



LOCUST LEAVES

Please join us for worship.

Sunday School: 10:30

Worship: 10:30

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THIS MONTH**Sundays —**

Women's Bible Study
6:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Midway Students
5 to 7 p.m.

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

Tuesdays — 7:00 p.m.

Learning Ladies ZOOM Bible Study

Wednesdays —

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

Second Wednesdays —

Compassionate Friends
4:00—5:00 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

Tuesday, November 8 —Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

Monday, November 14
5:30 to 7:30
Mobility Worldwide
Give Back work session

Monday, November 21—7 p.m.
Administrative Council

Thursday, November 24
Thanksgiving



**Beyond
the Pulpit**
Pastor
**Ben
Lee**

Thanksgiving to Thanks Living

It's hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us. Friends and family will gather in a few short weeks to celebrate Thanksgiving. Afterward, we will roll right into Advent and Christmas. Where does the time go? I love that these holidays can genuinely become Holy Days if we intentionally place Jesus at the center of all we do in our homes and church.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow wrote: "Our harvest being gotten in, our Governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruits of our labors; they four in one day killed as much fowl, as with a little help beside, served the Company almost a week, at which time amongst other Recreations, we exercised our Arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and amongst the rest, their greatest king Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five Deer, which they brought to the Plantation and bestowed on our Governor, and upon the Captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty."

Did you catch that last line? "... yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we often wish you partakers of our plenty." Spiritually, this is the state our local church and many of our families have lived in for the past 29 months. We have so much to thank God for and equally as much to share with those around us. There is not a day that goes by that I don't find myself thanking God for all He is doing by the Holy Spirit in our families, homes, local church, and community. When approached from this mindset, giving thanks is so much more than a one-day feast of plenty. Instead, it becomes a lifestyle, the very nature by which we live and breathe. What I'm saying is Thanksgiving becomes thanks living!

This holiday season, let's place Jesus smack dab in the middle of our festivities. Let's be intentional in allowing these months to be Holy Days. Let's put faith right alongside our focus on family and friends in each and every gathering. And let's not stop just because the calendar changes from 2022 to 2023. Let's become a people who turn Thanksgiving into daily thanks living for the glory of God and the life of the world around us. We have so much to be thankful for!

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

LEARNING LADIES ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

Do you want to learn more about Saul and David? If so, join the Tuesday women's Bible study. The group is studying the book of Samuel. The study is open to women of all ages and knowledge of the Bible. The meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday nights via ZOOM. For more information, contact Marjorie McFann, mjmcfann@hotmail.com or 573-445-5650.

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## Reminders

### GIVE BACK DAY IS COMING

Our November Give Back Day will be working at Mobility Worldwide. This organization gives the gift of mobility, dignity, and opportunity to all God's children in need. We will be helping construct carts which provide transportation for those who face difficulties with movement.

The date is November 14 from 5:30-7:30 at their location 4825 E Meyer Industrial Drive. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Table. See Louise Stanley with questions.

The **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** will be Dec 11 at 6:00. Join us for the Christmas Choir Program and Dessert. If needed, the Snow Date is Dec 18.

## TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

October was a very good month for contributions received. The total for the month was \$25,879, which is well above the monthly average needed for our budget. That brings our monthly average for the year to \$19,500. This is partly due to some unusual gifts received during the month, but is really good news. Thank you so much!

You might be interested to know that there are 98 individuals or family units that have contributed this year, and most of those contribute regularly. I believe this is one more way that the Holy Spirit is moving in our congregation.

All of our bills and apportionments are paid to date, and we have a nice balance in our general fund. This will be a big help as we strive to do God's work in our community.

### New Church Directory in the works

Louise Stanley and Jane Bensussen have been working on updating the Church Directory, and are ready to start the process. In December, we will be updating and printing a new directory for 2023. We have had many new folks attending our church and would like to include everyone who wishes to share their contact information. If you have changed any of your information recently or have attended and are not included in last year's directory, please fill out the form on the welcome table.

Please send the information to Jane Bensussen [jbessus@aol.com](mailto:jbessus@aol.com)

## *Evan Hughes reviews October 23 baptism*

After encountering multiple roadblocks to being baptized, I overwhelmingly felt a couple of weeks ago that the Lord was ready for it to happen. It was such a wonderful feeling when Ben responded to my text with a phone call where he eagerly told me that he would do it. However, when he asked me where we were going to do it, I did not have an answer for him.



As soon as Kendall suggested Jane and Gale Bensussen's pond though, I knew it was the place for it to happen, and I instantly reached out to ask Jane. While Ben responded in a matter of minutes, I had not even put my phone down yet when I received Jane's response telling me that their pond would be the perfect place. To say the least, I was feeling quite giddy that morning as I eagerly anticipated my baptism which was now only days away.

In no way do I recommend waiting 3 years after choosing to follow the Lord to be baptized, but I want all of you to know that this was without a doubt God's perfect timing. I am confident that God wanted the members of our beautiful church to be wit-

nesses. I was amazed by how many of you came to support me or made sure to watch the video, words cannot fully express how much that means to me. The love which



you displayed throughout the entire process was incredible.

I may have been the one getting dunked under the water, but I could not stop thinking about the wonderful people who were smiling at me from the shore. For those of you who were at the pond, I think our Heavenly Father was showing us the strength of our united community by sending a rain shower to get everyone a little wet. I have said it to many of you, and I will continue to tell you all just how much of a blessing it is to live and work alongside you.

With Love,  
Evan

*Editor's Note: Photos lifted from video by Patrick and Katie Persinger*

### **GOD SEES YOU! Here's Godwink Proof**

"My mom was severely ill. I was driving, crying, and FEELING very ALONE!"

I PRAYED out loud to God, 'Do you EVEN SEE US down here?"

The moment I prayed that prayer, I looked at the car in front of me.

The license plate said 'ICU'.  
I thought, "WOW. You sure do!"  
Lisa Waldeck Mantz

When we ask God to "SHOW HIMSELF", He can ... through non-verbal communication that we call Godwinks!

Try it. Invite God to "show himself" in your life. SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

*Squire Rushnell*

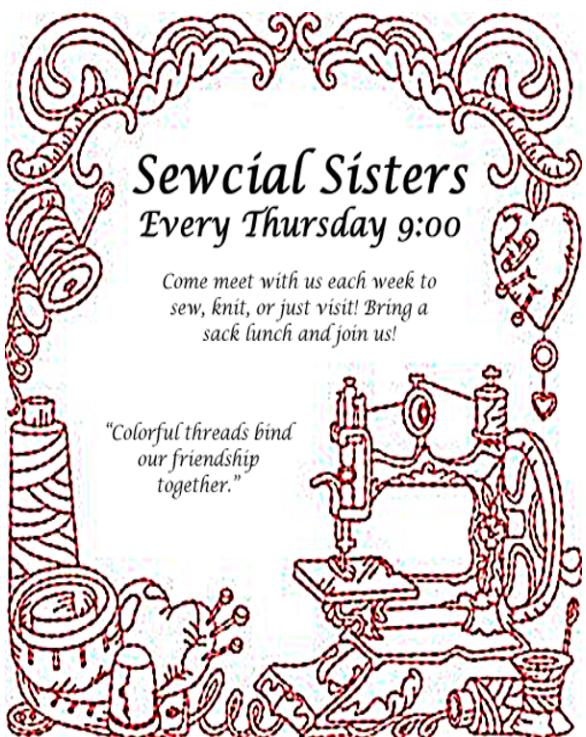
## Leslie Brown tells us of her latest adventure. . .



Wow, Wow, Wow!! So exhilarating, scary and fun rappelling 140 feet off the Tiger Hotel in 60 seconds. Thank you for all that supported me financially, in person and in prayer. I was able to raise over \$1,400 for an organization that is making a difference in our community. #LoveColumbia; #OvertheEdge2022; #TigerHotelRoof Leslie Brown



(Jana Wirth photos)



## Sisters focus on Honor Flight and Mobility Worldwide gifts

The Sewcial Sisters just returned from a retreat in Brunswick Mo. We enjoyed time together and time to sew! We are still working on Honor Flight Quilts. Also, when Gary Moreau came to Tuesday lunch to talk about Mobility Worldwide, he said donations of sewing machines, fabric,

## Somewhere in My Memories



Annual Choir Christmas Program  
Sunday evening, December 11, 2022  
6:00 p.m.  
Featuring the Chancel Choir and Midway Kids  
Dessert to follow in the Social Hall  
with a visit from Santa!  
(alternate snow date 12/18/22)


**MIDWAY**  
**LOCUST GROVE**  
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

and sewing notions are accepted and sent to needy families. The Sewcial Sisters can be a liaison if church members have any of these items they want to get rid of. Our doors are always open on Thursdays to new sewers!



## GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, Nov. 28

11:00 a.m.

**Crushed Red**

2540 Bdwy. Bluffs Dr..

Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd like to come

kkoehler1976@gmail.com

# Happy Birthday

## November 2022

**1** Ann Elder

**12** Glenna Johnson

**1** Earl Caruthers

**18** Gyla Elmore

**2** Gilbert Harville

**21** Janie Butler

**5** Julie Frink

**24** Michelle O'Neal

**9** Ryan Cunningham

**27** Alyson Price

**10** Bella Meyer

*If someone's name does not appear here and they do have a birthday this month, please let us know by email*

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

### **ABOUT THE GORGEOUS GIRLS**

We had a great time at the Gorgeous Girls lunch this month. It was at Kobe Japanese Steakhouse. That's always a fun, entertaining time in itself, but then add 9 crazy ladies, and it was way too much fun! None were successful in catching the bites that the chef tossed! Helen surprised all of us with a little "thank you" for starting our group lunches - a glass that says "Hello Gorgeous".

Next month is the Monday after Thanksgiving, so we thought a salad place was in order. If you're free, come join us on the 4th Monday each month (except December) at 11:00 for lunch at a different place each time. Let Kathy Koehler know if you are interested or have any questions.

**Join us next time:**

**November 28 at 11:00 at**

**Crushed Red, 2540 Broadway Bluffs Dr.**



*Among the benefits of gathering around the grill at Kobe Japanese Steakhouse is trying to catch bits of food thrown by the chef.*



# Trick or Treat in the Village of Locust Grove



Several hundred trickers worked their way through a dozen treaters on a misty evening in the Village of Locust Grove on Halloween Eve. Some walked, some rode in cars, some filled the bed of pickup trucks. All went home with an abundance of treats, most took advantage of free hot dogs prepared by Billy Cook, Marlin Gessling and Roger Walker.



10



1



11



2



3



*Our Hot Dog Reminder Team*



8



9



7



12



6



4



5



## By Kathy Hughes

As the nation gears up for an election, this information was taken from an article by Stu Whitney, an investigative reporter for South Dakota News Watch.

A recent court ruling that found South Dakota violated federal voting registration laws has reigned the long-standing concern over Native American ballot access as the state braces for a 2022 gubernatorial election that could hinge on Indian Country precincts.

In a state with nearly 78,000 Indigenous residents, advocates of greater Native enfranchisement have worked to enlist new voters in areas such as the Pine Ridge and Rosebud reservations. "If we start voting, we're going to be respected," said Chase Iron Eyes of the Lakota People's Law Project. "If we don't vote, we don't matter."

It's also a time of increased focus on voting rights and election security, partly influenced by former president Donald Trump's refusal to concede the 2020 election despite no evidence of widespread electoral fraud. Heavily Democratic counties such as Oglala Lakota (home of the Pine Ridge reservation) and Todd (home to the Rosebud reservation) can loom large in close statewide elections and voting practices there have also been scrutinized by supporters of the Republican-dominated status quo.

Nationally, 34% of voting-age American Indians and Alaska Natives are not registered to vote, compared with 26.5% of non-Hispanic whites, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Low turnout is also a concern: Oglala Lakota (41%) and Todd (55%) lagged well behind the statewide turnout of 74% for the 2020 general election.

Reasons for Indigenous non-participation in elections range from cultural and language barriers to socioeconomic realities and geographical challenges, such as long driving distances to the nearest polling site. For many reservation residents, the registration and voting process is complicated by not having a traditional street address, home mail delivery or broadband.

Barnett noted that there are several absentee voting satellite sites in reservation communities such as Eagle Butte, Wanblee and Mission, the

result of legal battles between Native advocacy groups and past secretaries of state. Lawsuits have been filed accusing state officials of ignoring federal voting rights laws and in some cases pushing for more restrictive policies that disproportionately affect minority or low-income residents.

Governor Noem, who vowed to prioritize Native relations during her campaign for governor, alienated Indigenous leaders while in office by cracking down on potential Keystone XL pipeline protests, leading the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council to temporarily ban her from the Pine Ridge Reservation.

Relations worsened in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the governor engaged in a legal standoff with tribal officials over their use of roadside checkpoints to try to control the spread of the corona virus on reservations.

"If you were on Pine Ridge at the time, you would have seen 1,000 people from traditional warrior societies arm themselves to the teeth and to go to every checkpoint to make sure that our territorial integrity was not violated," said Iron Eyes.

The battleground has shifted in many respects to conflicts over the rights of Native residents to be counted, quite literally in the case of the 2020 census survey. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that Native Americans living on reservations were undercounted by 5.6% nationally, continuing a trend from 2010, when the estimate was 4.9%. Census data helps determine formulas for funding distribution, legislative districts and policy decisions.

In May of 2022, a federal judge agreed with the Rosebud Sioux and Oglala Sioux tribes that South Dakota had violated portions of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), which was signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and took effect in 1995. The law requires state officials to provide voter registration information and guidance to eligible voters when they renew their driver's license at the Department of Motor Vehicles or when receiving public assistance (such as food stamps or Medicaid) at the Department of Social Services and other state agencies.

In representing the tribes, the Native American Rights Fund produced data showing that the amount of voter registration applications processed through South Dakota public assistance agencies decreased by 57% from 2004 to 2018, from 7,000 applications down to 2,981. The lawsuit also accused Department of Public Safety officials of not properly transmitting voter registration forms to county auditors in some cases.

"It was not a priority, to say the least, and the extent to which it was not a priority suggests a

*(Continued on Page 9)*

# View from a Pew

(Continued from Page 8)

level of voter suppression," said Samantha Kelty, a Washington D.C.-based attorney with the Native American Rights Fund.

"South Dakota could very easily be a leader in championing Native American voting rights across the board, and that's not happening," Kelty said.

As part of the settlement reached in September 2022, Barnett said his office designated Suzanne Wetz as state NVRA coordinator to oversee the training and oversight process, which includes public reporting of voter registration data. The state has also changed the wording on driver's license applications so that the form requires a person to opt out of the voter registration process, rather than require them to opt in.

Barnett said he has had to remind legislators during session that state laws running counter to federal provisions put the state at risk of lawsuits such as the one brought by the Oglala and Rosebud tribes. Lyman County was ordered by a federal judge in August of 2022 to work with the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe to change the county commission election process, which used an at-large system that denied representation by diluting the vote of the county's 38% Native population.

"Our goal is to provide reasonable access and make it hard to cheat, but it's tough to please everybody. It would be nice to take the politics out of it."

That's hard to do when the Native American vote has been instrumental in races such as Democrat Tim Johnson's U.S. Senate win over then-Congressman John Thune in 2002, the result of registration drives and get-out-the-vote efforts in reservation counties.

Supporters of greater ballot access insist that giving all citizens an opportunity to engage in the democratic process is not a partisan endeavor.

"We don't care how Native Americans vote, we just want them to be able to vote, and we work across the country to make that happen," said Kelty. "Native Americans are not a monolith. Every tribe is different, and every individual is different."

**Only 1 Month Away!**  
**We need gift items and volunteers!**

*The Christmas Store*

**Sponsored by**  


**Saturday, December 3, 2022**  
**10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Please wait to bring your gift donations until after Thanksgiving**

**It's Official - Santa has been BOOKED to make an appearance!**

*Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Store will be here before we know it...so start checking those sale racks, clearance aisles, and your closets for items to donate to this important, fun, and special event!*

*Along with your generous & creative donations, we need "elves" to help set up, "man" tables, and take down the store!*

*More info next month, but PLEASE mark your calendars for*

- Friday, 12/2 - set up
- Saturday, 12/3 store open from 10:00-2:00
- Dismantle store at 2:00.

*This has proven to be a very rewarding & greatly appreciated experience! Put on those elf hats and start your gift hunting!*

ALL proceeds go to Twice Blessed so we can help more of those in need!



# The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering  
Mary Kaye's  
Food Ministry

November is turkey, family and food. Great time to share family stories and recipes. Get out your Mom's recipe box and see what you can find to bring back those memories while sitting around the table enjoying family and food. *Hope Burkart*

## Traditional thanksgiving Menu...

Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, candied yams, cranberries, pumpkin pie.

Day 2, 3 or until it is gone... turkey tetrazzini - turkey sandwiches - turkey pot pie - turkey soup.

By this time you are really tired of turkey.

Enjoy your family gathering and treasure those you love.

## Tuesday Lunch learns about Worldwide Mobility program

Gary Moreau, Executive Director of Worldwide Mobility MO-Columbia, told the story of this gift of mobility, dignity and opportunity, which had its beginnings here in Columbia to the group attending the October Tuesday Lunch..



The Mobility Cart is a sturdy, three-wheeled vehicle propelled by hand-crank or pull handle which can be operated by a man, woman or child who is mobility impaired. More than 90,000 of these carts have been distributed in more than 100 countries since the organization began in 1994 here in Columbia. Over 29,000 of those carts came from the Columbia shop. Each cart is provided to the disabled at no cost to the individual.

Columbia Methodist Minister Mel West conceived the idea in response to the tragic loss of mobility in Zaire due to land mines and polio. A production shop was opened in Columbia in 2,000, and in 2020 the Mel and Barbara West Cart Center opened in their first owned and paid for building.

**See Page 2 for a notice of a Give-Back Work Day November 14 at the facility.**

*In photos at left, Kathy Koehler and Ron Utterback take turns on pedaling the mobility cart.*





## Watch for our Christmas Store

Fall has arrived at Twice Blessed. We have been busy getting the Spring/Summer clothes packed away for next year and getting the Fall/Winter items on the shelves. The number of people served by the Twice Blessed mission increased over 100% in the last month. We truly appreciate all your donations so we could keep our shelves stocked.

Twice Blessed will be sponsoring the 2nd annual Christmas Store on Saturday, December 3rd from 10am-2pm. We have already heard that Santa will be making appearance sometime that day! There will be a sign up sheet closer to time asking for volunteer "elves". We would greatly appreciate help for store set up on Friday evening, working at tables and the gift wrapping station and cleanup on Saturday. More information to come.

Thank you,  
**Glenna and Jill**



*A huge thank you to Marsha Coleman and Larry and Susie Henneke for the wonderful donation of mums for Twice Blessed. They were beautiful lining our walk way and our customers were so appreciative of getting to take one with them.*



My 6th grade granddaughter, Ellie Lichte, is a cross country runner and a pretty amazing runner, if I do say so! She competed in the State Middle School Cross Country meet in Hermitage last weekend, and placed 4th in the state! Lexington Middle School girls team took 2nd! Katie is the daughter of Michael & Katie (Koehler) Lichte of Lexington.

Her brother, Chapel, is also an outstanding Freshman cross country runner. The State High School competition is in November.

*Kathy Koehler*



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](https://www.facebook.com/mwlocustgrove)  
YouTube: [mwlocustgrove](https://www.youtube.com/mwlocustgrove)  
Instagram: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.instagram.com/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](mailto:Rocheport@aol.com) 445-1998

***Find the hidden circuit rider  in this issue.***

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

*Volume 35 Issue 11 November 2022*



## **The Back Row** By Gene Baumann

While waiting to photograph the Trick or Treat event I was visiting with Jim Johnson. He glanced at the sky behind me with a look of awe on his face, so I turned and looked, and managed to capture this image with my camera. I knew I was on God's ground. Nature is one of His best gifts to us all. I looked into this a bit more and found this quote on the Internet. It saved me the struggle of trying to express myself.

“The Bible is full of verses about the beauty of nature. In Genesis, we are told that God created the world and saw that it was good. Psalm 19 calls the heavens and earth the ‘handiwork of God’s fingers.’ Isaiah 40 describes the beauty of the Created world as a ‘gracious gift’ from God. The Book of Revelation tells us that one day nature will be restored to its original perfection, free from the effects of sin. In the meantime, we are called to enjoy and care for the natural world, using it wisely as stewards of God’s creation. These Bible verses about nature remind us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves and that this world is a precious gift from God.”

*Natural Beauty is a Gift from God*

