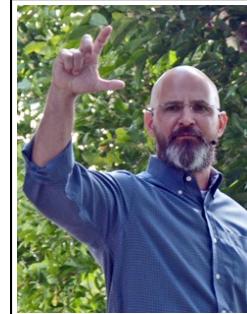




Locust Leaves

**MIDWAY STUDENTS****Beyond
the Pulpit
Pastor
Ben
Lee**

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

Saturday, September 3—4:30
Loaves and Fishes

Tuesday, September 13—Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch
Food Bank of Central Missouri
Give Back work night — 5:30

It's a very exciting time in the life of our local church as we prepare to launch a weekly ministry focused on 6th-12th graders. Beginning September 11, Midway Students will meet at the church each Sunday evening from 5-7 pm. These weekly meetings will consist of group games, a nice meal, and worship. I have been meeting with our students a couple of times per month for the past several months, and I have to tell you, we have some amazing young people in our church!

To focus on developing this ministry area, we are pleased to announce the addition of a part-time team member, Evan Hughes. Evan comes on board in a paid position as our Director of Student Ministries Intern. Evan is the son of David Hughes and Kendall and Heather Gessling. He is a product of the Midway community, has deep family ties to MLG, and is an extraordinary young man in every way.

I look forward to working alongside Evan in ministry and watching him grow as a leader. I also look forward to watching our student ministry grow under his guidance. I do not doubt that our church will benefit from Evan's gifts as he serves here at MLG, and I sincerely pray that he benefits from his time here just as much. Please join me in formally welcoming Evan Hughes into our MLG family. God is good, y'all!

Peace,
Ben



Women still reading 1 Samuel

The Learning Ladies Zoom Bible Study will be reading the Book of 1 Samuel in September. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 with a prayer time at its conclusion.

The study group is open to all women regardless of their age or knowledge of the Bible. For more information, contact Marjorie McFann at 573-445-5650 or mjmcfann@hotmail.com.

Another women's study group meets from 6 to 7 p.m. on Sunday evenings if this time frame does not work for you.

Give Back Day September 13 at Central Missouri Food Bank

Each month we alternate Family Fun and Give Back Days. In September, it is time for a give back to the community. Midway is known for its generosity, so please join our church family as we work The Central Missouri Food Bank at 2101 Vandiver Dr.

The time reserved for us is Tuesday , September 13 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Sign up to volunteer and requirements include wearing close toed shoes. It would be great to wear your Midway Locust Grove t-shirt or a red t shirt. Contact Louise Stanley at 573-356-5669 with questions. A sign up sheet is on the Welcome Table.

Louise Stanley



GORGEOUS GIRLS
Join us for lunch!

Monday, Sept. 26
11:00 a.m.

Las Margaritas

10 Southampton

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

We had nine Gorgeous Girls at our August lunch with one newcomer. Welcome to Janet Toepke who joined us for the first time. If you would like to get to know some of the ladies of the church, please join us for our monthly get togethers. Each month is a new restaurant. Come meet some new friends! Contact Kathy Koehler for further information

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

August was a very good month with contributions. The total was over \$25,000, which is well above budget. For the year, we are averaging about \$18,800. This is over what was planned in the budget, so things are going well. Apportionments are paid to date, and we still have a nice balance in the general fund. We do expect some additional expenses as we go into the fall and winter, so having a good balance is a big help.

Thanks to everyone for continuing to assist with our ministries!

Salute to the Sophomores Groh, Kylie and Teagen

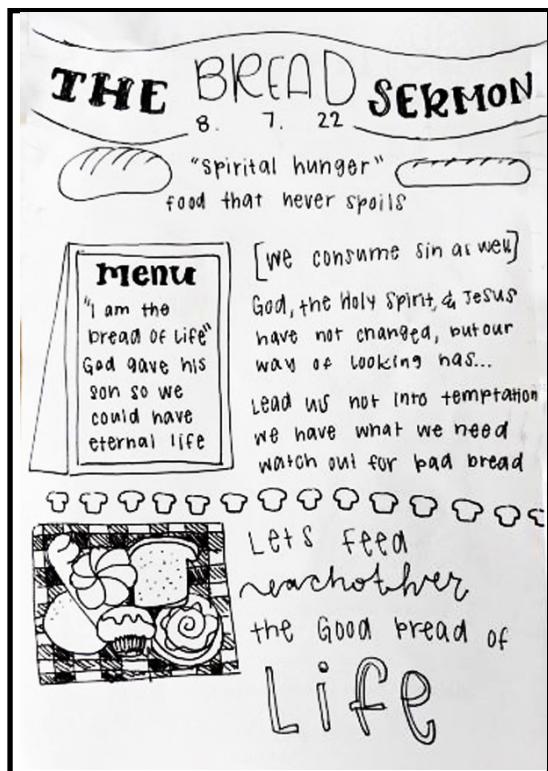
A big thank you to sisters Kylie Groh, a sophomore at MU, and Teagen Groh, a sophomore at Hickman. Kylie and Teagen both have worked with Midway Kids since its establishment last September.

Most notable is the beautiful art work on the blackboard they have created. Kylie is shown in the photo with her latest piece of art. She is majoring in business with an emphasis in marketing and a minor in music. Kylie shared a viola solo with us earlier in the year.

Teagen loves listening to music, hanging out with her friends, and creating art.

She recently surprised Bill Wegener with an illustration of his sermon while substituting for Rev. Ben in August. That illustration is shown below.

We salute these very talented young women. *Louise Stanley*



Above, Kylie's first touch on the new illustration for the Midway Kids blackboard, and the completed illustration at top, featuring Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."



By Missy Barnes

Teachers

As we sat outside among the locust trees on a perfect, late summer morning, I could feel the excitement in the air. Today was the day that Ben would bless the backpacks for back to school. As the children and teachers came forward, I was honored to be standing with fellow teachers and students of all ages.

As Ben said the prayer, I thought about the word teacher. Seemingly pretty simple—it means a person who teaches. And I began to think about all the teachers we have at different times in our lives.

Our earliest teachers are our parents. They teach us how to be kind and compassionate, how to tie our shoes, how to catch a fish, and so much more. Parents never stop teaching their children, no matter their age. As we enter school, we learn from our school teachers.

My three boys can easily name their favorite teachers at Midway Elementary. Sheri Stewart is royalty in my house, according to my own boys. Her energy and enthusiasm for teaching is contagious. Our family has been so blessed with the incredible teachers who have come and gone from our little neighborhood country school. Not only have they taught my children, but they have left lasting impressions on what a good teacher looks like.

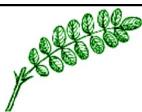
Sitting in my lawn chair on that perfect Sunday morning, I looked around at all the teachers. Like Dwayne Hovis, who teaches us all what a smile and a hug can do for the soul. Like Jim and Glenna, who are the centerpiece of our church, sharing their love of music and teaching us all that music can soothe us, uplift us, and guide us. Like Marlin and Tami Gessling who, with their children and grandchildren gathered around them, teach us about the importance of family.

The Bible tells us that “he gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers.” In this verse, teachers are those with the ability to communicate God’s word.

Since Ben’s arrival at Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church, we have been blessed with a great communicator of God’s word. Through his teaching, he has given some a new and fresh perspective of the Bible, and for others, introduced the words and teachings of the Bible. And in a way that only Ben can do, he has made teachers out of many in our congregation.

As I start this new school year, I am excited about the possibilities. I have endless role models of what a good teacher is. I know that I can look around me on any given Sunday morning and see that teachers come in many forms, and with much to teach us all.

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



We Welcome ...

Youth Pastor Evan Hughes

Ever since walking into Nonna and Poppa's house (Tami and Marlin Gessling) the night of Halloween, 2010, I have felt that this community was my home. They

offered me as much pizza as I could possibly stomach, a bag full of candy, and most importantly the warmth of unconditional love.

In the same way I want to welcome others into our Midway Students program, making sure they leave feeling the love of

Christ and the love of our church. While I've only attended a handful of Sundays at MLG, I've felt a deep peace knowing that this was going to eventually be my church home. Anthem Church in Columbia is where I've been attending since the summer of 2020, and the community there has

Special music from the Midway Kids

An awesome performance of the hymn "Awesome God" brightened worship August 28 as the Midway Kids performed as part of the worship service, under the direction of Beth Luetjen. Dylan Roop provided a solo performance. As Rev. Ben quipped, we felt like we'd been to church after the performance.



Happy Birthday September 2022

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| 5 Stephen Cunningham | 18 Matthew Frink |
| 13 Karen Rogers | 18 Duane Perry |
| 14 John Preus | 20 Margaret Preus |
| 14 Sheri Stewart | 24 Steve Lightner |
| 14 Shari Thomas | 24 Dean Hovis |
| 16 Lou Pegues | 28 Helen Brown |
| 17 Logan Hovis | 30 Rhett O'Neal |

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.

poured into me preparing me well for my journey ahead with you all.

I am thrilled to have been blessed with this opportunity, and I am eager to see what God has planned. The excitement of church members to see a thriving youth program encourages me daily, and I am filled with joy knowing I will get to personally know so many of you. I ask for your prayers, and acknowledge that this will be the work of the entire church body. God is moving in this community and I know He will continue to with all the youth who live here.

With love, *Evan*



We had more fun than the Swiss Family Robinson

Ol'e !! Family Fun Night was held Saturday, August 20, 2022 and was enjoyed by all. We had approximately 75 neighbors and friends join us on the lawn for games, food, and a movie.

The fun began at 7:00 with a Nacho Bar snack and cookies. A huge thank you to all who worked making nachos and contributing desserts. Our Fellowship Hall was transformed into a fiesta by Leslie Utterback and Marla Mueller who decorated very colorfully.

Kids, young and old, enjoyed a scavenger hunt, breaking a piñata, hula hoops, bubbles, and basketball. The Roop and Kempf families organized these fun activities.

As darkness fell, *Swiss Family Robinson* was shown on the big screen and the movie was provided by the Gessling family. It was a perfect summer night on the lawn with no rain and reasonable temperatures.

Many people stayed to clean up including Jon Klaas, Karen Jordyn, Jaxyn Moore, and Jeanne Brawner. Locust Grove Church continues to grow and spread love and caring throughout the community. As a special donation, we collected snack items which have already been delivered to Midway Elementary School.

Louise Stanley



Great Decorations



Great Snacks



Great Art



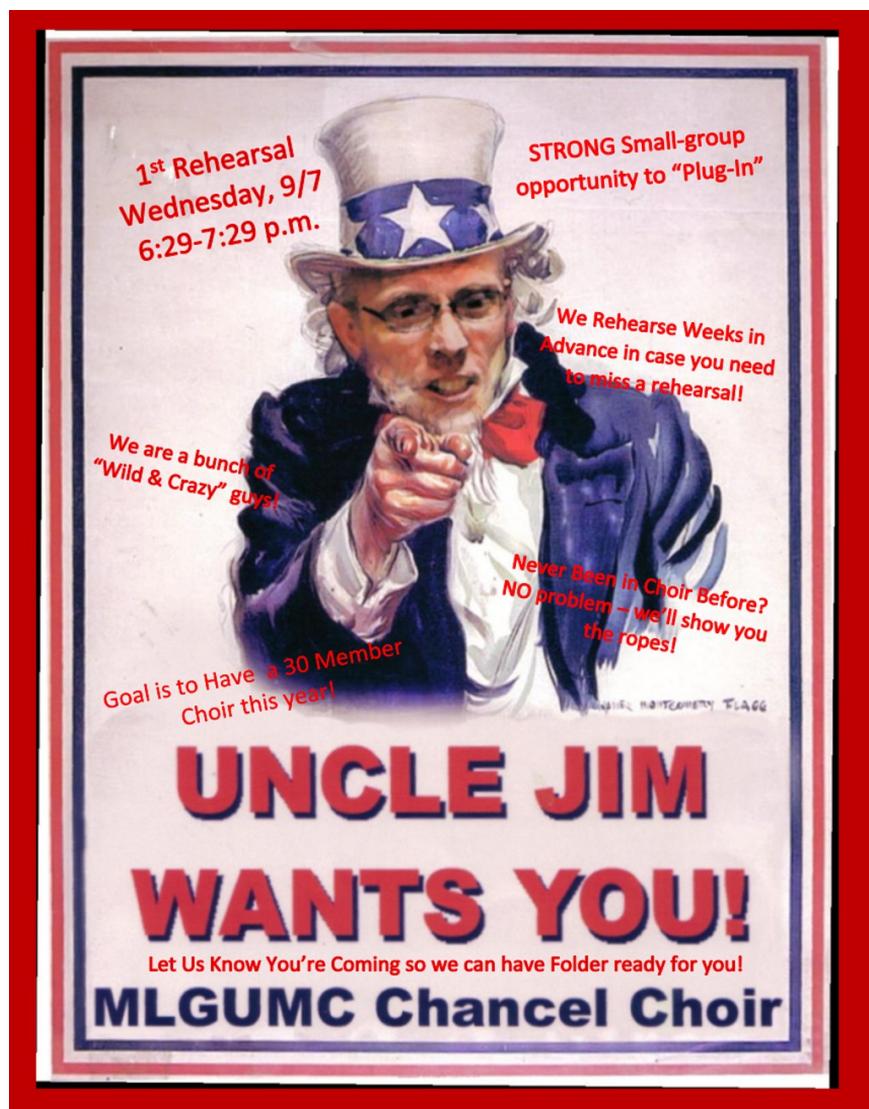
And a human bubble machine.



It took many smacks, but the piñata finally yielded its candies to the attackers.



A scavenger hunt sent the searchers to all parts of the church property, including the Village of Locust Grove.



Midway Students continue Sunday evening sessions



The Midway Students group continues to grow in attendance for its Sunday evening

sessions. Dinner was provided August 28 by Stan and Julie Frink for the group.



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

Thanks to Angie Gerzen for preparing this month's boards.



Holy Baptism for Jake Frink August 28

All baptisms are special to Rev. Ben, but the service August 28 for Jake Frink included a friendship that had developed even before Ben's appointment to Locust Grove. The family gathering included Jake's parents Stan and Julie Frink, who are also active MLG worshippers.



Blessings given and received at August 21 worship service

Worship on the lawn August 21 featured two special events, one a blessing given, the other a blessing received.

With the beginning of school, Rev. Ben asked all students to bring their backpacks to worship for a special blessing. The response was abundant and the blessing was

given following the opening hymn, and the younger students proceeded to their Sunday School class. Later in the worship, we were blessed with special music, the song "You Say," sung by Jordan Welch, accompanied by her father Beaux Dilleshaw as a thank you for our Wednesday missions to the motel.





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Broccoli-Rice Casserole

Not quite fall yet but this is a tasty casserole that hits the spot.

Enjoy, *Hope Burkart*

2 (10 oz) pkgs frozen chopped broccoli—cooked and drained

3 cups Minute Rice cooked

1 Tbsp butter

1 1lb. Velveeta cheese, cubed

1 can cream of mushroom soup

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 1/4 cup water

1 cup chopped onion

Preheat oven 350 degrees. Cook broccoli and rice according to directions. Mix soups with 1 1/4 cup water in saucepan over low heat and stir in cheese until melted. In small skillet melt butter and sauté chopped onions until soft. Combine broccoli, rice, cheese sauce and onions together and pour into 9x13 baking pan. Bake 350 degrees for 45 min.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
September 13, Noon.
Bring a dish and friend.**



**If You Pictured Choir
Rehearsals Being
Like This**



Think Again!!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

6:29-7:29 P.M.

BEGINNING SEPT. 7, 2022

**OPEN TO EVERYONE HIGH SCHOOL
AND ABOVE!**

Ephesians 5:19 says, "singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart." It is to Him and about Him that we sing! Singing has such a unique way of bringing your heart, soul, mind, and strength together to focus entirely and completely on God.





Gary's Garage

Kathy Hughes - how can we ever thank you for the amazing memorial gift of the Twice Blessed storage annex?!

With a substantial grant from Veterans' United and the Gary Hughes Memorial, Twice Blessed was able to build our much-needed storage addition! It provides readily available access to the products so greatly needed by our customers.

Once the transfer from the church to the annex is completed, it will be hard to describe how much easier (our lives and) the distribution and stocking tasks will be!!

Your generosity and thoughtfulness will never be forgotten and will be a blessing to this community for years to come!

Gary - we lovingly name and dedicate this addition to you: The Gary Hughes Memorial Annex

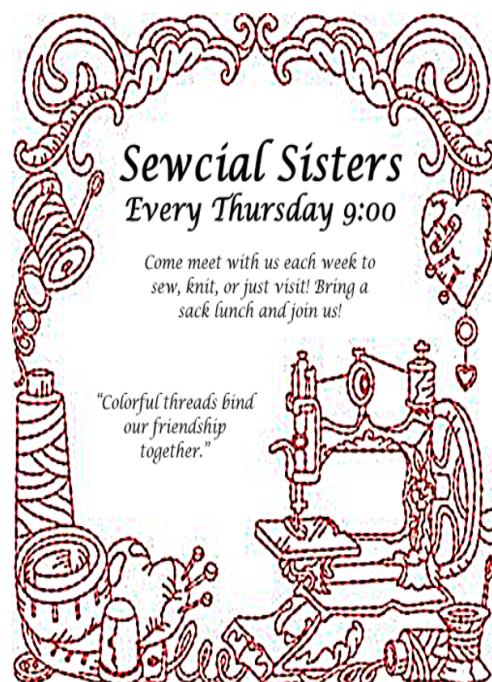
GARY'S GARAGE

Thank you Kathy ☺ □

Thank you Gary ☺ □



Kathy Hughes, at the doorway to Gary's Garage, the recently built storage room at Twice Blessed, named in honor of her late husband.





M I D W A Y
LOCUST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202



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Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
Email: mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
Email: 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
Rocheport@aol.com 445-1998

Find the hidden circuit rider  in this issue.
Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 35 Issue 9 September 2022

If we had a Message Board...

***Join us for lunch,
12:00 noon
Tuesday, September 13
Bring a dish to share.***

The Back Row *By Gene Baumann*

What's the view from your pew?

You may have noticed that our long-running column, "View from a Pew" is originating in a different pew following Leslie Durrant's departure to pastor the Methodist Church in New Bloomfield.

We hope to keep this column as part of your *Locust Leaves*, and will be seeking the view from those willing to share their thoughts with us.

We got off to a great start last month with Suzi Bass Moore's discussion of our important mission activities with the residents at the motel just down the road at the truck stop.

Don't miss page four of this issue as Missy Barnes shares her love and respect for the teachers in our lives...in our schools, our church, and our daily encounters. You may soon realize you too are someone's teacher.

What better way to fill that role than to share your insights with others to help them appreciate their blessings, cope with their challenges, or become teachers themselves.

Beyond personal, one-on-one contacts, consider sharing your views in an upcoming issue of Locust Leaves. We will make the column available to anyone interested, whether a one-time sharing or an occasional repeated expression.

If you are interested, let me know and I will call you when the need arises. We want *Locust Leaves* to be the voice of, by and for the members of our church.