



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries and Missions	2
In Memoriam; Birthdays	3
Getting to Know You	4
House Washing Mission	5
Fisher House Mission	6
Harvest Festival	7
On the Rez Mission Trip	8-9
Spaghetti Dinner/Auction	10-11
Treasury Notes	12
Choir Thank You	13
Kitchen Cabinet; Gorgeous Girls	14
Twice Blessed	15
The Back Row	16

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

Tuesday, October 8 — Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

October 8-11

Sewcial Sisters Retreat
Brunswick Pecan Farm Cottage

Sunday October 27; 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Harvest Festival

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

Monday, October 28
Locust Leaves Deadline

Midway Locust Grove Church



Volume 37
Number 10
October 2024

Locust Leaves

We're excited to share that we're kicking off an 8-week series on the book of Ephesians! This letter from the apostle Paul to the early church in Ephesus may have been written centuries ago, but its message is just as relevant today. It's packed with life-changing truths that help us see God's incredible salvation plan,

which He put in place long before the world was even created. Paul reminds us that we're richly blessed in Christ, not just with material things but with every spiritual blessing available in the heavenly realms, all because of what Jesus did for us through his death and resurrection.

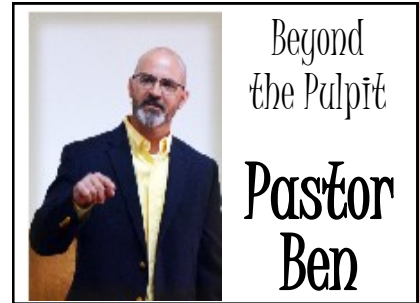
Throughout this series, we'll dive deep into the heart of Paul's message: we are saved by faith in Christ alone. Salvation isn't something we can earn; it's a gift from God that's freely given to anyone who believes. Paul also shares that through Christ's sacrifice, God has created a brand-new community, a family of believers united by faith and love. It's a community that tears down every dividing wall, inviting us to experience absolute unity in Christ.

We also uncover the incredible truth that prayer gives every believer direct access to God. It's not just reserved for a select few. This access is for all of us, giving us an intimate connection with our Heavenly Father. As our faith grows, we'll see how it starts to change every part of our lives. Paul encourages us to live in a way that reflects our calling, maturing in our walk with Christ. He challenges us to let go of attitudes and behaviors that no longer fit our new identity in Christ and instead embraces qualities like kindness, humility, and forgiveness.

Paul's letter to the Ephesians shows us how even our closest relationships, whether in marriage, family, or friendships are transformed by Jesus. As we follow Christ's example, His love and grace begin to shape everything we do. And finally, Paul reminds us that there's a spiritual reality that's just as true as the physical world we see every day. We're in the middle of a spiritual battle, and Paul encourages us to put on the whole armor of God so we can stand firm in our faith.

The series on Ephesians will be a time of reflection, growth, and encouragement as we unpack the rich truths of God's Word together. Each week, we'll explore a new part of Paul's teachings, helping us live out the fullness of the gospel in our everyday lives. We'd love for you to join us on this journey as we grow together, and encourage you to invite family, friends and neighbors to come along with you.

Peace, *Ben*



Ministries & Missions

By Jessica Kempf

Registration is open for the Midway 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 hoodie, 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

November Prayer Walk Registration is open



Join Us! **Midway Prayer Walk**
PRAY. WALK. REFLECT. CONNECT.

NOVEMBER 9, 2024
Registration 8:00 AM
Walk 9:00 AM
Midway Heights Elementary School
8130 W. Hwy 40

FREE to register & attend!

Event Details Here:


Can't attend but would like to send prayer requests?
Email prayerwalk@mwlocustgrove.com to submit your prayer requests!



Midway Prayer Walk | November 9, 2024

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

PRAY. WALK. REFLECT. CONNECT.

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!

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!

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!



Register Here!



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



**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!

In Memoriam

Nedra Moreau

May 5, 1942—September 10, 2024

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Nedra Carlene (Holt) Moreau, September 10 at the age of 82.

Nedra was born May 5, 1942, in Columbia, to the late Carl and Lorraine (Phillippe) Holt and step mother Dorothy Holt. She graduated from Hickman High School in 1960, attended UMC and graduated with a BA in Management from William Woods University. She married Daryle Moreau on Dec. 7, 1963.



Nedra worked 20 years at First National Bank and Trust Company (now Simmons Bank) in the trust and investment services. She finished the last eight years of her career as Vice President for Central Trust & Investment Company, which was affiliated with Boone County National Bank (now Central Bank of Boone County.)

In retirement, Nedra combined her financial skills with her strong faith by volunteering at Locust Grove, where she was a member for more than 50 years. She guided the church through its most challenging and fruitful seasons. Every decision she made was thoughtfully considered, grounded in sound logic, sensitive to relationships, and covered in prayer. She managed charitable gifts, bill payments, endowments, investments, and the church budget, leaving a lasting legacy of wise stewardship and unwavering commitment.

Back in 1973, Nedra and Daryle

Happy Birthday

October 2024

2 Marjorie McFann	21 Zeke Lee
4 Russell Barnes	22 Kelly Cochran
5 Suzi Bass Moore	23 Callie Kempf
5 Makenzie Thomas	28 Randy Elmore
7 Hope Burkart	30 Lois Douglass
16 Kayla 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.

Moreau led "Key '93," a plan to distribute copies of the Book of Luke and Acts to every home in the county. Ten members of Locust Grove distributed 400 books in the Midway area. Nedra was quoted, "The most effective evangelism is carried out through personal witnessing. . .not what we say, but how we live. She wasn't telling others what to do; she was telling them what she was going to do. And she did it!"

For the past eight years she served as finance officer, using her banking experience. Her name appears throughout our church history. Just a few examples: She was president of Ladies Aid/Women's Society of Christian Service/United Methodist Women 1974-76; was Ministry Council Chair in 1982-84, led an Advent study and was Long Range Planning chair and lay delegate to annual conference in 1997; and a longtime member of the choir.

Nedra will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 60 years, Daryle; children Jody Patrick and Michelle and Charles Henley, grandchildren Ashley Williams, Caleb Patrick, Noah Patrick, Tyler Henley, Connor Henley, and Parker Henley; great grandchildren Ayden Secundino, Beau Patrick and Oliver Henley. In addition, she is survived by her siblings Patricia Atteberry, Bert Holt, Katherine Quinn, and Bill and Jill Cook.



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 coordinating the series.

Jim and Glenna Johnson

As with many Locust Grove members, when Jim and Glenna Johnson first visited the church in August of 1982, they immediately knew it was home for them. More than four decades later, their name is synonymous with many of the good things the church has to offer, the most visible being a landmark music program for worship.

Glenna plays the piano and Jim plays the organ and directs the choir for worship and a variety of other programs. Both extend their activity to other area of the church.

Jim presently serves as chair of the Worship Committee and will be seen helping with practically every activity of the church.

Glenna created Wee Care, a day-care center at the church in 1986, which cared for children from the community for nearly three decades until the market needs diminished.

Glenna helped create the major mission, Twice Blessed, and works several days a week with Jill Cook to keep the thrift store open for the needy twice a month.

They say, "This church family has been an integral part of our married lives for over 40 years. We've been through highs and lows and are ecstatic to be a part of this

current season of MLG. Our church family means so much to us and we wouldn't trade it for anything! We are truly blessed that we are able to call LG our church home!"

Outside her church schedule, Glenna focuses much of her time playing viola with her string quartet "Heartstrings" and the Columbia Civic Orchestra. She also is the proprietor, with their daughter, Kate, of an antique shop, "Buygones," in Boonville. She also teaches piano and strings three days a week.

Jim says his basic pastime is "totin' and fetchin'" for Glenna; although he does manage to continue to compose music for band an solo/ensemble instrumental music.

The couple met on a blind date at Mizzou where they were students. As Jim tells the story, "two weeks later, Glenna asked me to marry her, (it happened June 9, 1973) and here we are some 51 years later. I guess when you know, you know."

They chose to make their family the unconventional way, adopting all three of their children. Kate was a baby and we traveled to Korea to get her. Our son, Josh, came two years later from Korea at the age of five, and five years later, Tony came to them at the age of 13. Tony is a retired police detective, Josh is Personnel Director for the Columbia Public Schools, and Kate is manager of Buygones in Boonville.

Glenna is a retired teacher; Jim is a retired band director for Columbia schools. The couple has six grandchildren.

They are well-known for their love of animals, and had an animal sanctuary, Happy Tails, for many years.

Not as well known is that years ago they served as undercover agents for ASCAP, which provided several interesting and exciting experiences until their cover was blown and they had to quit.



Mission Committee helps Burmese families at homes

The purpose of the Midway Locust Grove Mission Committee is to provide awareness, education, and service opportunities for the church membership. Service options offer our membership a chance to help others locally, regionally or on an international level.

Most recently members of Locust Grove assisted three Burmese families who needed their homes power-washed and assistance with yard maintenance. A special thank you to Drew Ide (owner of Blazing Clean Pressure Washing) for helping us with this project.

Our Burmese families are very appreciative of our assistance. Such projects allow anyone in our congregation an opportunity to assist an international family living within the Locust Grove Church area. In addition, it offers us an opportunity to interact with and learn from those from different cultures.

Lynda Baumgartner



Work team provides new playhouse/swing set complex



Our playground has had a facelift over the last few weeks. Thank you so much to every person who helped take down the old swing set and put together the new one! We really appreciate all of the hours that you spent doing this for our kids! It looks great! Thank you!!

Our Mission Team at Fisher House



In photo, left to right, Gyla Elmore, Sherri Perry, Connie Wieberg, and Mary Scott were the MLG mission team providing dinner for families of veterans in care at the Truman VA Hospital in Columbia on the evening of September 27. The Mid-Missouri Fisher House is a beautiful home away from home for those bringing patients to the hospital, providing temporary lodging in a comfortable, relaxing atmosphere. Guests may remain in the facility at no cost as long as their loved one is hospitalized.



Harvest Festival set for Sunday, October 27

Our 1st Annual Harvest Festival will be on Sunday, October 27th from 3:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Midway Locust Grove Church. Some of the fun events that we are planning are: hayride, bonfire/s'mores, bounce house, petting zoo, yard games, haystack fun, corn sensory play area, and dinner.

We are in need of some donations for this event. Please check out our Amazon wish list to see what all we need. Items can be brought to the Midway Kids room during church office hours, or they will ship to the church if you choose that option. Please have donations to the church by Sunday, October 13th.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2ZL3W1RJUR1CC?ref_=wl_share

We have a dream to be able to have a pumpkin painting station, but we are needing a large quantity of small pumpkins. Please reach out to Shayla if you know of a place we can get some or if you would like to make a donation.

It will take a handful of volunteers to pull off this event. If you are able to help, please reach out to Shayla.

We are looking forward to a fun afternoon! Thank you!

Harvest Festival Committee
Shayla Roop sroop@cpsk12.org
or (573) 406-4349
Kelley Frink
Darren and Erin White
Amber Vroman



HARVEST FESTIVAL

3:30-6:30 PM

Food - Games - and Much More!

27
October

Midway Locust Grove Church

Questions? Contact Shayla Roop
573-406-4349 sroop@cpsk12.org



Fourteen hundred and sixty round trip miles and a life-changing experience away is Re-Member, on the Pine Ridge Oglala Lakota reservation in South Dakota. That is where six of our Midway Locust Grove Oyate (Lakota for family) spent a week in September. Our experiences were amazing and varied.

See if Jerry can tell you about Yankton, SD and finding MOJO's for a late dinner without laughing! Belinda got to play the guitar and sing with Native American Music Award winner Will Peters, who also sang a special healing song in Lakota, and a beautiful tribute song to his friend, brother and repeat volunteer Gary Hughes.

Mariea got to build a ramp for a grateful Lakota elder with a broken hip and his wheelchair-bound wife, and watch several excited grandchildren use it as an Indy 500 track for their Hot Wheels! Jana got to deliver and assemble bunk beds for grateful families sleeping on the floor. Kathy got to admire a beautiful and healthy 4 week old little girl and talk with her father about the open heart surgery her three year old sister had when she was only days old. Her proud dad whipped out pictures to show of his two older kids, to share. He started off showing some embarrassment about being a stay-at-home dad, but ended up glowing in the compliments about his tender and excellent care of his newborn daughter, realizing no one was judging him at all. Jerry made a special connection with Rick, one of the volunteer team leaders who happens to be from Columbia! Rick was busy encouraging Jerry to use his building expertise to lead a team next year as a volunteer. Keith used his carpentry skills to help build, sand and paint pieces of bunk beds for future delivery and assembly.

Re-Member's mission of 25 years on the rez is to not only walk alongside the Lakota and serve them in specific ways, but to educate the volunteers and help them make connections among the Lakota

ON THE REZ

*With Kathy Hughes,
Keith Andersen,
Mariea Caruthers,
Jana and Jerry Wirth,
and Belinda Thompson*



living on the rez. On this trip we were taught a traditional hand game of "bones" by Emmett, the great grandson of Black Elk, and his wife Stephanie, the great granddaughter of Chief Red Cloud. Emmett was a work crew leader, and several got to spend time talking with Stephanie on work days at the garden. Nyla Red Cloud was our cook, and we were able to see her amazing porcupine quill work and bead work. A stop at the site of the Massacre of Wounded Knee and the mass burial grave was heart-wrenching. Several commented that they could feel the spirits of the slaughtered elderly and children crying out. God in his mercy offers forgiveness, but it remains a shameful and painful stain in our history of trying to eradicate the Lakota. And it serves as a great reminder of their resilience and determination to survive and thrive, despite all odds.

The five able-bodied members of our team were privileged to hike into the Sanctuary, a sacred part of the Badlands, to meditate. The day was scorching hot, and it was not a comfortable experience. But it was a life-changing one.

Perhaps the most significant experience for our team was sunrise. Behind the main dorm there is a hill, the top of which overlooks the entire area in a 360 degree vista. In native tradition, Belinda sang the Cherokee morning song and prayed as the sun rose each a.m. Two mornings she put on her regalia, which was a special blessing. Our last morning we were joined by a number of the other volunteers. It was such an emotional start to the day and end to our week of work and friendships that there was hardly a dry eye on the hill. We all agreed it should be made mandatory at least one morning of the volunteer week.

The trip home was full of stories and impressions, and plans for a return next year. Re-Member seems to either be an interesting mission trip, or a life-changing experience that puts a piece of the Lakota culture deep in the heart, forever. Perhaps YOU are meant to experience the Pine Ridge Reservation with us next fall. As the Lakota say, Mitakuye Oyasin. We are all relatives.



The mission to the reservation was for more than building ramps, stairs and bunk beds for the REZidents. Of equal value for both the visiting teams of volunteers and the residents was the personal interaction between the two. Our team delivered a large quantity of wearables and other useful items for the members of the reservation, and shared time and conversation with them.





Spaghetti Dinner And Fundraiser



It was a full house Sunday, September 22, when the community gathered for dinner and a silent auction to fund our youth ministry.



What an incredible night of food, fellowship and fun with a fantastic crew of guests and volunteers. That's what our maiden voyage of the Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction was all about. Our fellowship hall was transformed into an Italian restaurant with red and white checkered tablecloths and centerpieces of carnation bouquets atop accents of red and green napkins created by our behind the scenes church mice; Beth Luetjen, Louise Stanley and Catherine Shanahan.

The menu was simple. Delicious homemade spaghetti with a dinner salad and breadsticks. Dan Mieves was at the helm as the head cook of all things spaghetti with volunteers from the women's Bible study plus spouses and parents of youth, including Pastor Ben pitching in to help fill dinner plates. Our youth were decked out in their finest, ready to serve our guests after a briefing on the ins and outs on waiting tables. They were quick learners and took to the task with smiling faces and introductions to their table of guests. Our guests were most gracious as they waited for their dinners amongst 120+ attendees! This allowed time for true fellowship of unrushed conversations, getting to know their student server and time to bid at the silent auction.

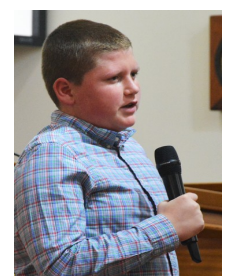
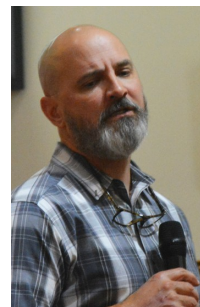
We had over 130 bakers answer the call to prepare some of Midway's finest desserts. It was a wonderful assortment of pies, cakes, cookies, muffins and a special entry of Mary Kaye Baumann's collection of food ministry recipes. We had several items that brought friendly bidding wars between guests, driving up some items to go for \$50, \$75 and even \$175! All the dessert contributions and bidding helped bring our silent auction total to \$1500. Adding in ticket sales and generous tip donations brought our total raised for the evening to \$4000! It all supports our student ministries.

The evening commenced with a program featuring several of our youth as well as Bill Roop and Lauren Steinhoff sharing their personal highlights of the mission trip to Kentucky. These brave students stood up and shared their hearts with a sanctuary full of smiling and attentive faces. I don't know if they knew how loved and supported they were prior to that night but I am sure they do now. I know that I felt the genuine love that our church family has for these kids. Our prayers continue to be answered in BIG ways as we see our youth grow in their faith as well as in their numbers! We are so thankful that YOU continue to show up for our kids with your prayers, your presence, your participation and your presents of financial support and manpower that made this event successful on so many levels.

Blessings, Leslie Brown



Following dinner the group filled the sanctuary to view a missionary trip slide show and hear the youth and their leaders describe the experience and express their appreciation to the congregation for their support.



TREASURY NOTES

By Kelley Frink

Our regular offering for the third quarter averaged around \$23,000 a month and was very similar to the first two quarters. In September, the first Midway Students Spaghetti Supper raised \$3,937 for

our youth! Thank you to all who supported the event. I am looking forward to wrapping up 2024 on a strong financial note, so thank you for all your contributions, it really does make a difference. If you are not currently giving and are interested in contributing, please visit our website at

<https://mwlocustgrove.com/give>

Thanks, Kelley

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.

Editor's note: I have been aware of this poetic essay for at least 50 years, but had not read it until a few weeks ago. I deemed it too good to not share. It is recommended that we post it on our fridge and read it frequently. Hope you agree.

Desiderata

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly, and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant. They too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons. They are vexations to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter; for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble. It is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let not this blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit, to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe, no less than the trees and the stars. You have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore, be at peace with God, whatever you conceive him to be and whatever your labors and aspirations in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

Max Ehrmann



Each summer, when the choir goes on their summer hiatus, we ask individuals in the choir to supply special music throughout the summer to fill the void left in our Sunday services. And each summer, choir members go out of their comfort zone and volunteer their gifts to help make our worship more meaningful. We want to thank them for sharing their gifts and recognize them for their anti-fragility to help make MLG a wonderful place to worship! THANK YOU ALL for sharing your time, gifts, and talents!

Musicians Wanted!

Instrumentalists (high school and above) interested in sharing their talents.

The Music Ministry at MLG would LOVE to include you in special music throughout the year to add to our worship services, playing for special occasions – Easter, Christmas, Special Anthems

For like more information, PLEASE contact Jim or Glenna Johnson at midwaymo@gmail.com



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

This recipe first appeared in the February 2019 issue of *Locust Leaves*. Louise Stanley sent me her saved copy, suggesting we might print it again as a tribute to Nedra. Beth Luetjen used the recipe as her contribution to the youth ministry's spaghetti dinner auction September 22. We repeat it here as a memorial to Nedra. *Hope Burkart*

Chocolate Pecan Pie

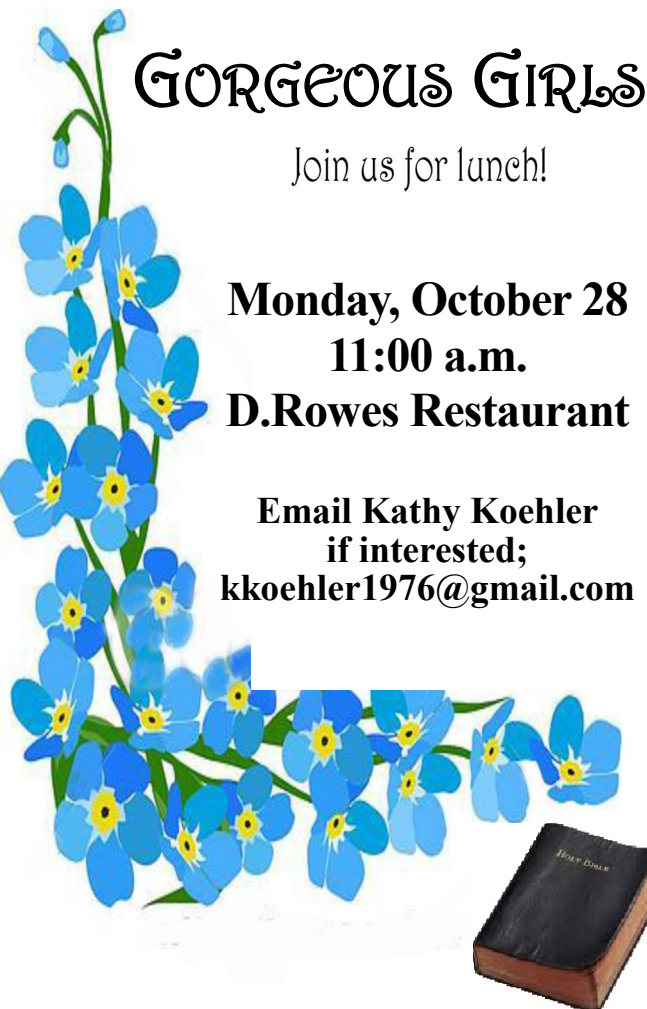
Pastry for single-crust 9 inch pie
1 cup coarsely chopped pecans
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
3 eggs
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup light corn syrup
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup packed brown sugar
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup butter, melted
1 tsp. vanilla extract

Press pastry into a 9-inch pie plate.
Trim edges.

Sprinkle pecans and chocolate chips into crust. In a small bowl, combine the eggs, corn syrup, brown sugar, butter, and vanilla. Pour into crust.

Bake at 350 degrees for 45-55 minutes or until top is bubbly and crust is golden brown. Refrigerate leftovers. *Nedra Moreau*

**See you at
2nd Tuesday Lunch,
October 8 at noon.**

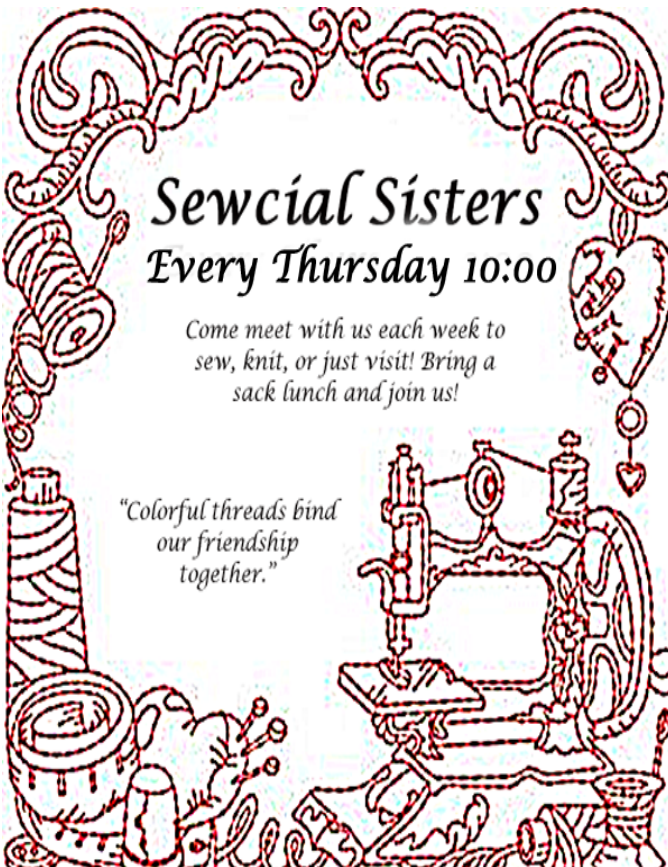


GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

**Monday, October 28
11:00 a.m.
D.Rowes Restaurant**

**Email Kathy Koehler
if interested;
kkoehler1976@gmail.com**



Sewcial Sisters

Every Thursday 10:00

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."



*Basic necessities free of charge
to those temporarily in need*

**Open
October. 3 & 17**

**Twice
blessed**

*Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00*

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

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



That's right – time to start thinking about and gathering up items for the Christmas store! New and ever so gently used items are what we're looking for. Clean out those closets, check the clearance aisles, stealthily snatch and hide away those never used toys! Be creative and remember how very much your items will mean to someone who might otherwise be unable to provide a Merry Christmas for their families!

Mark your calendars:

Friday, December 6 Store set up (10:00-?)

Saturday, December 7 the Christmas Store (10:00 – 1:00?)

Please hold on to your donations until the week of the event. Look for a signup sheet in November 'cause we will need all the little Twice Blessed elves Santa can loan us that weekend!!!

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



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202

Pastor: Rev. Ben Lee
Administrative Assistant: Catherine Shanahan
Church phone: 573-445-4667
Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
Email: mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
Email: blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
Facebook: @mwlocustgrove
YouTube: mwlocustgrove
Instagram: @mwlocustgrove

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

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann
Rocheport@aol.com 573-445-1998

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

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 37 Issue 10 October 2024

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

**Tuesday Lunch will be
at noon on October 8
in our Fellowship Hall.**

The Back Row By Gene Baumann

Most of you longtime members of Locust Grove are aware of my fascination with God Winks, the topic of a book written in 2001 by Squire Rushnell. In it he introduces us to the God Wink with this opening comment.

"This book will validate your feelings that there's more to coincidence than meets the eye. It also fosters hope for the dreams of your future by unveiling the wondrous map that has quietly guided you along the paths of your past. God has been winking at you."

I have experienced many God Winks in the past 23 years, and a truly heartwarming one came along at our spaghetti dinner and fund fundraiser for the youth.

You may recall that my late wife, Mary Kaye, wrote a food ministry column for Locust Leaves. In her memory I put together a collection of her 13 years of columns (2004-2017). The first column in-

cluded a recipe for chicken noodle casserole by Udemia Moore, who had recently passed away. Udemia had brought the casserole to one of the church's still-famous potluck dinners. Mary Kaye asked for the recipe, and later on the two traded lettuce and pickles from their gardens.

So, about the God Wink. . . I placed one of the books of columns in the silent auction last month, and the winning bidder was Suzi Moore who later discovered that first page memorial to Udemia, whose son, our longtime member, Bob Moore, became her husband in our sanctuary.

My immediate response when she told me of her discovery was, that's a God Wink!

Consider this. A few years back Covid caused many churches to suspend services. We simply moved to the front lawn and attracted a large number of worshippers. Our pastor was ready to retire, and a pastor from Georgia was looking to meet the challenge of a new church in his career. God continues to wink on Ben Lee and Locust Grove, as most of those Covid visitors remained as active participants in our growing church.