



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.

Tuesdays —
Prayer Ministry—1:30 p.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

Sunday, November 3
Daylight Saving Time ends

Saturday, November 9 - 9:00 a.m.
Midway Prayer Walk

Tuesday, November 12
Second Tuesday Lunch — Noon
Prayer Ministry — 1:30

Wednesday, November 20—4 p.m.
Compassionate Friends

Monday, November 25
Locust Leaves Deadline

Midway Locust Grove Church



Volume 37
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LOCUST LEAVES

A Season of Celebration and Community Connection

Midway Locust Grove Church is in season with opportunities for fellowship and service, and joyful gatherings. We've already kicked things off with our first-annual Harvest Festival, and we're eagerly looking forward to our Community-Wide Midway Prayer Walk! There's so much happening here, and it's wonderful to see everyone coming together in faith and friendship.



Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor Ben

The Harvest Festival on October 27 marked the start of this season and it was an unbelievable success! Families, friends, and neighbors gathered on our grounds to enjoy an afternoon full of festive activities and cherished fall traditions.

Kids and adults alike delighted in the hay ride, playing in the haystack, and exploring the corn sensory station. The petting zoo was a favorite for all ages, bringing plenty of smiles and a chance to connect with the miniature goats! A pumpkin painting station brought out the artists in the crowd, while the fire pit provided warmth and tasty s'mores for everyone to enjoy together. An inflatable bounce house kept the young ones entertained, and a classic hot dog supper capped off the evening with good food and fellowship. We're so thankful to everyone who came and made this day unforgettable. It's our hope to make this Harvest Festival an annual celebration, growing each year into a community tradition.

As we continue this season, we're excited for our next event on November 9, the Community-wide Midway Prayer Walk! This special event is open to all and is designed to unite us as we walk, pray, and reflect together on what truly matters! Beginning at Midway Heights Elementary, we'll walk a 5K route, pausing at different half-mile points for focused prayer on various themes. Whether you're new to prayer or have a lot of experience, this walk is for you! Guidance will be available at each station to support everyone who participates, and each theme will help you lift up prayers for our community, country, and beyond. This is truly an experience for the whole family, and we encourage everyone to bring along family, friends, and neighbors to join in!

This season at Midway Locust Grove is all about growing together in faith, supporting one another, and building a strong, loving community. We're incredibly blessed to share this time with each of you. Let's continue working together to bring God's light to our community, deepen our connections, and create lasting memories. Thank you so much for being part of the wonderful season in the life of our church.

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

By Jessica Kempf

Check your calendar for the November 9 Prayer Walk. Starting from Midway Elementary, we will walk together, connect with others in the community, and pray for our community, country and others.

This will be a truly unique experience for the whole family! We will be walking a 5K—bring family, friends, neighbors, children, and church family to join you. And feel free to walk a shorter distance if you want/need to. Please pre-register using the link below. Registration and participation is completely FREE!

The walk will feature a different prayer theme for each half mile of walking. There will be guidance provided while you walk if you need it. This is for anyone who prays, from the novice to experienced. If you'd like to purchase a Prayer, t-shirt or sticker, they are available through the registration link.

All proceeds from sales are for Midway on a Mission, our non-profit organization to support missions of all sizes in our community. If you have prayer requests that you'd like us to add to our prayer walk, please email

prayerwalk@mwlocustgrove.com

Remember November 9 for Midway Prayer Walk



Midway Prayer Walk | November 9, 2024

All of our neighbors are invited to join us for our community-wide Midway prayer walk!

We are walking a 5K through the Midway neighborhood and praying as we walk. Walk at your own pace, and walk any distance you like, this is not a race!

All are welcome! Bring your friends, family, & neighbors to walk with you.

Each half mile will have a different prayer theme with guided prayer cards if you want one! We will have a ribbon prayer station on the walk as well.

Register today to save your spot! Please scan the QR Code or visit www.mwlocustgrove.com for info & registration!



573.445.4667
www.mwlocustgrove.com
prayerwalk@mwlocustgrove.com
 2600 N Locust Grove Church Rd.
 Columbia, MO 65202



Register Here!

PRAY. WALK. REFLECT. CONNECT.
 YOU HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE A HOODIE, TEE OR STICKER FOR THE MIDWAY PRAYER WALK TO SUPPORT 'MIDWAY ON A MISSION' AT ONLINE REGISTRATION!



Breakfast, coffee & juice
 will be available for
 purchase the morning of
 the walk!

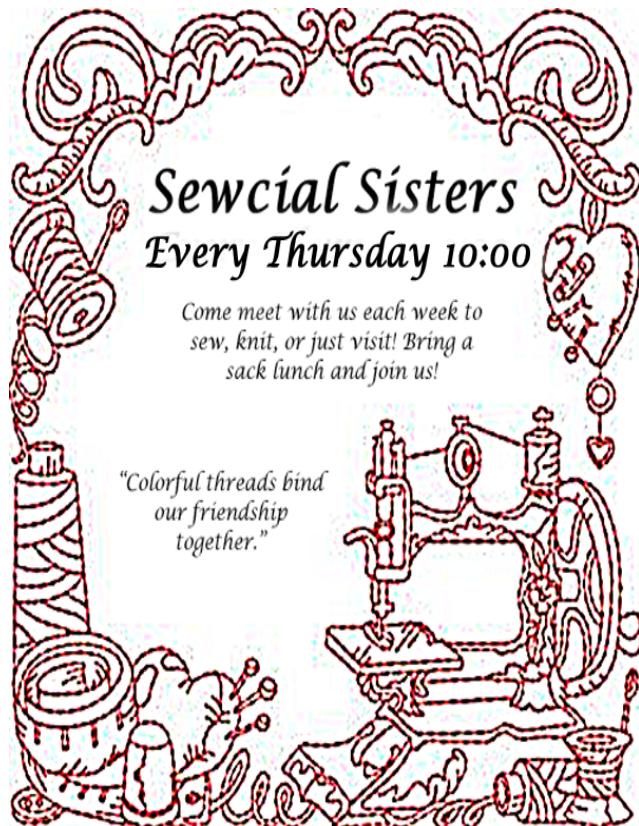
For more information and details, visit our event at

<https://facebook.com/events/s/midway-prayer-walk/2093372501058809/>

Register here:

<https://mwlocustgrove.wufoo.com/forms/midway-prayer-walk/>

We look forward to a great first year at our Prayer Walk!



Sewcial Sisters continue with community service projects.

In October, Margaret Preus, Kathy Koehler, Sherri Perry, Dale Graff, Jill Walker, and Beth Leutjen spent four days in Brunswick at our Fall quilt Retreat. We sew, share stories, eat, read daily Bible scriptures, and strengthen our friendships.

The Sewcial Sisters currently are making lap quilts for The Arbors at Colony Pointe in Columbia. There are 14 residents who live there and we are almost finished with their project.

Colony Pointe is an Americare Senior Living facility at 1510 Chapel Hill Road in Columbia, offering its residents personal assistance 24 hours a day. The Arbors is the Alzheimer's assisted living segment of the Americare facility. For more information on the service, call 573-234-4014.

Happy Birthday

November 2024

1 Ann Elder	12 Glenna Johnson
1 Earl Caruthers	18 Gyla Elmore
2 Gilbert Harville	21 Janie Butler
5 Julie Frink	24 Michelle O'Neal
9 Ryan Cunningham	27 Alyson Price
10 Bella Meyer	

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.



From the Internet Page. . .

Needed

Midway Sprouts (infant to pre-k) - Weekly volunteers needed for November, December, and January. We need 2-3 volunteers each week depending on the number of children. Please volunteer [here](#). Point Person: Amber Vroman, amber.frink@gmail.com

Midway Kids (kindergarten-5th grade)- Weekly volunteers needed for November, December, and January. We need 1 female and 1 male each week. These volunteers are supporting the children and the teacher. Please volunteer [here](#). Point Person: Shayla Roop, sroop@cpsk12.org

Visitors & New Members

2nd Sunday Get Acquainted Time - Sunday, November 10th - an informal time for guests to get to know our leadership team. Look for the red banner in the fellowship hall. This is a great Sunday to invite guests!



Instrumental support for the choir



Mariea Caruthers and Belinda Thompson joined Jim and Glenna for choir support October 8.

Kudos

Ellie Lichte is the 2024 Cross Country State Champion for Missouri. The 3200m event took place at the Lucas Oil Speedway in Wheatland, Missouri. She completed the race in 11:50.17 and also set a new track record.

The Lexington Middle School girls team took 2nd place, only missing 1st by one point! Ellie has had an amazing year in XC, having taken 1st in every meet this



season. According to MoMileSplit, Ellie is ranked 1st in the state for the 2000m, 2500m and the 3200m, She is in the 8th grade at Lexington Middle School and the granddaughter of Clete & Kathy Koehler of our Locust Grove congregation.

While it's true the family has missed a few Sunday services, Rhett O'Neal, pictured here, did lead his CYFL Junior Kewpies football team in center-of-field prayer before helping them win the 2024 CYFL championship against the Junior Cavaliers of Jefferson City.

Rhett plays both offensive and defensive tackle, and at the defensive position has multiple quarterback sacks to his credit.

Rhett proudly displays his championship ring, the first of what the family hopes will be many. Rhett is the son of Travis and Mi-



chelle O'Neal (and brother to Dalli Jo). Proud grandparents are Joe and Hope Burkart. Congratulations, Rhett, on your outreach ministry and football prowess. All of Locust Grove is proud of you.

First annual Harvest Festival sets standard for fun

By Shayla Roop

Our 1st Annual Harvest Festival was held on Sunday, October 27th from 3:30-6:30 p.m. It was a beautiful fall afternoon with a lot of good ol' family fun happening on the church grounds.

Some of the activities were: hayride, bonfire/s'mores, pumpkin painting, petting zoo with goats, corn play, haystack fun, bounce house, temporary tattoos, and yard games. Everyone had a chance to guess the weight of an extremely large pumpkin (506.8 lbs).

Carter Seever was the closest with a guess of 500 lbs and he won a gift card to Andy's Frozen Custard. Hotdogs and chips were served for dinner. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this event a success!



Searching the hay or corn kernels was a challenge but also rewarding.



Tattoos to remember the fun on our church lawn..



The petting zoo was equally fun for all ages.



A variety of yard games made for a fun event for all.





Everyone who wanted one had their own pumpkin to paint.



Once again Billy Cook made hotdogs, served with chips by staff hosts for those attending the event.



The Bensussen wagon made the perfect hayride. Below, Carter Seever with his reward for guessing the weight.

Below, watching the Chiefs game and cooking s'mores.



The story behind the pumpkin By Kevin Yaeger

Kyle and Suzanne (Yaeger) Gavin grew the giant pumpkins at their home in Chesterfield MO. Kyle started the pumpkins in grow tents in their garage in February. Kyle had purchased the seeds for \$50 each.

Last year he had beautiful plants and a ground hog ate them. This year, he put up a 9' tall fence that also went 2' deep in the ground. His next line of defense was an electric fence and then a motion detector that turned on the sprinkler system.

Soil samples helped him give the plants the correct nutrients to grow to giant proportions.

While his pumpkin was the 4th largest in the state, my granddaughter won the youth division. Vivian with her pumpkin.



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.

Falling

Each autumn with great anticipation
as sunlight streams through weary trees,
God breathes a sigh - a gentle goodbye.
Released from all which held them to the past,
leaves gracefully in unison drift, swirl, dance, twirl.
With great importance this ritual plays within me.
Torn between melancholy and excitement ...
fearful that perhaps the time has passed and
I must wait yet another year to witness the miracle:
this end - this beginning of yet another season.
In its finality, a comforting reality of hopefulness,
and once again anticipation of the promise
which awaits us all.

The renewal and reminder of the cycle of our lives.

Glenna Johnson

**Our new church website
is up and running . . .**

Check out the new church website on the Internet, at www.mwlocustgrove.com.

We hope you find it easy to navigate and full of useful information. Check back often as we will be adding to and upgrading the site as we get more pictures and new happenings. If you haven't already set up online giving, just pop over to the Give page and easily set up your account and giving frequency.



mwlocustgrove.com

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

**HELP! We have
absolutely
NO cleaning
supplies (and
very low on
laundry soap) !!!**



AND...

**NO (& I mean NO) infant girls winter clothing
(and very little infant winter boys)!!!**

Second Tuesday Lunch to report on Reservation trip

Members of our church family have been supporting and volunteering at Re-Member at the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota Reservation for many years and it was always a desire of ours to attend. It finally worked out in 2024! The experience was amazing. We developed a deeper bond of friendship and family with our group of 6 from church that made the trip together. We shared meals on the road, hotel rooms, chats and laughter and new knowledge about each other while riding in the car and gathering in the evenings before bedtime to share our experiences of the day. Several of the other attendees actually thought our group members were related!

Jana's reflections: even though I'm the wife of a carpenter/builder/cabinet maker, I really don't have much experience with tools. I had a concern about that, knowing that we were going to be building bunk beds and outhouses and ramps and porches. No worries! The work team leaders were very patient and helpful and provided great education on what to do. There was such satisfaction in going to someone's home and putting together the pieces of the bunk beds (with a screw gun!), providing a new mattress and a brand new set of sheets and pillows. It was wonderful to know that night they would be sleeping in a new bed instead of on the floor.

Jerry's reflections: I enjoyed the camaraderie and getting to know our church members on a deeper level. I was impressed by the passion and dedication of both the staff members and the presenters at our evening gatherings. I truly enjoyed my time in the on-campus workshop. I could have stayed and worked in the shop the entire week. It was great to be able to



use my skills to do the work and also be able to teach other members of our team.

I was encouraged by the work being done by Re-Member and feel like they are actually making a difference in the lives of the Lakota people.

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE and join us at the SECOND TUESDAY LUNCH on NOVEMBER 8th for an in-person account of our time at Re-Member. We'd love for you to hear more about Re-Member and answer any of your questions. ***Jerry and Jana Wirth***





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

An easy crockpot comfort recipe.

Enjoy, *Hope Burkart*

Chicken with Spinach in Crockpot

4 chicken breasts

Frozen spinach thawed and water pressed out

Salt & pepper

1 tsp onion powder

1 tsp garlic powder

2 cans cream of mushroom soup

1 can French onion soup

Place chicken in sprayed crock pot, sprinkle with seasonings

Sauce: 2 cans cream of mushroom soup, 1 can French onion soup and thawed spinach. Pour sauce over chicken and depending on thickness of chicken breast...

Thin breasts - High 2-4 hrs. Thick breasts - Low 4-6 hrs.

Serve over rice or noodles.

Bonus: 2 Ingredient Biscuits

2 cups self rising flour

1 1/2 cup heavy cream

Mix - this will be sticky so will need to flour counter, rolling pin and hands! Knead a few times to

add additional flour. Roll out to desired thickness, cut into biscuits. Bake 450 degrees 8-10 min,



GORGEOUS GIRLS
Join us for lunch!
Our next meeting
will be
February 24, 2025.
See note below.

Email Kathy Koehler
if interested;
kkoehler1976@gmail.com

Because of the holiday season and the possibility of bad weather, the Gorgeous Girls will not meet in November, December and January. Have a wonderful holiday season, stay well, we will meet in February 2025.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
November 12
at 12:00 noon in the
Fellowship Hall.
Bring a dish
and a friend.**

Christmas Is Coming & We Need Your Help!

**Announcing Twice Blessed's
Third Annual Christmas Store**

Saturday, December 7, 2024

10:00 am – sold out

for area families who need a little help this holiday season.

**This is your perfect chance
to re-gift or donate those unused items in your basement
or to take advantage of upcoming sales and clearance!**

Bicycles...Toys...Games...

Costume Jewelry...Decorative Items...

Gifts for ALL ages – something YOU'D like to get!

Please hold on to your donations until the week of the event!



**Watch for "Elf Sign-Up Sheet"
for help on Friday &
Saturday!!**

**URGENT!
We Need to FILL the
Store with Gifts!!**





MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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YouTube: [mwlocustgrove](https://www.youtube.com/mwlocustgrove)
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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The Back Row



By Gene Baumann

On those rare days when I'm not busy with some project, I enjoy browsing Facebook on my cell phone. I have discovered a great variety of short videos that range from just plain fun to deeply inspiring.

Jimmy Buckley's song, "My Mother," appeared during one of my viewing sessions. I had not heard of Jimmy or the song, but thought it worth listening. It made a significant impact on me.

As I listened to Jimmy's tribute to his mother, I involuntarily began to reminisce about my mother, who has been gone 36 years. Her parents came to America from Norway as young children of separate families, both named Larson, settling in an area of Illinois known as Little Norway.

Find the hidden Bible in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

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

**Tuesday Lunch will be
at noon on November 12
in our Fellowship Hall.**

The kids grew up, married, and moved to South Dakota where my mother was born. As a young lady she met an itinerant harvest worker from St. Louis who won her heart. They were married and produced two girls and two boys, of which I am the youngest.

When I was five or six years old my father went to Washington state to help build the Hanford Nuclear Site. That was the last we saw of him; Mom became a single-mom before it was popular, and set the standard for what that means. She went to work in the local glove factory and proceeded to raise her family, with the help of our small-town neighbors. I have nothing but good memories of those years.

After hearing that song, I couldn't resist telling you my reaction to it and to encourage you to call your mother if she is still alive, and to call back her memory if she's gone.