



Please join us for worship.
Midway Kids: 10:30
Worship: 10:30

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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.

Tuesday, June 9

Second Tuesday Lunch — Noon
Prayer Ministry — 1:30

June 7-10, 5:30-8:00 p.m.
Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 22

Gorgeous Girls Lunch
11:00 a.m.
Route B Cafe
Boonville

Midway Locust Grove Church



Locust Leaves

Volume 39
Number 6
June 2026

Fearless

This month, we begin a new sermon series titled "Fearless," a five-week journey through the life of Gideon. When we first meet Gideon, he is not standing boldly on a battlefield. He is hiding in a winepress, threshing wheat where the Midianites will not see him. Israel is oppressed. The people are afraid. Gideon is uncertain, overwhelmed, and simply trying to survive. And yet, that is exactly where God meets him.

The angel of the Lord appears to Gideon and says, "Mighty hero, the Lord is with you!" Gideon does not feel mighty. He does not look like a hero. He has questions, doubts, and excuses. But God sees more in Gideon than Gideon can see in himself. That is good news for us all! Fearless faith is not the absence of fear. It is not natural confidence, personal strength, or a bold personality. Fearless faith is formed by the presence, patience, and power of God.

Over these five weeks, we will watch God meet Gideon in fear, call him into obedience, strengthen him for the work ahead, reduce his army so the victory clearly belongs to the Lord, and then warn us through the difficult ending of Gideon's story.

As we begin, I invite you to read Judges 6-8 for yourself. Notice Gideon's fear. Notice God's patience. Notice the moments of obedience. Notice the places where the story turns dark. Most of all, notice God's faithfulness.

My hope for this series is that we will not only see ourselves in Gideon's story, but that we will see that God still meets ordinary people in ordinary places. Please invite family, friends, and neighbors, and make plans to join us this month as we discover what it means to live with fearless faith. . .not because we are strong, but because the Lord is faithful.



Beyond
the Pulpit

**Pastor
Ben Lee**

Peace,

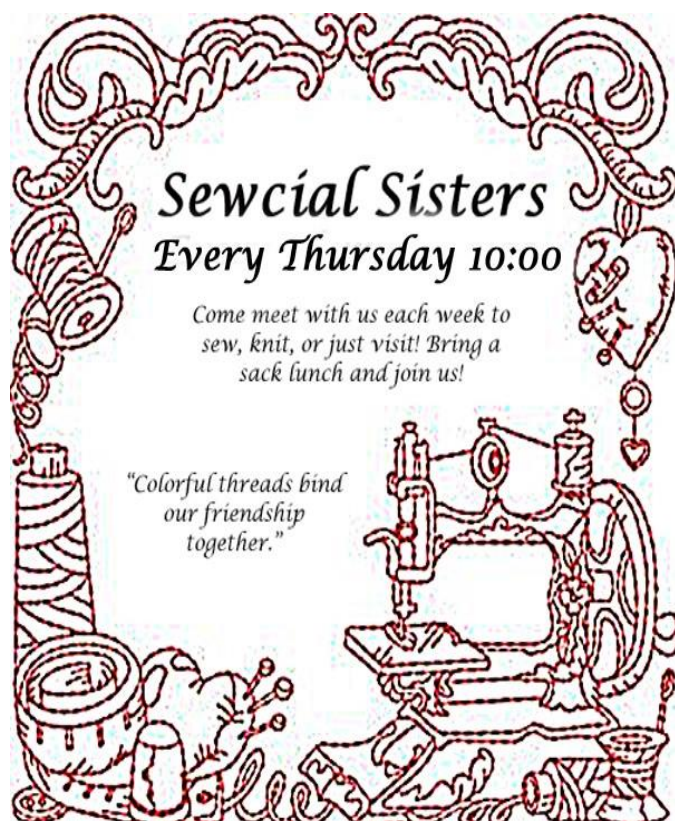
Ben

Ministries & Missions

GORGEOUS GIRLS Lunch returns after Memorial Day break; See you Monday, June 22.

Charlotte Palmer has assumed the role of coordinator for the group, which is one of our church's most significant social organizations. The last scheduled luncheon was to be May 25th, which was Memorial Day. Therefore, we did not schedule a luncheon for May. We will return at 11:00 am on June 22 in Boonville at Route B Cafe at 2531 B Highway. Meet at the church at 10:30 to carpool.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte Palmer at ca-palmer48@gmail.com.



TREASURY NOTES

By Kelley Frink

Hello— Here is an update from the finance side of the house -

Through April, contributions are pacing around \$10,000 over budget and expenses are pacing around \$15,000 under budget, so we are outperforming our 2026 operating budget by about \$25,000. This puts the church in a strong financial and liquidity position heading into summer and the second half of 2026.

July will be the last month online contributions will be processed through Subsplash. After that, all online contributions will run through Realm, our new church software. More information will be coming this summer on this transition. With Realm, the congregation will have visibility into their yearly contributions whenever they want, so we are excited to roll this out— coming soon. Any questions, contact ~Kelley Frink at ~kelly.m.frink@gmail.com. Thanks, Kelley.



Happy Birthday

June 2026

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.

1 Mike Fuemmeler
1 Kathy Koehler
3 Dawson Roop
3 Kevin Yaeger
3 Kelsey Strubel
4 Barb Boillot
4 Maggie McPherson
(email only)
5 Kendall Gessling
6 Cohen Strubel
8 Curt Brown

9 Beto Mendez
10 Keith Andersen
12 Sherri Perry
13 Caleb Patrick
16 Kylie Groh
17 Kathy Hughes
17 Roger Walker
18 Cletus Koehler
19 Dotty Kasmann

22 Kathy Casteel
22 Stan Frink
23 Sharon Yaeger
23 Shayla Roop
23 Dave Weaver
24 Kurt Zahringer
27 Kevin Kaufman
29 Sheila Scott
30 Jeff Crane



KINGDOM QUEST

AN EPIC JOURNEY TO
DISCOVER GOD'S KINGDOM

SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

June 7th-10th 2026 (5:30 - 8:00 p.m.)

Midway Locust Grove Church

Kids ages 3 - incoming 6th grade

Register Here: <https://forms.gle/LwwoiajrkMkxdgQLA>





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.

Gene Baumann

Native of Clarksville, Mo., Pike County (65 miles upstream from St. Louis). Born in Frankford, Mo, also in Pike County, on April 4, 1937, with two teeth and before the doctor arrived at the Baumann home.

He was the youngest of four children, with two sisters and a brother, raised by a single mom before it was fashionable. He has two children and two bonus children, for whom he is a single parent following the death of his wife, Mary Kaye, July 21, 2017.

A 1955 graduate of Clopton High School; lettered in basketball and softball. Attended Northeast Missouri State College (Now Truman State) for one and a half years. Worked at Hercules Powder Company before returning to college in 1958. Graduated University of Missouri School of Journalism in August 1960; BJ in Advertising. Did additional study at Northeast Missouri State, earning a certificate to teach in Missouri high schools. Never did.

Worked two years for Louisiana (MO) Press Journal as advertising manager.

Joined Shelter Insurance in August of 1962, when it was MFA Insurance, as director of press and publications. Responsibilities included editing and supervision of publications; print advertising in particular, creative services in general, including motion picture production, and administrative assistance to the Director of Public Affairs/Public Relations. Supervised a staff of five creative types in publications, video production and special projects.

Retired from Shelter Insurance March 1, 2002 after 39.5 years doing essentially the same job.

Outside of his real job:

Gene and wife, Mary Kaye, had a basement business, MK ENTERPRISES, doing political campaign communications, original gifts, photography, and other creative services.

Gene was a sergeant with the Boone County Sheriff's Department Reserve Division with more than 26



years of service, and was a fully commissioned and State of Missouri certified law enforcement officer.

He is a founding member of the Perche Creek Yacht Club and has served as Commodore since its inception in 1989.

Random acts:

Chaired committee that developed Shelter Gardens.

Liaison for author Alan Havig in writing Shelter Insurance History.

Produced "Speaking to Youth" booklet for Minority Men's Network

Created logo for Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home.

Created Boonslick Trail markers in BCHS competition.

Chaired committee that arranged for grave marker for Blind Boone during Columbia Sesquicentennial.

Two-term president, Columbia Art League, about 1969-70.

Founding member of Mid-Missouri Camera Club, perennial president of same.

Multiple term president of several Communications groups through several name changes.

Chairman of County Citizens Revenue Revue Committee, 4th quarter of 1987

Edit church newsletter -- Locust Leaves, Midway Locust Grove Church — since early 1980s.

Chair of Administrative Council, Midway Locust Grove UMC.

Co-chaired MLGUMC Bicentennial Committee

Three-time delegate to UMC Annual Conference

Long-time United Way volunteer; winner of Charley Law Award for service to UW.

Served two years on Board of Boone County Historical Society.

Serves on Board of Friends of Rocheport Society, including a term as president.

Filmed Mizzou football and basketball games throughout the 1970s.

Covered more than 60 agent incentive trips around the world.

30 Political campaigns -- candidates and issues.

And a whole lot more!



Ministry Council Update

By Jerry Wirth



The ministry council did not meet in March due to a light agenda but did meet on June 18th with a packed agenda. Detailed reports of other committees will appear in Locust Leaves as well so I will just provide a brief overview of pertinent items.

Kelley Frink has been working tirelessly transferring from our old Quickbooks system to the new Realm system. The Realm system is designed specifically for churches and allows us to communicate more efficiently and track information necessary for making critical decisions. It also allows us to cancel a couple of subscriptions that we currently use for communication and tracking. The actual budgets versus projected budget figures are positive on both sides of the ledger. See Kelley's more detailed report in this issue.

Jesse Kempf reported from the Pastor/Parish Relations committee. Lucy McDade was hired at the end of March as our administrative assistant and is doing an excellent job. She is being trained on Realm and will be training the rest of us on the Ministry Council in the next few months. Realm will be our platform for communication, attendance and event information and scheduling. More info will follow as we learn how to use this software. Regarding our search for a youth pastor, we have advertised for part-time and full-time positions with little success finding a suitable match. With us heading towards two services in the fall it is imperative that we find a good match for this position within the next few months. We have expanded the job description to include hospitality, integration, some care of

persons as well as pulpit supply. With this in mind we have contracted with a placement agency that specializes in filling these types of positions within churches. We are anticipating a positive outcome based on experiences from other known churches.

Tony Martin reported as chair of Trustees that new flooring had been installed in the A-frame as well as a new water heater. There are a couple of minor items around the church that Tony is monitoring. If you see Tony around be sure to thank him for the outstanding job he does of taking care of all our church property. He deals with emergencies and regular maintenance quietly, efficiently, effectively and mostly unnoticed. Thanks Tony!

Jim Johnson is head of the worship committee and reports that the Mother Day flower booth was a success and we will be making buttons for Fathers Day. Average attendance was 168 from February thru April. Our start date for two services will be September 13th. Look for more information as we get closer to that launch date. Shayla Roop is in charge of Children's Ministry. To address the problem of continual staffing shortages in Midway Kids and Sprouts, people will be assigned dates to staff these programs and are responsible for finding a replacement if they are not able to attend on those dates. The initial list

(Continued on Page 9)



We hosted our annual Midway Kids Fun Day on May 26th from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A crowd of 38 kids met at the church and headed to Tiger Academy of Gymnastics for a few hours of fun. We then returned to the church and enjoyed a pizza lunch and outdoor games.

It was a beautiful day, the kids were so well behaved, and fun was had by all. A huge thank you to Craig and Amie Butler for allowing us to use their gym and all the drivers and volunteers who helped make this event such a success! THANK YOU! *Shayla Roop*





Our core group for Re-Member met Sat May 23 for an evening of fellowship and food. Keith Andersen hosted us with delicious grilled pork and salmon meat dishes with sides provided by the rest of the group.

A mission date of Sept 19 to 25 was decided upon, and Kathy put in our reservation on line.

So far our group consists of Kathy Hughes, Mariea Caruthers, Belinda Thompson, Stephanie and Aliana Williams, and Keith Anderson. His plan is to work as a volunteer staff member for two weeks again this year. One of his weeks will be while the rest of us are there too.

We had such a great time last year - and the year before. In fact, we always have a great time!! Part of the reason

ON THE REZ

With Kathy Hughes

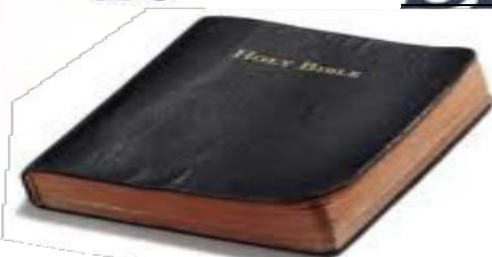


we choose later in September is that Re-Member is winding down for their volunteer season. There are fewer numbers, which means we get well-acquainted with the rest of the volunteers on a more personal basis. The pace is slower, the mornings start a little later and conversations run a little longer and deeper.

Our week consists of building projects, becoming educated on the history and culture of the Pine Ridge Reservation and making real and lasting connections with our Lakota brothers and sisters.

It is our chance to serve other children of God and be the hands and feet of Christ in a very tangible way. We welcome other church family members to join us!

**Learn to
Read the Bible**



**The Men's Bible Study
meets Tuesdays at 6:00
p.m. The Women's study
meets Sundays
at 4:00 to 5:30. p.m.**

Ministry Council

(Continued from Page 5)

and anyone who has volunteered over the last year in these programs. . Sign-up list starts June 7th. If you would like to be included in this rotation as even a substitute or fill-in, please let Shayla or Lucy know. These are very important programs that contribute greatly to the overall health of our church. The Midway Kids semester ends May 31st. Shayla gave them a challenge at the beginning of the year to memorize the books of the Bible. 4 of the big kids know all 66 books and 4 K-1 kids know the books of the New Testament. Congratulations kids and enjoy your reward to Level Up! There were 27 kids signed up for Kids Fun Day at Tiger gymnastics and you can see photos on the Midway Kids Facebook Page. VBS will be held June 7th-10th and there are 52 volunteers signed up to help. Turkey Hill camp is scheduled in July and there are 27 kids signed up for that which will be our largest group to date.

Ben reported on our student ministry. Lauren Steinhoff has stepped away as a co-leader in that ministry and we thank her for serving in that capacity for the last few years. She has done a wonderful job pouring into those students. Expectations are that the new youth minister/associate pastor will grow and stabilize these numbers.

Leslie Brown reported on Missions and her detailed report appears in this issue. Currently the Transformational home is unoccupied as we search for a family to occupy the house prior the beginning of the fall school semester.

Kevin Yaeger is chair of the cemetery committee and reports that the new fence has been installed on two sides of the cemetery. It looks fantastic!

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.

Overtime at Ronald McDonald's House . . .

I'm sorry I didn't get pictures this month. I will do better next month! I promise!! Midway Locust Grove packed close to 80 lunches to be delivered to persons who are staying with their children in our Hospitals in Columbia, Mo. on May 5. We also prepared supper for that evening while we were there. We prepared a Baked Potato Bar. Potatoes were in the oven and all they needed to do to was turn on the oven in time and supper was ready! A couple of days later I received a phone call from Ronald McDonald House that a group that was scheduled to pack lunches was unable to come and could we help? All it took was a couple of emails and phone calls, and on May 15 we came to Ronald McDonald House and packed lunches. They were so appreciative of our helpfulness. I am too!! Thank you all for your willingness to serve!

Blessings to all,
Sherri Perry.



Happy Birthday America! For the next several months I will be researching 18th Century Early American recipes to celebrate our 250th Anniversary. So let's start with a pre 1776 candy recipe from *Martha Washington*.

Please enjoy,

Hope Burkart

Martha Washington Candy.

This candy was a popular no-bake chocolate covered candy that was a staple for holidays.

Ingredients:

1 cup soft butter
14 oz sweetened condensed milk
4 cups powdered sugar
14 oz sweet coconut
3 cups chopped pecans
10 oz chopped maraschino cherries
1 Tblsp vanilla
6 cups semi sweet chocolate chips
4 Tblsp shortening

Mix butter, vanilla, condensed milk, powdered sugar, coconut, pecans and cherries.
Chill for 1-2 hours until firm.
Shape into 1-inch balls and freeze for 30 minutes.
Melt chocolate chips and shortening; dip balls, then place on parchment paper to set.
*Ingredients and measurements have been altered to modern day ingredients.
Recipe taken from "The Art of Cookery (1765) : The only known surviving cookbook owned by Martha Washington.

Happy Heavenly Birthday Mary Kaye...

In remembrance of Mary Kaye's birthday, June 24, I will resubmit the chicken curry salad recipe she shared in her August 2006 Food Ministry column. The recipe was actually from Jan Moore and one of Mary Kaye's favorites.

Hope Burkart

Curried Chicken Salad

1 cup mayonnaise
2 T honey
1 t curry powder
4 chicken breasts cooked and cubed
2 cups halved seedless grapes
1 cup chopped pecans
8 green onions

Join us for Second Tuesday Lunch

**June 9
Noon in the
Fellowship
Hall.**

**Bring a dish
and a friend .**





Leslie Brown
Ministry Chair

Glenna has asked if I would put a basket out in the Fellowship Hall for people to donate non-perishables too the Twice Blessed giving Box. The donations get utilized frequently so the food supplies are in need of replenishing. I



have included a picture of the basket and the Giving Box. **Donations will be accepted through July 5.**

Also, from the Mission Committee, we have scheduled our next Give Back Day for Saturday, July 18 from 11:00 to 1:00 at the Food Bank. I know this seems early to post, but summer schedules fill up fast.; I have 30 volunteer spots reserved and would love to fill them all. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old. Registration information will be regularly available by church email in the near future.

Deadline for registration is July 1. Volunteers with disabilities regularly serve with us. We welcome all volunteers.

If you have questions, don't hesitate to contact Leslie Brown at 573-355-3978 or brownie1262@hotmail.com.

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

Midway Locust Grove United Methodist Church

Open June 4 & 18

**Twice
blessed**

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

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

FOOD DRIVE

Please help us collect non-perishable food items for our giving box located by Twice Blessed.

**Twice
blessed**

CANNED GOODS





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

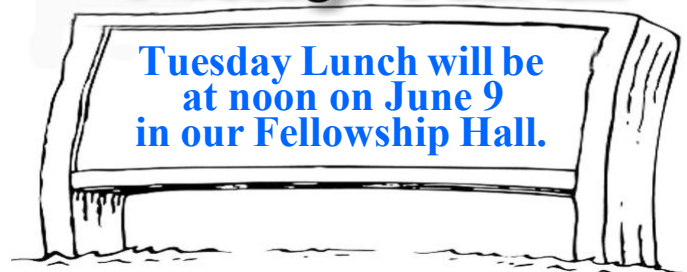
***Our Mission:
We exist to
gather in grace,
grow in Christ,
and go share the Gospel.***

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

Find the hidden Bible  *in this issue.*
Visit our Web Site: at www.locustgrove.com

Volume 39 Issue 6 June 2026

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



The Back Row By Gene Baumann

June 2026

Six months ago we were dreaming about a new fence around the cemetery. Merrill Lynch and Rost Landscaping helped our dreams come true. If you get a chance, let Tim and Toby Rost know how much we appreciate their work.

*Kevin Yaeger,
Cemetery
Committee
Chair*

