



Locust Leaves

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.
2nd and 4th Sundays
5 to 7 p.m.
Midway Students

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

Saturday, July 2
Loaves and Fishes

Tuesday, July 12—Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

Wednesday, July 20—5:30-7:30
Give Back Day — Food Bank

Monday, July 25 — 11 a.m.
Gorgeous Girls Lunch

Year Two!

Sunday, June 19, marked the completion of our family's second year working alongside you in ministry here at Midway Locust Grove UMC, and what an incredible two years it has been!



**Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee**

In year two, we officially launched our 1 on 1 Discipleship program as our pilot group began disciplining others, introduced our Movie Night on the Lawn events, began our weekly Midway Hotel Lunch Ministry, Blessed the Backpacks, launched our Midway Kids Ministry to children in K-5th grades, started a weekly Men's Bible Study, completed all of the Future Glory Challenge projects and paid for them in full, launched our monthly grief share ministry, Compassionate Friends, introduced a second Women's Bible Study, began our Midway Students Ministry to young folks in 6th-12th grades, offered a fantastic VBS to our community, received over 30 new members into our congregation, and completed an addition to the Twice Blessed building. Praise God!

All of these offerings were built upon the long-standing ministries of our church. Not one has gone away! Our Virtual Women's Bible Study, Loaves & Fishes, Sewcial Sisters, and 2nd Tuesday Lunch ministries are thriving with more participants and volunteers than before. God has been so good to us, y'all. And I believe with all of my being that we are just getting started. I want to invite you to pray with me. Begin to ask God what's next. Wouldn't you love to know what God would like to do here at MLG between now and June 18, 2023? As you begin to ask, be intentional in listening for God's reply. Then once God replies to you, please share it with me. Being entirely dependent upon God is such a sweet spot to live in. One constant prayer of mine in these 24 months has been, "God, you gotta show up. If you don't, we're sunk. But when you do, there's nothing that can't be done here." Will you pray this with me? If you do, when we do, God will move, and we will be sitting here a year from now, marveling in awestruck wonder at

Peace, Ben

Ministries & Missions

Women reading Book of Ruth

The Learning Ladies Zoom Bible Study will be reading the Book of Ruth during July. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 with a prayer time at its conclusion.

The study group is open to all women regardless of their age or knowledge of the Bible. For more information, contact Marjorie McFann at 573-445-5650 or mjmcfann@hotmail.com.

Another women's study group meets from 6 to 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings if this time frame does not work for you.

It's Give Back Day at Food Bank July 20

Each month we alternate Family Fun Days and Give Back Days. In July, it is time for a give back to the community.

Midway Locust Grove is known for its generosity, so please join your friends and neighbors when we work at The Central Missouri Food Bank at 2101 Vandiver Dr.

The time reserved for us is Wednesday July 20, 2022 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Sign up to volunteer, requirements include wearing closed-toe shoes and your Midway Locust Grove t-shirt or a red shirt. Contact Louise Stanley at 573-356-5669 with questions.

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



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

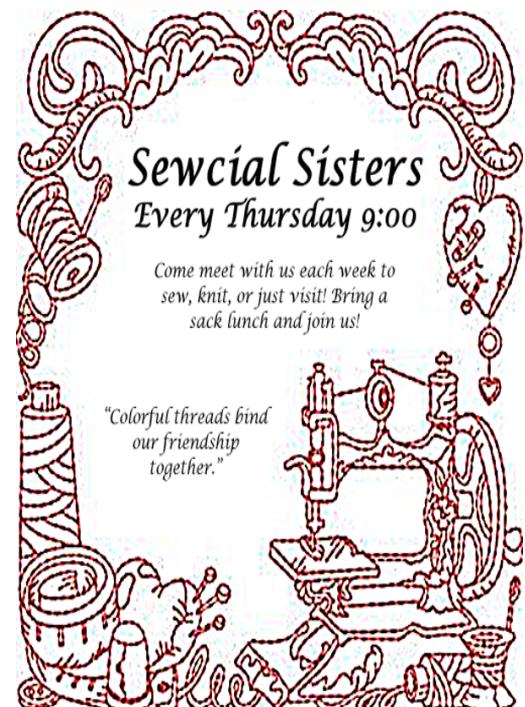
Monday, July 25

11:00 a.m.

Murray's

(South Columbia)

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



The Sewcial Sisters helped with Bible School set up and tear down on a couple of Thursdays in June. We were so happy to be a part of that ministry. Many of us have been traveling, but our group has still been meeting and creating. A small group of us did travel to "Make It Sew", a quilt shop in Tipton, Mo.

We encourage anyone to join us on Thursdays at church to sew and fellowship together. Doors open at 9:00a.m.

Clete Koehler joins other vets for Honor Flight to Washington

January 20 was a very special day for Clete Koehler, as he was honored with a trip to Washington, D.C. with about 90 other veterans.

After touring the nation's capitol, the group returned to Columbia with an escort of more than 200 volunteer motorcyclists leading them home to be greeted by hundreds of enthusiastic supporters of their service. Among those greeting Clete were family, friends and a contingent of members from the Locust Grove UMC family.



Kathy led the welcoming committee for her honored husband, Clete.



Thank you to all who wrote letters and who came to welcome me home from Mid Missouri Honor Flight #63. It was a long day filled with lots to see, meeting new friends, surprise "mail call" and the best welcome home ever!

The Mid-Missouri Honor Flight organization is dedicated to honoring the men and women who have served and it's all at no cost to the veteran. They encourage anyone who has served during the Vietnam era to apply for this wonderful opportunity. It doesn't matter if you served in Vietnam, Germany or stateside. This was the trip of a lifetime and one I will never forget and am eternally grateful. I am emotional, humbled and very proud.

Clete Koehler



To the people of Midway Locust Grove: A Love Story

“But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint”. Isaiah 40:31

This will be my last “view” column. I have been called to Pastor a church! Yes, after all these years I got the telephone call that some Christians who enjoy delivering the Word may anticipate or dread: Come! Come into deepened service for Me. Come lead my people. Leave your comfort zone and just come. Ken Zahringer got this telephone call a few years ago. He was surprised, he told me. He was not expecting it. But he answered God’s call and said yes, to become the Pastor of Rocheport UMC.

However, like countless servants before me, my reaction was fear. Fear that I wouldn’t be good enough or strong enough or eloquent enough. Fear that I would fail. Fear that I would let God down. But, after a night of soul searching I realized the next day that many called by God are afraid at first and resist. Remember, Moses, 3 times, gave excuses to God as to why he felt he could not lead the people Israel.

He didn’t know God’s name, so no one would believe him. When God responded that his name was “I am”, Moses gave his 2nd excuse: that people would not believe God appointed him. So God gave Moses the ability to do miracles to demonstrate who he spoke for. Then Moses, frantic by now, gave his third excuse: that he was not a good speaker.

God broke through this excuse easily: he would provide Aaron to speak for Moses (and Aaron sure was a talker....sometimes a fast talker! Remember his excuse as to why he permitted the people to make the golden calf: “I threw their gold into the fire, and.....out came...this calf!”). So Moses finally capitulated to God.

And remember how Jonah resisted going to Ninevah so strongly that he ran away to sea, and God literally had to have him spit back out, by a whale, on dry land again! So, many fear God’s call to deeper service. But, as Ben preached last week, we can’t let our reaction be fear when God calls us. We have to overcome the fear and step up to the plate, step out for God.

When I first came to MLGUMC 16 years ago, I was not the same person I am today. I was younger, and more expectant of an easy earthly life. I had a husband I loved, 3 daughters with their whole lives ahead of them. I looked forward to a retirement some day sailing off into the sunset. But it was not to be. God took my husband only 3 years later. One of my daughters developed a serious illness. I developed cancer.

A blissful retirement didn’t seem to be in the picture for me anymore. But my faith deepened after these experiences, thanks to you, the wonderful people at Midway. You literally embraced me on the day we found my husband’s body. You were there for me in those early, raw months afterward. You were there for me during my cancer diagnosis and surgery. And you have been an inspiration to me every day of these last 16 years. And now, my retirement is going to be not on some tropical island, but in service to the Lord. I will soon leave the VA and increase my time at New Bloomfield UMC.

I have worshipped with you under the guidance of five different Pastors. We have stuck together through thick and thin, through lean years as worshippers dwindled, and through the present when our church is thriving! You have greatly increased my faith through the deep scriptural study encouraged by Marjorie in the “Learning Ladies Zoom Bible Study”, through allowing me to teach Sunday school, sing in your choir, go on mission trips, play backup piano occasionally for Glenna, and have encouraged me in my desire to preach the Word to you in the absence of Ben. You are the embodiment of the words “The church is the people”. I look back so fondly on the years when I was in the “batters box” with Gary, Ken, and Bill. We fellow Lay servants supported each other in pinch hitting in the absence of different pastors. It was a warm and supportive camaraderie. And now Gary is gone....home to

(Continued on Page 10)

Family Fun Night



Happy Birthday July 2022

1 Jackson Strubel	16 Ken Zahringer
9 Rachel Durrant	17 Betty Goran
9 Ally Durrant	19 Dylan Roop
9 Diana Durrant	19 Rhylie Burkart
9 Jill Cook	20 Kelley Frink
9 Angie Gerzen	21 Drake Butler
10 Ian Fuemmeler	22 Wilson James Martin
11 Iola Grant	24 Katie Persinger
14 Marlin Gessling	24 Bill Roop
14 Morgan Green	28 Cameron Frink

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.

How many Methodists does it take to unfold a ladder? Whatever it takes, they'll get it done and the show will go on with the movie screen they erected on the lawn of the church for Family Fun Night.





With a theme of "Make Waves," Vacation Bible School occupied the hearts and minds of both children and adults 5:30 to 8 p.m. on June 5-8. A variety of activities, crafts, Bible Study, music, and games filled every moment. A lasting benefit was the contribution of hundreds of items for Twice Blessed distribution, a competition between the boys and girls.



THANK YOU!!!

We had a wonderful 4 days of Vacation Bible School during the first week of June and averaged close to 40 children in attendance each evening! This would not have been possible without the amazing village of volunteers that we have here at Midway Locust Grove!

We want to extend a HUGE thank you to all of the following groups of people: the artist and painters who created the amazing backdrop, the many people who showed up to decorate and get everything set up (the decorations were amazing!), those of you who lead the crafts/music/Bible lesson each night, those that spent each evening supporting each of our age groups, our wonderful MC for each evening, the MANY peo-

ple who donated/cooked/served the food, the ones who worked our check-in/check-out table, our youth who supported wherever we needed them, those that came and sorted the huge amount of Twice Blessed donations and helped in the clean-up process, and our congregation who prayed over us during that week! We sent the children off to "Make Waves" and we know that they are doing just that! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Plans are already underway for next year's VBS and we are so excited!

Shayla Roop

The group met in general session to open each evening, they rotated to other activities throughout the evening. Each age group did each of the activities.



Because the boys won the contest of the Twice Blessed gifts, Shayla Roop took a pie in the face instead of Rev. Ben.





Happenings

Keith Anderson stepped into the pulpit June 19 to fill in for Rev. Ben, who was on vacation. Keith has recently became a member of our church, and has stepped up to participate in the Lay Speaker program. His message, "To Walk Blameless," dealt with the various meanings of words in Scripture as compared with their use in general conversation.



Rev. Ben and the congregation offered a farewell prayer for Leslie Durrant following worship on June 12. See her column on Page 4 for more information on this. Below, Steve and Beth Luetjen and Kylie Groh provided special music for worship on that same Sunday.



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

Thanks for Louise Stanley for preparing this month's boards.



They Came As They Are ~~~

By Suzi Moore

Recently our little church that can...and does...had an ice cream social and movie night. We invited a family that is very dear to us. New experiences with many new people are often uncomfortable for them because of their son's autism. I initially felt comfortable inviting them but, as the date arrived, I too felt a bit anxious about their comfort and prayed that this would be a positive loving experience for them.

Well, once again Midway Locust Grove Church did not disappoint. This precious family that moved from another country to serve God in a large church in Columbia while benefiting from resources offered here in Columbia through the Thompson Center and CPS Schools, were amazed at the warmth and welcome that they received. They were overwhelmed with gratitude at how each person made it a point to speak to their son and engage him. They felt the instant love and acceptance that comes from the body of Christ and the Holy Spirit that binds us together as family wherever we are.

The next night they were excited about having been invited to preach at a church in Kansas where the membership was from their country of origin. Our friend looked forward to preaching in his native tongue. They were surprised that no one spoke to their son or even looked at him or acknowledged him in anyway.

My friend choked back tears as she told me about it the next week. She shared that they were used to their church family talking to their child and engaging him and they had never taken him to another church in this country until the night before. when

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

Our offering for June was slightly under budget. We collected \$15,125, but our monthly budget number is \$17,000. For the year, we are averaging \$18,633, so we are actually over budget. Apportionments are paid to date, and we have a good balance in our checking account. Financially, we are in good shape.

Thanks to everyone for what you do.

they had come to our church.

They were quite surprised that, unlike here, their son was not acknowledged in any way. We talked about different ways they could include their son at the point of introduction.

This precious Mama was broken when she said, "our countrymen and women, our brothers and sisters in Christ knew that our child was Autistic in advance, yet still ignored him." Your church welcomed not only us, but everyone that spoke to us spoke to our son and engaged him and didn't treat him like he was someone that didn't belong. She said, "the love of Christ was abundantly present, and we felt so welcome."

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
July 12, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Happy Birthday America...
July is BBQ Month, picnics and family reunions.
Here is a patriotic recipe for the 4th.

Enjoy, Hope Burkart

Red White & Blue Delight

1 stick of melted butter
1 1/2 cups flour
1 cup chopped pecans
2 - 8 oz cream cheese, softened
2 cups sugar
2 - 8 oz cool whip
2 - 21 oz cans blueberry pie filling
raspberries/strawberries for decorating

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
Mix melted butter, flour, and pecans.
With back of spoon, press mixture into the bottom of a 9x13 baking dish.
Bake 15-20 minutes or until golden brown.
Let cool.
Using a mixer, mix cream cheese and sugar.
Once mixed, add 1 container of cool whip. Spread this over cooled crust.
Add both cans of blueberry pie filling and frost with other container of cool whip. Decorate with

~~~~~  
*Here is a popular salad brought by Lou Pegues to our Second Tuesday Lunches. Each time it's served, we get requests to include the recipe in Locust Leaves.*

### Cranberry Salad

1 lb Ocean Spray cranberries  
1 can pineapple tidbits  
2 cups sugar  
1 box cherry or raspberry Jell-O  
1/2 cups nuts

Drain pineapple.  
In pan combine 1/2 cup pineapple juice, sugar, and cranberries.  
Cook until cranberries pop. Stir in the box of Jell-O.  
When cool add pineapple and nuts.

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

the Lord. And Ken is gone....to serve elsewhere. And I am going....and I hear the Lord saying this is all for the greater good. God trains us up and sends us on to new destinations, or sends us home. It is the Methodist way, it Is God's way. After all, our Lord Jesus was an itinerant pastor.

Midway church is an incubator. It is an incubator for the Holy Spirit to warm up and bubble up our faith, to embolden us, to send us to strike out new ground, whether it be to serve the folks at the Midway truck stop hotel, to serve the homeless at Loaves and Fishes, to serve the Lakota, to reach children, to serve the needy at Twice Blessed. Worship at Midway is so very inspiring, thanks not only to Ben and Jim and Glenna, but to you folks! My favorite Professor in the Methodist classes I have been taking put it so well: "True Worship is a dangerous activity, and I am NOT talking about COVID! When the Holy Spirit grabs you, it's like putting one toe in the water, and you will be carried away." This church has sent forth new preachers, Ken and myself, and Bill, as he does supply pastoring. And now Keith Anderson will be pinch hitting too!

The departing Pastor at New Bloomfield told me that I am lucky to have "landed in a nest of Christians". I love this image! I was a fledgling Christian. Midway Locust Grove "grew me up" mightily in the faith. Mi Hyeon Lee pushed me out of the nest, before I felt fully ready. Now, although I'm a bit scared, as the prophet Isaiah said, I will not be doing this alone. None of us at Midway who have stepped out have stepped out alone. God has been with us every step of the way. We trust in the Lord and that is how we get new strength. With God's help I soared out on Eagle's wings, and now I have landed in a new nest.

I will miss you all so very much! But I will stay in touch through the "Learning Ladies" Bible Study, and hope to join the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday lunch after I retire from VA. So, this is farewell for now but not goodbye! Thank you for everything!! May God continue to pour out his blessing on you all!



*Leslie*

Midway Locust Grove  
United Methodist Church

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

**Open July 2 & 16**

**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

Danny Coleman  
works on the  
addition to the  
Twice Blessed  
building, com-  
pleting a stor-  
age room for  
the abundance  
of materials  
donated for the  
mission.



We are so proud of our new addition to our store. Now that we are able to move our shelf stocking items to the storage area, we have a larger area for shopping for our customers. We are working at reconfiguring the store area to make customer shopping a little easier.

We want to thank all the Vacation Bible School attendees that brought so many items each night for Twice Blessed. We so appreciate your generosity!

A huge thank you to Jim Johnson for powering washing our building. It looks so much better and blends in with the new addition.

We are working (on cool mornings!) on setting up our storage area in the new addition. We will house the seasonal clothing tubs, extra linens, personal care items, and cleaning products in that area. These are items that we restock the shelves with each time we are open. This will also be our area for sorting thru the donations of items we receive.

As always, we appreciate everyone's support of this community mission. Thank you,

*Glenna and Jill*



2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road  
Columbia, MO 65202



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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

## **The Back Row**



By Gene Baumann

We are reporting the departure of our longtime friend and devoted member of MLGUMC, Leslie Durrant, in this issue of Locust Leaves. While we hate to see her go, we rejoice in where she's going. See her column on Page 4 to learn more about her exciting plans.

My mission here is to thank Leslie for many years of writing her column, *View from a Pew*, for *Locust Leaves*. In addition to her frequent pinch-hit sermons in worship when the pastor was gone, her columns served as monthly sermons for our readers.

Leslie began writing her column in the March 2010 issue as a fill-in following the December 2009 death of Judy Cure, who created the column in June of 2007. Leslie agreed to keep the column going under the same title Judy had used. The first of Leslie's columns under the title in April 2010, was a tribute to Judy, whose work she admired and would be the inspiration for future columns.

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

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

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An interesting sidelight to this story is that Judy had retired from a nursing career in Columbia, which she had served in all three local hospitals, Boone, University and Veterans Administration. As Leslie approaches retirement, she will be moving into pastoral work from her present career in the pharmacy at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Columbia.

Thanks again, Leslie, and we hold you to the promise to keep in touch and share your *View from the Pulpit*.

### ***Remembering Don Sanders...***

You longtime members here will remember one of our very active members, Don Sanders and his wife, Delores. You newer members need to know more about Don and his remarkable career.

With the recent anniversary observance of Watergate and the White House, Don's daughter, Debi, a great friend and supporter of MLGUMC, sent access information on the Sanders files at the Missouri State Archives, including his significant role in Watergate. It is worth checking it out when you have some time for reading. Here's the address: [https://muarchives.missouri.edu/exh\\_D\\_Sanders.html](https://muarchives.missouri.edu/exh_D_Sanders.html).