



LOCUST LEAVES

Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp



Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee

Please join us for worship.

Sunday School: 10:30

Worship: 10:30

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THIS MONTH

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop 68

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study
Meeting on ZOOM only.

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 6:30 p.m.
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed

March 2 — 6:00 p.m.
Ash Wednesday Service

March 8 — 12:00 noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

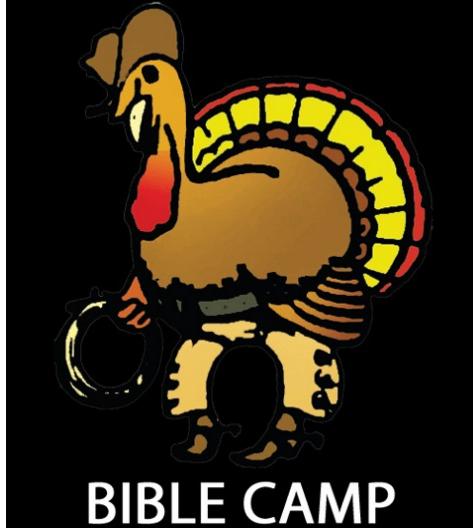
March 9 — 4:00-5:00 p.m.
Compassionate Friends

March 13
Daylight Savings Time begins

March 21 — 7:00 p.m.
Ministry Council

March 26 — 9:30 a.m.
Clean Up Midway

TURKEY HILL RANCH



We are excited to announce that Midway Locust Grove has reserved a group of 20 spots for Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp this summer!

The Junior Camp is for kids ages 8-13, and the group dates are July 10-15, 2022. Please use Group Code: "MLG" when registering to reserve a spot with us. Some of our Midway Kids have been to this camp and loved every minute of it! For more information, please visit: turkeyhillranch.com.

Registration is open now through April 1, 2022, when our group ID will close. The cost of the camp is \$230. We do not want finances to be a deterrent for any family who would like to send their children or grandchildren.

If you would like to send them, we would love for them to go! Several very generous donors in our church have made

gifts toward sponsoring kids. Please feel free to contact Shayla Roop or Jessie Kempf if you have questions. If you register for the camp, please let Jessie know via email (jessica@weichertft.com) so you are included in any group announcements, and your child can be assigned a cabin space with our group.

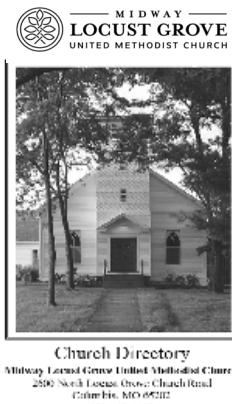
We are looking forward to a great week of growth this summer!

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

The Women's Bible Study will begin the book of Judges in March. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 with a prayer time at its conclusion. The Women's Bible Study is open to all women regardless of age or knowledge of the Bible. For more information contact Marjorie McFann at 573-445-5650 or mjmcfann@hotmail.com.

Church Calendar, Directory updated



Please be sure to pick up your copy of the new 2022 Church Calendar. We are so grateful to Laurel Groh for taking the lead on this project. In addition, the updated 2022 Church Directory is available. Thanks to Gene Baumann, Robyn

Kaufman, and Jana Wirth for making the directory possible.

Midway Kids grace worship with a song February 13

The Midway Kids Sunday School Class, all dressed in their new logo T-shirts, made a special appearance in worship February 13 to share their vocal skills under the direction of Beth Luetjen.



Fellowship Hosts on bulletin board

The 2022 signup sheet for hosting after-worship fellowship has been posted. The sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the office. Fellowship is important to our MLG church family - it gives us an opportunity to greet old friends and make new ones. I encourage everyone to join us after worship for a time of fellowship and food. I would appreciate it if you could please volunteer to take a couple of Sundays to host this year.

K a t h y

Read Locust Leaves on web site too

You have a choice of how you read your monthly newsletter, *Locust Leaves*, which also appears online in full color on our church web site.

If you are on the mailing list and prefer to read the electronic version online, saving paper and postage, send an email to the church, blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com, stating that you wish to be removed from the paper mailing list and want to be notified when *Locust Leaves* is posted on the web site.

The newsletter will continue to be available in both formats as long as readers prefer both.



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, March 21

11:00 a.m.

Your Pie Pizza
1413 Grindstone Plaza Dr.

Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd
like to come
kkoehler1976@gmail.com

Sunday in church, Kelley Frink read the announcements, and she commented that she wasn't sure what Gorgeous Girls was. Well, it's not a secret cult or anything where you must volunteer – it's just a fun time for lunch once a month! So, Kelley, you are invited as are the women in the church. Sorry guys – *NO boys allowed!*

A few of us took Helen Brown to lunch for her birthday in October and decided this would be a fun thing to do each month. We were deciding what to call our lunch bunch and came up with Gorgeous Girls, in honor of our dear friend, Leon

Check the Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall for information and inspiration.

Thanks to Louise Stanley for preparing this month's boards.

Brown. He thought each one of us was gorgeous – at least that's what he called us! Many of you knew Leon and would see him sampling goodies at HyVee. He called all the ladies "gorgeous" – I don't think he could remember names! We skipped November and December because of the holidays, and officially kicked off Gorgeous Girls in January this year. We meet the **4th Monday each month at 11:00**. Each month a new place will be drawn out of the hat (or plastic bag) for the following month's location. So, come join us for some fun places to eat that you may have not even thought of. If you're like me, I tend to frequent the same restaurants, so I'm looking forward to trying new places, new cuisine, and visiting with new/old friends.

If you are interested in being on the list for the Gorgeous Girls Lunch Bunch, send me an email and I'll add you to the list. Each month, I'll send out a reminder email to those on the list with all the details and ask that you RSVP to me so that we know how many to expect. We're looking forward to a new adventure together and we know that Leon is smiling down on all of his Gorgeous Girls!

Kathy Koehler
kkoehler1976@gmail.com





Matthew 17: 14-18: "When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. "Lord, have mercy on my son", he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him. "You unbelieving and perverse generation", Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? ...bring the boy here to me." Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment."

"Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far, and Grace will lead me home." (from the hymn "Amazing Grace").

The powerful story of Jesus' healing power has really resonated with me this month. As most of you know, my daughter Diana and I have now spent almost a month at the Cleveland Clinic seeking a precise diagnosis on the path to healing of her severe epilepsy. It has been a journey fraught with pain, fear, and many unknowns for both of us. But, throughout this whole ordeal, I can say with assurance that I have felt the presence of God and his healing grace. I have felt the incredible power of prayer to bring answers and relief, and I have felt the embrace of the people of this church and the uplifting power of their prayers.

One of the worst days was the first Tuesday, when after the withdrawal of her epilepsy medication to study her seizures, the seizures were too severe to be studied and it was difficult to stop them. That night, I returned to the hotel and prayed more fervently than usual to bring a less-

ening of these seizures that were necessary for diagnosis. Then I tuned in, via zoom, to women's bible study. I can't begin to describe how grateful I was to be able to absorb the comfort and prayers that these wonderful women provided me. I had read the lesson in advance and even wrote down my answers, but I could not recall any of them! But the memory of the solace these women provided to me will never be forgotten.

Ben has been an unfailing prayer warrior, always responding within minutes to my desperate texts when things seemed to be getting worse. I know that his constant, faithful prayer, combined with our church prayer group, women's bible study prayers, and my own prayers were knocking on the door of heaven.

Another very difficult day was the night Diana returned from neurosurgery, in severe pain. She rated her pain as a "15" out of 1-10, with 10 being "the worst pain you can imagine". In desperation, I pleaded with the doctors to increase her pain medication, which barely touched it. As all parents know, when your child suffers and you witness it, you suffer almost as badly. I returned to my hotel, texted Ben again, and prayed hard again, as Ben was simultaneously praying. I felt then a lifting of my spirits, and a thought came into my head that I'm sure was provided by the Holy Spirit. "Mary had to witness the terrible suffering of her son on the cross, and she was able to endure this with God's help. You will endure, and the pain will be lessened".

Sure enough, the next day an improvement came in the loosening of her head bandage. It had been placing undue pressure on one of her ears, cutting down the circulation. Some pain relief was provided. As the pain gradually lessened over days, I prayed for the onset of mild to moderate seizures, again needed for precise mapping

(Continued on Page 9)



Remember the elder backpacks

By Leslie Durrant

Re-member has asked interested folks to help in the following way: Since we probably can't go to the Rez this year, we are sponsoring: **“Operation Donation”**. This will involve creating a series of customized backpacks for different vulnerable groups on the Rez.

I was asked to head up the backpack drive for elders. I was given a suggested list of items to put in both a man's and a woman's backpack. New or gently used backpacks/items are suggested. Here are the lists:

Elder Man's Backpack:

Socks, gloves, winter knit hat, tooth paste and tooth brush, T-shirt, XL, puzzle book, disposable razors, personal wipes.

Elder Woman's Backpack:

Socks, gloves, winter knit hat, tooth paste and tooth brush, T-shirt, XL, puzzle book, Depends (4 in a baggie), personal wipes.

If you are interested in putting a backpack or two together, please label it as a man's or woman's and bring it to church. Kathy and I will be collecting them.

Have you too heard the call of the Lord in the night to help some of the poorest people in North America? If so, I hope that you will prayerfully consider lending your help to this effort. Thank you!

Happy Birthday March 2022

1 Heidi Netemeyer	21 Christopher Yaeger
4 Mandy Gessling	22 Gwen Casteel
6 Gideon Gessling	23 Carter Cunningham
11 Eve Casteel	24 Brian Burkart
11 Amber Meyer	25 Dwain Hovis
12 Kieth Groh	27 Ron Utterback
15 Joe Burkart	29 Karen Moore
15 Richard Moore	29 Carolyn Doyle
15 George Wieberg	

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.



Happy Birthday to our Church Family

Your birthday is a reminder of how special you are and we want to celebrate with you. Our birthday angel Tami Gessling sends greetings to you from our church family. When the card arrives, we hope you feel God's Love surrounding you. Happy Birthday to all in 2022!

Pizza and Bingo made for a great Family Fun Night



Pizza
And
Prizes
Galore!



Twenty boxes of pizza had been consumed by the time event coordinator Jessica Kempf (right) explained the rules before calling the numbers of the Bingo game which followed the meal at the Family Fun Night February 25.

A crowd of 105 included members of the congregation and friends and neighbors in the Midway area.

Winners of each card played selected a prize from a choice of about 20 items ranging from candy bars to gift cards. Considering the great fellowship of the event, there were no losers. Watch for news of the next Family Fun event April 16.



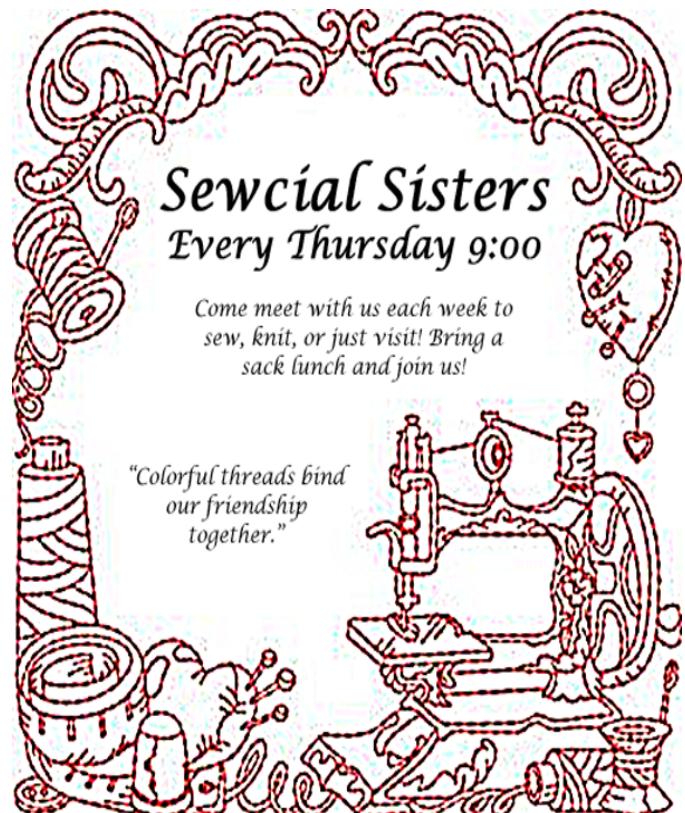
At left, Tony Martin helps with trash collection as the event neared its conclusion. At right, Rev. Ben thanks everyone for sharing the evening, and gives a thumbs-up for a successful evening of family fellowship.



Sisters sewing for the Disciples

Sewcial Sisters are busy sewing the garments for our men's production of the Living Last Supper. We are pleased to help our "Disciples" look their part. Our Thursdays in February have been "snow days" and we miss our time together!! Hurry up Spring!!!
Beth Luetjen

In photos below, Travis O'Neal helps Chadd Fuemmeler try on one of the robes prepared by the Sewcial Sisters, as Sherri Perry, Bill Wegener and Keith Andersen look on. The robes are for the Living Last Supper presentation being planned for the Maundy Thursday service on April 14.



Some facts about the letter "E"

Someone advanced the opinion that the letter "E" is the most unfortunate character in the English alphabet, because it was always out of cash, forever in debt, never out of danger and in Hell all the time. For some reason he overlooked the fortunates of the letter, so we call attention to the fact that "E" is never in war, and is always in peace. It is the beginning of existence, the commencement of ease and the end of trouble.

Without it there would be no meat, no life and no Heaven. It is the center of honesty, makes love perfect and without it there would be no meats, cheese delicatessen or Richards Market to supply you. (*Adv., from Columbia Daily Missourian, March 7, 1917*).

To bring the analysis to the present day, there would be no Boone County, no Perche Creek, no Methodists, no Locust Grove, and Rev. Ben Lee would be seriously searching for a new name. Long live the letter "E".

View from a Pew — *Continued from Page 4)*

of the location of her seizures, to be picked up, hopefully, by the tiny electrodes that had been temporarily placed inside her skull. Ben once again was asked to pray specifically for the return of small seizures. Sure enough, when I returned yesterday morning, I was told that she had had 2 seizures during the night. That morning, she had one more. Then the neurologist came in and said that he thought that he had received enough data from the electrodes to pinpoint the origin of the seizures in the brain! This is the result we have been hoping and praying for. We are told that now we are on the downward slope, toward scheduling the final surgery to remove the electrodes, re-vamping up the seizure medication, and preparing for discharge and the journey home.

I cannot thank Ben, the prayer team, and women's bible study enough for the impact of their faithful prayers. I am praying that my next "view from a pew" column will not have to be written from a hospital room in Cleveland, Ohio. I am praying that at the next women's bible session, I will be zooming in from Columbia rather than the Cleveland Clinic Holiday Inn. I am praying that the data will now point to a possible procedure that will lessen these seizures once and for all. I am praying that my next column will be on a different faith topic. And, above all, I am praying that God will lead us safely back home to Columbia. I know that "it's grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead us home". And, as a believer, I am blessed with the "sure and certain knowledge" that God will safely bring us back to Columbia, Missouri, and Midway Locust Grove Church.

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

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

Things are starting a little slow in terms of our budget needs for the year. So far this year, we have collected \$29,400. This is about \$15,000 per month, and we need about \$17,000 per month. Of course, bad weather is certainly a factor in this. As I write this, it feels very much like Spring. The approach of Spring always gives me hope for new growth and new beginnings. Hopefully, this same feeling will be reflected in our offering. The increase needed will allow us to add to our ministries, which can help in new growth and new beginnings for our church programs. In addition to what has been collected for the general fund, we have continued to receive contributions to the Future Glory Fund. Thanks to everyone for your generosity!

If you would like to simplify making your contributions, remember that we can have them automatically deducted from your checking account and transferred to the church account. Just go to our church website (mwlocustgrove.com) and click on the purple button Give to the Church in the center of the page. This will lead you through the process of setting up your contributions on a monthly or other basis. You will receive an email each time a contribution is deducted from your account. If you need help with this, feel free to contact me, and I will be happy to assist you with it.

And think SPRING!

*The Will of God
never takes you
where the Grace of God
will not protect you.*



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

March into Spring...

This is a little switch to green bean casserole replacing green beans with asparagus. It is a fresh take on a classic recipe.

Enjoy, *Hope Burkart*

Asparagus Casserole

1 - 15 oz can asparagus (drained - save juice)
1 - 15 oz can sweet peas (drained)
1 - 10.25 oz can cream of mushroom soup
1 1/2 cup sharp cheddar cheese (grated)

Topping:

1 sleeve Ritz crackers, crushed
1/2 stick melted butter

Directions:

Preheat oven 400 degrees
Layer asparagus and peas in 1 qt. casserole dish
Mix soup with 1/4 cup asparagus juice and cheese
Pour on top of asparagus and peas
Crush crackers and add butter to make topping for casserole
Bake 25 minutes or until hot and bubbly

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
March 8, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**

Marsha's Mustard

Marsha Coleman shared her homemade mustard at after-worship fellowship recently, and there were requests for the recipe to be published in Locust Leaves. She got the recipe from her mother who made it for years.

1 C. Colman's Dry Mustard

1 C. Tarragon vinegar

Mix in the top of a double boiler and let sit overnight. Then add:

3 eggs, beaten

1 C. sugar

Cook in a double boiler, stirring often, scraping the sides and bottom, until thick - about 30 minutes or longer. Let cool, then refrigerate.

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

~ Samuel Chadwick

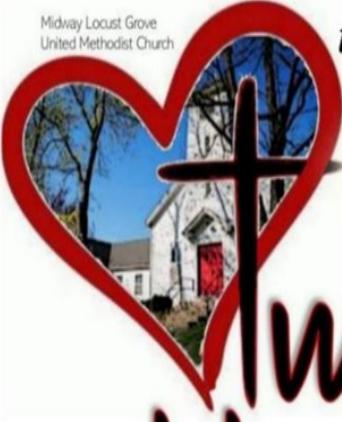


mwlocustgrove.com

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

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

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church



**twice
blessed**

Open Mar. 3 & 17

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

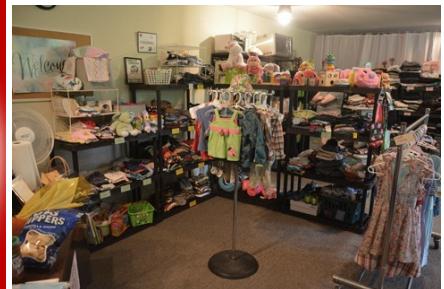
The little white building
on the corner of
Henderson and Locust Grove Church Road

We are sorry that we could not be open a couple times due to inclement weather but are hoping to get back on track in March being open on the 3rd and the 17th. We have missed seeing our customers and hope to see them all in March.

Thank you to all the people who have dropped donations off at church or at Twice Blessed. We truly appreciate all you do for Twice Blessed and your generosity has helped many of our customers.

Thank you MLGUMC and community for your continued support of our church's mission.

*Glenna and
Jill*



*We want to shout out a **BIG** thank you to Marlon Gessling (and his helper, Gabe) for cleaning out all the brush and small trees in the ditch between Twice Blessed and the Church. It looks so much better and we surely appreciate all his hard work!*



M I D W A Y
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
YouTube: mwlocustgrove
Instagram: @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

Now that I no longer am required to study it in school, I have become fascinated with history, particularly local history. I have discovered a number of resources which tell me the stories of long ago right here in the neighborhood.

One of my favorite sources is a website called Chronicling America, provided by the Library of Congress. Type in any subject and you'll find many related stories

You'll find it on the internet at www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov. The only local newspaper on the site is the Missourian, but it includes a lot of our history from the early 1800s to the early 1960s. It is a great source of obituaries for the residents of our Village Of Locust Grove.

I found the following news report involv-

Find the hidden circuit rider  in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

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ing our church amusing despite the serious nature of the story. It is from the August 23, 1915, Columbia Missourian.

CHURCH GOT 'EM IN TROUBLE One is Charged With Disturbing a Social; Other, Services

Clarence Miller, who lives in the country near Midway, was arrested Saturday on information filed with the circuit clerk by W. M. Dinwiddie, prosecuting attorney of Boone County. Miller is charged with disturbing the peace at an ice-cream social held at the Locust Grove Church at Midway in July. He gave bond for his appearance during the October term of Circuit Court.

Sterling Hudnell also was arrested on information filed by the prosecuting attorney. He is charged with being intoxicated in a public assembly. It is alleged that he disturbed services at the Locust Grove Church. Hudnell gave bond.