



Please join us for worship.
Midway Kids: 10:30
Worship: 10:30

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Calendar

Sundays —

Women's Bible Study 5:00 p.m.
Midway Students 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 68

Last Monday of Month
Gorgeous Girls Lunch: 11 a.m.

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 6:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

This Month

Thursday, July 4
Independence Day
Happy Birthday, USA

Tuesday, July 22 — Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

July 15 — 6:00 p.m.
Ministry Council meets

Friday, July 19 & 25
Give Back Day
Ronald McDonald House
Lunch for Families

Midway Locust Grove Church

Locust Leaves



Volume 37
Number 7
July 2024



Beyond
the Pulpit

**Pastor
Ben Lee**

The Dog Days of Summer

A friend recently mentioned, “We have officially entered the dog days of summer.” I nodded in agreement, and the conversation moved along. But as a word nerd, I later wondered where the phrase originated. After some searching, I found this excerpt on the EarthSky website:

“The ‘dog days of summer’ is a phrase used to describe the hot and humid days of summer. It can be traced back thousands of years to the days of the Roman Empire. It refers to the dates from July 3 through August 11, which is 20 days prior and 20 days after the star Sirius rises and falls in conjunction with the sun. Sirius was known as the “Dog Star,” because it is the brightest star in the constellation Canis Major (Large Dog).”

One thing I know for sure is that the dog days of summer can cause us to become a little lax. Schedules are altered with kids being out of school, fun family vacations are planned, and weekend cookouts are enjoyed with friends and neighbors. I believe all of those things are incredibly healthy. I also believe we must double down on focusing on our Spiritual formation during the dog days.

I want to encourage you not to get lax in your daily Bible study and times set aside for personal prayer. Continue to engage in authentic community, silence, solitude, and service this summer. You are growing by leaps and bounds in your faith and I am so proud of you. I am convinced that if we continue to press into the Lord this summer, we will have an amazing harvest season this Fall!

Peace,
Ben

In Memoriam



Bill Lee

June 19, 1948—June 24, 2024

William L. “Bill” Lee III, father of Locust Grove pastor Ben Lee, died very peacefully, surrounded by those he loved on June 24 at WellStar-MCG in Augusta, Ga. Our sympathy goes to Ben, Stacy, Wick and Zeek, and Bill’s wife Becky in their loss.

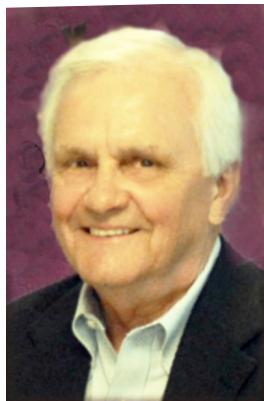
Celebration of life services were Saturday, June 29, in Macon, GA, officiated by Bill’s son, our Rev. Ben Lee. Several of our church members attended the services

Bill and Becky had made several visits to Locust Grove since Ben became our pastor, and they had made a number of friendships.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Bill joined the United States Air Force, serving the Vietnam War. After returning home, he began a lifelong career in transportation management, retiring from Drug Transport Incorporated in 2008.

Bill was born in Garden City, Michigan to the late Bill and Peggy Lee. He was a tried and true UGA fan and an avid bass fisherman. Bill was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a 40-year member of Liberty United Methodist Church and spent several years volunteering at Daybreak in Macon. In addition to his parents, Bill was preceded in death by his brother, Joe.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife of 50 years, Becky, and their children, Jeff and Michelle Lee, Todd and Cynthia Alligood, and Ben and Stacy Lee. Bill deeply loved his grandchildren, Ashlyn Alligood, Anna Huff, Jacob Lee, Wick Lee,



TREASURY NOTES

By Kelley Frink

Total contributions for the month of June were around \$21,000. In May, Midway on a Mission raised almost \$4,000 at their first Midway Market. These funds are now being tracked separately from church operations.

Kelley (Kelley.m.frink@gmail.com)

~~~~~  
Zeke Lee and Jonah Lee. In addition, he is survived by his sister, Shirley Parker, his brothers and sisters-in-law, Derrell and Leslie Parker, Dave and Cindy Russell, and several nephews and nieces. Instead of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Bill’s memory to Midway Locust Grove Church, 2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road, Columbia, MO 65202; Daybreak, DePaul USA, 174 Walnut St., Macon, GA 31201; or All About Animals, 101 Riverside Drive, Macon, GA, 31201.

Snow’s Memorial Chapels had charge of the arrangements

## Thank You

To Our Midway Locust Grove Family,  
You are rare and special people, as evidenced by your many acts of kindness, love, and sympathy over these last several weeks.

Your prayers, cards, and presence supported us in our grief.

The breathtakingly beautiful flower arrangement, titled “Eternal Grace” included a large crystal keepsake cross. Thank you.

Memories are the legacy of love. Our family will never forget the warmth of your love.

Our love to each of you,

**Becky Lee**

# In Memoriam

Garrison Mac Gessling, five-year-old son of Andrew and Mandy Gessling, died peacefully in his sleep on Wednesday, May 29 at his home. He was born April 26, 2019 in Columbia.



Services were June 4 at Locust Grove Church, with burial at the Village of Locust Grove. Rev. Ben Lee conducted the service, with family sharing presented by Evan Hughes for a standing-room-only gathering of family and friends..

Garrison was a lively, active little boy who loved Spider Man and Sonic, the Hedgehog. He loved playing with his brothers, sister and cousins. He loved his family very much.

He loved to shoot his new BB gun, ride his four-wheeler, and go fishing with his brothers. There were frequent dance parties where he was around, and he loved playing Uno and jumping on his trampoline.

Garrison will be sweetly remembered by his Dad and Mom, Andrew and Mandy, brothers and sister, Gabriel, Gideon, Gavin, and Goldie, grandparents Marlin and Tami Gessling and Tony and Tammy Ramsey, great grandparents Virginia Price and Mary McDaniel, and many other relatives and friends: Aunts

# Happy Birthday

July 2024

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

*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.*

and Uncles Matthew and Emily McDaniel, Marcus and Abigail McDaniel, Shane McDaniel and Jaidyn Reed, Kendall and Heather Gessling, Patrick and Katie Persinger; Cousins Evan Hughes, Abigail and Isabelle Gessling, Mason Jameson and Braelynn McDaniel, Ariabella and Kinrick McDaniel.

Garrison was preceded in death by his Grandfather Randy McDaniel, Great Grandparents Charles Price, Tom LeMaster, John McDaniel, Ralph and LaVerne Gessling, Pat Mansfield, and Gerald Simpson; Great Uncles Wendell Gessling, Jeffrey Mansfield; Great Aunt Renee Gessling.

Garrison's family has expressed their sincere appreciation to family and friends for their many comforting messages of sympathy, prayers, tributes, and all other acts of kindness and concern extended during the loss of their loved one.



## Getting to know you

With the recent and continuing growth of our congregation, it seemed a good idea to revive a feature from earlier years of Locust Leaves. We will feature someone in each month's issue, alternating new and longtime members. Thanks to LeeAnn Martin for co-ordinating the series.

### Amber Burkart

While this month's story focuses on Amber Burkart, it cannot be told without mention of the multi-generational Burkart/French families' many years at Locust Grove Church.

Amber's husband, Brian, essentially grew up in the church with this parents and current members Joe and Hope Burkart and his sister, Michelle O'Neal. The previous generation was Hope's parents, Dick and Jerry French.

Amber and Brian added their family to the active role of the church upon the arrival of Rev. Ben. As Amber explains it, "He brought new hope to our lives."

Amber operates her own daycare center, continuing a career of more than 23 years in special education and childcare.

That professional career carries over to her home life with six children and two grandchildren.

Daughter Alexus lives in Slater, Mo., with her husband, Dalton, and two children Dayton Lee and Isabella Rose.

Hailey lives in Harrisburg and is a student at the University of Missouri, but will be studying abroad in Rome this fall.



Isabella lives at home, just graduated from Hickman High School and plans to attend Paul Mitchell School this fall.

Makayla lives at home, is a fulltime student and helps with the daycare center.

Raylin lives at home and loves going to school at Midway.

Rhylie lives at home and is the firecracker of all six girls.

Pets are an important part of the family too, with four dogs, Apollo, an English Mastiff; Ellie Mae, an Australian Shepherd/Corgi mix; Bocephus, a black and tan Bloodhound, and Tinkerbell, a Pomahuahua.

When there is time left over for hobbies, Amber lists her children as her favorite hobby. "Nothing brings me more joy than watching them learn and grow.

"We enjoy canoeing, fishing, swimming, basketball, softball, visiting national parks, and teaching our girls why it is so important to protect the world around us."

Regarding Locust Grove, Amber says "I can't say I would change anything, but maybe add a sunrise service once a month."

## Father's Day

The recent Mother's Day Flower Shop returned as a Donut Shop for Father's Day. Those arriving for worship had a snack before entering the church, knowing they would do the same thing after worship. As a bonus, a number of Dads bought leftover donuts to take



home to enjoy for the rest of the day and through the week.



*The children joined worship singing the theme song from the recent Vacation Bible School. Rev.*



*Ben then commended Shayla Roop for coordinating the very successful VBS.*



*Beth and Steve Luetjen and Teagan and Kylie Groh performed "The House of the Rising Sun/Amazing Grace" medley for worship.*



*The morning ended the way it began, with snacking on donuts in celebration of Father's Day.*



“Start the Party” Vacation Bible School was held the evenings of June 9th-12th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. The children ate dinner, rotated through stations (music, craft, games, Bible story), and learned to celebrate the good news.

It was a wonderful week with 88 children registered to attend and an average of 80 children in attendance each night. The children raised approximately 1,300 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



## Vacation Bible School

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 four different age groups of children, leading the four different stations, running the A/V booth, setting up zip lines, helping with dismissal/parent pick-up, and the tear down/clean-up following VBS.

It truly takes a village, and I am beyond thankful for our village at Midway Locust Grove. I appreciate each one of our volunteers who showed up and poured into our children! I am already excited for next year!

Thanks for everything! **Shayla Roop**



*While the kitchen staff scurried to prepare dinner for the students, the registration team was signing in those attending. Coordinator Shayla Roop prayed with them before sending them in for their evening*



*meal before going to the sanctuary for the opening session each evening of the four-day school..*





## Vacation Bible School



*Director Shayla Roop welcomed the students and staff to the opening ceremony. Read her report on page 6.*



*Zeke Lee and Teagan Groh opened each day's activities with music and games at the opening ceremonies.*



*Where did all those people go?*



*Each day had some outdoor activities, and the grand finale was the ceremonial pie in Rev. Ben's face consolation prize for once again losing the Boys vs. Girls Gifting to Twice Blessed competition.*

# Poet's Corner

Readers are invited to share their original writings here. Send items to the editor or deliver them before or after Sunday worship.

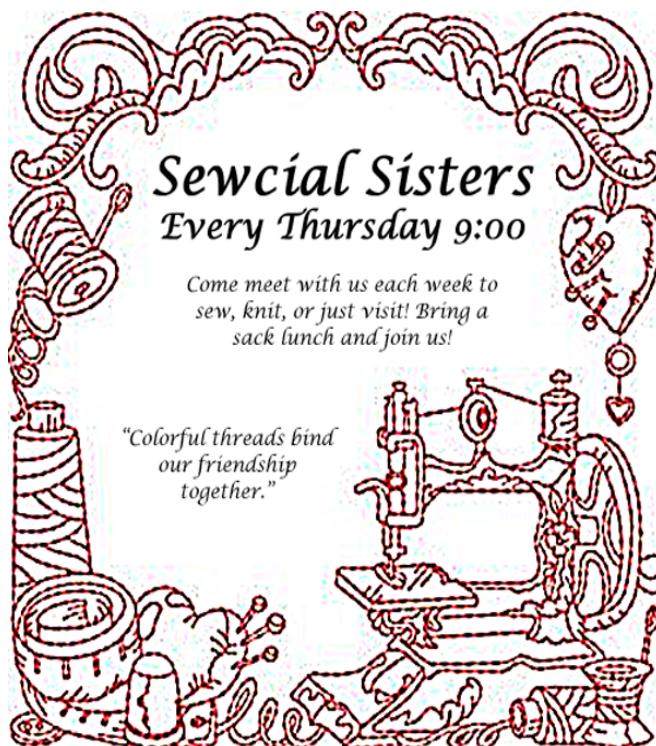
## United

I do not understand how we  
could lose our “commonality,”  
only want what’s best for me!  
Not for myself but for the rest  
was how our country passed her test.  
The pilgrimage to unknown shore  
A common bond it seems—no more.  
Not a “free for all” — but FREE  
As founding fathers meant to be.  
One cause—not individual,  
will make us indivisible.  
One nation, under God, — is lost.  
Our lives, our liberty’s the cost  
of selfishness and greed and strife.  
“United” holds our way of life!

*Glenna Johnson*

~~~~~

Belinda Thompson and Mariea Caruthers provided special music for service January 23, as they played and sang “Goodness of God,” providing the choir a well-earned break for the day. Music is an important part of worship, under the direction of Jim and Glenna Johnson. They are appealing to members who sing or play an instrument to participate.



Sewcial Sisters Every Thursday 9:00

Come meet with us each week to sew, knit, or just visit! Bring a sack lunch and join us!

“Colorful threads bind our friendship together.”

“The one concern of the devil is to keep Christians from praying. He fears nothing from prayerless studies, prayerless work, and prayerless religion. He laughs at our toils, and mocks our wisdom, but he trembles when we pray.”

—Samuel Chadwick



In June we passed a significant milestone in American history—the 100-year anniversary of the Indian Citizenship Act, also known as the Snyder Act. Signed into law by President Calvin Coolidge on June 2, 1924, this groundbreaking legislation GRANTED NATIVE AMERICANS CITIZENSHIP IN THEIR OWN LAND!! It was a pivotal moment in their fight for recognition and equality, marking a significant step towards acknowledging the rights and dignity of Indigenous peoples. Imagine being denied citizenship in the place you were born?

As we prepare for our adult mission trip to the Pine Ridge Lakota reservation, we continue to look for ways to walk alongside these relatives. We have been collecting heavy, warm

ON THE REZ

With Kathy Hughes

coats and snow suits to take with us. We also decided to ask the congregation to help us collect WARM gloves, hats and scarves. Think: standing in minus zero temperatures outdoors for 20 minutes waiting for a school bus or a friend to pick you up for a medical appointment. Or riding horseback in a blizzard to check on an elderly family member.

Those cute little jersey gloves just won't cut it. We are collecting for children and adults, and these items will be appreciated more than you can know, on a reservation where there are no Walmarts or Targets or any other stores to purchase warm winter clothing.

Two Give Back Days scheduled for July 19 and 25

It is time for our next MLGC Give Back Day! We will have TWO opportunities to help the Ronald McDonald House this month! Their new home just opened on College Ave, which is where both events will take place.

•JULY 19, 10-11:30 AM: We will be preparing sack lunches for the families staying at Ronald McDonald house. All the supplies are provided, we just need 4-6 people to volunteer to pack the lunches up.

•JULY 25, 4-6 PM: We will be cooking dinner for the families staying at the Ronald McDonald House. We will need

volunteers to supply ingredients, and we will need 4-6 volunteers to go to the house to prep the meal and serve.

Please email me at jessica@weichertft.com if you are interested in serving on either of these days, or would like to contribute ingredients to the dinner. If you would like to supply ingredients, I'll be in touch with the list of items needed ahead of time so you can drop them off at the church on July 24th or 25th.

Blessings, *Jessie Kempf*



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

Everyone will be busy celebrating the 4th with family and friends.

Here is an easy "All Day Brisket" you can put in oven and forget.

Enjoy!

Hope Burkart

All Day Brisket

2 briskets each placed in aluminum pan

Sauce:

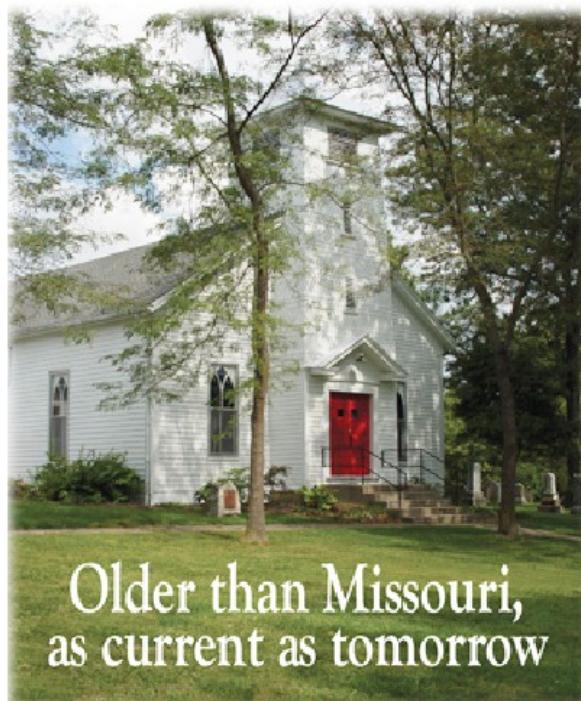
48 oz ketchup

2 onion soup mixes

2 cups of water

Pour sauce over each brisket. Cover pans tightly with foil and bake 275 degrees for 6-7 hours.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
July 9, Noon,
in Fellowship Hall.
Bring a dish and a
friend and join in an
Independence Day Quiz.**





Twice Blessed is averaging 15 - 25 NEW customers per session, so our usual amount of "staple items" is quickly depleted! Thank you all for your constant and continuing support!!! So if you are able keep those basic supplies comin' our way!

Things are hopping down at Twice Blessed. We are seeing lots of new faces coming thru our doors. We have lots to be thankful for at Twice Blessed.

*Thank you to the Vacation Bible School that collected over 1300 items. That included personal care items and cleaning products. It is wonderful to see our shelves full of these items for our customers.

*Thank you to Mike Fuemmeler for weed eating and spraying the creek banks behind the store.

*Thank you to Dan Meives for cutting and removing the broken limb from our tree.



*Thank you to whomever cleaned the algae off the building. I am sorry that we do not know who did this but we appreciate it.

We have a great start on collection of new and gently used items of our 4th annual Christmas Store coming up in just five short months!

Thank you and blessings to all,
Glenna and Jill

~I would personally like to thank LeeAnn and Kathy H. for all their time helping Glenna during my absence. And to any others whom I have missed naming who have helped. I truly appreciate it. It is good to be back at Twice Blessed. Thank you! *Jill*

**Join us for Second Tuesday Lunch
July 9 at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall.
Bring a dish and a friend
and join in the Independence Day trivia quiz.**



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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

***Our Mission:
We exist to
gather in grace,
grow in Christ,
and go share the Gospel.***

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Find the hidden Bible in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 37 Issue 7 July 2024

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

**Tuesday Lunch will be
at noon on July 9
in our Fellowship Hall.**

The Back Row By Gene Baumann

One of the side benefits of belonging to Midway Locust Grove Church is its long history, a boon to anyone interested in local history. That's me! It is one of the reasons I have become involved in Boone County history, Rocheport in particular. The story I ran into below had no connection to our church at the time it happened, but does now.

For a number of years half a century ago, Rocheport had an annual Friends Fest, a community celebration which included among other activities, a frog jumping contest. The Columbia Tribune ran an article during this period and interviewed a former champion about the art of frog jumping. You might interview him yourself some Sunday morning at church.

The article discusses the new age of frog jumping competitors, no longer elderly tobacco-chewing good ol' boys, but "competitors who are barely out of diapers."

"Bullfrogs are the best kind," says Kevin Yaeger of Fayette, retired Rocheport Friends

Fest frog jumping champion of 1970. Kevin is a teenager, too old now to compete with the young whippersnappers, but still an aficionado of the sport.

"Some people use striped frogs," he explains, a veil of seriousness covering his face. "They jump good, but they wear out quick. No stamina. They melt on the concrete."

Now that he's retired, Yaeger can afford to be free with a few of his trade secrets. "You wanna keep 'em on ice in a cooler so they'll be cold," he tells an incredulous bystander.

"Because when they hit that hot pavement, it'll melt 'em right down. I always keep mine in a cooler," he reveals, as a gullible listener tries to imagine the scenario.

"Won't they freeze to death?" Yaeger is asked.

"You don't ice them down like you would a cold beer or something," he says, a little disgusted. "But just—you know—keep him cool."

If he has any other tricks up his sleeve, Kevin doesn't let on. Perhaps he intends to pass them on to his little brother, Karlin, 6, who is a veteran turtle racer but a first-time frog jumper.

Karlin says he plans to enter today's contest at Rocheport, but admits he's too young to do his own dirty work. His dad caught his frog for him."