



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, June 11
7:30 p.m.
Family Fun Night
Ice Cream Social and Movie

Tuesday, June 14—Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch



Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee

Summer Family Fun!

This summer will be a great season of relaxation, releasing some of the stresses of work and school demands. The next few months will be full of family vacations, day trips with friends, and plenty of time at the pool or lake. It will also be a time specifically focused on faith, family, and friends here at Locust Grove UMC.

Our 2022 VBS will run June 5-8, with all hands on deck to serve the children as they come to learn about Jesus' love for them. We will have our annual Ice Cream Social, followed by our first movie night on the lawn of the season, on June 11. Many in our congregation have asked that we have more movie nights on the lawn this summer, so we are in the planning stages of setting the dates for those events. This summer will find a relatively large number of our children and youth at Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp, where they will grow deeper friendships with one another and will grow up in the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of God. Our Midway Students ministry to 6th -12th graders will continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday evenings of each month, and I have even heard talk that there will be a summer pool party at some point!

All of this to say, we would love for you to keep us in mind throughout the summer. As dates for events roll out in the coming weeks, if you are available, load up the kids or grandkids and come hang out. Also, continue to be intentional to invite friends, family, and neighbors to come with you. Often, relaxing family fun events are an excellent way for folks to get to know us in a more comfortable environment. It is my prayer that after attending a family fun event, some of our family and friends will come to check us out on a Sunday morning. For this to take place, our events will need to be well attended, then the hospitality we are known for will take care of the rest.

We are looking forward to an incredible summer chock full of faith, family, and friends!

Peace,
Ben

MINISTRIES & MISSIONS

Women reading Book of Ruth

The Learning Ladies Zoom Bible Study will be reading the Book of Ruth during June. 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.

Thank You

We have such an amazing church it is beyond the comprehension of most. Any time you start thanking individuals you run the risk of missing someone who quietly contributed to an event without wanting notice. So if you were part of the service or the feeding and caring for us the weekend of my parent's memorial and I miss naming you, thank you in advance.

Leslie D did an absolutely amazing job of co-ordinating a memorial service for two people at the same time, not an easy task. She talked with family members and got good background and stories she had not before heard, about two people she already knew. Jim and Glenna coordinated the music for the service in a way only they can manage, year after year. You are appreciated and we do NOT take you for granted. And Gene, who in his quiet, unobtrusive way goes about documenting the important moments of our lives. Thanks to all of you.

Then, THANK YOU to Louise who did an amazing job of coordinating the feeding and care of our large clan. Thanks also to Beth and Connie



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, June 27

11:00 a.m.

G&P Pizza

Crossroads Shopping Center
Broadway & Stadium
Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd
like to come
kkoehler1976@gmail.com

for helping make the sweet arrangements of flowers from Dell's garden. Mom and Dell were such good friend, she would adore the idea that the tables were covered in Dell's love.

I saw working in the kitchen keeping the food coming and the lines moving smoothly: Beth, Louise, Jill, Helen, Jana, Leslie U, Margaret and Glenna. There may well have been others I missed. If so, thank you, too.

Delicious food was provided by Suzi, Lou, Hope, Connie, Leslie U and Leslie D, Flo, Jana, Helen, Beth, Jill, Mariea, Margaret, Carolyn and Louise. With many people out of town, they came through with flying colors to feed a LOT of hungry people. Again, others may have contributed and if so, thank you also.

It was a very difficult week and weekend for our blended family clan who traveled from as far away as Oregon and California, Virginia, Canada, Texas and many points in between to mourn and remember and bury our parents/grandparents. We felt surrounded by the love and care of our church family. Those who had not experienced our church before made many comments about how such a "small church has such a big heart." I think that sums up our church family perfectly. So from the bottom of my heart, and that of our many family members, THANK YOU for nurturing us through this difficult time with your cards, comments, hugs, prayers and food. God bless you!

Kathy Hughes and family

May is month of honors for Rev. Ben Lee

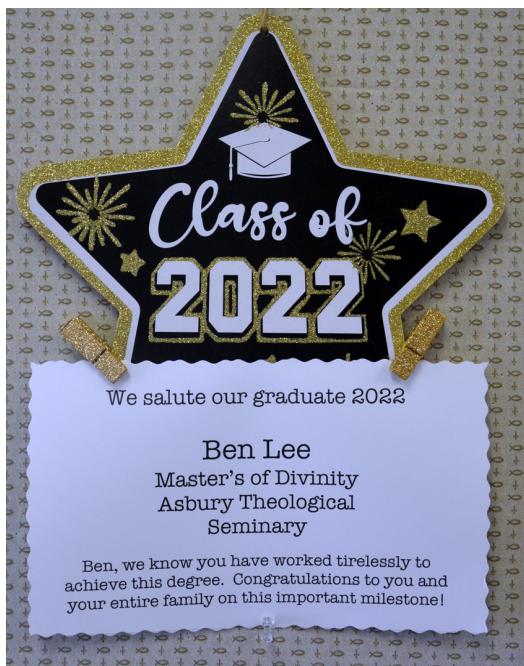
Congratulations to Ben, Stacy, Wick, and Zeke Lee as Ben graduated May 21, 2022 with a Masters in Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, KY. It was a family gathering for the Lees as Bill and Becky, Ben's parents, were able to join their son in this special occasion.

Earlier in the month Ben was honored by the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church with the Henry Denman Evangelism Award at a banquet on May 11.

We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Ben. In June, he begins his 3rd year with MLG. Great challenges are ahead for us and we are so grateful for God's guidance and for sending Ben to teach and lead us. *Louise Stanley*



Above left, Ben displays his Evangelism Award certificate presented at a dinner at the Columbia Country Club. Among the hosts were Mid-State District Superintendent Mi Hyeon Lee and Bishop Bob Farr. Below, Ben and family at the graduation ceremony at Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky.



On May 16, Two volunteers from Re-Member drove from Michigan to our community to pick up the over 30 backpacks and tote-bags that we collected and filled with toiletries and clothing for Lakota elders. Long-standing volunteers Ted and Kristin Skanze were amazed at the quantity of material and the work that we had done in support of these people, among the poorest in the Western hemisphere.

As a refresher for some and an introduction for newer folks, Re-Member is a non-profit organization originally founded by church folks from Michigan, where I used to live. Founded in 1998, Re-Member is one of the longest serving non-profit organizations on the Pine Ridge Lakota Indian reservation. I have been involved with Re-Member from its earliest days. Today, the organization has grown and evolved. While it is no longer formally affiliated with the United Church of Christ, its founder, it is an organization that attracts many church groups as volunteers.

As Re-member describes themselves, "We build beds for children who do not have one. We build outhouses for those without functional plumbing. We build knowledge and support self-sufficiency in our community gardens. We build economy with our support of local native-



Ted and Kristin Skanze with Leslie Durrant and Carolyn Doyle of the MLGUMC congregation.



By Leslie Durrant

owned business. We build hope for a better tomorrow, by focusing on the promise and possibility of what can be."

Re-Member brings hundreds of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to the Pine Ridge Reservation for week-long service-learning trips with a strong emphasis on cultural immersion. Working with our staff, volunteers complete various projects across the reservation while learning about the culture and history of the Lakota people. Formerly called the Sioux, the Lakota tribe is the tribe that raised up such famous leaders as Red Cloud, Black Elk, Sitting Bull, and Crazy Horse.

We believe that in addition to providing direct, tangible support to the Oglala Lakota

people, the strongest way to promote positive exchange in one of the poorest areas of the United States is to build relationships".

In the years I have served, I was shocked to learn that most families on the rez don't have running water. They live in cramped, uninsulated trailers in a climate zone that is among the harshest in the US, with winters temps frequently at 20 below zero, constant harsh winds and blizzards, and summers that have many days of in-

(Continued on Page 9)



Thank You

Blessing of Eloise Whiterose Madolora May Day 2022

Thank you to Ben and the entire congregation for the love shown to our family on May 1st. Our three-year old granddaughter Eloise was anointed with blessings for a joyful Christian upbringing. Her older brother Otis received blessings earlier at church in California. We are fortunate to be part of our Midway church family with faith and kindness surrounding us. May we always trust in our Heavenly father for guidance and peace.

Jane and Gale Bensussen and family



The three generations which constitute the Bensussen/Madolora family gathered on the lawn following the festivities. Rev. Ben blessed Eloise during worship, followed by refreshments in the Fellowship Hall. MLG is a second church home for these Californians due to Grandmother Jane's lifelong relationship here.

Happy Birthday June 2022

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Mike Fuemmeler | 13 Caleb Patrick |
| 1 Kathy Koehler | 16 Kylie Groh |
| 3 Dawson Roop | 17 Kathy Hughes |
| 3 Kevin Yaeger | 18 Cletus Koehler |
| 3 Kelsey Stubel | 19 Dotty Kasmann |
| 4 Barb Boillot | 22 Kathy Casteel |
| 4 Maggie Seals | 22 Stan Frink |
| 6 Cohen Strubel | 23 Sharon Yaeger |
| 7 Thelma Randall | 23 Shayla Roop |
| 8 Curt Brown | 24 Kurt Zahringer |
| 12 Sherri Perry | 29 Sheila Scott |

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.



Small but diligent crew makes Midway shine May 28

It was a beautiful day to "Make Midway Shine"! Thank you to those that showed up, walked the roads, picked up everything from broken bottles to boogie-boards, and braved the fire ants, ticks, chiggers, and speeding autos. Our haul was less than last year, which is a good sign.

If you missed today, we would love to have you join us next year for our 5th Annual Make Midway Shine. *Jim Johnson*



Shayla Roop

Keith Andersen

Below, LeeAnn Martin, Steve Luetjen and Beth Luetjen on Westlake Road.



Above, the Roop family signs in, selects needed materials, and below, works on Locust Grove Church Road.



Below, Kieth Groh works the weeds on Henderson Rd.



Rev. Ben brought his tailgate grill to fix hotdogs for the lunch that followed the picking up chores. At right, Lou Pegues and Louise Stanley serve behind the counter. In addition to the hot dogs, several members brought cupcakes, brownies and cookies.



Don and Thelma Randall's Celebration of Life



Leslie Durrant



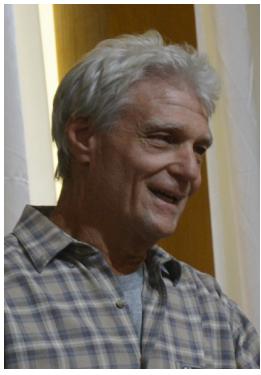
Peg Ramsdell



Kathy Hughes



Crystal Turner



August Tillman



Angela Zanata

Two beloved long-time members of our congregation were honored with a celebration of their lives May 22. Family and friends gathered to honor the many memories Don and Thelma Randall leave behind. Obituaries for the couple appeared in the April issue of Locust Leaves.

Leslie Durrant conducted the service and several family members, including daughter Kathy Hughes, commented throughout the service.

Following burial in the Village of Locust Grove, those gathered shared a meal provided by ladies of the church in Fellowship Hall.



May Loaves and Fishes

May 7th was our time to serve Loaves and Fishes. Usually this is when Kevin Yeager fries fish. This is usually an easy time for me because all the cooking is done by the outside crew frying fish, hush puppies and potatoes. My work is done earlier making sure we have the supplies. This year about two weeks before we serve Kevin informs me that his freezer is empty of fish and he had been going but it was still too cold for the fish to bite.

Then he said "Don't worry we should have enough by May 7th." I should have known better but to tell the truth I ordered supplies for corn bread and beans just to be safe!

Fast forward about 10 days, not only was Kevin fishing and telling his buddies we needed fish for Loaves and Fishes, they donated what they caught and came and helped fry the fish on May 7!!!!

That night we served 150 servings. Thank you to all that donated cookies and brownies and those who helped package all the meals.

Our Family Fun Night is Saturday June 11 at 7:30 PM. We will have an old fashioned Ice Cream Social followed by a movie the whole family can enjoy. This is an annual event and is open to the entire community so invite your friends and neighbors.

There is a sign-up sheet at church if you would like to bring ice cream or treats. If you have questions, call Leslie Brown at 573-445-2300.



This Ministry is truly a blessing. My prayer is that we touch those in need. I know I am blessed each time we serve. *Sherri Perry*



On the Rez — *Continued from Page 4)*

tense heat. Because of poverty, unemployment over 80%, and despair/depression/substance abuse, the average lifespan of a Lakota male is only 47 years, the lowest in the western hemisphere. Yet in spite of the extremely difficult conditions these people live with, they are among the most genuine, friendly, and humorous people I have known in my life.

I want to thank all the folks who donated to this recent effort that is so very needed. You have helped “the least of these”, and as Jesus said, by doing so, you did it for him.

I am going to reservation again the week of September 17, “Senior Week”, when the workload is lighter, the volunteers older and more mellow, and the fellowship is great. Won’t you join me? Have you heard the Lord calling in the night? Will you tend the poor and lame? If so, please email me at view01forest18@hotmail.com. Thank you!

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

May was another good month for contributions received. During the month, we received \$18,150. This is above the \$17,000 average needed for our budget. For the year, we are averaging \$18,951, which again exceeds our budget number. This will really help as we expand our ministry.

Apportionments are paid to date, and we have a nice balance in our general fund checking account. Thanks to all who are contributing in various ways, both through giving and service.



You're Invited

What: Vacation Bible School

When: June 5th - 8th (5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.)

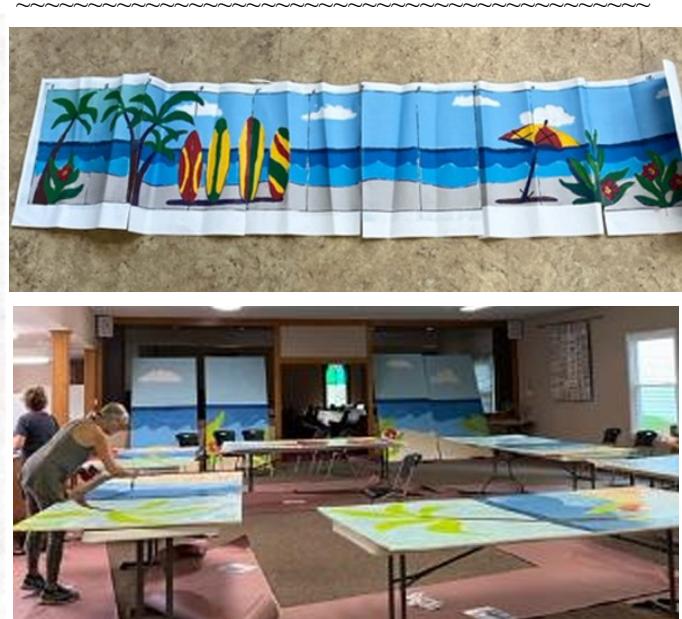
*dinner provided each night from 5:30-6:00

Where: Midway Locust Grove UMC

Who: Children ages 3 - 5th grade

Register online today:

<https://bit.ly/mlgumcvbs>



Leslie Utterback and her committee have spent countless hours painting a beach scene for Making Waves, our theme for the 2022 Vacation Bible School. VBS begins June 5 at 5:30 and runs through June 8 with a light supper for our students. Please invite everyone to join us.



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Summer is finally here!! Time for a simple, cool and refreshing Key Lime Pie. My friend, Kathy Hughes from Delaware, served this delicious pie at our camping rally and it was a big hit.

Enjoy *Hope Burkart*

Key Lime Pie

Preheat oven 350 degrees

1 - 11 oz. sweetened condensed milk

3 egg yolks

1/2 cup Key Lime juice

Mix above ingredients and pour into a 9 inch graham cracker crust.

Bake for 15 minutes or until pie is "set."

Cool completely on wire rack.

Chill for one hour before serving.

Top each slice of pie with "puff" of canned whipped topping. Add lime slices as garnish.



mwlocustgrove.com

This bumper sticker is available on the welcome table at Sunday worship.

Thank You!

We Give Thanks to God for our Choir Members

Your music ministry to this church is appreciated greatly!
Thank you for your dedication and hours of service.

The 2022-23 Choir Season begins in the fall.

We are seeking MORE people dedicated to the music ministry of this church. If you like to sing, PLEASE join us for an hour of singing, community, and service! Please see Glenna/Jim Johnson, or any choir member, for information.

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

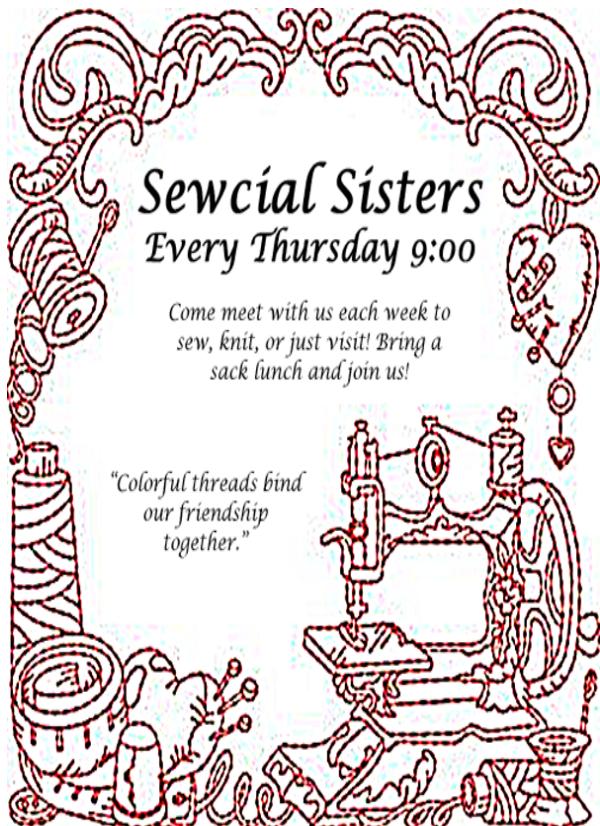
Basic necessities free of charge
to those temporarily in need

Open June 2 & 16

twice blessed

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00

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



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

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
June 14, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**

Join us for

Second Tuesday Lunch

June 14, Noon.

Bring a dish and friend.



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](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 445-1998

The Back Row



By Gene Baumann

Just as I start to panic each month wondering what I am going to write about here on the Back Row, someone shows up with the answer to my quandary.

I got a note from Kathy Koehler this week with an announcement that Clete has been invited to attend this month's Honor Flight honoring our veterans. Here's part of what she had to say.

"I'm not sure if you have room to put this in LL but we just found out today that Clete gets to go on the Mid-Missouri Honor Flight. Yay! He has had his name on the list since pre-covid. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. His flight is Monday, June 20 but I don't have any more de-



tails. His informational meeting is the week before. I've never seen anyone off or welcomed the bus home, but I understand it is quite moving. I would love for him to have a great welcome home that night if anyone would like to join our family."

She said when details become available, she will let us know, and I want to encourage you to join in either the send off or the welcome home . . . preferably both.

I have known several veterans who have attended one of these trips to Washington, and they described it as an emotional, inspirational, life-changing experience. Watch your email and other church communications in the next few weeks for the details.

It will be an easy but meaningful way to say thank you to Clete and his traveling companions for their service to our country. And I predict it will be an emotional, inspirational, life-changing experience for you as well as the veterans..

Find the hidden circuit rider in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 35 Issue 6 June 2022

If we had a Message Board...

***Join us for lunch,
12:00 noon
Tuesday, June 14
Bring a dish to share.***