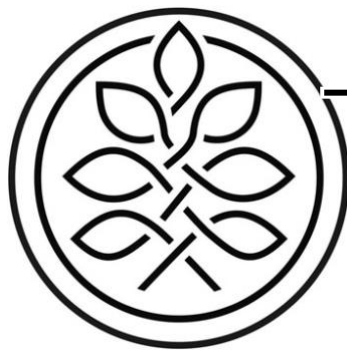




Please join us for worship.
Midway Kids: 10:30
Worship: 9:00 & 11:00

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries & Missions	2
Birthdays, Pastor Parish	3
Getting To Know You	4-9
Choir Promo	5
Ben Lee Ordination	6-7
Ministry Council	8-9
Getting to Know You	9
Kitchen Cabinet	10
Twice Blessed Thank You	11
The Back Row	12

Calendar

Sundays —

Women's Bible Study 5:00 p.m.
Midway Students 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scout Troop 68

Tuesdays —

Prayer Ministry — 1:30 p.m.
Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays —

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

Thursdays — 9-4:00

Sewcial open sewing
Yoga at 9:00
1st and 3rd — Twice Blessed
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 13 forward

Two worship services
9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Monday, September 28

Gorgeous Girls — 11:00 a.m.
Flat Branch
115 South Fifth, Columbia

Sunday, October 11

Harvest Festival
4:00 — 6:00 p.m.

Midway Locust Grove Church

Locust Leaves



Volume 39
Number 9
September 2026

Faith Through Change

Before saying anything else this month, I simply want to say "Thank you." The ordination service on August 30 was one of the most meaningful evenings of my life. I am deeply grateful to everyone who helped prepare for it, participated, attended, prayed, encouraged, and celebrated with our family. Stacy, Wick, Zeke, and I were incredibly moved by your kindness and support.

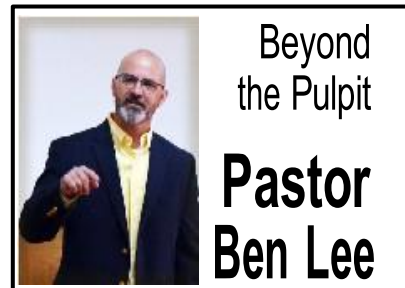
In the days since, I have found myself thinking about what ordination actually means. It certainly marks an important moment, but it is not an arrival. It is a commitment to continue following Jesus wherever He leads and to remain fruitful along the way. And in many ways, that feels especially fitting for this season in the life of our church.

This month we begin a new sermon series called *The Theology of Change*. Over four weeks, we will walk through several moments in Scripture when God's people found themselves facing something new. God calls Abraham to leave what is familiar. Israel stands trapped between Pharaoh's army and the Red Sea. Jesus calls fishermen to leave their nets and follow Him. And in Acts 2, the Holy Spirit comes upon the early church in a way that literally changes everything.

Different people. Different circumstances. But a common thread: Again and again, God calls His people to trust him enough to release what has been, walk faithfully through what is, and receive what He is doing next. That certainly seems appropriate for us right now, doesn't it?

Beginning this month, Sunday mornings at Midway Locust Grove will look different. We will worship at 9:00 and 11:00. We will establish new rhythms, learn along the way, and undoubtedly make adjustments. But perhaps the most important question before us is not: Will we like every part of the change? The better question is: How will we be faithful in the midst of it?

Faithfulness may mean serving in a new way. It may mean inviting a friend, family member, coworker, or neighbor who does not currently have a church home. It may mean welcoming someone new or helping a guest feel like there is a place for them here. And for



Beyond
the Pulpit

**Pastor
Ben Lee**

(Continued on Page 5)

Ministries & Missions

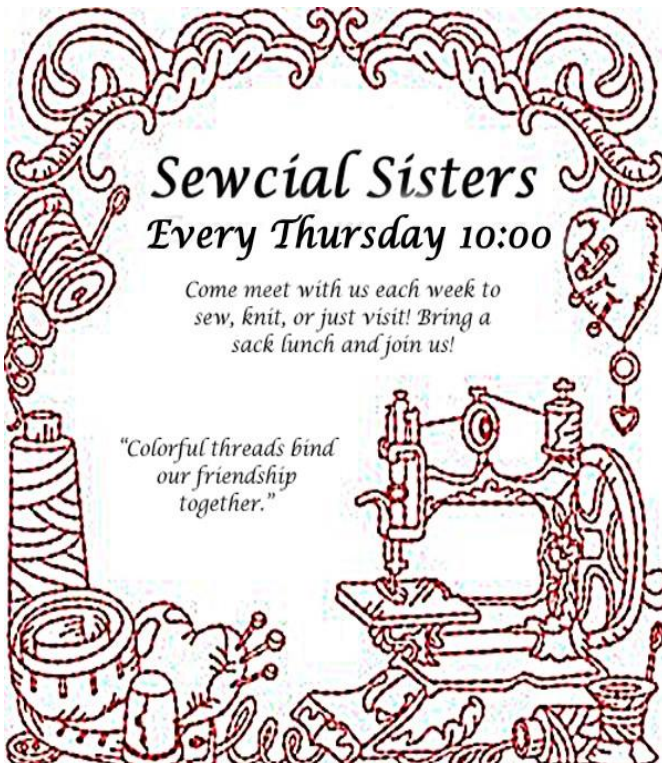
GORGEOUS GIRLS September lunch stops at Flat Branch See you Monday, Sept. 28

Continuing the honorary lunches for the Gorgeous Girls, the next scheduled gathering will be Monday, September 28, at 11:00 a.m. at Flat Branch Pub and Brewing. Meet at the church at 10:30 if you want to car-pool.

Flat Branch is popular for serving great food and craft-brewed beers since 1994.

It is located at 115 S. Fifth in Columbia, just south of Broadway.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Palmer at capalmer48@gmail.com.



PLEASE VOLUNTEER for HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

We want MLG Church to make a good first impression, so PLEASE VOLUNTEER for our Give Back Day with Habitat for Humanity. This is our first time for volunteering with the organization where we will get to help build a home alongside the future homeowner. No experience or tool necessary. Our scheduled time is Saturday, September 26th from 12:20 to 4:00.

Habitat for Humanity will only accept online registrations by using the link below. This information can also be found on Realm under "Upcoming Events." Please contact me, Leslie Brown, if you need assistance. :

<https://cerv.is/0265gmWum04>

I am looking forward to volunteering with you.

In Him, Leslie Brown



Leslie Bown
Ministry Chair

Watch for details in the Fellowship Hall, or contact Leslie Brown at 573-0355-3978 or by email at brownie1262@hotmail.com



*God promises
a safe landing,
not a calm passage.*

Happy Birthday

September 2026

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

An Intro to PPR

By Jessie Kempf, PPR Chair



You may have heard the term “PPR” around Midway and wondered exactly what it means. PPR stands for Pastor Parish Relations Committee and one of the easiest ways to describe our role is that we serve much like the Human Resources Committee for our church. We support Pastor Ben and our entire church staff, help encourage healthy relationships between our staff and congregation, assist with personnel matters, and provide a place for open and constructive communication. Joining me on the committee are Kathy Hughes and Steve Lightner, and together we are here as a resource for our staff and congregation.

But PPR isn't just here for the HR duties! We also want to be a resource for our congregation. If you have a suggestion, a question about something happening at church, a concern you've noticed or even a compliment you'd like passed along to a staff member, you are always welcome to reach out to Steve, Kathy or me. Part of PPR's role is simply to help carry the communication load—listening to your thoughts, helping answer questions, and involving Pastor Ben or other staff members when needed. As our church continues to grow, this becomes even more important.

There are a lot of people, ministries, programs, services, and moving pieces at MLGC, and no one person can field every question, concern or suggestion. PPR can help connect you with the right person—whether that's a ministry leader, committee chair, or staff members—so your question, idea, or concern gets to the person who can best help. Maybe you have an idea for making Sunday mornings more welcoming, feedback about something around the church that could work a little better, you've noticed some signage or material at church that is confusing, or you're not sure who to talk to about something you're seen around the church. We can help connect you with the right person or give the feedback to them and follow up with you.

And please remember, PPR isn't only for concerns. We would love to hear the good things too! If a staff member has gone above and beyond, a ministry has made an impact on your family, or you simply think someone deserves a little recognition, please share that with us. Encouragement is every bit as valuable as constructive feedback.

Feel free to find me on some Sunday morning, email me at jessiek1923@outlook.com or call/text 573-673-5152. I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.



Getting to know you

With the recent and continuing growth of our congregation, it seemed a good idea to revive a feature from earlier years of Locust Leaves. We will feature someone in each month's issue, alternating new and longtime members. Thanks to LeeAnn Martin for coordinating the series.

Dan and Cyndie Meives

To describe someone as being close to the church is doubly true for Dan and Cyndie Meives. Look around almost any church activity and you are likely to see them in the midst of it. Offer to drive them home and they will most likely say they'll just walk the short distance across the road from the church.

The best way to get to know Dan and Cyndie is to have them tell you themselves.

Dan: I am a registered nurse. I worked in the BICU (Burn Intensive Care Unit) at the University of Missouri Hospital for 30 years. I also worked on the cardiology floors at Boone Hospital. I retired from the University in October of 2017. After retiring, I was a Traveling Nurse for 4-1/2 years. Even though I am retired, you never stop being a nurse.

Cyndie: I worked at Shelter Insurance for 8-1/2 years. While there I completed my Bachelor's of Business Administration degree and moved to the University of Missouri where I worked in records management. In 2003 I became the Director of the department. I retired from the University in 2016 after 30 years.

Dan Hobbies: Cooking. I learned to cook as a teenager in restaurants in St. Louis. We covered weddings and other large events. After High School, I became a cook in the Army where I cooked three meals a day for various Army units. I love cooking for family and church events. I also love teaching my grandchildren to cook.

Woodworking. I also enjoy building and refinishing furniture. I have built/repared many pieces for friends and family.

Cyndie Hobbies: I guess my main hobby now and for the last few years has been helping our kids add grandkids. Someone always needs something and I love being able to help!



I also read and crochet when I have time, more reading than crocheting right now. It goes in cycles.

Important Dates: We met in 1990 and got engaged on December 14 of that year. We were married October 1, 2004.

Children: We have a blended family of six children—three boys and three girls, ranging in age from 53 to 38. The oldest five are 15 months to 2 years apart in age. They are, in order of age, Brian (Michelle) Parks, Stacy Gooch, Heather ((Lee) Greathouse, Matthew (Laura) Meives, Christopher Meives, Nikkole (Jason) Carter.

Grandchildren: We have 14 grandchildren—5 boys and 9 girls ranging in age from 33 to 7. We also have 3 great-grandchildren—two boys and one girl and another great-grandson due in December. Our family continues to grow.

Pets: We have five cats. This was not planned. They are all rescues. TJ, our oldest is 15, the senior of the bunch. Alli is 5, Loki is 2, and Nori and Chloe at 1. All have their own rescue stories.

Church: Dan was born and raised in the Catholic Church in St. Louis. Since moving to Columbia, he attended Our Lady of Lourdes before joining Midway Locust Grove.

Cyndie was baptized in the Christian Church in Hugoton, Kansas. She moved to Missouri when she was 13, and attended Hallsville Methodist Church. She attended several Baptist churches in Columbia. When she and Dan met, she joined the Catholic Church. They attended Locust Grove during Covid when services were being held outside. Attendance became regular and they became involved in church activities and getting to know the people involved.

(Continued on Page 9)

Faithful Through Change

Continued from Page 1

worship services, we are still one church.

That is why the fellowship hour between services matters immensely. In my opinion, our greatest challenge is not simply to fill two services. It is to remain one church family as we do it. The fellowship hour gives us space to stay connected, welcome others, and continue building the relationships that have always been at the heart of Midway Locust Grove.

I also hope we will be intentional about invitation. Two services create opportunity, but opportunity alone does not reach people. **People reach people.** So think of someone in your life who may need a church family. Pray for them. Invite them. Meet them at the door. Sit with them. Help them feel at home and get connected.

For more than two hundred years, generations of people at Midway Locust Grove have had to discern what faithfulness looked like in their moment. Now is our turn. Sometimes it means trusting when we cannot yet see every step of the way forward. Sometimes it means loosening our grip on what is familiar. And sometimes it means opening ourselves to something new that God is doing among us.

In and through it all, change itself is not the goal. Faithfulness is. Now, I do not know everything God has ahead for Midway Locust Grove, but I do know the One who has faithfully brought us this far. . . and so do you! Please join me in trusting Him completely with what come next.

Peace,

Ben



Our choir is a place where voices, faith, and friendship come together. Each week, we have the joy of leading our congregation in worship, offering music that encourages, comforts, and lifts people's spirits.

If you've ever felt the tug to sing—whether you're an experienced vocalist or someone who simply loves hymns—this is a wonderful time to join us.

Rehearsals are welcoming and fun, and you'll be part of a caring group that blesses others and is blessed in return.



A Service of Ordination for Rev. Ben Lee



Rev. Ken Morgan, an early ministry associate of Rev. Ben Lee's from Georgia, delivered the sermon Sunday morning before conducting evening







Ministry Council Update

By Jerry Wirth

Your Ministry Council met on July 20th expecting a short meeting but ended up having several items that popped up during discussion of agenda items. More detailed committee reports appear in Locust Leaves so I will just provide a brief overview.

Finance: Kelley Frink submitted her report and explained our finances remain healthy. The actual budgets versus projected budget figures are positive on both sides of the ledger. See Kelley's more detailed reports in Locust Leaves

PPR Committee: Placement agency contact met with Ben and several members of the Ministry Council during the week of June 15th to get a feel for our culture, campus, local geography, facilities, etc. We came away with the impression that he had a good handle on who we are as a church and what our needs are regarding the Associate Pastor hire. A job posting has been published and committee members were impressed with the professionalism and that he captured our culture as well as the desirability of the Columbia/Midway community. The agency will be vetting candidates and then will refer what they believe to be the best fits for our church to the PPR for further review. Jessie continues to refine the job description for this hire.

As chair of the Trustee committee Tony reports that there will be a lot of cleanup needed at the transformational home. The search for potential candidates to occupy the home on OB Brown Rd. has been put on hold as it may need to be used as a parsonage for the Associate Pastor if appropriate.

Worship committee: Jim Johnson says that the Father's Day buttons were a success and only a few of the kids asked about donuts!

Special Services, August 30 we had a guest pastor Ken Morgan from Ben's previous church in Georgia. That evening was Ben's ordination service. Our next Testimony/ Hymn sing will be November 29th. Attendance has been in the mid 150's in May/June and averaging 168 for the first three weeks of July. Typically attendance drops off during the summer for a number of reasons but we are not experiencing that this year. The first Sunday of our transition to two services is September 13th.

Shayla Roop reported from the Children/Youth committee that Turkey Hill was a success with 28 participants. A family fun night was planned for August and the annual Harvest Festival will be in October. Looking at Safe Sanctuary training for those volunteers and staff working with children/youth.

Student ministry is currently on summer break. Will resume in the fall with new leader.

Missions: See Leslie Brown's report in this issue of Locust Leaves.

Old business: Committee members have been trained on Realm and are becoming familiar using the system. Discussed how to assist those who are not so comfortable with the process on getting them checked-in for attendance and volunteer functions. Discussed any anticipated issues regarding going to two services that may have been overlooked. Agreed that the process will not be without issues or glitches and we will deal with them as they

(Continued on Page 9)

Ministry Council Update

By Jerry Wirth



Continued



arise. We ask for grace for and from everybody as we embark on this transition during this season of growth. We are juggling a lot of different needs/desires as our church grows and reaches out in ministry and service. Prayerful decisions are made with the church's best interest in mind with guidance from God on where he wants to lead us. Please bear with us as we navigate the growing pains together.

New business: We spent a lot of time discussing our livestream and our YouTube library. This was a long and thorough conversation and was only the beginning of what is sure to be an ongoing discussion. We realized we needed to update our signage to let people know that they may appear on a livestream broadcast of our service. That signage has been added to the Fellowship Hall door, and well as included in the scrolling announcements before and after worship services. We will update on developments around this topic as we continue to work together to navigate this issue.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our church organization or questions about committees, feel free to contact any of the folks on the Ministry Council. Our names appear on the Monday Morning Map email that goes out every Monday.

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

Dan and Cyndie Meives

To describe someone as being close to the church is doubly true for Dan and Cyndie Meives. Look around almost any church activity and you are likely to see them in the midst of it. Offer to drive them home and they will most likely say they'll just walk the short distance across the road from the church.

The best way to get to know Dan and Cyndie is to have them tell you themselves.

Dan: I am a registered nurse. I worked in the BICU (Burn Intensive Care Unit) at the University of Missouri Hospital for 30 years. I also worked on the cardiology floors at Boone Hospital. I retired from the University in October of 2017. After retiring, I was a Traveling Nurse for 4-1/2 years. Even though I am retired, you never stop being a nurse.

Cyndie: I worked at Shelter Insurance for 8-1/2 years. While there I completed my Bachelor's of Business Administration degree and moved to the University of Missouri where I worked in records management. In 2003 I became the Director of the department. I retired from the University in 2016 after 30 years.

Dan Hobbies: Cooking. I learned to cook as a teenager in restaurants in St. Louis. We covered weddings and other large events. After High School, I became a cook in the Army where I cooked three meals a day for various Army units. I love cooking for family and church events. I also love teaching my grandchildren to cook.

Woodworking. I also enjoy building and refinishing furniture. I have built/repared many pieces for friends and family.

Cyndie Hobbies: I guess my main hobby now and for the last few years has been helping our kids add grandkids. Someone always needs something and I love being able to help!

I also read and crochet when I have time, more reading than crocheting right now. It goes in cycles.

Important Dates: We met in 1990 and got engaged on December 14 of that year. We were married October 1, 2004.

Children: We have a blended family of six children— three boys and three girls, ranging in age from 53 to 38. The oldest five are 15 months to 2 years apart in age. They are, in order of age, Brian (Michelle) Parks, Stacy Gooch, Heather ((Lee) Greathouse, Matthew



September is here, school has started and you need a quick and moist "Do Nothing Cake." This do nothing cake is a dump and hand mix cake using only a bowl and whisk to put it together.

Enjoy! Hope Burkart

Do Nothing Cake

2 cups flour
2 cups sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp baking soda
1/8 tsp salt
1 tsp vanilla
1 20 oz. can crushed pineapple
(do not drain)

Mix all ingredients in large bowl. Once combined, pour into a greased 9 x 13 baking dish on a sheet pan to help lower browning too much..

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-35 minutes.

Boiled Frosting

1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
3/4 cup evaporated milk
Cook in saucepan for 3 minutes
Add. . . 1 cup coconut and
1 cup chopped pecans/walnuts
Pour over warm cake.



Food Ministry September 2004

By Mary Kaye

Apples and friends: Food for the soul

For many years as September approaches, my friend Nancy and I go for *school supplies*.

It is a ritual. We have lunch, talk girl talk and then check out each and every aisle of brand new school goodies. You may be asking what this has to do with food, other than lunch...well, it's food for the soul. Having a friend for more than 20 years who has been there, sharing joys and concerns is truly a blessing, and soul food.

Another soul food is apples. Cider, pies, bread, cakes, canned, wrapped. . .the list is endless. The following is one of our family favorites.

Apple Crisp

4 cups sliced apples
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup water
3/4 cup flour
1 cup sugar
1/3 cup butter or margarine

Place apples in buttered baking dish. Sprinkle with the water. Combine flour, sugar, salt, and cinnamon and mix in soft butter. Spread mixture over apples. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour.

P.S. When coring apples, slice in half and use a melon baller to scoop out seeds and core. To have this dish all year long, place ingredients in disposable cake pans, bake, cool, and tightly seal with plastic wrap and aluminum foil, label it and freeze. When ready to use, remove the covers and bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes to an hour.

Mary Kaye Baumann wrote this column in Locust Leaves from April 2004 until her passing in August 2017. Thanks to Hope Burkart for continuing the column to this day.



Thank you church family and community for your generous donaton of school supplies. We had several families that were able to cross everything off their school supply lists at Twice Blessed. Once again we are blessed to receive and blessed to give. Thank you! Glenna and Jill





MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202

Pastor: Rev. Ben Lee
Administrative Assistant: Lucy McDade
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:
We exist to
gather in grace,
grow in Christ,
and go share the Gospel.***

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann
Rocheport@aol.com 573-445-1998



I received a really neat note from Lloyd Sumner the end of August, which will be no surprise to any of you who have gotten to know our fellow Locust Grove member.

Below is his heartwarming letter to someone he recently met who has Locust Grove roots. — John G. Bishop.

“Hi, John,

It was great to meet a fellow Okie yesterday and learn of your interest in our local church and cemetery. It was also great to hear of your connection with Midway Locust Grove Church history. It is my understanding that you are a descendent of Tilda Hulen and that she was associated with the early establishment of our MLGC. Thus, I would like to electronically introduce you to Mr. Gene Baumann who is our church

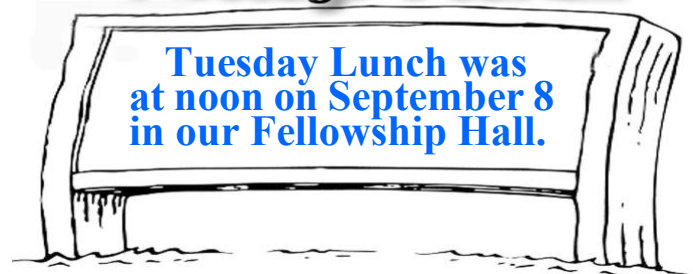
Find the hidden Bible in this issue.



Visit our Web Site: at www.locustgrove.com

Volume 39 Issue 9 September 2026

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



September 2026

and local area historian. I would invite you to share your story with Gene, and Gene can help you check records about burial sites and provide other historical content. I'd love to be copied on the details.

You are also welcomed to reach out to our Pastor, Rev. Ben Lee. or our administrative coordinator Lucy McDade with any other questions or if interested in a formal affiliation with MLGC.

All the best,
Lloyd Sumner
[Aka Okielloyd@gmail.com](mailto:AkaOkielloyd@gmail.com)
Former Lawtonian (1979-1989) and
Ardmoreite (1999-2015”

It speaks volumes that Lloyd is anxious to help John learn more about his connection with our church. I hope John follows up and seeks whatever information we may be able to provide him and his family.