



Locust Leaves

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries & Missions	2
Birthdays, Welcome Lucy	3
Getting To Know You	4
Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch	5
Easter Worship Services	6-7
On the Rez	8
Clean Up Day	9
Kitchen Cabinet	10
Twice Blessed	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.

TODAY April 12

Last day to register for
Give Back Day for Columbia

Tuesday, April 14—10 a.m.

Ronald McDonald House
Second Tuesday Lunch—Noon
Prayer Ministry — 1:30

April 25

Give Back Day for Columbia

How to Pray: A 7-Week Series for Normal People

“Lord, teach us to pray.” It’s a simple request. But it is one that has shaped the lives of God’s people for generations. And it is our prayer as well.

Over the past few years, we have leaned deeply into the rhythm of studying God’s Word together. Week after week, we’ve opened Scripture and allowed it to form us as disciples of Jesus. But through our Listening Church process, something else has become clear. There is a growing desire among us to deepen another rhythm of grace: prayer.

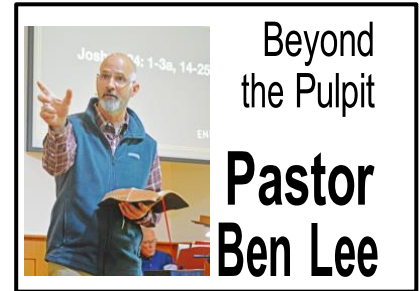
So that’s where we’re headed. This April and May, we will journey through a new sermon series together titled *How to Pray*, inspired by the work of Pete Greig. This series is not about mastering a method or finding just the right words. It is about learning to come to God by slowing down enough to recognize His presence, bringing our real needs before Him, and learning, over time, to trust His voice.

Alongside our Sunday morning worship, we will also gather for seven Thursday evenings beginning April 16 at 6:30 pm. Each evening will include a short teaching video, breakout group discussions, and space to grow in prayer together. These gatherings are family friendly, will last about an hour, and childcare will be provided.

Some will participate in both Sundays and Thursdays. Others will join us on Sunday mornings alone. Wherever you find yourself, you are not missing out. Our hope is simple: that as a church, we would become a people who pray. Because prayer is not an add-on to the Christian life, it is the very heartbeat of our relationship with God.

And yet, if we’re honest, prayer can feel difficult. We get distracted. We don’t know what to say. Sometimes we wonder if God is listening. This series is an invitation to step into all of those lived experiences honestly, humbly, and together. Not to become experts in prayer, but to become a people who practice praying consistently.

I very much look forward to all the Lord will do in us and among us as we venture deeper into relationship with Him through this sacred rhythm of grace.



Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

GORGEOUS GIRLS

**Next lunch will be
Monday, April 27th,
11:00 a.m. at D'Rowe's.**

Charlotte Palmer has assumed the role of coordinator for the group, which is one of our church's most significant social organizations. Thank you, Kathy Koehler for your years of handling it since the creation of the group honoring Leon Brown and his popular greeting of visiting ladies at his job at HiVee. Check the church directory for Charlotte's contact information.



The Locust Grove team packed Easter eggs for the Ronald McDonald House for the area hospitals it serves. This assistance is a regular program of our church.

**KINGDOM
QUEST**

**AN EPIC JOURNEY TO
DISCOVER GOD'S KINGDOM**

SAVE THE DATE
Vacation Bible School
June 7th-10th (5:30-8:00 p.m.)
Ages 3 - Incoming 6th grade
Midway Locust Grove Church

Happy Birthday

April 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.

3 Nora Fuemmeler
4 Gene Baumann
9 Bill Graff
11 Denise Moore

11 Amie Butler
16 Mandy Crane
17 Will Green
18 Leslie Durrant

22 Jerry Wirth
23 Barb Sumner
26 Garrison Gessling
27 Lynda Baumgartner

~

Welcome to our staff, Lucy McDade

By Jessica Kempf

Please join us in welcoming Lucy McDade as our new Administrative Assistant at Midway Locust Grove!

Lucy brings valuable experience from her previous role as a lead administrative assistant with the Department of Social Services, where she developed a strong foundation in organization, communication, and attention to detail.

She has a natural appreciation for structure and organization, while also having an eye for design & detail. Her fresh energy and enthusiasm will be a wonderful addition to our church staff and daily ministry.

Originally born in California, Lucy moved to Missouri as a child and called Owensville, MO her home. She now lives in Columbia and her and her husband, Alex, married in July of 2025. They have two pets - a chocolate lab and a cat.

Outside of work, Lucy enjoys spending time with her family & friends, hiking outdoors, & going to concerts & musicals. She is looking forward to getting to know the congregation and becoming more connected within the life of the church.



Lucy is already stepping into her role with enthusiasm and care, and we are grateful to have her supporting the daily life and ministry of our church. When you see her, be sure to introduce yourself and give her a warm Midway Locust Grove welcome!



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.

Gilbert and Barb Harville

To watch the Harvilles around church you will sense that they have lived very busy lives and continue to do so in their retirements.

Barb was the principal's secretary at West Middle School for 20 years. Gilbert was a Pulmonary/Respiratory Tech for the Truman VA Hospital for 37 years, and also served 20 years in the Air force, retiring as a Master Sergeant. Both retired in 2018.

Barb admits to having been very shy in her growing up years but has volunteered to read scripture at church. She and her brother both built their homes on the family farm five miles northeast of Locust Grove. The historic property known as Century Farm contained the first rock house in Boone County.

Gilbert hearkens from a bit farther away. He was born and grew up in Alabama. He joined the Air Force after high school. He was stationed in Nebraska when he decided to not reenlist. He took a job at Truman VA Hospital in 1981.

He joined the Singles Sunday School Class at Calvary Baptist Church in Columbia, where Barb had been attending. As she explains it, "We met and the rest is history."

Gilbert carried on his military career in the Air Force Reserve, and was called up for active duty in Operation Desert Storm.

The couple were married July 16, 1983,



at Midway Baptist Church. They were attending Calvary Baptist at the time, and the church stopped feeling like home so they started visiting several churches in Columbia. They attended a sunrise service at Locust Grove and immediately felt welcomed and at home. Gilbert joined the choir, which he had been looking for in the churches they visited. Barb became involved in the Ministry Council and Finance, and volunteered to coordinate the 2nd Tuesday Lunch.

Family tops the list of activities in their retirement careers. Daughter Sarah, born July 18, 1985, married Eric Hall May 14, 2011. Her career at the moment is working on healing from a second bout of cancer. Eric is a Captain in the St. Charles Fire Department.

Son Jason, born April 19, 1990, married Molly Farrell on May 19, 2012. Jason is manager for Columbia and Boonville MFA Oil Company, and Molly is administrator for H.E.A.T., a home school group.

Grandchildren are Piper Hall, 11; Maggie Harville, 10; Henley Hall, 8; Rory Harville, 7; Rowen Harville, 4; and Charlotte Harville, 2.

In their spare time, Barb enjoys reading and working in her sewing room; Gilbert keeps up with the weather and news. Both love going to activities involving grandchildren's soccer, T-Ball and school events.

And there is their yellow lab, Tucker. The rest is history.

5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch with the Easter Bunny



We gathered on April 4, 2026, for our 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch with the Easter Bunny. It was a cold, but dry morning of fun as 150 people from both our church and our community participated in outdoor games, indoor activities, and held baby goats and chicks while they waited for the hunt to start.

Excited children hunted eggs, all eagerly looking for the "golden" eggs. Lunch was served when the egg hunt wrapped up and the Easter Bunny even stopped in for a visit. It was a fun morning for all!

Thank you to everyone who donated candy, prepped the eggs, cooked and served the food, hid the eggs, provided the baby animals, and assisted with cleanup. A lot of hands make light work, and I am so grateful for each of you who pitched in to pull off this event! **THANK YOU!** ~ *Shayla Roop*



The sun rose on Easter services. . .



The Son has also risen. . .



Photos above are from Easter Sunday; below left is Palm Sunday, right is Maundy Thursday.



The team from last fall's mission trip to Re-Member on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota is gearing back up after a winter rest. We will be presenting the highlights of last fall's trip at April's 2nd Tuesday Lunch.

In anticipation of this, we met for a potluck dinner on Sat. the 4th, 6 p.m. at Keith Andersen's to discuss our division of labor.

I had a number of people approach me last year saying they were interested in this year's fall trip. In the past our team has met for potlucks in the months leading up to our trip to educate ourselves on expectations about the history and culture of the area, bond as a travel group and just enjoy each

ON THE REZ

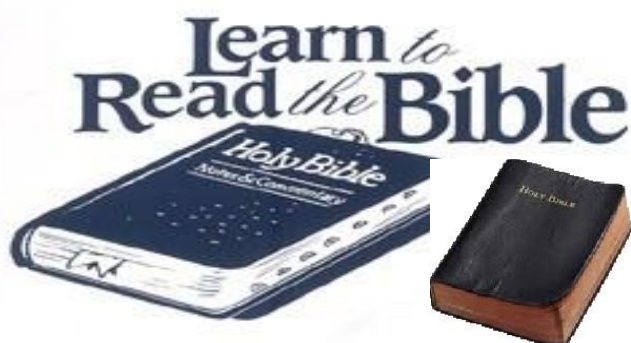
By Kathy Hughes

other's company. Our first pre-trip potluck will be Sat. May 23 at 6:00pm, also at Keith Andersen's home.

This would be a great chance for anyone interested to learn more about what is involved in this mission trip and hang out for the evening with an amazing group of people. No obligations. We'd just LOVE to have you join

us. In the meantime, if you have any specific questions, I would be more than happy to answer them: Kathy Hughes (573) 874-6740. Or anyone who has gone in the past years would also be glad to talk with you about this opportunity.

*Photos
from a
recent trip
team and
project.*



**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.**

A HUGE shout out to the 35 hardworking church friends who served at our Church-wide cleanup day on Saturday, March 14th. I had a “To-Do” list a mile long and they knocked it out in 2 hours! Fresh mulch, weeding, painting and staining outdoor equipment plus trash pickup in the neighborhood kept the outside crew busy.

The inside crew did a deep dive in the kitchen cleaning and organizing EVERY cabinet and drawer plus tackled the student classrooms, storage closets and the sanctuary leaving it sparkling! We wrapped up our day with a delicious lunch and a great time of fellowship. Thank you all for showing up to care for our church in such a tangible way, says Leslie Brown.

Our next Give Back Day opportunity is just around the corner. We are joining the For-Columbia Outreach Ministry on Saturday, April 25th from 9:00-2pm.

“ForColumbia was founded in 2015 to bring Christians together to freely share the love of God by serving our community, side-by-side. We do this by organizing volunteers from Christian churches throughout mid-Missouri to serve individuals, non-profit organizations, and other public venues in an annual city-wide day of service.” They are organizing over 2000 volunteers from 63 churches to serve at 98 sites throughout Columbia!

Registration deadline is today, April 12th to enable them to coordinate all the many pieces of this phenomenal undertaking. For more information and to register go to ForColumbia.com. If you would like to work alongside other Midway Locust Grove



Photos and poster by Jim Johnson

church friends you can register under the group name “Midway Master Craftsmen” or you can create your own group.

There are various ways to serve on that day: Home improvement projects, yard work, prayer team, food prep, delivering lunches to work sites to name a few. All the options are listed on the website and the majority of them allow kids to help too.

Please contact Leslie Brown for questions at brownie1262@hotmail.com or 573-355-3978



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

He has Risen! Here is an easy way to use up that left over Easter ham.

Enjoy,

Hope Burkart

Ham and Noodle Bake

8 oz egg noodles of your choice

(I like wide egg noodles)

3 cups cubed ham

1 medium onion, chopped

1 tsp salt

Dash pepper

1 can cream of chicken soup

1 1/2 cup milk

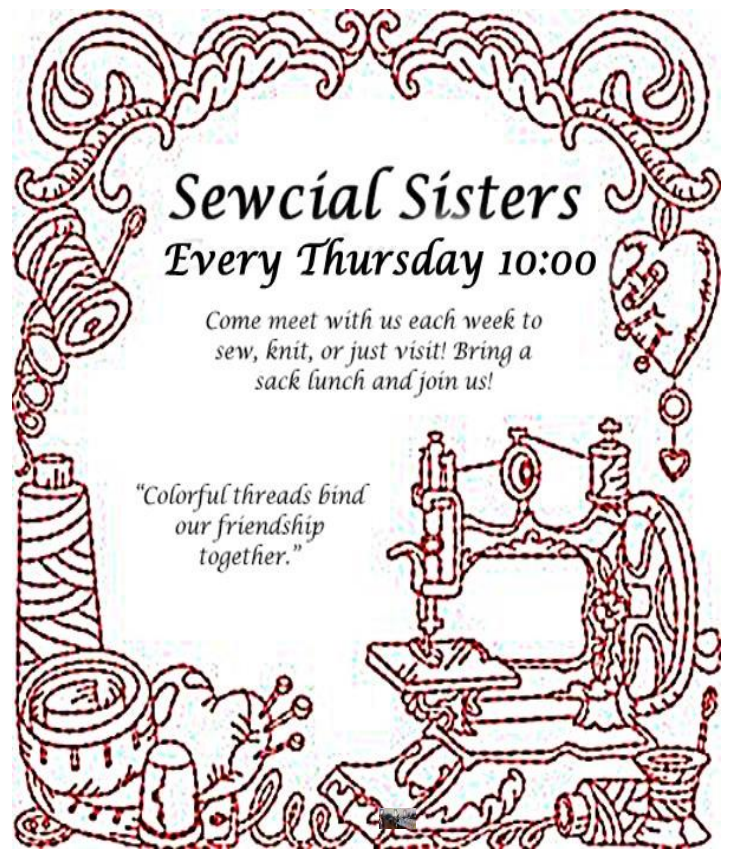
1 cup sour cream

1 cup grated cheese

*Optional: I like to top casserole with one sleeve of Ritz crackers crushed and tossed with 1 stick melted butter.

Cook noodles and drain. Brown ham with onion in a little butter. Season with salt and pepper. Mix soup, milk, sour cream and cheese. Combine noodles, ham and onion in a 9x13 sprayed casserole pan. Bake 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until top is brown.

J



Sisters show quilts at March Tuesday Lunch



A Fresh Blessing for Our Blessing Box .



Over the years, our Blessing Box has quietly stood as a small but mighty symbol of generosity — a place where neighbors help neighbors, where needs are met without fanfare, and where the love of Christ is shared in the simplest of ways. Originally built by **Duane Perry**, the box has weathered many seasons of Missouri sun, rain, and wind. Like all well-loved things, it eventually began to show its age.

This month, **Kurt Brown** stepped in with a servant's heart and a steady hand. He repaired the structure, refreshed the paint, and even added a brand-new roof, giving the Blessing Box new life and renewed purpose. His work is more than a repair job — it's a blessing in itself. Kurt's care ensures that this little outpost of kindness will continue to serve our community for years to come.

At **Twice Blessed**, we often say that people are blessed both in the giving and in the receiving. The Blessing Box is a perfect picture of that truth. Every can of food, every hygiene item, every small gift placed inside becomes part of a larger story — a story of compassion, dignity, and shared hope. And the hands that maintain the box, like Kurt's and Duane's before him, remind us that behind every act of generosity is someone willing to show up and care.

We are grateful for the craftsmanship, the time, and the love poured into this project. May this renewed Blessing Box continue to be a beacon of quiet grace in our community, offering help to those who need it and inviting all of us to take part in the joy of giving.



“Our Blessing Box got a beautiful refresh thanks to Kurt Brown. Duane Perry built it, our community fills it, and God uses it to bless both the giver and the receiver.”



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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

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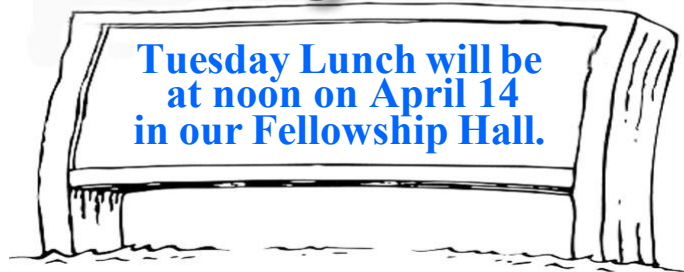


Find the hidden Bible in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: at www.locustgrove.com

Volume 39 Issue 4 April 2026

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



The Back Row By Gene Baumann

Jerry Wirth commented to me at church recently that a picture of me should show up in Locust Leaves sometime. I assured him I was more comfortable on the back side of the camera, where I have been since the fifth grade in school.

The next time I checked my email, sure enough, there was a photo of me on the front side of Jerry's camera. Not surprising, I was sharing a photo in my camera with Billy Cook as we were waiting for the Easter Sunrise Service to begin.

I presume my interest in photography comes from my mother. I have a nice collection of negatives she created in the early 1900s of her family in South Dakota. They are remarkable.

When I was in the fifth grade, my uncle

April 2026

gave me a Kodak folding camera, and, as the saying goes, the rest is history. Photography ultimately became my career and remains as my favorite pastime. Thanks, Jerry, for putting me on that side of the lens.

