



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries & Missions	2
Birthdays, Kudos	3
Midway Students	4
Choir and Kids	5
Stained Glass Memorial	6
Jeff Weaver Baptism	7
Christmas Store	8
Gorgeous Girls	9
Kitchen Cabinet	10
Twice Blessed	11
The Back Row	12

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

Sunday, November 5

All Saints Day

Tuesday, November 14— Noon

Second Tuesday Lunch in
 Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 20, 7:00 p.m.

Administrative Council

Monday, November 27, 11 a.m.

Gorgeous Girls Lunch
 44 Tavern, Midway

Midway Locust Grove Church



Volume 36

Number 11

November 2023

Locust Leaves

We Are Growing!

The Lord has been so faithful, and our local church has experienced an incredible revitalization over the past three years. We praise God that our growth has included many new members and guests who come to us from a vast array of denominational backgrounds! With this in mind, I believe it is healthy to communicate the structure and governance of our church.

The governing authority of MLGC is our Administrative Council. The Council has ultimate fiduciary responsibility and decision-making power. The Council works with and governs staff leadership and all governance committees: Finance Committee, Pastor Parish Relations Committee (Human Resources), and Trustees Committee (Buildings and Grounds) to provide strategic conversations, planning, effective communication, and updates between committees. Council Members work together to cast vision and make necessary strategic decisions that help the church carry out its mission of helping others follow Jesus.

In addition to the Chairpersons of the governance committees, the Council is made up of the Council Chairperson, the Lay Leader, and the Chairpersons of our non-governance committees: Worship Committee, Mission Committee, Cemetery Committee, as well as the Ministry Directors, and Pastor. There are also At-Large members on the Council. It is worth noting that the Pastor, as well as any Ministry Directors, do not hold voting seats on the Council. Here are the members of our 2023 Administrative Council:

Jerry Wirth – Council Chairperson
 Erin White – Lay Leader
 Nedra Moreau – Finance Chairperson
 Louise Stanley - Pastor Parish Relations Chairperson
 Tony Martin – Trustees Chairperson
 Jim Johnson – Worship Chairperson
 Jessica Kempf – Missions Chairperson
 Kevin Yaeger – Cemetery Chairperson
 Barb Harville – At-Large
 Sherri Perry – At-Large
 Kathy Hughes – At-Large
 Evan Hughes - Director of Student Ministries Intern
 Shayla Roop – Director of Children's Ministries
 Ben Lee – Pastor

If you would like a copy of our complete set of By-Laws, please get in touch with Catherine (cshanahan.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com), and she will email them to you. Also, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out, and I will do my best to answer them. It is such an exciting time to be a part of our historic local church. What a gift. Praise God!



Beyond
 the Pulpit

Pastor
 Ben Lee

Peace, *Ben*

Ministries & Missions



For **Give Back Day** we will serve through the Voluntary Action Center of Columbia. Our volunteers will help collect gifts from sponsors and distribute them to VAC participant families during the 40th annual Holiday Program. We will serve on Tuesday, December 5th from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Collection and distribution takes place at Broadway Christian Church (2601 W Broadway, Columbia, MO 65203). Volunteers will help bring gifts from sponsor's vehicles, organize and pack the gifts into large bags, and take gifts to client's vehicles. Please sign up at the welcome table on Sundays or contact Louise Stanley at 573-356-5669 or by email at lstanley1900@centurytel.net.

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

October was a good month concerning gifts and contributions. We received \$27,712 for the general fund, which is very good. For the year, we have received \$226,417. This gives us a monthly average of \$22,641.


We are now at \$172,700 received and pledged for Firm Foundation, which is more than 75% of our goal. We still have a challenge to get to 100%. I know we are all enjoying our beautiful sanctuary, and we anticipate the completion of the Midway Students area and the new restrooms. I hope we will all get together to raise the remaining amount needed for this work.

Thanks to everyone for your support of our church.

Second Tuesday Lunch looks at our world travelers Nov. 14

Second Tuesday Lunch is Tuesday, November 14 at noon. Bring a dish and join in the early Thanksgiving festivities. Due to the overwhelming response to Jane Bensusen's presentation on China we would like to give the program over to speakers. November's program will be presented by the Utterback's and one of their world travels. Join us and see where we end up.

Mariea and Barb would also like to put out a call to all who have traveled or who have taken part in an intriguing organization and would like to take part in the program for Second Tuesday Lunch. Just let us know and we will get you on the schedule. Bring your appetite and get ready to tour the world..- *Mariea Caruthers*



Kudos

- **Jeanne Brawner** for sharing her gift by making each member of Shereka Everett's family a hand-made heirloom quilt!
- **Adrienne Price-Floyd** for donating our beautiful new choir robes – all 27 of them!! What a WONDERFUL gift!



Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for their donations of candy for Trick or Treat and all the Volunteers to hand out the candy, direct traffic and to help cook the hot dogs. The weather just wasn't cooperative this year. Save all your costumes and ideas for next year! I divided the candy and donated it to the Midway Fire Station Number 9, Midway Baptist Church, Midway Grade School and the Rocheport Fire Station. Thank you all so much, *Sherri Perry*



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



Happy Birthday November 2023

1 Ann Elder	12 Glenna Johnson
1 Earl Caruthers	18 Gyla Elmore
2 Gilbert Harville	19 Annie Klaas
3 Steve Green	21 Janie Butler
5 Julie Frink	24 Jon Klaas
6 Bob Grant	24 Michelle O'Neal
9 Ryan Cunningham	27 Alyson Price
10 Jeanne Brawner	27 Janet Toepke
10 Bella Meyer	30 Lori Stoll

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.



Thank You

Dear Church Family,

Once again, we want to thank you for your loving care and support of our family with the loss of Debbie to cancer. Your gifts of time and service mean more than we can express. You are truly our family in Christ. Love, Kathy, Ryan, Sharon, Rick, Stephanie, Heidi, Eva, Kristal and our families.

Kathy Hughes

**Know something nice
about someone?
Let us know about it
for KUDOS.**



MIDWAY STUDENTS

By Evan Hughes
Director of Student Ministries



October was bookended with two beautiful events of fellowship for Midway Students. To kick off the month, Kevin Yaeger came and hosted a delicious fish fry for the youth group. The front lawn of the church was filled with plenty of yard games, and we had a great time soaking up some of the last warm sun rays of the season.

Thank you Kevin!



To close out the month, we went as a youth group on our first ever fall retreat. Midway Students traveled down to Encounter Cove Camp, which is in Roach, MO. We set out on this retreat to decompress from the pressures of life, develop friendships with one another, and grow in our relationship with God. I am pleased to say that all three of our goals were accomplished.

The youth enjoyed their free time by exploring the camp, making friendship bracelets, completing a 1,000 piece puzzle, and by competing in some competitive games of

football. Oh, and they chose to close out each night with some intense rounds of mafia (. . . feel free to ask one of the students about what this game entails . . . I promise that it's not as bad as it sounds).

On Saturday, we engaged in three awesome team building activities! We kicked off the morning with a ropes course, where the students conquered their fear of heights. Not only did they climb to the top of tall platforms, but they also free-fell off these platforms and flew through the air. Following our soaring experience on the ropes course, we clashed



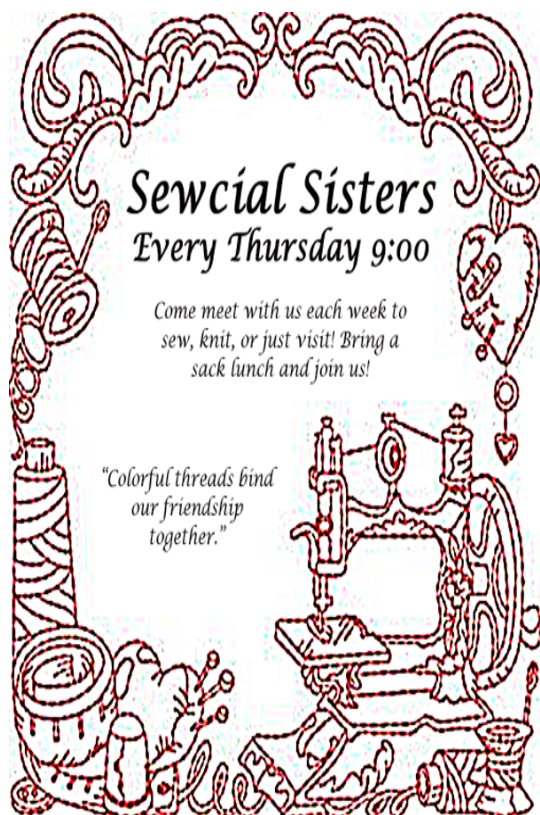
against one another in an extreme archery tag tournament. After some much needed hot chocolate (shoutout to Blake Roop, the master hot chocolate maker) and lunch, Saturday afternoon was filled with countless rounds of glow in the dark dodgeball . . . which concluded with the students beating the adults.

But, as fun as all of those exciting elements



were, the highlight of the retreat was watching the students grow in their faith. We worked together to tackle a lot of big questions about

Christianity, and supported each other along the way. It was evident that the youth were eager to learn from God's Word, and they consistently pursued unity through fellowship. We may have traveled to the camp as friends, but we came back to the church as brothers and sisters in Christ. *Evan*

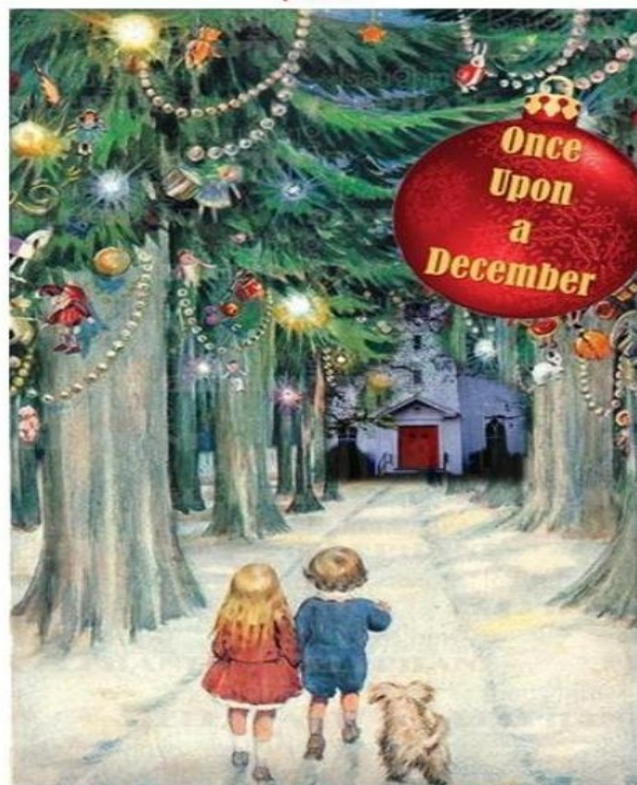


Check the Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall.

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

Midway Locust Grove Church Chancel Choir & Midway Kids

present



Sunday evening, December 10, 2023

6:00 p.m.

Dessert to follow in the Social Hall
with a visit from Santa!

(Alternate snow date 12/17/23)



New Stained Glass Memorial Window

We hope that you are celebrating the beautiful stained glass that welcomes you into our sanctuary. The design and colors honor the antique stained glass windows in our historic church.

The window also honors the memory of our parents Joe and Dell Cunningham who gave a lifetime of service to Locust Grove Church. The church was the center of their lives – faith, friends and joy. Dell was an active member for 97 years and had held virtually every leadership role. Her most favorite role was greeting every new person on Sunday. Joe, son Sandy and I joined in 1954 so we will be 70-year members in



2024. Joe and Sandy built and remodeled the church, fellowship hall and parsonage countless times.

In fact, this window is also a reminder of so many dear friends who worshipped and volunteered in our church over a lifetime. Many of you have parents or grandparents who gave so much to keep our historic church thriving. We celebrate each and every one of them when we look into this magnificent window. May God continue to bless our congregation

and offer even greater opportunities to serve our church and community.

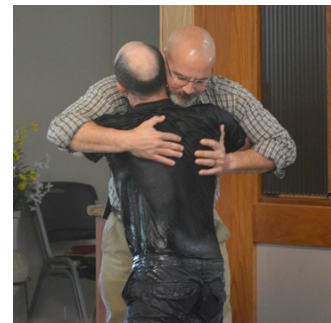
Jane and Gale Bensussen

Remodeling continues downstairs

With the sanctuary portion of the remodeling project completed, the Coleman Crew has turned their attention to the downstairs for the Midway Students Sanctuary. The interior walls have been removed the furnace moved into the adjoining room, and new wallboarding has been added. Next in line for the project will be overhauling of the restrooms on the main floor.



Jeff Weaver Baptized



The Locust Grove Church congregation witnessed another baptism October 22. Jeff Weaver entered his new life receiving the sacrament of baptism from Rev. Ben during worship on October 22. Watching his chosen immersion were his wife, Lindsey, daughter, Lilly, and other family members. The ceremony was in the Fellowship Hall to avoid possible water damage to the sanctuary's new hardwood floor.



The Christmas Store

Sponsored by



Saturday, December 2, 2023

10:00 am – 2:00 pm

Our 3rd 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!

PLEASE mark your calendars for

- *Friday, 12/1– set up*
- *Saturday, 12/2 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!



HOLD ON to your items until the last week of November!



Who and why we are. . .

It's been a while since I've explained exactly what Gorgeous Girls was so let me tell the newer members or refresh the memories of the other members. Many of you remember our dear friend, Leon Brown. Leon was the "face of HyVee" as he gave out samples every afternoon.

If you shopped at the HyVee on Broadway, you would recognize Leon. Leon passed away in 2021, and several of us took Helen out for her birthday shortly after that. We enjoyed our time together so much, we decided to make it a monthly lunch.

The reason for the name - Leon was a



The Gorgeous Girls at their October gathering at Walk Ons, one of Columbva's relatively new restaurants, now occupying the location of the recently closed Houlihans. Read the article below to learn more about who and why the Gorgeous Girls are.

sweet guy who always had a smile on his face. He called all the girls gorgeous. You may have thought you were the only one that Leon thought was gorgeous, but truth be told, he couldn't remember names so everyone became Gorgeous! Leon lives on each month as we gather for lunch and share time together.

We have grown a lot at Midway Locust Grove, and there are lots of new unfamiliar faces. This is a wonderful time to come and get to know each other in a small setting. Lunch is the fourth Monday of each month at 11:00, and each month is in a different location. Watch Locust Leaves each month for the announcement of the next location. Come join us - all women in the church are welcome!

Contact me if you need any further information. Hope to see you!

Kathy Koehler

kkoehler1976@gmail.com



Thanksgiving is here. Lots of turkey. . .what to do with the leftovers? Casseroles are always a good back up plan. Enjoy.

Hope Burkart

Turkey Noodle Casserole

12 oz. egg noodles
2 cups shredded turkey
1 tbsp. oil
1 small diced onion
2 diced celery stalks
Salt and pepper to taste
2 cans of cream of mushroom soup
2 cups of shredded cheddar cheese
1 cup frozen peas
Crushed potato chips

Prepare egg noodles per package instructions, reserving 1/2 cup of the water.

Return noodles to pot, add canned soup and water a little at a time till desired consistency is achieved.

Heat oil and cook onions and celery till soft. Add veggies, cheese and turkey to noodles. Stir to combine. Spread into 9x13 baking dish and top with crushed potato chips.

Bake 15 to 20 minutes or until top is brown.

We Are In Immediate need of:

- ✓ Shampoo
- ✓ Q-tips
- ✓ Laundry Detergent
- ✓ Dish Soap
- ✓ Ladies Underpants
- ✓ Small Toys
- ✓ Diapers Size 4/5
- ✓ Paper Towels
- ✓ Baggies, zip-locks, etc
- ✓ Men's workboots
- ✓ Small appliances, crock pots, electric skillets always appreciated!
- ✓ small decoratives
- ✓ towels, bath linens, etc

Please
NO clothing
needed
currently!!



**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
November 14, Noon,
in Fellowship Hall.**

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

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

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

**Open
Nov. 2 & 16**

**Twice
blessed**

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

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

Falling



Poet's Corner

Each autumn with great anticipation
as sunlight streams through weary trees,
God breathes a sigh - a gentle goodbye.
Released from all which held them to the past,
leaves gracefully in unison drift, swirl, dance, twirl.
With great importance this ritual plays within me.
Torn between melancholy and excitement ...
fearful that perhaps the time has passed and
I must wait yet another year to witness the miracle:
this end - this beginning of yet another season.
In its finality, a comforting reality of hopefulness,
and once again anticipation of the promise
which awaits us all.
The renewal and reminder of the cycle of our lives.

Glenna Johnson

Endless prayers of gratitude and much love from all your many friends at Twice Blessed!



Thank You

MARSHA COLEMAN & LARRY HENNEKE

for bringing beauty into the lives of so many!



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

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

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 36 Issue 11 November 2023

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

**Tuesday Lunch will be
at noon on Nov. 14
in our Fellowship Hall.**

The Back Row **By Gene Baumann**

The first half of Romans tells us that God gives each of us a special talent, saying, "In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."

If I could assign one trait that stands out in our two-centuries-plus as a congregation, I think it would be the use of the talents God has given our members.

An early example is the construction of our first house of worship, The Brick Chapel. According to our history book, the men and women of the congregation even made the bricks on site to construct the chapel. A great number of our building projects through the years have been handled by our own crew of craftsmen.

Many instances are cited in which our members use their personal skills to achieve whatever task is at hand. These

range from teaching to preaching.

To avoid the risk of overlooking a good example of my point, I won't mention names, but really don't have to for you to recognize this phenomenon in our church.

Music may be the prime example of talent shared, from our leaders to our young members who share their talent regularly.

We have long been known for our outstanding carry-in dinners and other special events which include meals. Those who are most familiar with the kitchen serve the rest of us abundantly well.

The list goes on and would require more space than is available here. I am pleased that after more than 40 years in a career that included corporate communications in all media, I have the privilege to continue what I considered the best job in the world — editing publications for my coworkers, and now doing it for our church family and friends. Are you sharing your talents for the glory of God?