



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

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#### THIS MONTH

##### Sundays —

Women's Bible Study 6 to 7 p.m.  
Midway Students 5 to 7 p.m.

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

##### Wednesdays —

Midway Hotel Lunch—Noon  
Choir Rehearsal — 6:29 p.m.

**Second Wednesdays —**  
Compassionate Friends 4—5 p.m.

##### Thursdays — 9-4:00

Sewcial open sewing  
Yoga at 11:00  
Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.  
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed

**Monday, May 8 — 600 p.m.**  
Ministry Council Meeting

**Tuesday, May 9 — Noon**  
Second Tuesday Lunch

**Saturday, May 13**  
Give Back Day at Coyote Hill

**Sunday, May 14**  
Mother's Day

**Sunday, May 28**  
Graduation Celebration

**Monday, May 29**  
Memorial Day

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist



Volume 36  
Number 5  
May 2023

# LOCUST LEAVES



Beyond  
the Pulpit

**Pastor  
Ben Lee**

For those of us who practice the Christian faith, Easter is not a day; it is a season. Our Easter season lasts fifty days, beginning at sunset on the eve of Resurrection Sunday, better known as Passover, and ending at Pentecost. The Easter season is not only an extended celebration of Jesus' resurrection; it is a time specifically focused on catechesis as we attempt to follow and lead others in the footsteps of our Good Shepherd. This extended season gives us time to marinade in the incredible truth that Christ has risen. It is a season centered on the foundational principles of Christianity, the mysteries of our faith, and the preparation to carry out the ministries the Holy Spirit has empowered us to undertake.

Speaking of the Holy Spirit, he is what the next season is all about. Interestingly, Pentecost comes from the Greek word *Pentēkostē*, which means "fiftieth." Pentecost is the day we thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the church's birth. This year, Pentecost falls on Sunday, May 28. On Pentecost Sunday, we ask everyone to wear red, yellow, or orange to worship as we remember what looked like flames or tongues of fire that settled on all the believers gathered in one place when the Holy Spirit fell. For a better grasp on this, please take some time and read Acts chapters 1 and 2. Also, on Pentecost Sunday, as in the past couple of years, we will have a reception following our worship service where we will have cake and ice cream to celebrate the church's birth.

As we work through the year and our Christian calendar, we will continue to learn how all things tie together in one accord. Every season of every year is all about the redemptive work of God, through Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit. I believe with every ounce of my being, it is God's will to continue to carry out his redemptive work through you and me, our children, and our grandchildren. As the Lord has faithfully revived Midway Locust Grove, we have witnessed him doing just that. Hallelujah, praise God!

Peace,  
Ben

# Ministries & Missions

## GOIN' FISHIN'



We get to join in the fun with kids from Coyote Hill, 9501 W Coyote Hill Rd., Harrisburg MO for a morning of fishing and good time to Catch N Fry.. It is our Give Back Day on Saturday May 13 from 10-noon. If you have extra fishing equipment bring it and we will help 15-

20 kids have an adventure. Afterwards the staff will take us on a tour of their facilities. If you are unable to attend and would like to donate to Coyote Hill, mail checks to P.O. Box 1, Harrisburg MO 65256-0001. **Rain date May 27 if needed.**

# TREASURY NOTES

*By Nedra Moreau*

Church finances are still doing very well. Our offering for April totaled more than \$24,000. For the year, we have collected more than \$97,000. This provides an average of \$24,000+ per month, which helps in meeting our goals and objectives.

Apportionments are paid to date, and we still have a nice balance in our general fund checking account. Thanks to everyone for all you are doing.

*See you at  
2nd Tuesday Lunch,  
May 9 at noon.*

## *We need your family photo for updated directory . . .*

Dear Colleagues,

We are nearing the completion of our new MLGUMC Photo Directory which you can access at the following link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/137NAH9CHW6rPo2c1oixvhHGax\\_Jrq3v4?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/137NAH9CHW6rPo2c1oixvhHGax_Jrq3v4?usp=sharing).

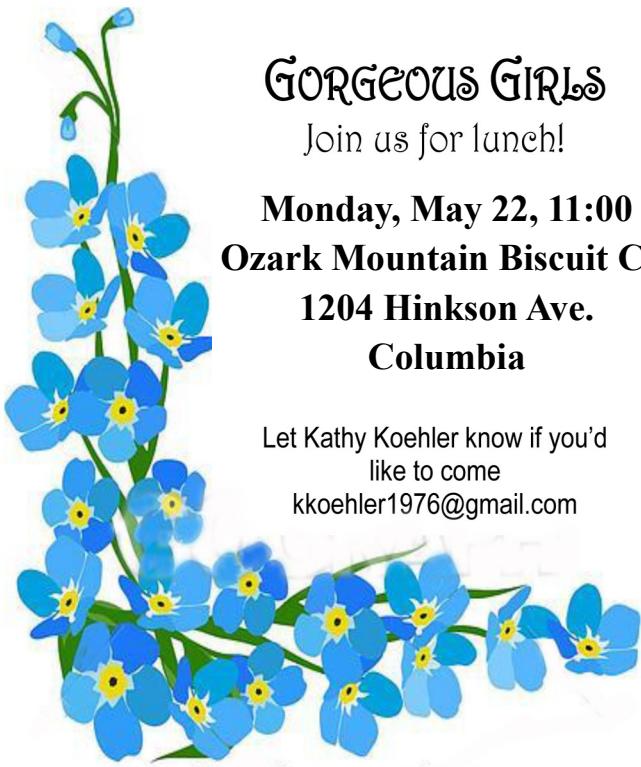
Please review the directory to double check to make sure we have your correct contact details and make sure we've matched up the right photos and text. If not, please let us know.

If you are currently listed in the Directory but don't have a photo yet, please come see us soon as we will continue taking photos after church through the end of May. Alternatively, we invite you to send a photo for inclusion if you would prefer. Please send the photos to Gene ([ROCHEPORT@aol.com](mailto:ROCHEPORT@aol.com)) and Lloyd ([okielloyd@gmail.com](mailto:okielloyd@gmail.com)) by the end of May 2023.

Please send us your name, address, telephone#, email address(es), and photo if you are not currently listed in the church directory.

We have also posted the photos that Gene has taken so far on the shared Google drive above if you would like electronic copies.

All the best, Lloyd Sumner, Gene Baumann



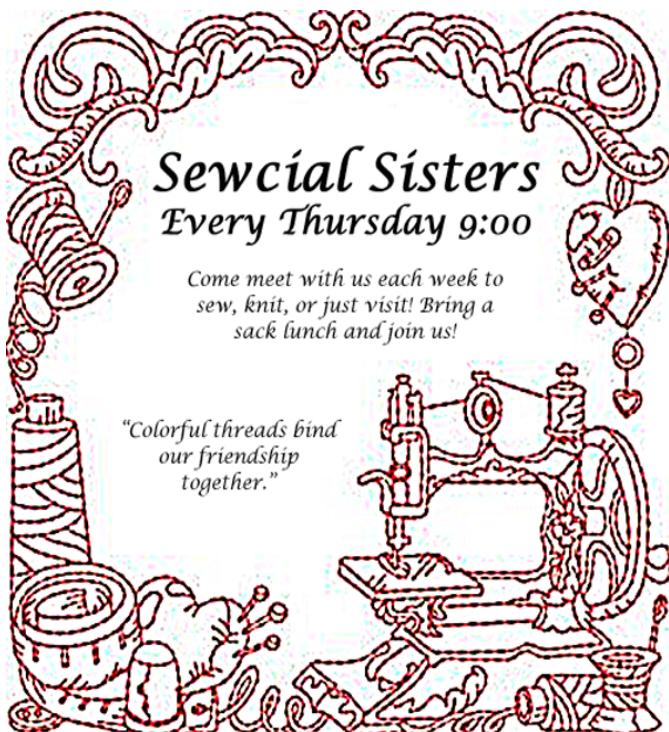
## GORGEous GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

**Monday, May 22, 11:00**  
**Ozark Mountain Biscuit Co.**  
**1204 Hinkson Ave.**  
**Columbia**

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

*Check the Bulletin Boards  
 in Fellowship Hall  
 for information and inspiration.*  
 Thanks to **Angie Gerzen**  
 for preparing these boards.



# Happy Birthday

**May 2023**

<b>1</b> Lloyd Sumner	<b>15</b> Jane Bensussen
<b>3</b> Heather Abrams	<b>16</b> Bob Moore
<b>3</b> Gavin Gessling	<b>19</b> Colton Kempf
<b>4</b> Ellie Netemeyer	<b>20</b> Travis O'Neal
<b>5</b> Nedra Moreau	<b>21</b> Amy Green
<b>5</b> Randy Mueller	<b>24</b> Beth Luetjen
<b>6</b> Jake Frink	<b>28</b> Jim Johnson
<b>6</b> Stacy Lee	<b>28</b> Chadd Fuemmeler
<b>13</b> Laurel Groh	<b>31</b> Blake Roop
<b>13</b> Diana Netemeyer	<b>31</b> Don Moore

*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.*

**Join us for  
 Second Tuesday Lunch  
 May 9, Noon.  
 Bring a dish and friend.**

The Sewcial Sisters went on our annual retreat to Brunswick May 2-5. This is a special time to engage with each other spiritually and creatively! We have so much fun getting to know each other better. See the June issue of Locust Leaves for a report on the event.

We are always open for new people to join us on Thursdays at the church. Contact Beth Luetjen if you have questions.



*Please join us on Sunday, May 28, to celebrate our graduates. They have worked hard and have a bright future as they go out into the world. Wish them the best.*

## Our Grads!

Evan Hughes  
Hickman

Wick Lee  
Hickman

Jaxyn Moore  
University of  
Missouri

Jordyn Moore  
Rock Bridge  
and MACC

Please watch for reports  
of related events.





The march of the palm leaves by the Midway Kids and the choir launched Holy Week on Palm Sunday, above. The Maundy Thursday evening service included the choir, communion and the removal of the chancel elements which celebrated the season, including the drape from the cross. Rev. Ben was assisted by Evan Hughes for the service.

## Holy Week... Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday



*Did you ever wonder what happens to the left over sacred servings from communion? Never to the trash or disposal; always back to nature on the church grounds, as following Maundy Thursday service.*



## Saturday egg hunt and lunch with the Easter Bunny

Shayla Roop directs the kids to their assigned search areas for Easter Eggs, after which the Easter Bunny joined them for lunch and other fun activities. It was the **Greatest Of All Time** event.





Easter Sunday was observed with the traditional sunrise service and the regular service. More than 200 attended the sanctuary service which ended with the butterfly release.



*Families had nurtured the larvae in their homes until they evolved into butterflies, which were returned to the church for release on Easter.*





## MIDWAY STUDENTS

*By Evan Hughes  
Director of Student Ministries*



On Saturday, April 22nd, Midway Students went on their first Worlds of Fun trip! I figured that it would be late enough in the year to escape the cold weather. Well, I figured wrong. The skies were overcast, the wind was howling, and the temperature felt like 40 degrees.

Nonetheless, our group had an incredible trip! We did not allow the weather to prevent us from going on all the rides, but the lines were surprisingly long. Still, this was a blessing in disguise, for the lengthy wait times provided us an opportunity to get to

know each other better.

There aren't many bonding opportunities that compare to being shot 150 feet into the air next to someone. Or that beat traveling 75 mph down a steep grade, or when you get flipped upside down over and over, or when you feel like you're going to puke because you've spun in a circle, countless times in a row.

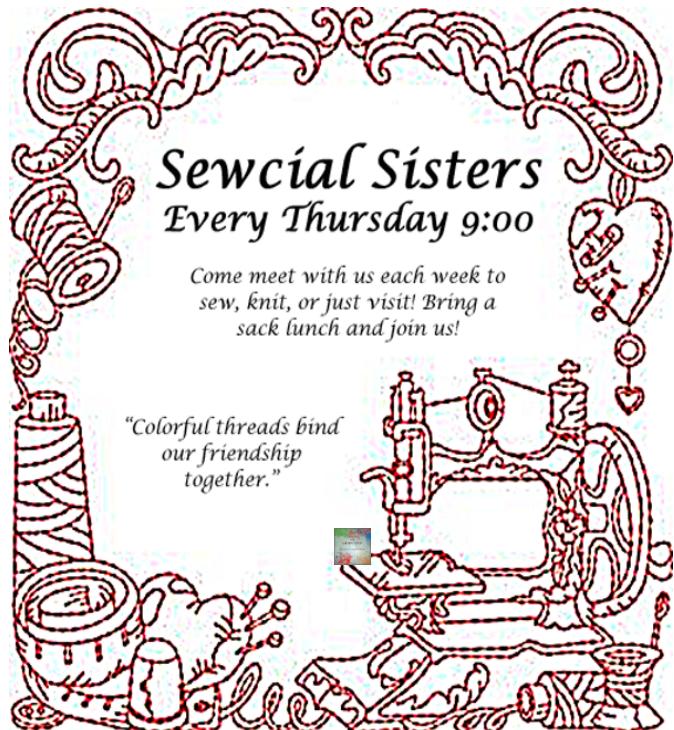


Simply put, our amusement park trip was a great opportunity to grow close to each other (while simultaneously screaming together). Here's to our next amusement park trip together, and hopefully warmer weather when we go!

### *Check the Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall.*

Thanks to Angie Gerzen for preparing these boards for our information and fun.





The Sewcial Sisters went on our annual retreat to Brunswick May 2-5. This is a special time to engage with each other spiritually and creatively! We have so much fun getting to know each other better. See the June issue of Locust Leaves for a report on the event.

We are always open for new people to join us on Thursdays at the church. Contact Beth Luetjen if you have questions.

Ever wonder why the grounds of MLG always look so beautiful?

He has been caught in the act but wants no recognition – in fact, when his photo was taken his response was "Nope – this is a private party!"

Thus, his face has been blurred and he shall remain nameless.



You can find him regularly dealing with mole hills, trimming branches, planting grass seed, hauling off brush, clearing overgrown drainage ditches, preserving historic locust trees, and a myriad of other things all around the Midway Locust Grove campus, quietly keeping to himself and just getting things done without fanfare.

Matthew 6:3

But when you do *tzedakah* (charity),  
do not let your left hand know what  
your right hand is doing  
*Tree of Life Version*



and he quietly rides off into the sunset



**THANK YOU,**

**MR. ANONYMOUS!**



# The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering  
Mary Kaye's  
Food Ministry

**MAY** is here...birds singing, flowers popping up and sharing meals with family.

Biscuits are a Southern staple with each cook having their own "go to" recipe. There are probably over a million different versions but this is a simple 3-ingredient recipe I think you will like.

Enjoy,

*Hope Burkart*

## Fluffy Cream Biscuits

2 cups self-rising flour

1 Tblsp sugar

1 1/2-2 cups heavy whipping cream

Mix dough - roll out to 1/2 inch thick. Cut into biscuits\* and place on sprayed baking sheet. Leave about an inch between each biscuit. Bake in preheated 450 degree oven 10-12 minutes.

**\*Makes 10-12 biscuits depending on size cutter you use.**

**Join us for  
Second Tuesday Lunch  
May 9, Noon.  
Bring a dish and friend.**



## SAVE THE DATE

### Vacation Bible School

**June 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Midway Locust Grove Church**

**Kids ages 3 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade**

\*More information about registration and volunteering in May.

Church Directory to get photos



*The updated church directory has been published and is available in the Fellowship Hall. It will be reprinted with photos this spring. Please have your family photo taken in the sanctuary immediately following worship for the next few Sundays.*

Midway Locust Grove  
United Methodist Church

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

**Open May 4 & 18**

**Twice blessed**

**Open 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
12:00 – 5:00**

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



**Thank You!**

*Andrew Gessling*

How can we ever thank you enough for what you did for  
Twice Blessed and its customers?  
Last year 99° outside – a balmy 93° inside!  
We understand that you also recruited some HVAC “elves” to  
help...so a BIG shout out to Chadd, Kendall, and Mike also for their  
role in making Twice Blessed dreams come true.

The very fact that, with all that’s going on in your lives, you would  
give of your time and effort and go out of your way to do this for  
our mission is appreciated more than words can say!

**Join us for Second Tuesday Lunch  
May 9 at 12:00 noon.  
Bring a dish and a friend**





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](mailto:mwlocustgrove@gmail.com)  
Email: [blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com](mailto: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  
[Rochepart@aol.com](mailto:Rochepart@aol.com) 445-1998

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

Visit our Web Site: [www.mwlocustgrove.com](http://www.mwlocustgrove.com)

*Volume 36 Issue 5 May 2023*

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

**Join us for lunch,  
12:00 noon  
Tuesday, May 9  
Bring a dish to share.**

## **The Back Row**



By Gene Baumann

Through the years I've worn my camera around my neck here at Locust Grove, I have had a number of requests for a copy of a photo of our church.

I have managed to capture some good images, inside and out, morning, evening and night, sunrise, sunset, sunny and cloudy.

I have the sanctuary alone, full frontal of the complex, the red door both open and closed, a view from across the street and through the cemetery.



After worship last Sunday, Lee Ann Martin showed me, then sent me, the photo below, taken during the service. It has redefined the definition of "a photo of our church" for me.

Our physical church remains an important part of the experience of attending Locust Grove, and I am very proud of its history.

The past few years have seen an expanded range of ages of the families who are the church. The vitality of this change is evident in all aspects of Locust Grove, but perhaps is most evident on Sunday mornings, both in the sanctuary and in the Sunday School room full of Midway Kids.