

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.

January 2
Loaves & Fishes — 4:30-6 p.m.

January 11 — 12:00 noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

January 17 — 7:00 p.m.
Ministry Council meeting

TO BE ANNOUNCED
Give Back Day

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist



Volume 35
Number 1
January 2022

Locust Leaves

God Is Faithful

There is a sticker on my computer that reads, "We Don't Say, 'I Can't.'" It is a daily reminder of one of my favorite verses in the Bible. In Mark 9:14-29, there is a story about Jesus healing a boy who had seizures and was muted by an evil spirit. After taking the boy to Jesus' disciples, who were unsuccessful in healing the child, his father brings his son to Jesus and asks Him to help them if He can. Jesus' response is my favorite: "What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes" (Mark 9:23).

When our family moved here in June of 2020, Covid had shut the world down. It seemed that each new day presented more, "You can'ts," but the Holy Spirit whispered, "Anything is possible if you believe." God is faithful. We rolled into 2021, hoping to see some reprieve yet received just the opposite. Still, God spoke, "Anything is possible if you believe." So, we continued to put one foot in front of the other, walking in faith. In a time when Christianity in America was on a decline, we saw individuals, and whole families, baptized. We added members to our congregation. We lost saints and celebrated their lives. We saw growth in long-standing ministries, and we launched several brand-new ones. We experienced financial abundance, freeing us up for even more ministry in 2022. We completed five major projects and paid for each in total. On and on, I could go, but it all boils down to this: God is faithful.

It'd be easy to end there, but I love Mark 9:24 every bit as much as verse 23. "The father instantly cried out, 'I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!'" Jesus didn't reprimand the father for this statement. He healed the son. That is my prayer for us as a local church this year. Father, we do believe but help us overcome our unbelief. Will you join me in praying this? There is one thing I know in my knower, God is faithful. This year we will continue to grow as disciples of Christ. We will continue to reach more people, bringing them into a relationship with Jesus. And when the world says, "You can't," we will continue to stake our claim and the church that can because God is faithful.



Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions



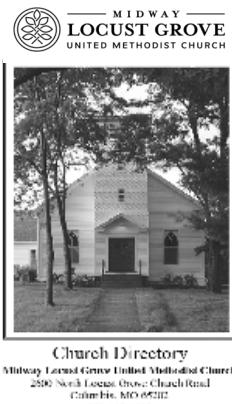
Women's Bible Study

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

Church Calendar, Directory updated



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 Kaufman, and Jana Wirth for making the directory possible.

Keith Anderson transfers membership to Locust Grove

Rev. Ben welcomes Keith Anderson into membership at Locust Grove after worship on December 9. Keith lives in the Sycamore Creek neighborhood, and began attending services on the lawn this past summer. He has transferred his membership from another United Methodist congregation. Welcome to our Locust Grove UMC, Keith.



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

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

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

The year 2021 has been a banner year for MLGUMC as far as contributions are concerned. We have collected \$207,718 for the general fund, which is more than \$63,000 above what was budgeted. In addition, we received \$59,972 for the Future Glory Fund, and funds are continuing to be collected. Plus, we have received \$5,575 from memorials along with some other gifts to the Capital Fund. Twice Blessed also received \$7,000 from a memorial and \$5,500 from the Veterans United Foundation along with some other gifts. All of this has allowed us to do many things, which is really apparent from our ministries and the condition of our buildings. Much more is planned for 2022. Our budget for 2022 will be quite a lot larger as we plan for those expenses. Thanks to everyone for your commitment to serve MLGUMC with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

We are now in a position to accept online gifts. If you would like to make either one-time or recurring gifts, go to our website which is mwlocustgrove.com. There is a purple button "Give to the Church" in the middle of the page. Click on that, and it will guide you through the process. If you have any questions or concerns about the process, feel free to contact me by email at nmoreau.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com or by phone, 445-4967 or 573 881-2730.

Contribution statements for 2021 will be mailed toward the end of January. Since we changed software during the year, they will be a little more complicated since you may be receiving two statements. An explanation will be included with the statements.

Again, thanks for making this a banner year!

105. Can You Imagine?

By Missy Barnes

"Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come." Proverbs 31:25

December saw the loss of two centenarians. One was Dell Cunningham and the other was my grandmother, Josaline Wilhite. Dell and Josaline (Jo) lived to be 105 years old and they passed away within a few days of each other.

As I thought about the passing of these two women, I was in awe of what they had witnessed in their lifetimes and the legacies they leave behind. Both leave behind families who love and adore them. Both leave behind a shining example of a compassionate Christian woman.

Dell and Jo were both blessed with loving husbands and long marriages, but with men who left them all too soon. Joe Cunningham passed away in 2001 and Josaline's husband, Denver, in 1985. Both of these women had to carve out a new life for themselves, but both women showed strength and courage that we all admired.

Dell and Josaline were opposites in a way. Dell was outgoing and involved in countless community groups and activities throughout her life. My grandmother was more of a homebody, being satisfied to take care of her family and help with the family business.

But they both had strong Christian faith, and both were long standing members of their respective churches; Dell at Midway Locust Grove and Josaline at Broadway Christian Church.

Imagine, if you can, the stories these two women could tell. The events they witnessed, the tragedies they endured, the blessings they were given and that they were to so many.

Did Dell and Josaline know each other? Yes, they did. In fact, they were neighbors at one time. What a small world.

In Memoriam



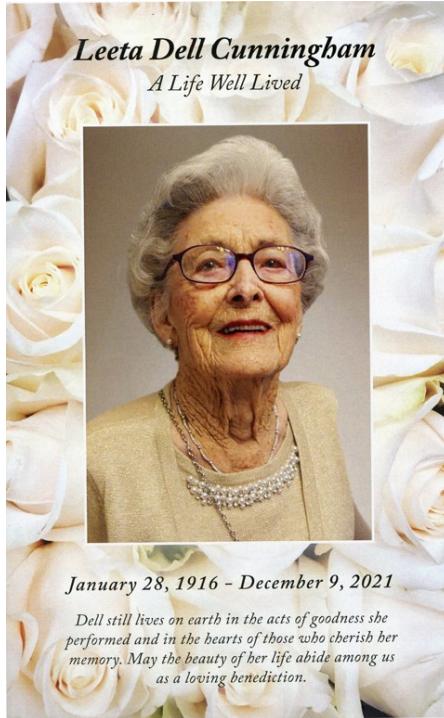
Locust Grove lost its oldest treasure, Dell Cunningham, who died during the night on December 9, 2021. She was looking forward to her 106th birthday in January. Her life spanned over a century and she loved sharing life stories with everyone. Services for Dell were conducted by Rev. Ben on Wednesday, December 15, with interment following at The Village of Locust Grove.

Leeta Dell Lane was born January 28, 1916 at home with her great grandmother assisting on the coldest winter night. Her parents were Millard Odell and Cora Belle (Rice/Tapp) Lane. Dell grew up in Midway with parents, grandfather Lewis Lane and seven brothers and sisters. She was blessed with a childhood where family, faith and hard work came first. Dell is the last of her siblings to pass away so she is together again with Nuford "Tim," Lewis "Lukie," Vencient "Pete," M.O. "Teny," Ruth, Mary and Loren Paul.

Dell was fortunate to find the love of her life Joe S. Cunningham and they married on June 2, 1935. Their love made them a formidable team for good in the community until Joe's passing in 2001. They could be found almost any day of the week volunteering at our church.

Son, Sandy brought Dell the greatest joy throughout his life. She instilled a love of the country and how to steward the earth. Sandy, Marj, Stephen and Chris bought the Lane family homestead and are still keepers of the cattle farm. Dell shared a lifetime of joyful days with the family. Sandy helped mother every day of his life until his passing in 2018.

Daughter, Jane afforded the opportunity to



teach her homemaking and inspire leadership. Dell's famous admonition — Don't forget to sparkle. Joe and Dell traveled to California every year to spend happy times with Jane,

Gale, Lane and Adrienne. Jane lived with Dell for the last four years of her life to make sure she could stay in her own home.

Dell and Joe's shared passion was antiques which they carefully preserved from many generations. The family antique museum is a reminder of the pioneer spirit that Dell so admired.

Dell was a history buff to the core. She never grew tired of discussing local history and could help children write school papers with her historic stories. Dell was the driving force behind 90 years of the family reunion. She spent a lifetime in libraries researching ancestors.

She was a regular visitor at Ellis

Library on Mizzou's campus and created an archive there for the Daughters of American Colonists (DAC.) She loved genealogy and left a legacy of family history. She was active for decades in ten lineage organizations, including DAC, Columbian DAR, Magna Charta, Colonial Dames of America, among others. When Dell was about eight years old, she started her lifelong devotion to our church. She attended almost every Sunday for nearly 100 years, welcoming everyone with a smile and a history lesson about the church. She still has the bricks from the original 1830 building. She never stopped encouraging the pastors to be their best (whether they wanted to hear it or not!) She held her church family so dear.

Remaining to remember this amazing lady are daughter Jane and son-in-law Gale Bensussen, daughter-in law Marjorie Reed (Don); grandchildren Stephen Cunningham, Chris Cunningham (Crystal Schumaker), Lane Bensussen (Aubrey), Adrienne Madolora

(Continued on Page 5)

In Memoriam



Dan Coleman

August 5, 1952 ~ October 24, 2021

It is with sadness and love that we share that Phillip Daniel Coleman has left our worldly presence to be with God. We offer our condolences to the family.

Dan was born on August 5, 1952 in Boone County and left us on October 24, 2021. He leaves his wife Marsha, his sons Phillip & Misty and Derek & Jessica.

Dan and Marsha were active members of our congregation for many years before moving out of the area shortly after the turn of the century. Dan served as Trustees Chair in 1997 and he and Marsha also served as Youth Group Advisors that same year. Marsha has now returned to frequent attendance at Locust Grove.

Grandchildren Phillip Camden, Andrew Matthew, Alexis Lucille and Winslow Daniel will miss his presence. Dan's siblings, Erma (Terry) Pauley, Charlie Coleman, Judy (Dick) Coose, Larry Coleman and Diane (Wil) Watson will miss him.

~~~~~

## In Memoriam, Dell Cunningham (From Page 4)

(Michael); great-grandchildren Harrison Cunningham (Kassandra), Isabelle Cunningham, Otis and Eloise Madolora and Henley Bensussen; along with extended family and many friends.

The list would not be complete without a special thank you to the caregivers who added joy in their visits — Sandy Harrison and Rhonda Knowles. Finally, thank you to Leigh Hilderbrand and the loving team at The Lodge in Fayette where mother was treated like a queen for the last eight weeks of her precious life.

Several generations of family and friends have known and loved Dell. Her seemingly endless light has left this earth but her memory shines bright forever in our hearts. Expressions of sympathy may be given to the Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church or to the Boone County 4-H Foundation, 1012 N. Hwy UU, Columbia, MO 65203.

# Happy Birthday

January 2022

|    |                   |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|----|-------------------|
| 4  | Craig Butler      | 18 | Mary Bess Green   |
| 6  | Gabriel Gessling  | 18 | Jana Wirth        |
| 7  | Daryle Moreau     | 19 | Warren Filbert    |
| 8  | Bess Henley       | 19 | Bob Henley        |
| 9  | Jerry Gerzen      | 19 | Kate Johnson      |
| 9  | Shelby Thomas     | 19 | Noah Patrick      |
| 10 | Marianne Martin   | 23 | Bob Elder         |
| 11 | Alaina Fuemmeler  | 23 | Andy Strubel      |
| 11 | Tami Gessling     | 29 | Jody Patrick      |
| 12 | Julie Hovis-Bader | 29 | Steve Baumgartner |

*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.*



# Thank You

## We Cherish Your Outpouring of Love and Sympathy

Thank you for your many kind words of sympathy in the passing of our dear mother, grandmother, aunt and friend Dell Cunningham. Mother brought smiles and love to so many in our church family and the community. She is still smiling down on all of us as we reflect on her special gifts and entrust her to our heavenly father.

Your acts of kindness, gentle caring and stories about mother eased the sadness of losing such a remarkable lady. She was truly basking in the glow of your love at the memorial service and celebration of life. Thank you for so graciously honoring her life. We will all be thinking of her as her 106<sup>th</sup> birthday approaches on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January. Our church was blessed to have her in the sanctuary for almost a century. May God continue to bless us with our shared memories.

With love and gratitude,  
Jane and family

## *We say goodbye to our longest serving member*



*The sanctuary was filled for the memorial service for Dell Cunningham December 15. Rev. Ben Lee conducted the service, with readings by Gale Bensussen and Gene Baumann and music by the choir. Burial followed the service in the Village of Locust Grove, next to Dell's husband, Joe, and son, Sandy.*





*“When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us. So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child laying in the manger.” Luke 2: 15-16.*

Well, another Christmas has come and gone. Every year I vow to myself to “unplug the Christmas machine” and have a quiet, low stress holiday. And every year, in spite of my vow, things get hectic and crazy.

This year was no exception. In mid- December, we had to take another road trip to Cleveland clinic. This put off Christmas preparations. And the week after that, things began to really heat up at the hospital. As an antibiotic stewardship pharmacist in the ICU, I am now dealing daily with new COVID drugs being approved for investigational use, sometimes 2 in one day, for which I have to develop protocols and computer algorithms for doctors to order them safely, as well as daily withdrawals of investigational covid drugs which have been found to be inactive against the omicron variant, now here in mid-Mo. And, sadly, many days there is the death of a patient that I care about.

The week before Christmas, I anticipated a blessed week off from work. Daughter Ally and grandson Ezra arrived, and it was bliss.... until we realized that he was coughing up a storm and wheezing. We took him to wait in a long line for covid testing, he was negative. Ally got sick a day later, and

then on Christmas day we all got it....a terrible sore throat with aches and chills. So even though he was negative, we all went in for covid testing, (all negative) but then when we got worse, we went back in 2 days later for flu and strep tests.....making the week hectic indeed! And we are all still very under the weather and have not been able to return to work. However, I told Ally that I knew I was risking illness yet couldn't stop hugging and kissing Ezra. And I told Ally that it was all worth it, to spend a week with my grandson.

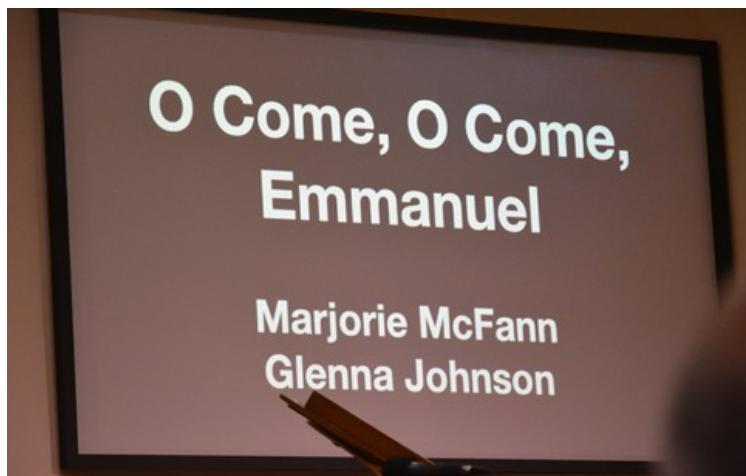
As most of you know, seeing Christmas through the eyes of a child is a treasured experience. Early in the week we took Ezra to see the Clydesdale horses at Warm Springs Ranch. And this toddler, who was terrified of Santa and wouldn't go near him, giggled with delight as he stroked these massive, 2000-pound animals. It made me realize just why the animals in the stable at Jesus' birth were so important!

God reminds us that his created creatures, when domesticated, bring comfort and delight to us humans, especially children. No wonder the animals crowded close to baby Jesus' manger! And I also noticed that Ezra is extremely attracted to light, all light, including ceiling fixtures. The first thing he does when entering a new room is stare at the chandelier. He loves sunlight, so he laughed with delight as we pulled him around in his wagon on a sunny Tuesday at Starr Pines to pick out and cut a Christmas tree. And he was transfixed by our

## *Christmas Eve service features clergy and laity*



*The service was led by Rev. Ben, who also read the Scripture of Luke telling the story of Jesus' birth. Jordyn and Jackson Moore conducted the lighting of the Christ Candle with a reading, and as usual with all worship at MLG, the choir provided special music, singing "Once in Royal David's City."*



Individual performances included Marjorie McFann, who joined Glenna Johnson with a piano duet to open the service, Alyson Price and Kylie Groh, Gilbert Harville, and Dani Brown and Jana Wirth.

The altar was decorated with 22 Poinsettias given in memory and honor of family and friends by members of the congregation.

The service concluded with the lighting of candles from flame taken from the Christ Candle of the Advent group of candles. Each attendee had a candle, and passed the flame through pew until all were lighted in the main sanctuary and the overflow area of the Fellowship Hall.





## ***Darkest Night Service***

*On the evening of December 21, Erin White conducted a service for everyone who has experienced loss and for those who wish to offer support to those who are grieving during this time. It was the winter solstice, the longest and darkest night of the year, and was a time to pause and recognize the losses that leave this season feeling long and difficult*



*As she lit the Advent candles, Erin related each candle to an element of the mourning process — grief, courage memories, and hope. To conclude the service, each per-*

*son held a candle, lighting the candle of the person next to them and saying the name of the person they mourn. It was an especially moving event this year.*



(Continued from Page 7

## View from a Pew

modest Fir tree, erected, and decked out with small LCD lights. We humans are attracted to light because God's sun gives us everything needed for physical life, but God's Son, the Light of the World, gives us everything needed for eternal life! God's prevenient grace pulls us in to the light even before we know Christ. I was reminded of this great truth through Ezra's eyes.

On Christmas morning, Ezra was more interested in the boxes his toys came in than the toys themselves. What a great reminder that Christmas is not about earthly gifts! It is about God's gift to us, his Son, the Christ. And Christ's gift to us, eternal life. At a

rare, much needed time of quiet last week, I sat in church as my favorite Christmas hymn was sung at our very moving Christmas Eve service, and my heart thrilled once again to these timeless words: "The King of Kings salvation brings! Let loving hearts enthrone him."

THIS is what Christmas is all about. Humbling ourselves to become like little children so that we may one day enter the kingdom of heaven. Having a loving heart to embrace family, friends, co-workers, everyone we meet. And spreading the news of God's gift: "For unto us a child is born....and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

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## 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*

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 in February. We always welcome any new "stitchers" to come and join us!!

Despite a second year of Re-Member being closed to volunteers due to COVID and the extreme caution being exercised by the tribe, it was a good year. I will set out the statistics momentarily. They are especially impressive, given the extreme imitations set on the organization.

But what is really important to know about Re-Member is that this was Re-Member's 20+ year with a presence on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, serving and walking alongside the Oglala Lakota people. Other than churches, who historically have a volatile reputation amongst almost all of our North American indigenous people, they are, I believe, the volunteer group with the longest history on the Pine Ridge Rez.

They (we) have built relationships, slowly and carefully, asking how we can help in a way that respects their culture. They (we) have built friendships over time, sharing from the heart in an honest give and take, only saying what is true and honest, and by offering to pray for those in need who ask.

They (we) have nurtured these relationships and friendships over time by only saying what we intend to follow through on. No idle or empty promises, which is what the Lakota Oglala have gotten and lived with their entire lives, generation after generation.

The trust that has been established over time is huge. HUGE. It is an honor and a privilege to be allowed onto their reservation and into their homes and lives. And on rare occasion there is an amazing invitation to enter into one of their sacred rites. When that happens, we should be humbled be-



yond description.

So, back to the statistics. Re-Member makes a commitment to its small staff for the season, so they (with no volunteers to help and with a few Lakota at their side) were responsible for these numbers. Imagine how the numbers soar with a dormitory full of volunteers at their side! This year they built:

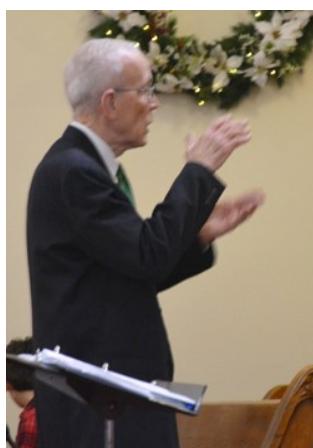
- 28 decks and steps, providing safe entry into homes (primarily trailers)
- 20 wheelchair ramps to assist elders and disabled – diabetes is epidemic on the Rez, as are amputations
- 6 trailer “skirts”, enabling water to be hooked up and lowering winter heating costs
- 26 outhouses, (building, digging a 6 foot hole and installing) providing sanitation and dignity – imagine living somewhere in America in this day and age where someone is excited to receive an outhouse. Just imagine!!
- 113 bunk beds built, delivered, and set up with new sheets, blankets, pillows and books for bedtime stories
- Countless loads of wood gathered, split, loaded and delivered to the far corners of the reservation for burning in woodstoves to keep drafty trailers warm.

An amazing year, considering all the odds stacked against the tribal members. My prayers are that we will be able to once again walk alongside them, starting this year, honoring the sacred trust of humankind afforded us, and honoring the Lakota saying “Mitakuye Oyasin” – we are all related.

Choir Christmas Program sets the stage for seasonal celebrations



Once again we welcomed the Christmas season December 12 with music from the choir, the congregation, the Midway Kids, and soloist Dylan Roop, all under direction and accompaniment of Jim and Glenna Johnson. The musical program was followed by refreshments, fellowship, and a visit by that most popular man in the red suit, who was escorted to the event by member Ron Utterback.





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Happy New Year!

Here is a spicy sugar and spice treat for New Years Eve Party or make a double batch to munch on while watching football games.

Enjoy!

Hope Burkart

Five-Spice Pecans

2 cups pecan halves

2 tablespoons brown sugar

2 tablespoons maple syrup

1 teaspoon Chinese five-spice powder

In a large nonstick skillet toast pecans over medium heat until toasted (about 4 minutes). Add the brown sugar, syrup and five-spice powder. Cook and stir for 2-4 minutes or until sugar is melted. Spread on foil lined cookie sheet to cool. Store in airtight container.

Reminder of the Gorgeous Girls Lunch Bunch

MONDAY, JANUARY 24

11:00 am D'Rowe's

Please come join us for lunch to visit with old friends and meet new ones. It would be nice to have a head count to let the wait staff know how many to expect. Please contact me if you will attend.

Kathy Koehler

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

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.

The ongoing Wednesday mission of feeding the residents of the hotel at the Midway Truck Stop took on an added feature for Christmas. The volunteer team from our church delivered more than food as the luncheon became a Christmas party with gifts and games. Please contact Rev. Ben if you are interested in helping with this important local ministry.



**Thank You
FOR HELPING US
HELP OTHERS**

Twice Blessed had a great 2021!

We were able to help many families in our own community as well as neighboring areas.
 Many different people graced our little white building on the corner.
 Most had needs for their family and we were able to help.
 Some just needed someone to listen to their burdens and keep them in our prayers.
 We could not have accomplished this without all support from all of you.
 Anytime we were running low on items, just a notice was put out and what we needed was received.
 You all are amazing, and we thank you so much for your support in this mission.
 We look forward to this coming year.

 **Twice
blessed** Your Twice Blessed Girls - Jill & Glenna



The Christmas Store



A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that donated, helped set up, worked at, wrapped gifts, and helped clean up. Because of each of you, our first Christmas Store was a wonderful success.

We had approximately 90-100 people that came to shop. Our ladies at the gift-wrapping station were quite busy and we appreciate the great job they did. We thank our greeters at the door and all the helpers that worked at the tables keeping everything neat and taking tickets from the shoppers. And many thanks to our "Bicycle Elves"!

Thanks to ALL of you for your hard work! We were humbled by your generosity. You may not think what you did was a lot, but as Mother Theresa said: *"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples"*

Looking forward to our 2nd Annual Christmas Store sponsored by Twice Blessed.

Glenna and Jill





M I D W A Y
LOCUST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202



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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
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The Back Row



By Gene Baumann

There are many reasons to be proud of our church, and this holiday season has made it even easier to brag about what we are doing.

In addition to our ongoing programs, such as Second Tuesday Lunch, Bible studies, and Sewcial Sisters, this season has included the Twice Blessed Christmas Store December 11, with an appearance by Santa Claus in addition to free shopping for Christmas gifts by those who likely otherwise would have had no gifts to give.

Once again the MLG Choir presented their annual Christmas program and sing-along, with desserts following the performances. The spirit of the season was truly evident that evening, December 12 with another visit from Santa..

Find the hidden circuit rider  in this issue.

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In the pre-Christmas Wednesday visit to the Midway Hotel, those volunteers delivered gifts and played games in addition to the regular meals they prepare each week for those residents needing a lift in their daily lives.

On Tuesday, December 21 Erin White presented an emotional and supportive "Darkest Night" program directed to those who have suffered the loss of a loved one or who wish to support those who are grieving during this season.

A Christmas Eve service told the story of Jesus' birth with Scripture readings and meditation by Rev. Ben and music by the choir and several individuals from the congregation. It was a truly inspirational evening for a full-house audience.

The Christmas series concluded with Sunday worship on the 26th, again with significant participation by members of the congregation. What a couple of weeks!