



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

Tuesday, September 12— Noon

Tuesday Lunch at
 Midway Heights Baptist Church

Monday, September 18, 7:00 p.m.

Ministry Council

Monday, September 25, 11 a.m.

Gorgeous Girls Lunch
 Flat Branch

Tuesday, September 26, 11 to 1
 Give Back Day —Mobility Worldwide

Midway Locust Grove Church



Volume 36

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Locust Leaves

Firm Foundation Challenge Update

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus communicates that those who hear and obey his teachings will not be shaken. As we have progressed through the beginning phases of the Firm Foundation Challenge, this has undoubtedly been the case. The projects are large and can seem daunting, but there has been a steadfastness to our work, and the Lord has proven faithful day after day.

It is time for an update on the financial side of things. The total cost of the projects is \$225,000. I am happy to share that we have raised \$110,931 through 43 one-time, upfront lead gifts! To those of you who have given, thank you for your extravagant generosity.

To cover the remaining \$114,069, we will rely on monthly pledges. If we have 45 families or individuals who will contribute \$180 per month for 15 months, we can cover the balance of the projects and have a little left for construction contingencies. To clarify terms, these once-per-month pledged gifts will begin in October 2023 and end in December 2024. For planning purposes, if you are willing to take one of the 45 spots, please let Nedra know by Friday, September 15, 2023. Her email is nmoreau.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com.

As a reminder, we are set up to receive IRA RMD direct transfers with zero tax consequences. Nedra has worked hard to establish avenues for people to avoid capital gains taxes by donating appreciated stock if that option is best for you as we journey toward the end of 2023.

Finally, our congregation has avoided the pitfall of redirecting portions of our monthly tithes toward fundraising efforts. Thank you very much for this! In the coming months, our pledged gifts to the Firm Foundation Challenge will continue to be unique offerings in addition to our monthly tithes, assuring we will have the resources needed to continue operating healthy ministry lanes while setting our facilities up for all God has in store for MLGC in the coming years!



Beyond
the Pulpit

Pastor
Ben Lee

Peace,

Ben

Ministries & Missions

Give Back Days Continue

By Louise Stanley

On alternating months, Locust Grove Church has Give Back Days and Family Fun Nights. We participate in a variety of activities in order to reach out to the community.

For example, in March we cleaned our church, in April we hosted Lunch with the Easter Bunny, in May members went to Coyote Hill and did a Catch and Fry with the kids who live there.

In June we hosted an Ice Cream Social and Movie Night and in July about 20 church members worked at the Food Bank. Looking forward, on Saturday October 28 Locust Grove will have our annual Trunk or Treat.

On Tuesday, September 26 we are going to work at Mobility Worldwide from 11:00AM -1:00PM at 4825 E Meyer Industrial Drive. We will assist in packing the three wheeled carts which are shipped to people in developing countries who are unable to walk due to injury or illness. There will be a signup sheet on the Welcome Table. Contact Louise Stanley 573-356-5669 if you have questions

If you are unable to participate, you may mail a check to Mobility Worldwide, 4825 E Meyer Industrial Dr., Columbia MO 65201 or donate sewing notions or medical equipment if you like.

The phone for Mobility Worldwide is 573-886-7877.

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

Our offering for August is \$20,300, which is an improvement over July. So far, we have also received more than \$90,000 in Firm Foundation gifts, with about another \$30,000 pledged in lead gifts but not yet received. We are starting to receive monthly pledge amounts which brings our current total to about \$128,000. We still have quite a bit to go to meet our goal. Thank you to all that are helping us meet our goals and objectives as a church.

I noticed as I was looking back over emails and other notes about Firm Foundation, that several of you asked me to contact you when we are ready to receive the funds. We are happy to receive the funds at any time. If anyone needs assistance with gifting from IRAs or stocks, please do not hesitate to contact me.



**Save the date for
Trick or Treating
in the Cemetery!
October 28, 2023**



Condolences

Deborah Lauren Hughes Hitzeroth was born June 13, 1961 in Mexico, Missouri and passed away Sunday, August 20, 2023 in Kenosha, Wisconsin. She was the much-loved daughter of Gary and Kathy Hughes. On June 11, 1988 she married Ryan Hitzeroth.

Debbie was an MU Tiger in every sense of the word and graduated in 1983 with a degree in Journalism. She started her career working on newspapers in Waco, TX and Chula Vista, CA. She then began working for American Airlines in late 1991, and for the US Postal Service in 1997. She went back to school and earned her Master's Degree of Business Administration from Loyola University while working.

She eventually became the Anti-Money Laundering Compliance Officer and Bank Secrecy Act Compliance Officer for the United States Postal Service. In that role, she was responsible for all aspects of AML/BSA compliance for the USPS' 32,000 retail locations, establishing, implementing and maintaining policies, procedures and managing suspicious activity detection and reporting. She was also a freelance AML/Bank Secrecy Act compliance consultant. In addition, she was a longtime, dedicated member of the




Happy Birthday

September 2023

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 Kieley White | 18 Matthew Frink |
| 4 Marla Mueller | 18 Duane Perry |
| 5 Stephen Cunningham | 20 Margaret Preus |
| 14 John Preus | 23 Claire Butzlaff |
| 14 Sheri Stewart | 23 Frank Klaas |
| 14 Shari Thomas | 24 Steve Lightner |
| 16 Lou Pegues | 24 Dean Hovis |
| 16 Lindsey Weaver | 26 Creed Leverett |
| 17 Jane Fulhage | 28 Helen Brown |
| 17 Logan Hovis | 30 Rhett O'Neal |
| | 30 Dennis Shannon |

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.

ACAMS Today Editorial Committee, serving as chair of the committee and as a member of the CAMS Exam Task Force. (ACAMS is the largest international membership organization for Anti-Financial Crime professionals.) She was also a member of the U.S. Treasury National U.S. Risk Assessment Team.

Debbie was an avid reader all her life. She was also a published author with numerous books and magazine articles to her name. One of her great joys was travel, visiting innumerable countries and circumnavigating the globe. A particular favorite was a trip to China. She loved scuba diving, golf, fencing and rollerblad-

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 3) Debbie Hitzeroth

ing. Beyond a doubt, her greatest joy was being with family. She was a beloved daughter, sister, aunt, and great aunt who made up impromptu stories about the children whenever they were together.

Debbie had a wide smile, a funny sense of humor and the greatest laugh. Despite lifelong health challenges, she remained one of the sweetest, kindest, generous and most optimistic people you could ever hope to know.

Although a strong fighter to the end, Debbie lost her 10-month battle with an extremely aggressive form of metastatic breast cancer, surrounded by the family she loved so fiercely and who adored her so completely. She was preceded in death by her father Gary, grandparents Paul and Jean Boll, Gene and Mary Hughes and Thelma

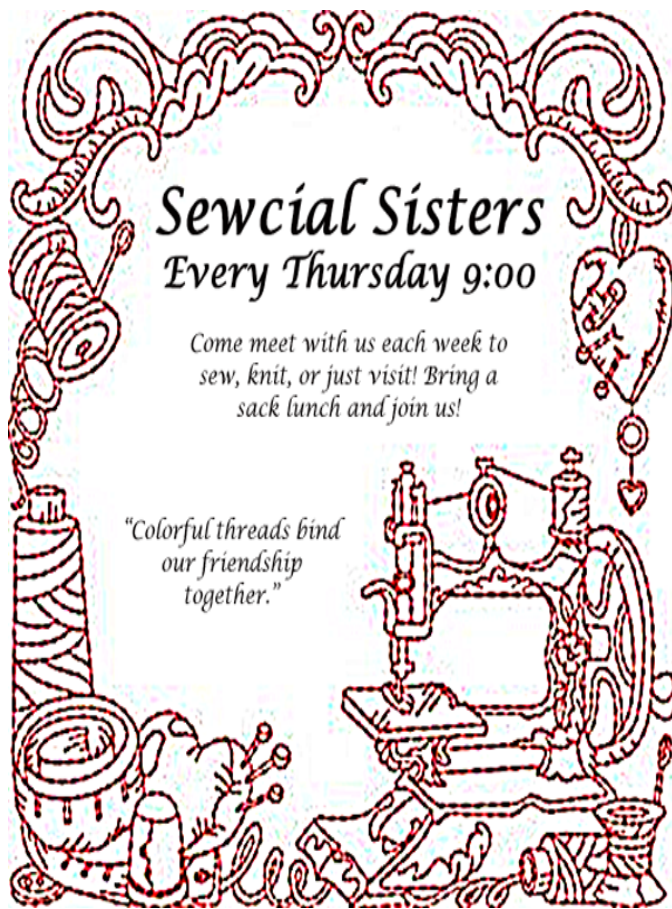
and Don Randall. She was also preceded in death by her great uncle Jim Long, and great aunts Alma "Sis" and Rose Long, who raised her in her younger years.

She is survived by her mother Kathy, siblings Sharon Leon, Rick (Grace) Hughes, Stephanie (Jeff) Williams, Heidi (Brent) Netemeyer, Eva Hughes, Kristal (Matt) Ziegelbein, Lisa (Bill) McQuegge and nieces and nephews Emily, Liz, Jasmine, Sam, Aliana, Ellie, Diana, Jade, Dakota, Ryan, Justin, Samuel, Averil, Logan, Matt (Heather), Spencer (Melody), and Gretchen, and great niece Daniella.

A Celebration of Life ceremony will be held Saturday, Sept 23, 2023 at 3:00 pm at Midway Locust Grove Church, with burial to follow in the church cemetery, where she will be buried near her dad.

She leaves a hole in this universe, but now resides, forever, with her Heavenly Father and her Dad.





The Sewcial Sisters will be traveling to Missouri Star Quilt September 21st. It is the 15th annual Birthday Bash for Missouri Star Quilt Company. The town of Hamilton MO will be packed with vendors, shops, games, food. Anyone interested in going, please contact Kathy Koehler or Beth Luetjen.

~~~~~

## Emergency church site also serves lunch

A recent spring rain sent our congregation scurrying to the Midway Golf and Games arena for Sunday services. See Page 7 for the report on that. A couple of Sundays later, a group worshipped on the lawn as usual during the summer months, and then returned to the restaurant at MG&G for lunch. Thanks Mariea Caruthers for keeping us posted.



*Our table had 15. Table behind us six Sewcial Sisters, two at the bar watching the golf tournament. We had great conversations as usual. Photographer was our server.*

## SECOND TUESDAY LUNCH

There will be another Second Tuesday Lunch September 12 at the Midway Heights Baptist Church. The program will be Dan Szy, Director of Development for City of Refuge, discussing volunteer opportunities and development needs.



# Sanctuary gets more than a floor

While most of the focus has been on the replacement of the floor in the sanctuary, other improvements are happening at the same time. The walls have been painted, and the light fixtures have been



cleaned and provided with new more efficient bulbs. The floor is ready for the hardwood surface to be added, and the altar railing is being refurbished. Meanwhile, worship is being held on the front lawn.



## Small Groups Ministry forming

Just a reminder that our Small Groups Ministry registration continues. Three groups have formed with leaders, apprentices and hosts.

Group 1: Leader, Bill Roop; Apprentices, Lee and Karla Summer; Host, Keith Andersen.

Group 2: Leader, Mariea Caruthers; Apprentices, Bob and Suzi Moore; Host, Carolyn Doyle.

Group 3: Leader, Laurel and Keith Groh; Apprentice: Kathy Hughes, Host: Leslie Brown.

These groups will meet in their host's home, and each will determine what day and what time they will meet.

You may register online on the church Facebook Page or by sign up sheet on the welcome table at worship.



# MLG + MG&G = Uninterrupted Worship Services



Much needed rain came to Midway on Sunday, August 13, requiring worship to take advantage of an arrangement with Midway Golf and Games to hold services

in their auditorium if needed. Weather permitting, worship is held on the lawn at the church during warm weather and now with sanctuary remodeling underway.



Rev. Ben blessed students, backpacks, and teachers as they return to school. Below,

Dylan Roop provided special music and of course, Miss Glenna brought her keyboard.







Our story started before Earl started coming to church. Mariea started school in grades 1-3 at old Midway one room school. Earl was in the 7-8th grades. He had been attending Benton for the 6th grade. The old school was closed. They didn't connect again until 1963. His mother sold Stanley Home products and delivered an order to Mariea's mother. Earl came with—in his Air Force uniform. Mariea was 15. His mother had started attending church at Midway. After Earl got out of the service in March 1966, he attended a church picnic in Fayette. They met. Mariea graduated from high school 1966. Their first date was just after the Boone County Fair Queen contest, August 1967. Earl started going to church. Elder church members often told them that it was so cute that they held hands a lot. They got en-

gaged on her birthday December 9. Married April 21, 1968. Both kids—Ben and Cathey —were raised in the church.

They stopped attending church in 1992. And returned for Tuesday Lunch March 2019 until March 2020—Covid happened. They returned July 2021. Earl had a lot of questions. When the Men's Bible study formed he eventually started attending. Was getting some of his questions answered. Lots of prayers were being made. He started telling Mariea that he wanted to be baptized by immersion. When Evan was baptized he was motivated even more.

Final chapter: they visited with Ben Lee. Ben's excitement was contagious. Once the date was set Earl really seemed more settled. The baptism was quite an event for the Caruthers and Hall families. About 30 (ages from 8-82) from mid-Missouri attended and stood up with him on August 6.

Hallelujah and Amen! *Mariea Caruthers*







# GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, Sept. 25, 11:00  
Flat Branch  
115 S. Fifth  
Columbia

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



## Second Tuesday Lunch

Due to remodeling at our church, the Second Tuesday Lunch met at the Midway Heights Baptist Church August 8. Sarah Hall discussed the organization, Faith Through Fire, which mentors women who are going through chemotherapy for breast cancer. The upcoming September 12 luncheon will also be at the Baptist facility.



## Check the Bulletin Boards in Fellowship Hall.

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





# The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering  
Mary Kaye's  
Food Ministry

SEPTEMBER...Cooler weather, leaves changing color and kids returning to school. Here is an EZ Stroganoff recipe that is ready in 30 minutes.

Enjoy,

*Hope Burkart*

## **EZ Stroganoff**

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1/4 cup dried onion flakes
- 1 cup beef broth
- 4 oz. cream cheese
- 12 oz. pkg wide egg noodles

Prepare egg noodles per package directions. Drain

Brown beef. Salt & Pepper to taste and add dried onion flakes.

Add beef broth and cream cheese. Stir till cheese is melted. Simmer 10-15 minutes and serve over noodles.

**Join us for  
Second Tuesday Lunch  
September 12, Noon.  
At Midway Heights  
Baptist Church.**

# 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.*

We were cleaning out some file drawers at the church recently, and a small piece torn from a newspaper appeared in one of the folders. It contained the following poem, obviously saved to be shared with the congregation. We apologize to Rev. Billy Strayhorn for having taken something over 44 years to share it.

## **Solitude can be a blessing** **By M.B. McGuire**

If I hadn't been alone,  
I would have missed the sweet song of the  
mockingbird.  
If I hadn't been alone,  
The cricket's weather forecast would have  
gone unheard.  
If I hadn't been alone,  
I'd not have seen the sunset on the islands'  
sea.  
If I hadn't been alone,  
I'd not have talked to You, nor You to me.

~~~~~  
In fairness regarding the saving of this poem, the opposite side of the clipping was a story about Heritage Weekend at Midway-Locust Grove. It seems a Godwink that the poem may have been saved inadvertently by its position in the paper.

The paper appears to be a Methodist publication, but no date is shown. The May 19-21 weekend celebration included an exhibit of historical records, a visit from a circuit-riding preacher, a luncheon honoring long-term members (some who have been part of the church nearly 80 years), and other special events. Special guests and prominent church officials were invited to attend the activities.

Where did that summer go!? Twice Blessed is in the midst of our GOGO (GetOneGetOne) “sale” to help make room for our fall/winter merchandise. Also many Back-To-School items were distributed and appreciated.

Our favorite thing to report is that, with every session, we are averaging 12-15 NEW customers – so word is spreading!

Our storage area is beyond full, so no clothing is needed at this time! Please do not think that your clothing donations are not appreciated, but we are ALWAYS in need of disposable items... laundry/dish soap, shampoo, toothpaste, paper towels, cleaning supplies, etc. If we have 70+ shoppers each session and each takes one of each item....they're gone!

The whole Midway community, and beyond, has totally embraced this mission, for which we can never say thank you or relay our gratitude enough. But

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

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

Open Sept 7 & 21

**Twice
blessed**

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00

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

THANK YOU, and we are forever grateful!!!

Your TB Girls,
Jill and Glenna

We ARE in immediate need of:

- Shampoo
- Laundry soap
- Cleaning Supplies
- Non-perishable food

HO – HO – HO!

Guess what time it is?

Time to start thinking “Christmas.”



Planning for our 3rd Annual Christmas Store is underway and we need your help!

Start cleaning out those closets, hitting garage sales, and retail “out they go” sales for new gifts. Be creative – we will need items for ALL ages from infants to geriatrics.

If you have participated in this event before – you know how much fun (and work) it is – and if you have not, you’re in for a treat!!

Mark your calendars for December 1st & 2nd - you won’t want to miss it!

[hold on to your items until December 1st –
please don’t bring them to church until then!]





MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE 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

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

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 36 Issue 9 September 2023

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

**Tuesday Lunch will be
at Midway Heights
Baptist Church Sept. 12 .**

The Back Row By Gene Baumann

I have been searching for at least 30 years for the location of the family cemetery of our church's founder, Reuben Hutton. Our history tells us that he was buried on his farm not far from the church, and when that area later was being developed into a subdivision, one of our church members rescued his tombstone from destruction and moved to our cemetery.

Several years ago the church got an inquiry from Kristy Broadstone, Reuben's sixth-great-great-granddaughter, who lives in Omaha. We heard from her again recently, asking if we had located the cemetery. I



assured her I would try to find it while she was in our area. With the help of Stephen Cunningham, who played in the area as a child, I focused on a specific area and went to a residence there. When I explained my mission, the owner said, "Let me show you what I have." As we walked a short distance to his front yard, he described enough details that I knew it was the Hutton Family Cemetery, neatly mowed as part of the yard, with about a dozen natural rocks as grave markers. I took Kristy to the site the day she returned to Omaha.

While there is not much to see, we agreed that standing on such sacred ground will be a lifelong memory.

For the moment, out of respect for the privacy of the landowner, I'm not publishing the location of this nearby historic site.