



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

Tuesday, January 10 —Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

Town Hall Meetings

Monday, January 9 — 6 p.m.
Conference Superintendent

Monday, January 30 — 6 p.m.
Q & A, Discussion

Monday, February 13 — 6 p.m.
Vote on disaffiliation

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist

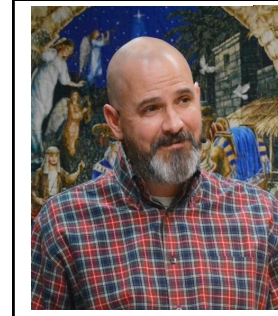


Volume 36
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January 2023

Locust Leaves

Epiphany

The season in the Christian calendar between Christmas and Lent is called Epiphany. The word Epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning "appearance" or "manifestation." For us as Christians, this season is intentionally focused on the manifestation of God in the person of Jesus Christ.



Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee

Our first sermon series this year, "Citizens of Heaven," will center on the Kingdom of Heaven, which Jesus inaugurated while he appeared here on Earth. In the coming weeks, we will lean into the nature of discipleship and what it means for a believer to be a citizen of the Kingdom of Heaven while on Earth. Over the course of seven Sundays, we will look at Jesus as the Savior of the world and the ways he fills us with the Holy Spirit so we can fulfill his call. We will unpack repentance, the only proper response to the message and ministry of Christ, and the ways God calls us to a life of holiness and happiness. We will observe Jesus' connection with Moses and how he came to fulfill the law. And we will learn how Jesus is the ultimate authority on ethics and morality, how he is our redemption, and how the road to future glory first passes through suffering.

This Epiphany season is very timely in the overall life of our church. I expect God to be found faithful in our worship services through song, scripture, and teaching. I anticipate the Holy Spirit to illuminate and connect Spiritual dots within us. And I am prayerful that God will become ever more real to us, through Jesus, by the Holy Spirit, and in our encounters with him, we will truly experience an Epiphany to remember!

Peace,
Ben

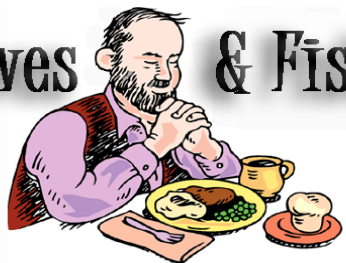
Ministries & Missions

LEARNING LADIES ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Starting in January the Tuesday night Bible Study will add 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.

Loaves & Fishes



New schedule for Loaves & Fishes and urgent call for today's meal

Loaves and Fishes will be serving on the Second Sunday of every other month starting in March. Our serving dates will be March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10 and November 12. Thank you all for your help and donations to make this happen.

BULLETIN!

Busy days! We are making cornbread muffins for Loaves and Fishes. Through some complicated mix-up we were not

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

December was a little low on our income receipts, but for the year we have averaged more than \$19,500 per month into the General Fund. This is well above the \$17,000 projected as needed for the budget. We have had a very good year, considering the contributions plus the additional items for which funds were raised. Our church is involved in so many projects, which is really made possible by the contributions we are receiving. All of our apportionments were paid in full, all of our bills have been paid, and we still have a nice balance in our General Fund checking account.

Thanks to everyone for the many ways you are supporting our church. It is really a blessing to handle the finances in this environment!

scheduled to serve until March. Then, midweek Sherri Perry received a call asking us to serve today, Sunday, January 8

The Sewcial Sisters are jumping into action with cornbread, Ben put out an appeal for cookies and brownies, and the Baumgartners provided ham for ham and beans. It will all come together with ease thanks to Sherri. Somehow it always works out that enough people show up to serve at Wilkes Blvd.

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



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, January 23

11:00 a.m.

Glenn's Café

29 South 8th Street

Let Katny Koenier know if you'd
like to come
kkoehler1976@gmail.com

Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp date set

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.

Happy Birthday

January 2023

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.

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

Thank You

How blessed I am to have such a wonderful MLGUMC family. Thank you everyone for the hospital visits, cards, prayers, phone calls, texts. My recovery is going great. "The joy of the Lord is my strength."

Nehemiah 8:10. Helen Brown

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
January 10, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**



MIDWAY STUDENTS

By Evan Hughes
Director of Student Ministries

I've come to realize that December is a wildly busy month for students. School concerts, finals, sports, family trips, and everything between keeps them on their toes. Despite these packed schedules, it was encouraging to see the commitment of many of the youth to participating in the overall life of the church. The highlight of this month was getting to let loose with each other at our gym night.



Special shout-out to Craig and Amie Butler for hosting us! It was the first opportunity for the youth group to simply hangout and goof off with each other, and it is safe to say that we had an incredible time. The hardest part of the night was getting a picture for you guys, which we barely managed to pull off.

I'm confident that this year will bring many blessings to Midway Students. I'm extremely excited to see what God has in store for us!

With love,
Evan

Megan Atkins visits December Second Tuesday Lunch

Having literally grown up in our church, it was a homecoming for Megan Atkins as she addressed the December Second Tuesday Lunch, seeking prayers and financial aid.



Megan is one of five area college students selected for a mission trip to South Asia over Christmas break to study the culture and build relationships with families and share stories of how Jesus has impacted their lives, hoping to plant seeds of faith in the hearts of the people of South Asia.



Choir Christmas

Once again the Locust Grove Chancel Choir kicked off the Christmas season with their annual program.

The musical program featured the choir and the Midway Kids, followed by a dessert extravaganza in the Fellowship Hall and another visit by Santa Claus, who was escorted to the church by Ron and Leslie Utterback.

Special thanks to Jim and Glenna Johnson for another great season opener.



Longest Night Service



An important aspect of the season's worship is the Longest Night Service, conducted once again by Erin White to move those who may be grieving a loss into a feeling of hope. A service of meditation, music and lighting the way to the comfort zone was a grand entry into the services to follow.

Christmas Day Morning Service



The Midway Kids joined the choir for Christmas Hallelujah as another near-capacity crowd concluded the series of three Christmas based services, setting the stage for the seven Sundays of Epiphany. Below, Kylie Groh and Steve Leutjen added instrumental support to the music.



Christmas Eve Service



Kylie Groh and Teagan Groh



Gilbert Harville



Jana Wirth and Dani Brown

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was an evening of participation by the congregation with special music in addition to the choir. As shown in photo at top of the page, attendance filled the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall.

Rev. Ben led the meditation for the evening from Luke, followed by communion and The Passing of the Light and singing of Silent Night by the congregation before exiting the sanctuary in silence.



Twice Blessed Christmas Shop delivers joy to families



December 10 was a great shopping day for those in the area who need help with Christmas gift giving, as Twice Blessed held its second Christmas Shop. Tickets passed out at the entrance provided the free shopping cash needed to buy a variety of gifts.



Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with believers of all ages. Special thank you to Steve and Hilary Baumann for hosting the Clauses for this trip to the Midway area.





By Nedra Moreau

Many of us these days stay glued to our cell phone, awaiting the next indication of a message or phone call. It allows us to be easily connected with our family and friends and with the news and weather. For many, we cannot stand not having that connection. I am not a person who is that glued to my phone. I often leave it lying on a table, forgetting to even check to see if I have received a message.

However, I recently forgot to take it with me when I went into town to run some errands. I will confess, that when I found it missing, I felt a little panicked. I had lost my ability to connect!

Have you ever thought about our need to stay connected with God in the way we are connected with our phones? In 1st Thessalonians, Paul advises us to “pray without ceasing.” One explanation I have read about this says “to have our minds always on the things of God, to be in constant communication with him, so that every moment may be as fruitful as possible.” I think of this as being “online” with God.



We offer our most sincere and heartfelt condolences to two of our church families.

Bob and Iola Grant are mourning the loss of Bob's sister, Mary Lou Ballenger, 84, of Columbia, who died on Saturday, December 31, at Boone Hospital. Services were on Wednesday, January 4, at Memorial Funeral Home. She was a long time member of Woodlandville UMC.

STAYING CONNECTED

One of my Christmas decorations is a small, clear plastic tree that has a lot of texturing on the surface. It really reflects the light when the sun shines on it. At night, I put a small tea candle that changes color inside the tree. When the candle is on, the entire tree lights up in various, changing colors: red, blue, clear, yellow and green. The tree reminds me of the changing conditions of our lives.

Sometimes, we are like the red, perhaps stressed and worried. Other times, we may feel a little blue. The green seems a more soothing color, like when things are going well. But as long as the candle is on, the light is there. It reminds me that Jesus brought the light, and we need it in our lives.

Perhaps staying “online” with God is the way to make that happen. I try to talk with God all through the day, thanking Him when things are going well, and asking for help when they are not. Sometimes, I remember to do that, but other times, not so well. It is sometimes amazing how much difference that can make. Perhaps I need to use alerts on my phone as a reminder to keep the candle on and stay “online” with God!

Lloyd and Barbara Sumner mourn the death of Lloyd's father, Kenneth G. Sumner Sr., of Oceanside, California, who died in his home December 20. Services will be held at a later time in his longtime hometown of Lawton, Oklahoma. He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, and two grandchildren, including Keith Sumner of our congregation one year ago.



Brrr ... it is cold outside! Holidays are over and it is time to fix something easy and comforting.

While spending the winter in Florida, we have enjoyed several southern influenced dishes and one of them is Dirty Rice.

Enjoy,
Hope Burkart

Dirty Rice

- 1 (10.5 oz) can French onion soup
- 1 (10.5 oz) can beef consommé
- 1 cup white rice
- 1 (6 oz) jar sliced mushrooms - drained
- 1/2 stick salted butter - melted

Preheat oven 400 degrees.

Combine all ingredients together in a 2 qt. casserole dish.

Cover with foil and bake for 45 minutes.

Reduce oven temperature to 350 degrees, uncover and bake for 15 minutes more

*To make this a complete meal, add 2-3 cups cooked chicken or turkey

***See you at 2nd Tuesday
Lunch, Jan. 10 at noon.***

Here are some of the many *blessings* from 2022 at Twice Blessed.

*Our addition has been a *blessing*. It allows for an area to house donations until they are sorted and put on store shelves or toted up for the next season. We have shelving for our personal care and cleaning products so that we can quickly restock store items as needed.

*The customers that came thru Twice Blessed door tripled in 2022. Thanks to all the donations and support that Twice Blessed received from our church and community, we were able to provide for the needs of all our customers.

*In October, Larry and Susie Henneke and Marsha Coleman brought beautiful potted mums to Twice Blessed to share with our customers. The mums lined our walkway with gorgeous fall colors. Our customers were thrilled at being able to take a mum home with them.

*Twice Blessed has been actively involved with Nanette Ward of the "Stop Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri" The store has been able to provide direct support to victims/survivors that Nanette brings to Twice Blessed in their emergency situations.

*We have met Marty Stedem, a member of our community. He is very involved with refugees from Afghanistan. He taught us many things about their culture and lives. He has driven two families that reside in Columbia out to shop at Twice Blessed. We feel *blessed* to help him in support of these families.

*Barry and Lori Stoll, directors with City of Refuge in Columbia, stopped by to learn a little about Twice Blessed and our mission. We sent some items left from the Christmas Store to City of Refuge. We appreciate Barry and Lori picking up the items to help with Christmas for their refugees. Another *blessing* to be able to help out another community agency trying to make a difference.

(Continued on Page 11)

Basic necessities free of charge
to those temporarily in need

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

Open January 5 & 19

**Twice
blessed**

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00

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

Kindness
in Business
2022

Kindness Nomination

Awarded to

TWICE BLESSED

in recognition for your kindness and care to the
Boone County community.

Kim Dude-Lammy
KIM DUDE-LAMMY
President,
Children's Grove

Barbara Buffaloe
BARBARA BUFFALOE
Mayor,
City of Columbia

Randall D. Smith
RANDALL SMITH
Founder,
Missouri Business Alert

The following note was received at the Twice Blessed Shop in December. All who have helped this mission succeed should read this with humble pride and satisfaction.

"I wanted to reach out and tell all of you wonderful caring people how much my family appreciates all of the hard work and dedication from not only the angels that keep the giving store open and running, but everyone who helped out with the holiday event that was held today, December 3rd. My mother and I were able to take my children and my one year old niece that was recently placed in our care and they were so excited to see Santa! They are still talking about it and loving their gifts that they received! It was baby Allie's (my niece) first time seeing Santa! It warms my heart to see the compassion and generosity of everyone involved. It is truly a blessing to us and so helpful. Thank you again and may God bless you all! Happy holidays!"

(Continued from Page 10)

*Due to the overwhelming generosity and support of our church family, our 2nd Annual Christmas Store was able to provide a wonderful Christmas to many families. Another *blessing* for not only our families but Twice Blessed also. Thank you everyone who helped with the 2022 Christmas Store. From setting up, manning the tables, gift wrapping, cleaning up for the Sunday morning service, we can not thank you enough. It would not have been possible without you!

We also appreciate Santa and Mrs. Claus taking time out from their busy schedule to stop by. The children (and even some adults!) enjoyed being able to spend time with Santa. It was what we consider a huge success and look forward to the 3rd Annual Christmas Store.

Glenna and I have formed friendships with our regular customers and feel very *blessed* that they feel comfortable enough to talk with us freely and maybe, just maybe, we can help with some of their burdens.

Thank you again church family for all your prayers, time, and support in making this church mission important and successful. Yet another *blessing*. We could not do it without you! We appreciate seeing and visiting with our church friends also when they stop in to see us when we are open.

Twice Blessed is looking forward to continuing our mission into this New Year-2023.

*Blessings,
Glenna and Jill*



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
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Find the hidden circuit rider  in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 36 Issue 1 January 2023

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

**Join us for lunch,
12:00 noon
Tuesday, January 10
Bring a dish to share.**

The Back Row

By Gene Baumann

I was browsing my Locust Leaves files to see what the January issues included in years past. I ran across this history item from the 2013 issue and thought it would be of interest to our many newer members.

A quick and general view of our church history can be summarized with a timeline. It covers many of the highlights, but leaves details to further research. Here's a timeline to give you a glimpse of our history.

1817 — "Methodist Society" organized, meeting in neighborhood homes.

1830 — Brick Chapel built.

1835 — First use of cemetery

1870 — Brick Chapel demolished and present sanctuary built. First use of Locust Grove name.

1909-1915 — Bell tower and stained glass windows installed. This included vestibule and a small classroom on each side (now AV control room and prayer room).

1915 — Hanging gasoline lamps replaced

with acetylene lights; church pews replace the original pine benches.

1926 — 12 x 15 addition on north side of church for store room.

1938 — Electric lights installed.

1945 — Bell purchased for steeple.

1948 — Gas stove in kitchen.

1952 — Fellowship Hall built.

1955 — First church refrigerator.

1956 — Cistern well dug and piped to kitchen. Board walk built to outdoor toilets in rear of the sanctuary.

1963 — Midway parsonage built.

1966 — Education wing built, six classrooms.

1967 — First telephone, water heater, public water line, modern restrooms.

1976 — Two acres purchased on west side of Locust Grove Church Road across from sanctuary..

1982 — New roof, ramp built to the entrance to Fellowship Hall.

1990 — Addition to 1966 Education Wing, 8 classrooms, 3 restrooms.

1993 Computer purchased for office.

1997 Locust Grove Church Road leveled, widened and paved. Parking and cemetery road paved.