7 p.m.

Ministry Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday Service

Saturday, February 25 — 6 p.m.

Family Fun Night

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist



Volume 36

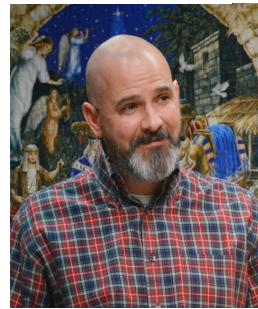
Number 2

February 2023

LOCUST LEAVES

The Season of Lent

This month, as the season of Epiphany comes to a close, we will wrap up our current series, Citizens of Heaven. In the Christian calendar, Lent follows Epiphany. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday (February 22, 2023) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 8, 2023). It is traditionally understood as a time of fasting and repentance, commemorating Jesus's fasting in the wilderness, which anticipated the beginning of his public ministry. Lent is a time of self-examination and reflection. The Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." On these Sundays, Lent's solemn spirit is replaced by the holy anticipation of the coming resurrection. We learn to rely on Christ during Lent for all our deepest needs. Our six-part Lenten series, "I Shall Not Want," will bring this focus to the forefront.



Beyond
the Pulpit
**Pastor
Ben
Lee**

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 22. That evening at 6 pm, we will gather as a community of faith to recognize our human mortality and sin before God. While this may sound a little heavy, the service is a beautiful realization that both our sin and mortality have been overcome by the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The use of ashes is ancient. Repeatedly in the text, ashes are closely connected with God's people seeking forgiveness. One remarkable fact about the ceremony is how the ashes are made by burning the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. What a full-circle message! If you worship with us that evening, as the sign of the cross is made with ashes upon your forehead, you will hear: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return," which comes from God's words to Adam in Genesis 3:19.

I believe we can all agree that these past two months have been a heavy time in the life of our church. No one has been immune to it, we have all felt the weight, and we are all mourning in our own ways. This year, Lent simply could not come at a better time. As we journey through this season together, I pray that we rely on Jesus Christ for our deepest needs while remembering that we know how the story ends!

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

LEARNING LADIES ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Continuing in February, the Tuesday night Bible Study will still be in Psalms to the study of Samuel. David wrote many psalms during his lifetime. They reflect on the experiences of the human heart, revealing how God's people should turn to him in times of anguish, pain, remorse, joy, and thanksgiving.

Join the Learning Ladies on Tuesday nights at 7:00. The sessions are via zoom. For more information and/or to join, contact Marjorie McFann, mjmcfann@hotmail.com or 573-445-5650.

It is Pizza and Bingo Night again February 25

Come join us for Family Fun Night on Saturday February 25 from 6- 8 pm. It is our 2nd annual Pizza and Bingo Night where families can participate in an enjoyable evening of fellowship with friends



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

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

Offering for January was a little less than we have been receiving, with only about \$16,000 collected. I would guess this will pick up as we move forward. We still have a nice balance in our general fund account, so everything is good.

Contribution statements for 2022 were mailed January 30. If you did not receive yours or if you have questions, please contact me by phone or email.

Thanks to everyone who is supporting the church in anyway.

nmoreau.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
573 881-2730

Join us for Second Tuesday Lunch
February 14. Bring a childhood
memento for the program.



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

**Monday, February 20
11:00 a.m.
Locust Grove UMC
Midway**

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

Something different for the Gorgeous Girls in February

Monday, February 20 at 11:00 at church. This will be a little different gathering. We will have a carry-in lunch and Marsha Coleman will show us how to make her famous mustard. For any of you who have tried her mustard when she hosts the fellowship after church, you know how delicious it is. For those who haven't, come join us and see for yourself how good it is. Bring a dish to share and the recipe. Marsha will get the ingredients needed and we will share the cost. We need to know how many are interested so we can plan accordingly and get enough ingredients. ***Please let me know ASAP*** if you can come so Marsha can place an order for supplies. **NOTE the date - different from our usual.**

Kathy Koehler

Email: kkoehler1976@gmail.com

573-875-8772 home (leave message)

Happy Birthday

February 2023

1 Lee Sommer	14 LeeAnn Martin
6 Jessica Martin	15 Abigail Gessling
8 Bill Wegener	16 Rena Crane
8 Missy Barnes	16 Teagan Groh
11 Flo Praiswater	20 Clay Moore
11 James Roberts	(email only)
13 Jill Walker	20 Robyn Kaufman
14 Emma Klaas	23 Karla Sommer
14 Jaxyn Moore	24 Huyen Le
14 Wick Lee	26 Herb Stanley
14 Steve Luetjen	

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
DEAR FRIENDS,
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!



Birthdays roll around every year to remind us how special we are. The day we were born is part of who we are, even though we share that date with millions of others. Our church birthday angel is Tami Gessling. On behalf of all of us, Tami sends you a warm message to celebrate your day. We have updated our birthday listing and hope that we now recognize everyone in the congregation. Birthday greetings let you know how much we care. And to Tami, thank you for your countless expressions of happy birthday filled with Christian love.

Jane Bensussen



MIDWAY STUDENTS

*By Evan Hughes
Director of Student Ministries*

Everyone knows just how frustrating it can be to talk over a group of people. The past few Sunday nights, I have been having to do that quite often. However, I am not frustrated. Rather, I am overjoyed that our youth are naturally connecting with each other! A shift definitely occurred this past



month. Feelings of awkward tension have left Midway Students, and a sense of genuine community is now taking their place. Every single time one of our students brings a new friend to partake in this community, I am deeply encouraged.

From February 17th-20th, we will be going to West Virginia to enjoy our first annual ski retreat! All of us are thoroughly looking forward to it, and I am sure that we will come back with some fun stories to tell. Once again, thank you all for your continued support of Midway Students.

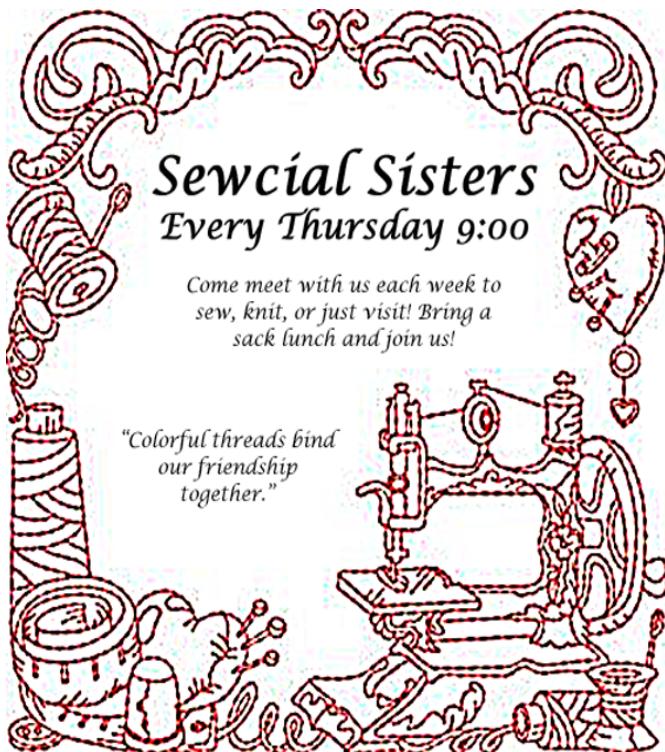
With Love,

*Evan
Evan Hughes*

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

Thanks to Angie Gerzen for preparing this month's boards.





The Sewcial Sisters are working on red, white, and blue patriotic quilts for Honor Flight participants. We are looking forward to attending the National Quilt Show in Branson later in March. We meet every Thursday 9:00 a.m. in lower level of church. Come join us and bring a project to work on.

Beth Luetjen

Church Directory ready for use



The updated church directory has been published and is available in the Fellowship Hall. Please limit to one copy for each family.



The Prayer Team

By Margaret Preus

On the back of the connection cards there is a place for prayer requests. Those prayer requests if not for Ben Lee only are sent to our Midway Locust Grove Prayer Team. We are a team of 12 prayer warriors who have dedicated time every day to pray for those requests. Requests can also be given to any of the 12 prayer warriors any day of the week.

We as a team we are committed to keep your requests confidential. We pray for each requests every day for one month unless specified to be on the lists longer. We love seeing God working through answered prayers. We 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, Lou Pegues, Ben Lee, and Belinda Thompson.

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

Preparing to vote on February 13

With our Special Church Conference coming up on February 13, 2023, at 6 pm, we have been working diligently for months to ensure our membership role is up-to-date and accurate. As you can imagine, the process has been quite the Rubik's cube. Over several weeks, we have touched base with anyone we believed to be a member but were unsure of.

Likewise, many of you have reached out to us over the past few weeks to confirm you are on our membership role. If you have not done so but would like to confirm, please send an email (mwlocustgrove@gmail.com), and we will be more than happy to check for you.

On the night of February 13, 2023, at 6 pm, **only present Professing Members** will receive a ballot to vote. Membership in local congregations of The United Methodist Church comes with four different labels:

Baptized Members: People who have been baptized by water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and who wish to be (or, in the case of **infants and children** - are sponsored to be) members of a local congregation of the United Methodist Church.

Professing Members: Those who have professed the faith of this church for themselves, using the language and ritual of Baptismal Covenant.

Affiliate Members: Professing members of another United Methodist Church who may be temporarily far from their home congregation and wish to connect with the life, ministry, and care of a congregation nearer to where they now are for a time.

Associate Members: Non-United Meth-

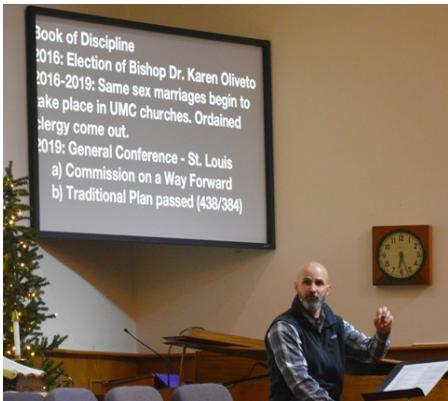
odists currently located at some distance from their home church. They have been baptized by water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in another Christian denomination, wish to connect with a local United Methodist Church, but wish to retain their current denominational affiliation rather than become professing members of The United Methodist Church while in their current location.

Again, at our Special Church Conference on the night of February 13, 2023, at 6 pm, **only present Professing Members** will receive a ballot to vote. Our goal is for the sign-in and ballot process to be as seamless as possible. If you have questions, please reach out now.

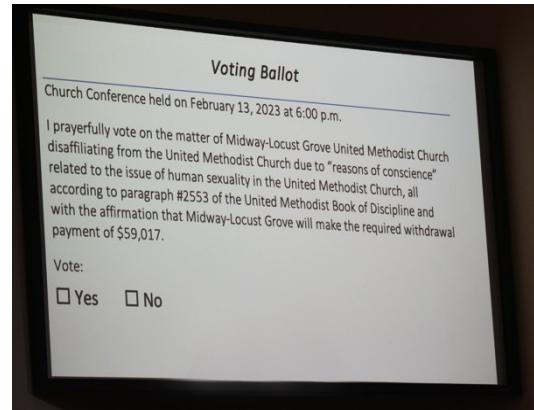
At a recent Administrative Council meeting, a member raised the question of providing childcare for February 13th meeting. We all agreed that we would like everyone who wishes to attend the meeting to be able to do so.

If providing childcare would allow you to participate in the meeting when you otherwise would not be able to, please contact us by email (mwlocustgrove@gmail.com) to let us know, and we will work to provide childcare.

I encourage you to set aside specific times to fast and pray for our local church. Please continue to keep open, honest communication at the forefront of our relationships. And now more than ever, it is imperative that we stay in our rhythms of grace (study, prayer, authentic community, silence, solitude, and service). *Peace, Ben*



After three meetings of explanations and discussions, it is time for the members of our congregation to cast their votes regarding disaffiliation with the United Methodist Church. Details of that February 13 vote have been discussed in the meetings and are presented below in detail. A copy of the ballot, at right, was shown at the third meeting at which members expressed their view on the matter.



Notice of Voting

On the 13th day of February, 2023, at 6 p.m., a special session of the church conference (pursuant to paragraphs 246-248 of the *United Methodist Book of Discipline, 2016*) will be convened and held at Midway-Locust Grove United Methodist Church, located at 2600 North Locust Grove Church Road, Columbia, MO 65202. This special session will be held solely for the purpose of hearing and voting upon a recommendation by the Leadership Council to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church pursuant to paragraph 2553 of the Book of Discipline. Paragraph 2553 grants local churches a limited right to disaffiliate for "reasons of conscience" regarding the United Methodist Church's position and/or enforcement of rules related to human sexuality.

This proposal includes authorization of the officers of Midway-Locust Grove United Methodist Church to execute and enter into a Disaffiliation Agreement and accompanying documentation for the purpose of extinguishing any interest the Annual Conference has in the church's real and personal property, as well as the payment of the Missouri Annual Conference's standard withdrawal payment as defined in paragraph 2553. All professing members are invited and encouraged to attend. By authorization of Rev. Mi Hyeon Lee, District Superintendent of the North Central District, the church conference will be conducted by Rev. Nate Berneking, an ordained Elder and Director of Finance & Administrative Ministries of the Missouri Annual Conference.

This notice is given by Rev. Lee and the Leadership Council of Midway-Locust Grove United Methodist Church.

What is God's Will for You?

Dr. Larry Gilbert

Many good books have been written on the subject of *God's will*, but many will unintentionally mislead you. So let's address what may be confusing by looking at *what God's will for you is not*.

God's will for you...

•*Is not bad.* God is our loving Father and he wants only the best for His children. He is not going to put us in any situation that will compromise our effectiveness to serve Him. That would be contrary to God's nature.

•*Is not fixed.* We have all made many mistakes along the way and the idea that God's will is non-bendable, fixed or non-variable can put undue pressure on us. The good news is that God has many provisions in His will for our failures and shortcomings. You haven't missed the boat; he has even allowed you the privilege of making some decisions and choices while remaining in His will.

•*Is not lost.* You do not have to aimlessly search for it. It is easy to recognize in Scripture. Psalm 40:8 says, "I desire to do your will my God; your law *is* within my heart." In various translations of this passage, the word "is" runs in italics. This means the translator added it for clarity. Read it without the word "is." Right! Now we see "your will" and "your law" are one and the same. They are *both* within our hearts. In fact it could say, "Your will is your law within my heart."

•*Is not revealed to others.* Legitimate counsel where someone shares principles from God's Word will help you make decisions based on God's will. Young people can receive such counsel from Christian parents. However, some people are always imposing God's will for their life on your life. The principle to learn is: God will reveal His will for your life to you.

•*Is not based on circumstances.* Today when we "put out the fleece" (see the story of Gideon in Judges 6:37-40), we sometimes wrongly set up circumstances and ask God to fit them. We say, "If you want me to do that, God, then You must do this." Decisions based on such circumstances in your life rest upon your having a large amount of faith.

•*Is not contrary to God's Word.* "Lord, You know I am out of work and have been out for a long time. The bills are piling up. We don't have money to buy groceries. The children don't have shoes. Father, is it Your will that I rob the convenience store on the corner so we will have money to take care of our financial needs?" This is a foolish prayer because it is contrary to God's Word, which says, "You shall not steal" (Exodus 20:15). This might be an extreme example...but the main principle is: anything that is contrary to God's Word is also contrary to God's will.

To summarize: If we cannot rely on the previous "Nots" to help us recognize God's will for our lives, then where can we look? In God's Word—the Bible.

Dr. Larry Gilbert is founder and chairman of Ephesians Four Ministries, and founder of ChurchGrowth.org. For more on spiritual gifts, see Dr. Gilbert's books, from which this article was condensed: Team Ministry: Gifted to Serve (for pastors and group leaders) and Your Gifts: Discover God's Unique Design for You (for individuals and groups).

Permission granted to copy, forward, share, post and reproduce everything in this article, please include this link Source: ChurchGrowth.org.



SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

June 11th-14th 2023

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Midway Locust Grove Church

Kids ages 3 – 5th grade

***More information about registration and volunteering in May.**



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

February is for lovers. Enjoy this easy Jambalaya that is full of flavor and not too spicy. Light the candles, serve with chilled wine and enjoy a chocolate dessert.

Enjoy,

Hope Burkart

Jambalaya

\
 1/2 lb smoked link sausage
 1/2 cup diced bacon
 1 lb shrimp (fresh or frozen, thawed)
 1 Tblsp flour
 1 medium onion - chopped
 1 small green bell pepper - chopped
 2 small cloves garlic - finely chopped
 1 Tblsp Worcestershire sauce
 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp ground red pepper (here you can adjust Heat by reducing to 1/4 tsp)
 1 Tblsp paprika
 2 (16 oz) cans diced tomatoes with juice
 Serve over hot white rice.

Slice sausage and "soft fry" in skillet - drain on paper towels - set aside
 Fry bacon in same skillet - drain on paper towels - set aside
 Peel and clean shrimp if fresh. Rinse and pat dry if frozen
 In large stew pot add sausage and bacon. Sprinkle flour over meat and stir to coat. Add onion, bell pepper, garlic, Worcester-shire, salt, red pepper, paprika and tomatoes
 Cook over medium heat until mixture is thick
 Add shrimp - cook until pink.
 Serve over hot white rice

Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp date set for July 30—August 4

We are excited to announce that we have secured a group hold at Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp for July 30 – August 4, 2023!

This camp is for children ages 8–13. The camp is 5 days and is located in Vienna, MO. Drop off is Sunday afternoon and pick up is Friday afternoon. You can find more details and information at www.turkeyhillranch.com.

We had several MLG kids attend last year and it is always a lot of fun. The cost of the camp is \$250 per camper and that includes a t-shirt and all meals/amenities for the week.

If you would like to register, please visit the website and use the group code "MLG" when registering. Registration deadline is April 14th, but we recommend registering early as our group could fill fast.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jessie Kempf (jessica@weichertft.com) or Shayla Roop (sroop@cpsk12.org); they will be happy to provide more details.

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

*See you at 2nd Tuesday
Lunch, Feb. 14 at noon.
Bring a memento from
your childhood.*



Baptist Women join our cause.

The Women's Missionary Union from the Midway Heights Baptist church asked Jill and me to come and talk about Twice Blessed - how the vision began, the steps needed to start, etc. We presented a slide show and passed out our permanent needs list to each attendee. Today we received

12 - 15 bags full of laundry/dish soaps, deodorants, shampoo, They are committed to being a partner in this community mission - and we are so very grateful and appreciative! ❤️□

~~~~~  
They share with us; let's share with them. Sign up to help with the Midway Kids Sunday School.





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 36 Issue 2 February 2023*

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

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

**Also bring a childhood memento to show.**

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

When Helen Brown asked Keith Andersen at the January luncheon to describe his proposal for the February program for the Second Tuesday lunch, Keith took a pair of vintage roller skates from a paper bag and suggested each of us bring something from our childhood to show at the next meeting. The sigh heard around the room was obviously one of approval.

I'm sure I was not the only one in the room who started wondering what did I still have from my childhood. I soon knew what I would bring . . . the Bible I earned as a seven-year old with

a year's perfect attendance at Sunday School. That would be a good reflection on my childhood character.

I also considered the camera my uncle gave me when I was in the fifth grade, or the one my sister gave me when I was a freshman in high school.

Just a few days ago, I got a letter from the lady who keeps track of our high school class rosters. She sent me a copy of those in the graduating class of 1955. As I read it, I noticed what I perceived as discrepancies. I will call them to her attention. In doing so I got out my four high school yearbooks and relived some wonderful memories.

Now my quandary is what to take to the February meeting. . . . Maybe a sack full of memories to share with the group. You've been warned!

