

LOCUST LEAVES

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries & Missions	2
Birthdays, In Memoriam	3
Renovations	4
View from a Pew	5
In Memoriam continued	6
On the Rez	7
Vacation Bible School	8-9
On the Rez continued	10
Renovations continued	11
Ice Cream Social	12
Sewcial Sisters, Gorgeous Girls	13
Kitchen Cabinet	14
Twice Blessed	15
The Back Row	16

THIS MONTH

Sundays —
Women's Bible Study 6 to 7 p.m.
Midway Students 5 to 7 p.m.

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop 68

Wednesdays —
Midway Hotel Lunch—Noon
Choir Rehearsal — 6:29 p.m.

Second Wednesdays —
Compassionate Friends 4—5 p.m.

Thursdays — 9-4:00
Sewcial open sewing
Yoga at 11:00
Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed

Tuesday, July 11— Noon
NO TUESDAY LUNCH
THIS MONTH

Tuesday, July 25. 3-5 p.m.
Give Back Day, Food Bank

Monday, July 17 — 7:00 p.m.
Ministry Council Meeting

Small Groups

Last Fall, we hired Roger Ross to come in and train our team of volunteers on small group ministry. The sessions with Roger were beneficial. He communicated the importance of small group ministry in the local church (the what's and whys) while working us



Beyond
the Pulpit
**Pastor
Ben Lee**

through a series of questions to help us become clear on the type of small groups we believe will best suit our church and how to run them best (the hows). Once equipped with the what's, whys, and hows, our team came out of those training sessions with a lot of momentum. Then the conversation on disaffiliation hit, and our work towards launching small groups was put on hold.

Our team picked up where we left off this Spring by forming a pilot small group out of the original volunteers. For a few months, I led our team through a series of small group meetings, modeling what we believe will be a repeatable, sustainable, small group ministry here at MLGC.

In September, we will officially launch this ministry area! We will begin by offering three small groups. Each will consist of a leader, an apprentice, and a host. These groups will meet in the hosts' homes. The participants within each small group will determine which day of the week and the time of the day the meetings take place. Sign-up forms will be available soon. Here is a list of our first three small groups for you to consider:

Group 1:	Leader: Bill Roop
	Apprentices: Lee & Karla Sommer
	Host: Keith Andersen
Group 2:	Leader: Mariea Caruthers
	Apprentice: Bob & Suzi Moore
	Host: Carolyn Doyle
Group 3:	Leader: Laurel & Keith Groh
	Apprentice: Kathy Hughes
	Host: Leslie Brown

Please reach out with any questions you may have. I am very excited to get this ministry area up and going finally!

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

Give Back Day going to Food Bank July 25

Please join us for Give Back Day on Tuesday July 25 from 3-5 pm at the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri. It is located at 2101 Vandiver. Arrive a few minutes early to sign in. Do not wear sandals or sleeveless shirts.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Table at church. Thank you in advance for participating in this local mission.

Nearly 24,000 children in our community are facing hunger this summer. When school ends, so does the access to nutritious meals for many children. Please consider giving to help feed kids facing hunger all summer long.

If you are not able to join us for the Give Back Day, consider sending a financial contribution to 2101 Vandiver Dr, Columbia, Mo 65202-1910.

Check the Bulletin Boards for information and inspiration.
Thanks to Angie Gerzen for preparing this month's boards.



TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

Our offering for the month of June has been down a little, although the month is not quite finished as I write this. Our total is about \$19,500. This lower amount gives us a monthly average for the year of about \$22,600, which is still pretty good.

The final payment to the Missouri Conference of \$28,358.10 has been made, and the quit claim deed for church properties received and filed with the Recorder of Deeds. We still have a nice balance in our checking account after the payment.

Pledges and payments for the Firm Foundation Challenge have been coming in rapidly, and we are doing well. However, we still will need a lot more to reach the total. Please keep the Challenge in your prayers as we pursue this goal.

If you have not already started, please begin to make your checks payable to Midway Locust Grove Church or MLGC since that is now our church name. Thank you for your wonderful support of both the Challenge and regular offering. We can do this!



In Memoriam



Michele Hager-Harrison-Prado

December 16, 1960-June 9, 2023

Michele Columbia Hager-Harrison-Prado .

Battling depression for decades, Michele Hager-Harrison-Prado died June 9, 2023, by suicide at Finger Lakes State Park near Columbia, MO, knowing of no other way to end her emotional pain.



She dearly loved and is loved by her wife Beth, for whom Michele was the love of her life; her daughter and son-in-law Jill and Jeff Farrell and their daughters Codi Jean and Casey Rose, of San Diego, CA; her son and daughter-in-law Scott and Beth Collyer and their children Finn Alexander and Annabelle Elizabeth, of Grand Rapids, MI; her siblings Camilla Gehring (Columbus, IN), Veronica Kagle (Abilene, TX); Tim Hager (Columbus, IN), Bridget Mitchell (Grand Rapids, MI), and Damian Hager (Lima, Peru) and their families; and her in-laws Carolyn Doyle, Hugh Harrison, Arthur DeVries, and Ronnie Doyle and their families (mid-Missouri).

Michele was born December 16, 1960, in Fort Wayne, IN, to her parents Frank and Barb Hager, both of whom preceded her in death. The family moved to Columbus, IN, where Michele graduated from Columbus North High School in 1979. After graduation, she attended Purdue University before enlisting in the US Navy in 1983.

Michele attended basic training in Or-

Happy Birthday

July 2023

1 Jackson Strubel	19 Dylan Roop
2 Jewel Roberts	19 Rhylie Burkart
5 Darren White	20 Kelley Frink
8 Ben Lee	21 Drake Butler
9 Jill Cook	21 Todd Butzlaff
9 Rachel Durrant	22 Wilson Martin
9 Angie Gerzen	24 Katie Persinger
10 Ian Fuemmeler	24 Bill Roop
11 Iola Grant	24 Debi Sanders
14 Marlin Gessling	26 Ada Cooper
14 Morgan Green	28 Cameron Frink
16 Ken Zahringer	29 Elliot McPherson
17 Betty Goran	(email only)

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.

lando, FL, then was stationed at numerous duty stations, including deployments near the end of her career aboard the Hewitt (DDG 966) and USS Bonhomme Richard (LHD 6) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After serving 20 years on active duty, Michele retired from the Navy in 2003 as a Chief Information Systems Technician. During her career, she received three Navy Achievement Medals, two Navy Commendation Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, five Good Conduct Medals, and three Sea Service Deployment Ribbons, among other awards and numerous accolades.

After retiring from the Navy, Michele lived in San Diego, CA, until 2007 when she returned to Columbus, IN, and then relocated to Louisville, KY. It was there that she and Beth met while singing in VOICES, an LGBTQ+ choir. They were legally wed in Washington, DC, on June 11, 2012, and then

(Continued on Page 6)

Floor replacement underway in sanctuary, more to come

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse because it is built on bedrock." ~ Matthew 7:24-25

Without question, Midway Locust Grove Church has experienced many seasons throughout its 206 years. In our most recent history, we have weathered a global pandemic and the excruciating process of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. Started in 1868 and completed in 1870, our sanctuary has borne witness to much ebb and flow over the past 153 years. To pause and reflect on the amount of ministry carried out in this place makes me feel very small in the healthiest ways. Our family has been exceedingly blessed by the opportunity to step into your story, play a small part in continuing the legacy of your local church, and serve you and your family.

In the verses above, Jesus communicates that those who hear and obey his teachings will not be shaken. Often, I am asked what we attribute to the revitalization that is taking place here. My answer is, "We are teaching the word of God, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide us, and treading out in obedience to Christ" Teaching, trusting, treading, it really is that simple. The verse above states this truth succinctly. Over the past three years, while our church has become more Spiritually stable, our sanctuary floor and foundation have not. Now the time has come to tackle what has been put off for decades. We have added two much-needed projects to the sanctuary floor and foundation work to develop the Firm Foundation Challenge.

I am pleased to report that our church is financially secure. This directly reflects our congregation's heart for the ministry we are carrying out in this place. Thank you for consistently investing in

the Kingdom's work in our community. Thank you for ALL the ways you give around here with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

I subscribe to having solid lead money in place before beginning construction. The total cost of the projects detailed below is \$225,000. We aim to raise at least half (\$112,500) through one-time, upfront lead gifts. Once we know where we stand in lead giving, we can break the remaining balance into monthly pledges to meet our goal. These monthly pledges will have defined amount and duration terms, so no one is left guessing.

Please consider contributing to the Firm Foundation Challenge with an upfront gift or monthly pledge. We desire to complete all three projects completely debt free. Many of you will choose to give lead gifts, while many others will opt to contribute through a monthly pledge. Regardless of your decision, we will be grateful for your contributions. For planning purposes, please let Nedra know if you want to make a one-time, upfront donation. Her email is nmoreau.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com. This will give us a clear understanding of where we are and how much ground we must cover in monthly pledges to accomplish our goal. If you prefer the monthly pledge route, no action is required now.

Nedra has worked hard to establish avenues for people to avoid capital gains taxes by donating appreciated stock if that option is best for you. We are also set up to receive IRA RMD direct transfers with zero tax consequences.

As a congregation, there is one pitfall we must be aware of. The Firm Foundation Challenge is a capital campaign that stands alone in addition to our operating budget. It is human nature to redirect some of our monthly tithes toward fundraising efforts. I have seen this happen in churches time and time again. When we do this, our operating budget suffers, and we end up in a bind. Our

(Continued on Page 11)



By Nedra Moreau

Life Can Be Beautiful

I have always loved the beauty of nature—the seas, mountains, deserts, plains, and forests. On a recent morning, during my daily devotional, I was reading about the diversification of nature and how it is like a kaleidoscope. God's beautiful creation is constantly changing, whether in the skies or the growth of vegetation.

The thought was that you only need to look up to see it. While I was studying this, I kept hearing an unusual sound. It was like a piece of equipment that would surge, stop, then surge again. It seemed odd that equipment would be used that way. I glanced up to the farm across the road, but didn't see anything. When I fin-

ished my devotional, I looked up to our walnut trees and saw a strange red light among the leaves.

I had never seen anything like it, so I began going from window to window trying to see what it was. I then realized it was a hot air balloon, and the sound I was hearing was coming from it. It was moving away over the pasture across from me. The trees were hiding it from my view, and I was very disappointed that I could not get a better view. I figured it had been very close to me, if I had only looked up to see it. Instead, I had kept my head down looking at my iPad.

This reminded me of the devotional I had studied that morning and how I only needed to look up to see the beauty of nature. I wondered then, whether that is also true of the people around us. I tend to get involved in my thoughts or tasks and sometimes am not paying enough attention to others. I could certainly miss opportunities to provide a kind word or just to listen someone. Or perhaps I could miss the "wonderfulness" of someone. I resolved to try and pay more attention. I always seem to manage to see the wonders of nature. Perhaps I can do that with people too.

Midway Kids Fun Day at Tiger Gymnastics May 30

On May 30th we had a Midway Kids Fun Day from 8:30-1:00. Huge thank you to Craig and Amie Butler for having us at their gym, Tiger Academy of Gymnastics. The children played and had fun at the gym for a few hours and then we came back to church and enjoyed a pizza lunch and water games out on the lawn. It was a fun day with 32 kids attending! Thank you to all of the adults that helped drive and chaperone our fun day!



In Memoriam



(Continued from Page 3)

got married some more with family and friends July 14, 2012, in Louisville, KY, where the theme was Anchor & Ocean, and VOICES sang for their wedding.

A member of Lambda Epsilon Chi, the National Honor Society for Paralegal Studies, Michele graduated summa cum laude in 2013 from Sullivan University with a Bachelor of Paralegal Studies. After graduation, Michele and Beth relocated to Columbia, MO, and Michele began work as a paralegal at the Missouri State Hospital in Fulton. Michele was forced to retire in 2015 due to Navy service-connected disability. Being home all day was challenging for Michele, so she adopted her little dog Charlie, and then after several years, got Charlie a puppy named Buddy. They became her faithful companions and helped bring interactivity and, more importantly, joy to her life.

Known as GraMichele to her grandchildren Codi, Casey, Finn, and Annabelle, she loved spending time with her California grands and was so looking forward to getting to better know and spend time with her Michigan grands

Michele was a compulsive singer and hummer and was almost always humming, singing, or tapping out a rhythm with her fingers or her feet. Coming from a musically inclined family, she learned to play piano and sing as a child and played the baritone horn in high school. She remained musically involved throughout her life. Michele had a beautiful alto voice, clear and strong, and very much enjoyed singing in VOICES and in the Midway Locust Grove UMC choir for several seasons.

Michele was a connoisseur of single barrel bourbon and whiskey, which she drank neat, and of champagne which made her nose tingle. She had an excellent sense of humor, though Beth's jokes often made her groan. Michele was also a serial talker-at of animals, with her kids Jill and Scott remembering her talking at their

childhood pets, and Charlie and Buddy benefiting from the regular conversations, too.

After Michele and Beth began camping, Michele became an avid campfire enthusiast... once she learned how to make campfires. She loved s'mores, too. The couple and Michele's mother-in-law Carolyn had numerous adventures with their camper, visiting state and national parks, family in Indiana and Michigan, and even taking a three-week road trip out to San Diego in early 2022. Michele tended to collect ball caps from the various sites she visited and also loved gadgets of all kinds, which owning a camper apparently requires, and had a most impressive collection of both ball caps and gadgets.

Michele also loved to drive, especially in the red Mustang she had when she met Beth, who occasionally had to remind her that she probably shouldn't drive her Mustang in Louisville the same way she had driven in Southern California.

There will be two services to honor Michele's life and to accommodate her large and dispersed family and her huge circle of friends.

On Friday June 30th at 12 noon, there will be a celebration of Michele's life at Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, 1000 E Beltline Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525. The service is for family and close friends only.

A second service will take place in Columbia, MO, at 9 AM, Friday, July 7th, Midway Locust Grove UMC, 2600 N. Locust Grove Road. The service will be outdoors due to church renovation and those attending are asked to bring lawn chairs, though some seating will be provided for those who cannot. Should the weather be inclement, an alternate location will be announced shortly here and via the church's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/mwlocustgrove.com> Michele Hager-Harrison-Prado was beautiful, kind, funny, adventurous, sarcastic (when

(Continued on Page 15)

The good, the bad and the ugly in Indian Country. What affects one child, one tribe or one sacred ground affects all.

This is amazingly good news for Native children across the country: The U.S. Department of Education announced last week more than \$8 million is available in grant funding for Native Students.

The new grants seek to bolster Native students' exposure to language and culture in their classrooms.

There are now **more than 200 tribal communities without living speakers of their native languages**. In the years leading up to the Native American Language Act (NALA) of 1990, Native languages were almost entirely excluded from classrooms across the country. Federal Indian Boarding Schools drove the degradation of Native language with policies that **forbade students from using their American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian languages**.

To raise the bar for multilingual learners, we need to ensure that teachers, principals, school leaders, and other support staff who serve Native American students have the ability to provide culturally appropriate and effective instruction. Strengthening the presence of Native American language in classrooms is essential to promoting Native culture, history, traditions, and tribal sovereignty.

Available funding will support the first-ever Native American Teacher Retention Initiative (NATRI) competition to bolster the recruitment and retention of Native teachers. Native American teachers make up only .5 percent of public school teachers across the U.S. **Studies show that stu-**

ON THE REZ

With Kathy Hughes

dents receive most of their information about Native culture, history, and traditions from their teachers.

Here is what is currently happening in Nevada:

The Lithium Nevada Corporation filed a lawsuit last week against a prayer encampment aimed at stopping the construction of the Thacker Pass Lithium Mine in Nevada.

The lawsuit asks the court to ban seven individuals and environmental watchdog organization Protect Thacker Pass from the construction sites of the lithium project and demands they pay millions of dollars in damages.

Bhie-Cie (BC) Zahn-Nahtzu, Te-Moak a Shoshone and Washoe from the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, who was named in the lawsuit, spoke: "As a defendant in the lawsuit that the Lithium Cooperation has filed against me, I have faith I did the right thing and will continue to let the universe and my ancestors guide me. They can't take my house, the land I live on, my kids, my art, my animals, or my plants, or anything that really matters to me."

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approved the permit for Lithium Americas to construct a massive lithium mine worth more than \$2 billion. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, and the Burns Paiute Tribe all filed suit against the project. **The Thacker Pass region is considered sacred** by the tribes who call it "Peehee Mu'huh," or Rotten Moon in the Paiute language because, in 1865, federal cavalry killed more than 30 men, women

(Continued on Page 10)

75 registered for Vacation Bible School



“Ready, Set, Move” Vacation Bible School was held the evenings of June 11th-14th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. The children ate dinner, rotated through stations (music, craft, Bible story), and learned to follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere!

It was a wonderful week with 75 children registered! We averaged 63 kids each night. The children raised approximately 800 items for Twice Blessed, with the girls winning this year's friendly competition and Ben being a good sport and taking the pie in the face.

This week would not have been possible without the MANY volunteers! Thank you so much to every single person that played a part in helping with VBS!

We had volunteers drawing and painting the backdrops, decorating, prepping/serving food, working check-in, supervising the three different groups of children, leading the three different stations, running the A/V booth, helping with dismissal/parent pick-up, and the tear down/clean-up following VBS.

I'm so very grateful to each and every one of our volunteers and appreciate you pouring into the children in our church and our community!

Thanks for everything!





Signage changed to announce new name



When our congregation voted to disaffiliate from the United Methodist denomination, it created the need for a new name for our 206-year-old church. The Ministry

Council has voted for minimal change in our identity and simply dropped the two words United Methodist from our name. If you see an old sign, please tell the Council.

ON THE REZ (*Continued from Page 7*)

and children and then left their bodies to rot. The three tribes that filed a lawsuit have wanted Thacker Pass to be listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places.

The lawsuit hopes to ban the defendants from the construction sites and require them to pay retribution to the company for times it had to halt construction allegedly due to activities of a non-violent prayer encampment called Ox Sam, named after a survivor of the 1865 massacre and ancestor of Dorece Sam and Dean Barlese, two of the individual defendants in the lawsuit. The camp was raided and cleared by law enforcement on June 8. During the raid, a ceremonial fire was extinguished and sacred objects were displaced in trash bags.

“This lawsuit is targeting Native Americans and their allies for a non-violent prayer to protect the 1865 Thacker Pass massacre site,” said Terry Lodge, attorney working with the group. “These people

took a moral stand in the form of civil disobedience. They are being unjustly targeted with sweeping charges that have little relationship to the truth, and we will vigorously defend them.”

Lithium Nevada Corporation (LNC), a subsidiary of Lithium Americas, said in a news release that it began constructing what is being touted as the largest lithium mine in North America. According to the company, lithium reserves at Thacker Pass can support the production of up to 1 million electric vehicles a year for up to 40 years. Production of materials could begin as soon as the end of 2026.

For filing the lawsuit, Lithium Nevada has been granted a Temporary Restraining Order against the defendants and “any third party acting in concert” with them from interfering with construction, blocking access roads, or being in the general area. Sometimes “progress” comes at a high cost to those with little money and no voice.

Remodeling of our facilities (Continued from Page 4)

gifts to the Firm Foundation Challenge will be examples of extravagant generosity, going above and beyond our monthly tithes.

The Lord has solidified our church in many ways over these past three years, and I sincerely believe he will continue to do so as we faithfully teach, trust, and tread together. When these projects are completed, we will be better equipped to reach the lost, serve the found, and offer a firm foundation to the next 200 years of Christ's followers here!

Peace, Ben

Sanctuary Foundation and Floor

A quick walk down the center aisle of our sanctuary reveals that we have major foundation and flooring issues. This is not a new problem. I began hearing about it before we arrived here to serve alongside you. Now is the time to fix the problem for good. This project is the most significant piece of the Firm Foundation Challenge. The project will have three phases. First, Danny Coleman and his crew will remove the existing flooring and subfloor from the red front doors to the altar, exposing the ground beneath the sanctuary. Next, Foundation Recovery Systems will use modern technology to insert steel supports under the three main beams where our building rests. The final phase will involve Danny and the crew putting everything back together by reconstructing the floor with new floor joists, new subflooring, and new hardwood floors throughout.

After the subfloor is laid, but before the new hardwood is installed, all of the cracks in the walls and ceiling will be repaired, and the entire room will be painted. While we are at it, we will reupholster our pew cushions, the red chairs in the small addition between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall, and the choir chairs so all are updated and match.

Restroom Reconfiguration and Update

Our current restroom situation was perfectly fine when we averaged 30-50 people per Sunday. However, the facilities could be more optimal for the 160-180 people we are currently averaging each week, and we fully expect those numbers to continue to increase! This project will combine the footprint of our current men's, ladies', and family restrooms with what is most often referred to as the "Boy Scout's Closet." All of the existing walls within that footprint will be removed, and one new interior wall will be constructed running east and west, creating two defined spaces for commercial-grade public restrooms complete with banks of sinks, hand towel and soap dispensers, ADA stalls, and urinals.

Midway Students Worship Space

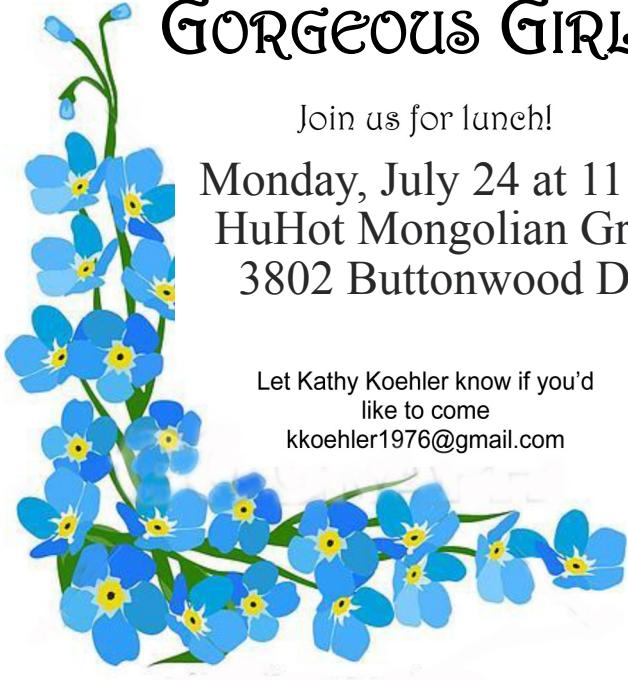
Last Fall, we officially launched our Midway Students ministry to serve our youth in 6th-12th grades. Over the past year, that group has held worship first in our sanctuary and then most recently in our Midway Kids room. Now, the time has come to create a permanent space for them that is their own. This project is all about converting the basement on the south end of our office/education building into usable space. We will remove all of the interior walls, and relocate the furnace and air handler, to create a large open rectangle that will serve as a sanctuary for our students. Try to picture the Midway Kids room but specifically geared for teens! There will be new flooring, lighting, paint, a stage much like the Midway Kids room, and all of the audio-visual pieces we will need to make that space great. This project will show our families with teenagers that our deep desire for a viable youth ministry is much more than lip service and will tell our students that they are worth the very best we have to offer!



Cookies, cream, cinema make a family night June 24



GORGEOUS GIRLS



Join us for lunch!

Monday, July 24 at 11:00
HuHot Mongolian Grill
3802 Buttonwood Dr

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

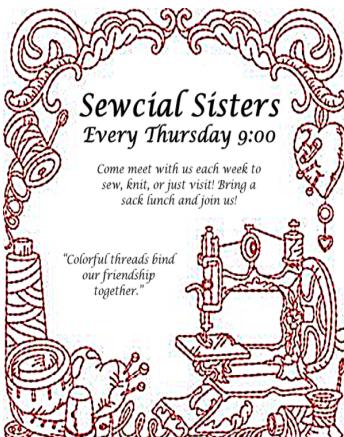


Due to replacement of the sanctuary floor, there will not be a Second Tuesday Lunch July 11.



Sewcial Sisters donate to Humanity for Children

The Sewcial Sisters have been asked by Flo Praiswater if we could donate fabric and scissors to Humanity for Children. We were so pleased she asked and had plenty of fabric to donate. Flo and 9 other women are going to Tanzania, Africa in July and deliver the fabric. It will be used to make dresses/wraps for women, uniforms for children, and feminine care kits for women/young



girls. Robert Hansen, President, Board of Directors of Humanity for Children, came to our church last Wednesday and gave a presentation about HFC.

Humanity for Children was formed in Seattle WA in 2006. The organization's headquarters are now in Columbia MO. There are 7 paid staff in Tanzania and 1 paid staff in Rwanda. The Maasai people

are very traditional with multi-generational families living in homes close together. Women milk the cattle twice a day, build the huts, walk to get water, make food, rear children, and more. Men are the warriors and decision makers.

Humanity for Children has been helping the Maasai people by first listening to their needs then volunteering and fund raising to improve their conditions. They have built clinics for mothers and babies to have treatment during pregnancy and birth. They have provided birth training and safe birthing kits. A Mobile Health Clinic drives to the people in remote areas. They are helping to keep young girls in school by building sanitation projects that provide bathrooms, hand-washing stations, and menstrual rooms. They have provided new fire stoves for cooking in the huts. They are teaching children and adults to garden and technology has been added as courses in high school. The elementary schools have 55 children to 1 teacher!!

If you want to know more about this ministry/mission, visit with Flo Praiswater.



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

July...Happy Birthday America ... 247 Years of Freedom

With summer finally here why not fix an easy Refrigerator Pecan Cookie to serve with your ice cream or take on a picnic. Dough can be made ahead of time and bake when you need them.

Enjoy! *Hope Burkart*

Refrigerator Pecan Cookies

4 cups all purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1tblsp baking soda
2 cups (4 sticks) salted butter- Softened
2 cups brown sugar
2 cups sugar
2 large eggs
1tblsp vanilla
2 cups chopped pecans
Mix flour, baking powder and baking soda
Cream butter, brown and white sugars adding eggs and vanilla
Add flour mixture a little at a time to butter mixture - add pecans
Roll dough into logs - wrap in saran wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour
When ready to Bake...preheat oven to 350 degrees
Remove saran wrap and cut logs into 1/4 inch into balls
Place on parchment lined cookie sheet about 1" apart
Bake for 10-12 minutes

Peanut Butter Zucchini Sheet Cake

Recipe was requested of Iola Grant, who brought this cake to the June 13 Second Tuesday Lunch.

Cake

1-3/4 cup sugar
1 cup Canola oil
1 cup creamy peanut butter
3 large eggs
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
2-1/2 cups flour
1 Tsp. baking soda
1/2 Tsp. baking powder
1/4 Tsp. salt
1/2 cup 2% milk
2 cups peeled and shredded zucchini

Frosting

1/2 cup peanut butter
6 Tbsp. soft butter
6 Tbsp. 2% milk
1 Tbsp. vanilla extract
4 cups powdered sugar

Pan size -- 15x10x1 inches
Oven temperature -- 350 degrees
Bake time -- 25-28 minutes

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, beat sugar and peanut butter until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating after each. Beat in vanilla. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add to batter alternately with milk, beating well. Fold in zucchini.
2. Transfer to pan. Bake until toothpick comes out clean. Cool until warm.
3. For frosting, in a large bowl, beat peanut butter and butter until creamy. Beat in milk and vanilla. Gradually add powdered sugar. Spread over cake. Sprinkle with chopped peanuts if desired.

An enormous THANK YOU to those at Vacation Bible School for your generous bounty of gifts for those who depend on Twice Blessed for the things most of us take for granted.

We are overwhelmed by your support.



Basic necessities free of charge
to those temporarily in need

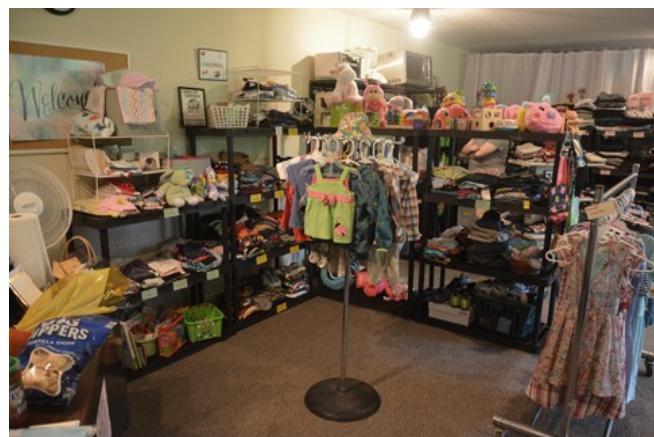
Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

Open July 6 & 20

Twice blessed

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00

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



In Memoriam (*From Page 6*)

appropriate), and incredibly loving. She was a fierce voice for social justice for all, especially the LGBTQ+ community. She was a steadfast and rock-solid anchor for her wife, and deeply beloved by her family and friends.

She is and will be profoundly missed.

The family requests no flowers for either service. Rather, they would like those who are so inclined to make donations to The Trevor Project, which provides 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention services for LGBTQ young people. Dona-

tions can be made online at www.thetrevorproject.org; by mail at The Trevor Project, P.O. Box 69232, West Hollywood, CA 90069; or by phone at (212) 695-8650.

If you or anyone you know is considering harming yourself or dying by suicide, please, please contact the National Crisis Line at 988 and, if you are a military Veteran or on active duty, press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line.

Arrangements are under the direction of Parker-Millard Funeral Service & Crematory, 12 East Ash Street, Columbia, MO 65203 (573) 449-4153. Condolences may be left online for the family at www.parkermillard.com.



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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Instagram: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.instagram.com/mwlocustgrove)

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.

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Find the hidden Bible  **in this issue.**

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

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

**No Tuesday Lunch
In July
Due To Renovations.**

The Back Row



By Gene Baumann

At press time for this issue of Locust Leaves, major renovation has begun on the sanctuary floor, the first of several improvements in our facilities to be done in the months ahead. See Rev. Ben's description of these projects starting on page 4. Watch and listen for announcements regarding worship and other activities during the construction. Both the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall will be unavailable for use.

While we are witnessing historic changes in

our church, with the disaffiliation from the United Methodist denomination, unprecedented growth in our congregation, and now major improvements in our facility, let's remember we are making history, not changing it.

My look at the floor structure in the photo below brings to mind an image of those who built the new sanctuary to replace the Brick Chapel in 1870. The congregation was 53 years old at the time, we are making today's changes in our 206th year.

With the Brick Chapel gone, a name change paid homage to the trees in the front lawn, trail markers for the early immigrants. I'm proud that we use the name Midway Locust Grove Church.

