



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

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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

June 11-14
Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, June 13—Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

Monday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.
Ministry Council Meeting

Saturday, June 24, 7:30 p.m.
Ice Cream Social and Movie

Friday, June 30
Midway Students Mission Trip

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist



Volume 36
Number 6
June 2023

Locust Leaves



Beyond
the Pulpit
**Pastor
Ben Lee**

Last Tuesday, I sat in Craig and Amie Butler's gym, Tiger Gymnastics Academy, filled with praise and thanksgiving as I watched 32 children run and play. It was an "ah-ha" moment for me. Yet another reminder of God's faithfulness. I began to think about each family those kids represent, how God is at work in their homes, and all that God is doing in our church and community through our Midway Kids ministry. I was overcome with awe and praise.

In a week, we have an incredible opportunity to continue to pour into the lives of children in the Midway area when we launch our 2023 Vacation Bible School "Ready, Set, Move!" For four evenings, June 11-14, kids, volunteers, and parents will take an engaging, strategic, fun-filled excursion, learning to "Follow Jesus here, there, and everywhere." In recent days, the church has been full of volunteers working for hours to prime, sketch, and paint the backdrop for this year's set, and it looks fantastic. We cannot wait for you all to see it! In addition, there are daily meetings taking place to plan everything from food and fun to nightly programming, parent pick-up lines, and a pie-in-the-face contest benefiting Twice Blessed. Thanks to Shayla Roop's leadership, no detail has been left out.

Registration is open and will remain open throughout VBS. We will gladly welcome walk-up registrations all the way through the event. As VBS progresses, if your children or grandchildren would like to invite family, friends, and neighbors to join us, we would love to have them come and learn about Jesus! Please continue to help us get the word out, and check our Midway Kids Facebook page regularly for more information and updates as the week unfolds.

It is humbling to consider all God has done in this ministry since we launched Midway Kids in September 2021. And it is with holy expectation and deep, abiding gratitude that we look forward to all God will continue to do in the lives of our children and families in the years to come. Thank you to every one of you who has supported Midway Kids with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. You are making a difference!

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

In preparation for Vacation Bible School, Leslie Utterback and her team of artists are painting a mural of a mountain range to decorate the sanctuary for the June 11-14 event. See Leslie's sketch of the final product below.



FAMILY FUN NIGHT

&

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

&

MOVIE NIGHT

JUNE 24TH

7:30 pm

MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

ON THE LAWN (bring lawn chairs or blankets)

Come and enjoy friends and great fellowship!

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

May was another good month for us as we collected more than \$25,000 in contributions. For the year, we are averaging well over \$24,000 per month. We have a nice balance in our general fund checking account, so we are in good shape financially.

We will likely see some changes during June. I am in the process of figuring out exactly what those changes may be, but will hopefully be able to know more by the next Locust Leaves.

Thanks to everyone for all you are doing.





GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

February 28

**Monday, June 26, 11:00
First Watch
421 N Stadium / Ste 109**

like to come
kkoehler1976@gmail.com

Happy  Birthday
June 2023

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

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.

Marsha Coleman discusses the mission of the A-Frame

We genuinely have a great bunch of retirees in our church, many of whom have stepped up and been a part of getting our Danny Coleman Memorial Transformational Home ready for a deserving family. We have had some very productive work days beginning with a 'clean up' day, followed by a 'wallpaper removal' day, and three days of getting much-needed paint on the walls. By the time you read this, we will have had a final cleaning day and a significant start on getting furniture in place. The house looks fantastic, and I stare in amazement every time I close and lock the doors.

We had a timely 'emergency call' from a friend of the church who had a grad student who had to be out of her apartment sooner than she expected, and it was a true blessing of gifts to the house (couch, bed, TVs, lots of kitchen items and cookware, all quality items). Ben and Louise stepped up and got the call out, and several men from the church were there early the next morning. The pickup and move were made in less than 2 hours! The grad student thought we were a saving grace to her, but she was indeed a saving grace to us.

We have received some very nice donations of furniture and accessories, but there is a long list of other needs to be ready for a benefiting family. Some items of need follow:

- A freezer (approximately 12 to 15 or so cubic feet)

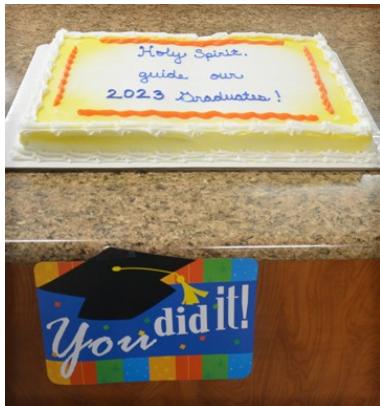
- One full-size mattress & box springs
- Mattress pads to fit two twins, one full, & one queen-size bed
- Dressers and nightstands for two bedrooms
- A coffee table & end/side tables
- Lamps

Let us know if you have any of these items or would like to donate towards their purchase. We will have more needed items as soon as we get furniture moved in and an inventory taken. We will get that list out to all so we may fulfill the needs of the family we serve. Feel free to contact Louise Stanley or Marsha Coleman regarding any items you would like to donate to ensure we do not end up with duplicate items and no place to store them.

Derek's moniker for his Dad is 'Cook something you can't eat and give it to someone who can.' Now we have an additional moniker, 'Make a home you can't live in and give it to someone who can.' The A-Frame is a gift from Danny. While he did not know how it would be used, he would be overwhelmed (maybe he is overwhelmed) by how it will fulfill so many people's hopes and dreams of surviving in this world and how it will achieve our church's hopes and dreams of helping others.

Again, thank you to everyone who has forfeited 'leisure' for 'labor' in making this house a home.

Marsha



Honoring our Graduates

By Jana Wirth

Jordyn Moore

He attended Rockbridge high school for four years. He was in the show choir instrumental combo and he served Rockbridge choirs as their accompanist. Jordyn also played in jazz band and numerous theater pits and served as a school ambassador.

During his junior year of high school he began taking college courses through MACC. He was a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and actually graduated with his associates degree from MACC before he graduated from Rock Bridge. He will be attending Columbia college in the fall and majoring in psychology.

Jaxyn Moore

Jaxyn Attended MACC where she was on the Dean's list and a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She then attended the University of Missouri where she received a degree in English, was on the Dean's list, graduating summa cum laud.

Jackson's interests and hobbies include theme parks, reading, listening to music, learning about world cultures and food, taking walks, making personalized cards and traveling.

Her plans for the future are to be a book proof editor where she can use her English degree and her love of reading.

Evan Hughes

Evan graduated from Hickman high school with highest honors and the Carver award. During his high school years he participated in cross country and track and lead FCA and the How to Life events.

Evan began working on his college degree while he was still in high school. His future plans at this point are to continue to pursue a bachelor of Christian ministries degree through Central Christian College of the Bible.

And, as you all know he is currently serving as our youth minister here at church and leading the Midway youth group for middle and high school students on Sunday evenings as well as taking them on outings and doing service work.

Wick Lee

Wick attended veterans high school in Georgia and then Hickman high school after moving to Missouri. He played in the band at veterans high school and ran cross country for Hickman throughout his high school career.

Wick will be attending the University Missouri this fall. This summer he will continue working at Hy-Vee where he's been working for quite some time and will travel in his free time.

Wicks hobbies and interest includes skateboarding, baking, playing music, and hanging out with friends. I believe Marjorie McFann taught Wick to make a killer apple pie. I know many of you have heard his musical talents.

Barry and Lori Stoll serve our immigrants

By Lori Stoll

(Editor's Note: The City of Refuge is one of Columbia's most important and unique social service agencies. A recent story in the Columbia Missourian tabloid, "Boom Town" prompted the need for the story of two of our church members to be told to our Locust Leaves readers. Lori agreed to tell us the story.)

I was the original Director in 2010 as we were a non-profit of one person to start. Barry became the Director in 2016 and from there we have 12 full-time staff and two part-time.

Barry and I are now care coordinators and meet one-on-one with the refugee/immigrants as they come to us for things such as help with life in general and adjusting to this life with language, cultural and other barriers. The obstacles they face are so disheartening without an advocate who knows and has connections in the community.

We help them with whatever they present to us, whether it is acquiring a job, enrolling kids in school, buying a car or a house, and who to trust when doing this. We help with transportation if they don't have a car, taking them to the doctor and navigating different health care problems. We counsel, instruct, read their mail, and warn them of scams. We celebrate graduations, new babies and birthdays.

We worship, eat and pray together. We receive their friendship and they have even walked with us through the death of a family member, to the birth of a grandchild. We have helped them find ways to enjoy this life, such as camps for their kids and family camping, scholarships to a gym, visiting Amish for fresh meat and produce, visiting the zoo in St. Louis, etc.

We have classes here for English, sewing and crafts, cooking, and others. We have a basic needs closet and a food pantry. We have an English buddy program where the volunteer meets weekly



for conversational English and some instruction. There are volunteers who also help kids who need pre-kindergarten readiness, as not all kids can get into preschool. We hope to alleviate some of that deficit by opening our own preschool in the fall.

We also educate and connect them to resources that will help their adjustment and present opportunities that will accelerate their adjustment. We have learned so much as we have listened to their plight and this is how we

know what they need and how to serve.

We have many who come to us from other states as City of Refuge is so unique. There are very few non-profits that serve refugees nationwide that are not resettlement agencies. Resettlement agencies are for the initial six months to a year of settling and becoming independent. We still help folks who have been here for 15 years as our world keeps changing and English is so hard to understand.

My own personal involvement started as a college student helping five Vietnamese refugee kids with their homework. I fell in love with the kids and it opened my eyes and heart to the plight of the refugee. Barry and I later started fostering a family of five siblings and then adopted them around the same time that I started helping the refugees I found here in Columbia.

I think the closeness of the relationships with our kids and the reality of adjustment that a brand new refugee from the jungles of Burma encounters motivated us along with the story of Adoniram Judson, our first American missionary who went to Burma. Barry grew up in Africa and came back to the states as a teen so God developed in him an understanding of different cultures and the feeling of loneliness and confusion that accompanies that adjustment to a new one.

Fishing and Fun at Coyote Hill



A large contingent of volunteers answered the call to take the kids of Coyote Hill Children's Home fishing in the facility's lake May 13.

Locust Grove Church has had a long supportive relationship with the home near Harrisburg.

In addition to fishing, other activities were offered the children, plus the opportunity to enjoy some of the fish they caught in addition some brought along for the occasion.

Thanks to all who helped make their day one to remember.



In keeping with the agency policy, we have tried to protect the visual identity of the participants.



Fish Fry



The Men's Bible Study

Group closed their season with a fish fry at Kevin Yaeger's shop May 11, inviting all men of the church to attend. Many accepted the offer and shared a popular Locust Grove dining experience and great fellowship.



Josh Johnson named Human Resources Director for Columbia schools



Josh Johnson has been selected to be the next director of human resources for the Columbia Public Schools. Josh grew up in our church, being confirmed in 1988, and is a product of CPS, attending Midway Heights Elementary, Oakland Junior High, and a very proud graduate of Hickman High School.

He's been an educator for 24 years, spending 17 years as teacher and coach at Oakland Middle School, 1 year as administrative assistant at Gentry Middle School, 3 years as an assistant principal at Battle High School and 3 years as principal

of Gentry Middle School. He holds a Bachelor of Science in social studies education and graduated summa cum laude from

M U in 1999. Josh also earned a master's degree and specialist degree in administration from William Woods University.

Josh is the son of our music directors



Jim and Glenna Johnson.

Josh, with older brother Tony at Confirmation in 1988



MIDWAY STUDENTS

By Evan Hughes
Director of Student Ministries



At the start of May, Midway Students collaborated with the youth group at Midway Heights Baptist Church to host a joint night of worship. Students from both youth groups, their friends, and even some college students from in town all sang out praise together. Wick Lee, a man of many talents, led us both with his voice and on the Cajon drum. A gospel presentation was delivered, scripture was read, and prayer was offered. Overall, it was such a beautiful time.

Following worship, the two youth groups truly connected as we enjoyed games and ate treats. It was a blessing to be able to use Midway Heights' gym,



From games to worship, the student groups shared a meaningful evening of fellowship in early May at Midway Baptist Church.

where we played 9-square (which is the game featured in the pictures), spike ball, and card games. It was so encouraging to witness authentic relationships being formed through moments of organic fun.

Considering that the worship night was the first joint event to be hosted with Midway Heights Baptist (at least in the recent past), it was truly incredible how well the groups meshed together. Caleb Isaacson, who some of you may know as a media specialist at Midway Elementary, leads the youth group at Midway Heights.

He is an amazing guy with a huge heart for children and youth. He shares my same desire and vision to see God revitalize the middle-schoolers and high-schoolers who live in the Midway community. Caleb and I will continue to collaborate with one another, creating opportunities for youth groups to meet and be in fellowship together. All in all, the worship night was an exciting first step in creating a unified community of Jesus-loving youth here in Midway.

One last thing: while these pictures do not fully encompass the worship and fun we shared together, at least I remembered to take them!



Because of COVID, the Pine Ridge Lakota Reservation was closed to non-residents for almost three years. All volunteer activity ground to a halt, and none of our church family was able to work at Re-Member. It occurred to me that many of our newest families may not have even heard of the work there, or know anything about Pine Ridge. So I though I would take the opportunity this month to share some of the things we know about this territory of the Lakota and the work Re-Member does.

The officially reported average life expectancy on Pine Ridge is 67 years, the lowest in the United States. Other statistics, attributed to the Pine Ridge hospital, cite an average life expectancy for men of just 47 years. Women fare slightly better, with an average life expectancy of 55 years. Appalling, isn't it?

Of the 3,143 counties in the United States, Oglala Lakota County, contained entirely within the boundaries of the Pine Ridge Reservation, has the lowest per capita income (\$8,768). The community of Allen, South Dakota, has been called the poorest town in the U.S. by a variety of sources.

The unemployment rate on Pine Ridge hovers between 70 and 90 percent. The poverty rate is estimated to exceed 80 percent. The high school dropout rate is over 70 percent. Infant mortality is 300 percent higher than the U.S. average, teen suicide 150 percent higher. Children as young as five years old have committed suicide, so disheartened by their living conditions they see no hope for the future, even at such a young age. Can you even imagine? Half of adults over 40 suffer from diabetes. Some 85 percent of families are affected by alcoholism. A large number are also affected by drug abuse.

Conditions exist here that should not exist in the middle of the wealthiest country on earth. Our volunteers and other visitors to Pine Ridge are often shocked by what they see.

Re-Member is an independent, non-profit organization working with the Oglala Lakota Nation on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Da-

ON THE REZ

With Kathy Hughes

kota. We improve the quality of life for those who live here, and provide meaningful opportunities to serve and learn for those who volunteer and support our work. Re-Member's efforts are funded by private donations, and guided by the aspirations of tribal members who are generous with their wisdom as cultural speakers, community leaders, and builders of understanding.

At Re-Member, we are builders. We build beds for children who do not have one. We build outhouses for those without functional plumbing. We volunteers have

commented, sadly, that this is probably one of the few places in America today where families are EXCITED at the prospect of being gifted with an outhouse! We build ramps and skirting around trailers. We build knowledge and support self-sufficiency in our community gardens. We build economy with our support of local native-owned business. We build hope for a better tomorrow, by focusing on the promise and possibility of what can be.

Founded in 1998, Re-Member is among the longest serving non-profit organizations on Pine Ridge and is not affiliated with any religious, political, or policy group.

Each year, from March through October, Re-Member brings as many as 1,200 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds from across the United States and around the globe to offer their hands and hearts to the people of the Pine Ridge Reservation during 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.

On the reservation, volunteers live in bunkhouses at Re-Member headquarters and spend three days working to make daily life better for residents and two days learning about the Oglala Lakota people through presentations by Native speakers, site visits, interaction, music and community events. Through cultural immersion, we continue to develop a growing circle of advocates standing in solidarity with the people of Pine Ridge.

If you are interested in more info on this amazing mission opportunity, please go to the Re-Member page on Facebook, their web site, or talk to Kathy Hughes, John or Margaret Preus, Carolyn Doyle, Bill Wegener, Leslie Durrant, or Sheri Stewert. We all have amazing, individual insights into our trips to the Rez.



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Here is an easy dessert recipe that is quick and delicious.

Enjoy,
Hope Burkart

Black Forest Cheesecake

1 chocolate cookie crust
1 8 oz cream cheese softened
1/3 c sugar
1 c sour cream
2 tsp vanilla
8 oz cool whip

Beat cream cheese and sugar till smooth. Mix sour cream and vanilla and add to cream cheese then fold in cool whip. Spread 1/2 of this into chocolate cookie crust.

Next layer..mix
1/4 c cocoa
1 Tbsp powdered sugar

Add cocoa and powdered sugar to remaining cream cheese mixture then carefully layer on top of cream cheese layer.

Refrigerate 4 hrs
Cut and serve with drizzle of cherry pie filling.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
June 13, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**

**Helen Brown
becomes
part of the
crowd for
Second
Tuesday
Lunches**



After about a dozen years as a coordinator of the popular Second Tuesday Lunch, Helen Brown has decided to become part of the crowd.

She announced at the May luncheon that she was turning the responsibility over to Barb Harville and Mariea Caruthers.

She became involved about 2011, working with Jan Moore and later Mary Kaye Baumann before assuming full responsibility about six years ago.



SAVE THE DATE
Vacation Bible School

June 11th-14th 2023

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Midway Locust Grove Church

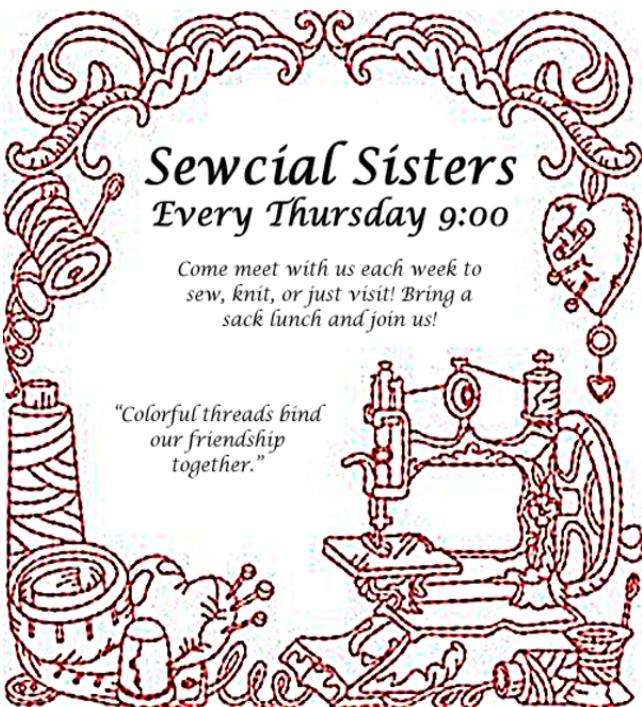
Kids ages 3 - 5th grade

*More information about registration and volunteering in May.

Twice Blessed has moved into the Summer season! 😎 Our shelves hold lots of summer clothes and even some swimwear for our customers. We have been seeing lots of new faces over the last couple of months. It is also good to see and visit with our regulars too. It is a blessing that some customers feel comfortable enough to share (and keep us up to date) on their lives and those of their families. Sometimes, you just need a shoulder to cry on or just an open ear and heart to listen to their stories (and worries). We offer that at Twice Blessed also along with the basic necessities that they need for their daily life.

Our mission store is always in need of the following:

- *Paper towels
- *any household cleaning products
- *Laundry detergents (small bottles like at DG or Dollar Tree)
- *Dish detergent
- *Dryer sheets
- *Ziploc quart/gallon size
- *Shampoo/conditioner
- *Toothbrushes
- *Toothpaste
- *Deodorant
- *Feminine hygiene products



We have plenty of summer clothing items other than women's plus sizes 3XL and up.

Thank you to all of our congregation and community who support Twice Blessed with their donations and prayers.

We would not be able to continue this valuable mission without you.



The Sewcial Sisters spent four days together at a quilt retreat with 18 other quilters. Sherri Perry finished her Red, White and Blue Honor Flight Quilt. We welcome new members on Thursdays at the Church.





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
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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
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The Back Row



By Gene Baumann

By now you likely are tired of hearing me moan about coming up with a topic for each month's Back Row when something appears from an unexpected source. Well, it has happened again.

As I was leaving the Boone County History and Culture Center a while back, I picked up a copy of a tabloid magazine published by the Columbia Missourian. As I browsed through it I saw an article about the co-founder of a remarkable social service agency in Columbia, the City of Refuge, which has become the immigrants' best friend.

What was even more remarkable about the story was that I recognized the person it was about — Lori Stoll, a relatively new member of our church with her hus-

Find the hidden Bible in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 36 Issue 6 June 2023

If we had a Message Board...

**Join us for lunch,
12:00 noon
Tuesday, June 13
Bring a dish to share.**

band, Barry. While this article focused on Lori, anything relating to the City of Refuge must include both of them.

Lori helped found the organization in 2010, after working with immigrants as a student at Mizzou. In 2016 Barry joined Lori and became director of refugee care. From the one employee in 2010, the agency has grown to 10 full-time, three part time, and over 150 volunteers.

When Lori became involved in the creation of the agency, she had been working as the volunteer coordinator for Rainbow House, a childhood emergency shelter, a fact that now reveals an unknown attraction to our church. Our own Kathy Hughes was the founder and longtime leader of Rainbow House.

Please see Page 5 in this issue for Lori's story on how she and Barry make Columbia as safe home for refugees, and how they set the bar for service to those in need.