



Locust Leaves

Beyond
the Pulpit



Pastor
Ben Lee

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.

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

Saturday, March 9 - 9:00 to Noon
Give Back Day/Spring cleaning

Tuesday, March 12 — Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch in
Fellowship Hall

Monday, March 18 — 6:00 p.m.
Ministry Council Meets

Saturday, March 30 — 11:00
Easter Egg Hunt - Lunch with Bunny

Sunday, March 31
Easter

Only Our Lives

We are neck-deep in the throes of Lent. Can you feel it? Are you experiencing the heaviness of our humanness? I know I sure am, and it is as beautiful as it is black. I shared a quote from my prayer guide at the end of the teaching on Sunday morning, February 25. So many of you have reached out about it that I decided to feature the entire quote as the cover for this month's newsletter.

“Salvation is free, but the cost of discipleship is enormous. I try to hide from the truth, but when I read the Gospels and seek to live in communion with God, I discover both parts of the statement are dead-center truth. I can do nothing to earn my salvation. My redemption is a pure gift of grace, a gift offered to me without qualification or reservation. I am God’s child, and no one or nothing can change that fact. Jesus Christ lived, died, and lives again to bring this gift of salvation to me in all of its fullness. My faith can appropriate this gift, but even my greatest doubt cannot change its reality. I am God’s beloved, embraced in God’s love for now and eternity. All words are inadequate to describe the extravagance and grandeur of the gift of salvation. Our hymns of praise and gratitude fall lifeless before the immensity of this gift. We simply and humbly offer all that we are to the One who offers us the option of becoming more than we are.

And offering ourselves as fully as we can, we discover the cost of discipleship. For to bind our lives to Jesus Christ requires that we try to walk with him into the sorrows and suffering of the world. Being bound to Jesus Christ, we see barriers broken down, and we are led to places we have never been before to carry loads we have not even seen before. Having offered ourselves to Jesus Christ, we may expect to become the eyes, ears, voice, and hands of Jesus Christ in the world and in the church. The cost of salvation? It is completely free without cost. The cost of discipleship? Only our lives – nothing more and nothing less.” ~ Rueben P. Job

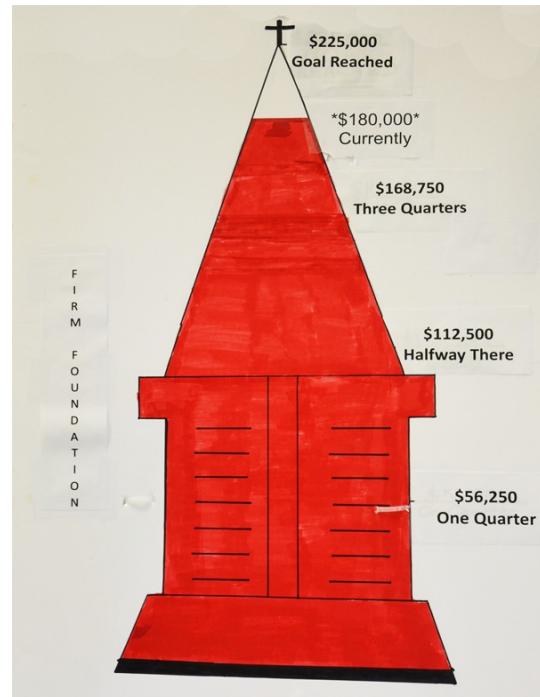
You should cut this out and put it on your fridge, or anywhere you can see it daily. Read it. Reread it. Pray through it. Allow the profound truths within to settle into the recesses of your soul. It's true, we are in the throes of Lent, but we know how the story ends!

Peace, *Ben*

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

Our offering for the general fund was about \$20,000 for the month of February. Firm Foundation gifts totaled \$3,374. We still need more for Firm Foundation to reach our goal to complete all of the projects. Thanks to everyone for your gifts.



Second Tuesday Lunch goes international March 12

Midway Locust Grove Church aspires to provide awareness, education, and service opportunities within the following service areas: Local, Regional, and International for members of our church.

The program, presented by Lynda Baumgartner at the Second Tuesday Lunch March 12, will provide a brief re-

view of organizations and activities that Church members are currently participating in.

There will be an emphasis on international programming, the selection process for supporting any NGO and ideas of how we might work with local and international programs.

Carolyn Doyle reviews book of family letters for full house

For the February Second Lunch meeting, Carolyn Doyle shared a book she helped edit for a full house of diners.

The book was a collection of letters her ancestral grandmother wrote to her husband as she claimed homestead property in South Dakota in the late 1800s while her husband remained on his job in Missouri to support the family..

The book is described as a powerful record of a nineteenth-century woman's enduring spirit.

The title of the book, "My Ever Sweet Charlie," is a reflection of her greetings to her husband in the letters.



In the foreground is a scale model Carolyn made of the Dakota home described in the book.

In Memoriam



Robert Lee Grant

December 6, 1933—February 18, 2024



Robert Lee Grant, age 90, of our congregation, passed away peacefully at home just south of Midway on February 18, 2024.

Services will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2024 at Memorial Funeral Home, 1217 Business Loop 70 West in Columbia, with a one-hour visitation beginning at 1:00 PM and the funeral service following at 2:00 PM. Interment with full military honors will take place immediately afterward at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Bob, a longtime Boone County resident, was born on December 6, 1933 in Boonville to Cecil and Sue (Edwards) Grant. He was the oldest of nine children.

He attended the one-room Vawter School in rural Boone County and graduated from Hickman High School in 1951. It was there that he met and later began dating his bride-to-be, Iola Sontag.

After Bob joined the Navy, his relationship with Iola was supervised by Uncle Sam as they courted via mail. They were married on August 18, 1957 and embarked on a lifetime's worth of adventures that included moving to San Diego, Germany, Washington DC., the Philippines and back to San Diego – all with four children in tow! Bob spent 20 years in the Navy working in

Happy Birthday

March 2024

1 Heidi Netemeyer	16 Anna Butzlaff
4 Mandy Gessling	23 Carter Cunningham
6 Gideon Gessling	24 Brian Burkart
11 Amber Burkart	24 Nestor Mendez
11 Paige Butzlaff	25 Dwain Hovis
12 Kieth Groh	26 Travis Kempf
15 Joe Burkart	27 Ron Utterback
15 Richard Moore	29 Karen Moore
15 George Wieberg	29 Carolyn Doyle

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.

intelligence and retired honorably as a Chief Petty Officer, having served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. He was immensely proud of his country and his Navy and was touched to be able to participate in an Honor Flight years later.

He and Iola returned to their roots in Boone County in 1973. Never one to sit still, Bob found employment with the University of Missouri in Campus Facilities and later the College of Agriculture. He enjoyed this work so much he stayed with the University for 47 years. He was, of course, a big fan of Mizzou sports, as well as the St. Louis Cardinals and the Kansas City Chiefs. Bob was always in motion: he was a lifelong softball player and an accomplished wood carver. In quiet moments, he enjoyed watching a Western on TV or reading about the Civil War. He and Iola spent their winters in Arizona in later years and cherished this time together.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 66 years, Iola Grant; four children: Mike (Kathy) Grant, Gary (Trisha) Grant, Kathy Love, Kim (Kerry) Henning; grandchildren Megan, Rob, Kyle, Kory, Maddie, BrieAna, Kenzie, Grant; five great-grandchildren; siblings Don Grant, Lois Garrett, Patsy (John) Watt; and a host of loving extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, Bob is preceded in death by his siblings James Earl Grant, Russell Grant, Claudia Butzin, Martha Sue Singleton and Mary Lou Ballenger.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are requested to be made to Midway Locust Grove Church at mwlocustgrove.com.



Our Midway Students traveled to Ghent, WV, February 16-19 to ski at Winterplace Ski Resort. It was a wonderful trip filled with faith, friends, and fun. A total of 17 people (12 students/5 adults) made the trip, enjoyed the snow, ate like queens and kings, and made memories that will last a lifetime.

MANY thanks to our church for making the trip possible, to the chaperones who sacrificed time away from family and work to serve our students, and to all the volunteers who prepared home-cooked meals and sweet treats for the trip!

Thanks to Ben Lee for the report.





The worship service on February 11 concluded with one of the greatest joys in the life of a church. Two members of our congregation had requested baptism from Rev. Ben, who performed the ceremonies following his sermon. Lillian Linn of rural Rocheport and Brenda Jones of Columbia affirmed their faith with the full immersion ceremony in the Fellowship Hall, and were warmly welcomed and congratulated on the elevated status of their faith.

Pizza and Bingo to be followed by Easter Eggs and Bunny

We had our first Family Fun Event of 2024 on Friday, February 9th @ 6:30 p.m.! About 100 people gathered for Pizza and Bingo. Lots of prizes were given out to the winners and a good time was had by all!

Our next Family Fun Event will be our 3rd annual Easter Egg Hunt/Lunch with the Easter Bunny on Saturday, March 30th @ 11:00 a.m. See details at bottom of page.



SAVE THE DATE

What: 3rd Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch with the Easter Bunny
When: Saturday, March 30, 2024
11:00 Register for Easter Egg Hunt
11:30 Egg Hunt
12:00 Lunch with the Easter Bunny
Who: Children age 1 - 5th Grade



We are asking for donations of Easter candy and plastic eggs. The smaller the pre-packaged candy, the better it fits in the eggs. There will be a box in the fellowship hall. Please have donations to church by Sunday, March 24th. Thank you!



**March 9 is
Give Back Day.
It is time for our
annual spring
cleanup of the
church property.
Sign up in
Fellowship Hall.**



Prayer Ministry group to launch March 12

MLG Prayer Ministry will have their initial meeting on Tuesday, March 12th at 1:30 p.m. at the church. This group is open to anyone and all are welcome. We will have a brief introduction time, a short teaching on prayer, and a time of prayer. This ministry hopes to help people feel more comfortable praying alone or with others and it gives a chance to pray for our church, our town, and our nation as a body of believers. The group will meet for one hour twice a month and we will discuss the best day/time to meet at the initial gathering. If you have any questions you may contact Margaret Preus, Catherine Shanahan, or Karla Sommer.

Catherine Shanahan



SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

June 9th -12th 2024 ~ (in the evening)

Midway Locust Grove Church

Kids ages 3 - incoming 6th grade

*More information about registration and volunteering in May.

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

**Thanks to Angie Gerzen
for preparing these monthly boards.**



Midway Market

May 4, 2024 9 AM – 3 PM

Drop Off Donation Dates:

April 14, 12 – 2 PM

April 23, 4 – 7 PM

Large Item Pick Up:

May 3, 3 – 6 PM

(please contact Jessie Kempf to arrange)

Yes Please!

Homemade Craft Items

(jewelry, sew, artwork, etc.)

Baked Goods

Plants, Flowers, Starters for the Garden

Homegrown/Farm Things

Kitchen Small Appliances

Dishes in Sets

Bakeware/Cookware

(in Good Condition)

Housewares/Decor/Books

Gently Used Adult Clothes

Baby & Kids Clothes

Toys/Games

Gently Used Shoes

Blankets, Sheets, Quilts

Accessories(belts, jewelry, etc)

Furniture

Gently Used Sporting Goods

We are hosting our first Midway Market Fundraiser! Think glamorous garage sale meets craft/bake sale. We NEED your help to make this event a great success for Midway on a Mission!

We are looking for donations of “treasures, not trash” for our sale. Please see our list of Yes & No items for the sale. If you can look around your home or work and find items that you are willing to donate, we would love to take them off your hands! And, if you like to make things, we will have a special “make & bake” section at the sale for items donated that are new/homemade. All items will be sold and all funds will be donated directly to Midway on a Mission. If the items are not sold, they will be donated to Twice Blessed, or another local charitable organization. You don’t need to price anything! Our volunteers will price before the sale!

No Thank You's

Any Stained, broken, torn, damaged, or very used Items

“Promo” Items

(t-shirts, coffee mugs, pens, etc.)

Outdated Electronics

(large TVs, VCRs, monitors, etc.)

Automotive Parts

Partially Used Personal Care Items

Weapons

Paint or Household Chemicals

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 found this poem saved as a file in my computer, unidentified as to source or author. An Internet search provided no information on it, but it is too good to not share with you here. I've titled it "My Coat."

My coat went out a walkin'
After church one winter day.
It went right out without me,
Just as though it knew the way.

My coat and I were best of friends;
I really liked its warmth.
It made me feel secure and safe,
Like wrapped in Jesus' arms.

It's difficult to understand
How it could leave me there,
A shivering and a shaking,
Just as though it didn't care.

I felt bereft and very sad
Departing church for home.
And wondering how one so close
Could leave me all alone.

For quite some time, I mourned and moaned
The loss of my good friend,
Considered how a thing so good
Could quickly come to end.

But then a new thought popped
Into my troubled mind.
Perhaps my coat is sharing
Jesus' love and being kind.

Someone else may now be wrapped
Secure in Jesus' arms,
And know contentment, love and warmth
And freedom from all harm.

I write this verse with tongue in cheek,
But with a point to make.
Our mission is to share God's love,
His message we must take.

My coat is but a symbol
Of what we hold most dear.
Our love must go out from the church
To others far and near.

Our mission is to share God's Word
With all we chance to meet,
So they can find the peace we know
As we kneel at His feet.

So we must go a walkin'
Out of church and every day,
Spreading love to others
As we follow Jesus' way.



Church staff feeds school staff

The Midway Elementary School staff members were treated to a soup luncheon on Friday February 2. Valentines was our theme and how much we appreciate the school and all they do for our children and grandchildren.

A big thank you to Rena Crane, Jane Bensussen, Connie Wieberg, Leslie Utterback, Lou Pegues, Louise Stanley, Catherine Shanahan, and Kathy Hughes for being willing workers. Our church served approximately 35 staff members at Midway Heights Elementary School.





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

March... Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Here is a traditional Irish side dish to serve with your corned beef.

Enjoy, *Hope Burkart*

Colcannon

1 lb cabbage, cored, quartered
1 stick of butter

2 lbs boiling potatoes, peeled
and cut into 2 in. pieces

2 small leeks, include white
and green parts, washed and
sliced

1 cup milk

Salt and pepper to taste

1/4 t mace

1 stick of butter

In separate saucepans cook
the cabbage and potatoes in
salted water until tender.

Drain cabbage and chop.
Drain potatoes and mash. In
large pot combine leeks and
milk. Bring to a simmer and
cook 8-10 minutes.

Add mashed potatoes, salt
and pepper and mace. Stir over
low heat until well blended.
Add cabbage and stick of butter.

Stir till blended. Serve with
large dot of butter on top.

GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

**Monday, March 25,
11:00 a.m.**

**Hungry Tiger
In Hallsville**

NOTE: We will meet at the
Church at 10:30 to carpool.

VERY IMPORTANT: Let Kathy
Koehler know if you are coming
so we can arrange carpools.
kkoehler1976@gmail.com



**A Special Gift from Hannah Clark –
Hand Embroidered Onesies!**

**Watch for an upcoming opportunity to
have one of these for your newborn!**





With thanks to
Marsha Coleman and
the Danny Coleman
Memorial Fund, 10
brand new 6' shelves
have reported for duty
to Twice Blessed!
Organization in the
Gary Hughes "Garage"
is now manageable!

THANK YOU
DEAR LADY!



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann
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The Back Row By Gene Baumann

What is the purpose of family? I've been pondering this following the celebration of life service of our church family member Bob Grant February 24. I found a nice definition of the term "family."

"A family relationship is a relationship involving parents, carers, guardians, grandparents, siblings, etc. Family relationships can also include those between people who have been in each other's lives for a long time and share an emotional bond."

Of course Bob and Iola's large family of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, siblings, and other relatives were there in an overflowing chapel of friends. I've added another line to the definition of family. . . "For example, the Bob and Iola Grant family in Boone County, Missouri."

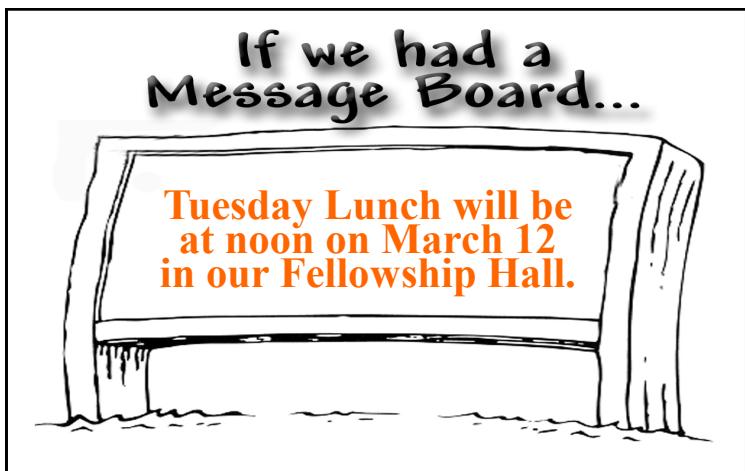
While I have known Bob and Iola for many years I did not know the remarkable details of their life. Be sure to read the obituary on Page 3 of this issue.. I have learned a new detail of their compassion for others.

In reading the program for Bob's service, I noticed the name Tom Dore listed as an honorary pallbearer. The name leapt out at me from about 50 years ago when Tom Dore was a Missouri Tiger basketball player 7'2" tall, wearing jersey number 44. I was filming the Tiger football and

Find the hidden Bible in this issue.

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basketball game film at the time and got acquainted with him through my camera lens and again when he started working part time at MFA (now Shelter) Insurance, where I worked. We joked about Tom not needing a ladder to reach the high places in the office.

Mizzou had a program in which local families would adopt athletes from far distant places while they were here. It gave them important family time while away from home. The Grants adopted Tom, and that relationship has lasted these many years as Tom pursued professional basketball and later a career broadcasting play-by-play for the Chicago Bulls. Tom's comments during the service explained why he still felt part of the family. It was most elegant and heartwarming, as were all the tributes from others.

A number of references throughout the service paid homage to "family," which led me to think about our frequent use of the term "our church family" in everyday conversation. While I have no biological family here at Locust Grove, I do consider the folks here as family. Many of the family have joined God in Heaven, many continue to be an important part of my life, and many have joined the family in recent months and are fast becoming an important part of the family.

Another definition reads "The ideal family can be defined as a unit that provides love, support and stability to its members. It is a family where each member feels valued, respected, and understood. An ideal family fosters a positive environment for growth, learning and emotional well-being." Sounds like Locust Grove to me.