



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, May 12
Second Tuesday Lunch—Noon
Prayer Ministry — 1:30

Thursdays, May 14, 21, 28
6:30 p.m.
How to Pray

Tuesday, May 26
Midway Kids Fun Day
8:30. a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

A New Volunteer Rhythm for Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts

One of the great joys of our church family is the gift of children!

Every Sunday morning, Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts create a vibrant, safe, and loving environment for the youngest among us to hear Bible stories, build friendships, and discover that they are known and loved by God and their church family.

For the past five years, God has been faithful in these ministry areas, and we have so much to celebrate! We are deeply grateful for the teachers and shepherds (chaperones) who have served our children with such love and consistency.

At the same time, I want to be honest about one ongoing challenge.

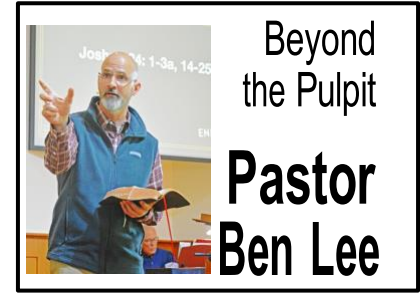
For years, we have used semesterbysemester sign-up forms, asking members of the church to volunteer for open Sundays. While many have served faithfully, the constant need to fill open spots has become a regular source of major stress for both Shayla Roop and Amber Vroman.

Each Sunday requires one male and one female shepherd in both Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts. In Midway Kids, these shepherds serve in addition to the teachers who prepare and communicate the lesson. We have a solid rotation of excellent teachers. What we need are shepherds, as every Sunday requires four for these ministries to function.

So, beginning in June, we are going to start a new rhythm.

In other ministry areas (acolytes and offering count) leaders use a master list of volunteers and assign people to specific dates. Everyone receives the full schedule and one another’s contact information. If someone cannot serve on an assigned date, that person is responsible for finding someone to swap with and then notifying the church office, so the schedule stays accurate. This process has worked well, and we believe it will bring greater clarity, shared responsibility, and much needed relief to Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts.

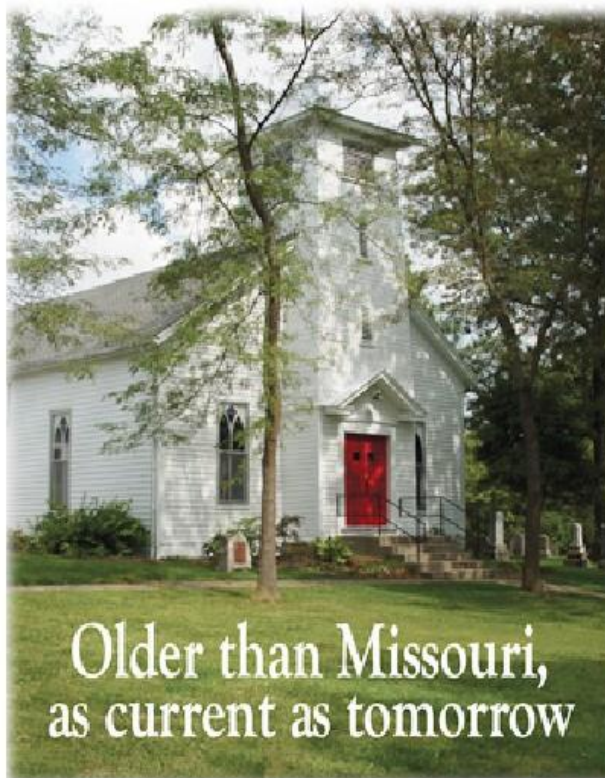
Beginning in June, parents and grandparents of children in Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts will be included in the shepherd volunteer rotations. Anyone who has volunteered in Kids or



Ministries & Missions

GORGEOUS GIRLS
No lunch will be held
on May 25th due to
Memorial Day.
See you in June.

Charlotte Palmer has assumed the role of coordinator for the group, which is one of our church's most significant social organizations. The next scheduled luncheon would be May 25th, which is Memorial Day. Therefore, we are not scheduling a luncheon for May. We will update you on a place, probably on June 27. Check the church directory for Charlotte's contact information.




**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 May 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 Lloyd Sumner
- 3 Heather Abrams
- 3 Gavin Gessling
- 4 Ellie Netemeyer
- 5 Randy Mueller
- 6 Jake Frink

- 6 Stacy Lee
- 13 Laurel Groh
- 13 Diana Netemeyer
- 15 Jane Bensussen
- 16 Bob Moore
- 19 Colton Kempf
- 20 Travis O'Neal

- 21 Amy Green
- 24 Beth Luetjen
- 28 Jim Johnson
- 28 Chadd Fuemmeler
- 31 Blake Roop
- 31 Don Moore



ReMember returns to spotlight for new season

Members of Pine Ridge Reservation support team reported on last year's trip at the April Second Tuesday Lunch to open discussion for this year's trip. Left to right, Belinda Thompson, Mariea Caruthers, Dan and Cyndie Meives, and Susan Leach presented their perspectives on the annual trip. See Kathy Hughes' column "On the Rez" on page 8 for more information on the trip.

Continued from Page 1 . . .

A New Volunteer Rhythm for Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts

will be sent by email twice a year, at the beginning of each semester. Once it is sent, volunteers will be responsible for their assigned dates. If a date does not work, volunteers may switch with someone else on the list and then let Lucy know of any changes.

We would also love to add more people to the rotation. If you would like to serve in Midway Kids or Midway Sprouts, please contact Shayla by May 15.

This change is not about pressure. It is about shared ownership and freeing these leaders up to focus their energy on programming, curriculum and event planning.

When we baptize children into the life of the church, we promise as a con-

gregation to surround them with love, prayer, support, and faithful witness. Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts are one of the very practical ways we live out that promise together weekly. Our children are not a distraction from the life of the church. They are a vital part of the life of the church. They belong to us. And we belong to them.

Finally, we all owe a huge thank you to Shayla and Amber for leading these ministries faithfully with love and care. Thank you to our teachers and faithful volunteers. And thank you in advance to every parent, grandparent, and church member who will help us step into this new rhythm together with great success.

Peace,
Ben



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.

George and Connie Wieberg

George and Connie added their individual denominations to the Locust Grove congregation when they married in the mid-20-teens.

George grew up Catholic in Freeburg, MO. He went through confirmation around the sixth or 7th grade and also attended Catholic school through the 8th grade. As many people his age, he followed the course and traditions of the Catholic faith and didn't think much about it.

He sought out a less-regimented and traditional approach to church and worship here at MLG.

Connie grew up in the Disciples of Christ Church in Columbia, and was baptized at age 13 with other kids her age "because that's how you did it. I've never known not being part of a church except time when I was in college. Love having a church family to fellowship with, serve and rely on. I am still a little involved with a prior church, Olivet Christian, and consider myself blessed enough to have two church families."

Connie continues describing her blessing, "God has blessed me with the gifts of encouragement, servant hood and hospitality. I love feeling the word flow through me in



the moments I share in conversation and lending a listening ear. I love sharing time in fellowship, laughter and joy with friends and family. There is no greater comfort in being surrounded by friends and family."

Both Connie and George are retired from their careers. Connie was an underwriter for Shelter Insurance's Home Office. George was a farm manager for Midway Farms. They were married December 9, 2017.

Their combined family includes Connie's daughter Amanda, son-in-law Todd, son Mitchell, and two granddaughters Lilly and Clara; and George's daughter Jessica, two stepsons Scott and Cory and two daughter-in-laws Nikki and Emy.

And there is their shop cat, Tip.

No biographical report would be complete without mention of George's unique experience. He had many opportunities to travel the world. On one particular trip to Alaska, he poked a walrus. Can you top that?



Midway Kids



Fun Day

Who: Midway Kids currently in Kindergarten - 5th grade

When: Tuesday, May 26th
(8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

Where: Drop off at church {then we will head to Tiger Academy of Gymnastics from 9:00-11:00 and return to church for a pizza luncheon and games

Scan below to R-SVP

by Wednesday, May 20th

!!) [grey square] .!!)



Our first ForColumbia Give Back Day deemed a success

A big THANK YOU to everyone who served at our Give Back Day on April 25. This was the first time our church has participated in the ForColumbia city-wide day of service.

The event was founded in 2015 with the mission to bring Christians together to freely share the love of God by serving our community side by side in very tangible ways.

They had over 2,000 volunteers, almost 100 sites served and 60+ churches from Mid-Missouri participating this year. It was a true display of Christians sacrificially serving our neighbors in need. The various sites included private homes, non-profit organizations as well as public venues.

Twelve of us represented MLG Church well as the loving worker bees that we are. Our worksite was the City of Refuge Shalom House and property in Rocheport. We, along with 40 other volunteers from churches in the Columbia area, helped clear brush and built three bridges for a trail through the woods. Plus, major weed-eating and downing a fence around the lagoon was accomplished. A HUGE garden was weeded and lots of mulch was hauled and spread.

We were blessed with perfect weather, a very organized site leader, good food and a meaningful day of fellowship and hard work.

We plan to be part of this opportunity again next year, so please check out ForColumbia.com to learn more about this outreach that allows us to help the least of these. Matthew 25-40.

Thank you to all who participated.

Leslie Brown

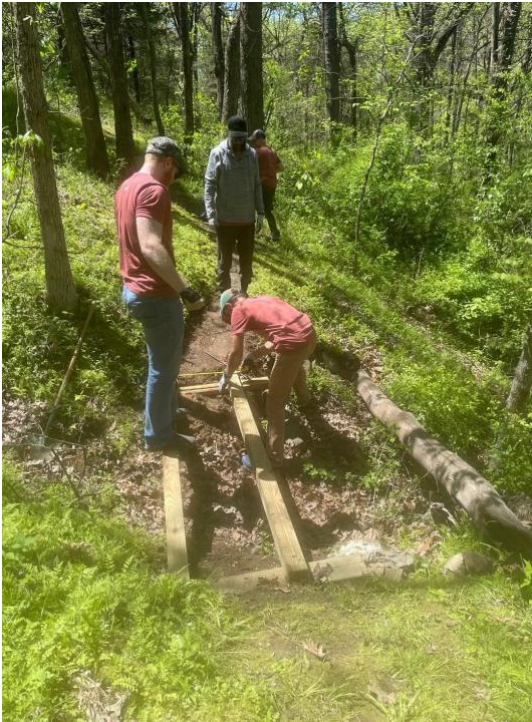


Leslie Brown
Ministry Chair



Above, Pastor Ben Lee and Barry Stoll. The team, left to right, Curt Brown, Leslie Brown, Mary Schott, the Mendez Family, Noah, Luciana, Lauren, and Berto





They had over 2,000 volunteers, almost 100 sites served and 60+ churches from Mid-Missouri participating this year. It was a true display of Christians sacrificially serving our neighbors in need.

Saturday, May 23 will be the season kickoff for our Re-Member team. Anyone interested in learning more about this amazing opportunity is welcome to come. We'll be meeting at Keith Andersen's home of Route EE at 6 p.m.

We traditionally have a pot-luck supper and fellowship, than have a more serious talk about the reservation. At this get together we will pick the dates of the week we will sign up for. Spouses are certainly welcome.

The mission involves a fun week of dorm living, communal meals and evening get-togethers to learn about the Lakota culture in more depth. The evenings may involve music, Indian hand games, video presentations, discussions, artisan night, etc. Throughout the week you are encouraged to talk to residents of the reservation, make connections, and lean into the culture.

The work involves more at your own pace building of porches and ramps, and

ON THE REZ

With Kathy Hughes



building and distributing out-houses and bunk beds. The week also involves tours of the reservation with stops at the trading post, various places of interest and importance to the understanding of the reservation history, etc. One highlight for most is a walk into the "Sanctuary," a part of the Badlands, for personal meditation and reflection

We will meet "semi-regularly" as a team from now until September to bond and prepare for this year's adventure. This tactic seems to be effective, as last year we were asked if we were a family group coming to work!

We did enjoy hanging out, laughing and supporting each other like a family. In fact, we ARE a family. We are God's children, and brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ.

And as we approach our time on the Rez, especially, as being the hands and feet of Christ. We go to serve and learn.

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.**

Spring Has Sprung!

Garage Sales have begun!

We're changing out our winter items to Spring/Summer and are in special need of:

- Women's Medium
- Men's jeans/shorts — size 40 and under
- Bras (smaller sizes)
- 3X women's tops and bottoms
- "Exercise" clothes

Always in need of:

- Deodorant
- Kleenex
- Laundry detergent
- Shampoo
- Paper Towels & TP
- OTC meds
- Non-perishable food items —
Baby items, jewelry.

Decoratives & kitchen items go quickly, as do small appliances —





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

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:

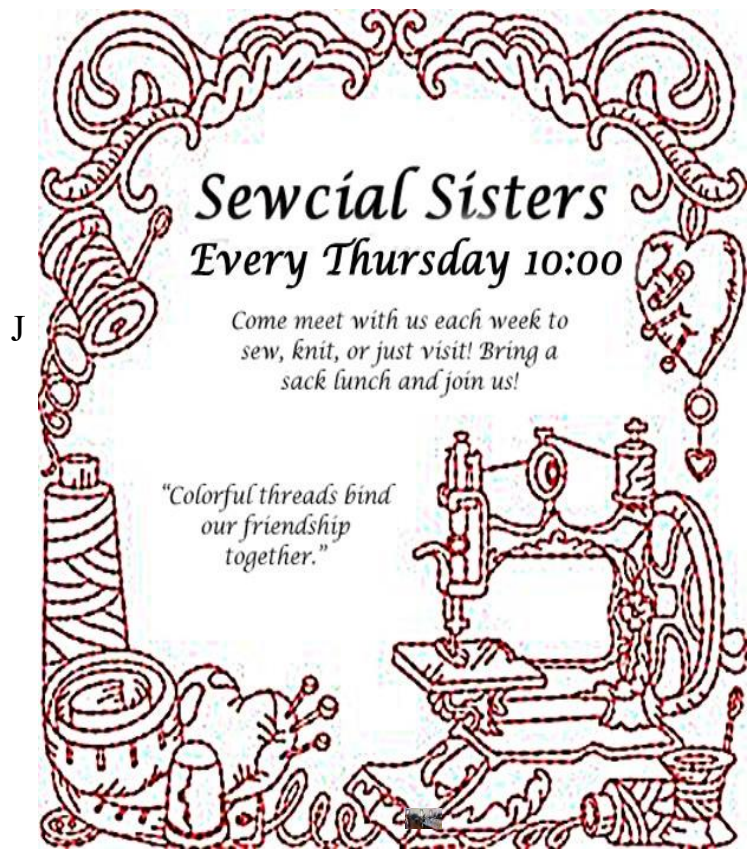
- 1 cup soft butter
- 14 oz sweetened condensed milk
- 4 cups powdered sugar
- 14 oz sweet coconut
- 3 cups chopped pecans
- 10 oz chopped maraschino cherries
- 1 Tblsp vanilla
- 6 cups semi sweet chocolate chips
- 4 Tblsp shortening

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.



The Sewcial Sisters have their yearly retreat in Brunswick, MO at the end of May. It is a time of fellowship, friendship and sewing. We keep God at the center of all activities.

Thursdays are open sewing at church for anyone to join us. We start at 10:00. Beth

Join us for Second Tuesday Lunch

**May 12
Noon in the
Fellowship
Hall.
Bring a dish
and a friend.**





Stepping Into Spring with Gratitude and Grace

As the seasons begin to shift and the first signs of spring make their way into Mid-Missouri, Twice Blessed is already buzzing with

renewed energy. As warmer days bring fresh starts, and we're grateful to play a small part in helping our neighbors step into the new season with dignity, hope, and the essentials they need.

Each time our doors open, we have the privilege of serving **well over 75 families** - a number that continues to humble and inspire us. Every visit is a reminder that community matters, kindness matters, and that simple acts of generosity ripple farther than we ever see.

Twice Blessed remains **entirely donation-driven**, relying solely on the steady kindness of individuals who give from the heart. Whether it's a bag of gently used clothing, a set of dishes, a warm coat, or a household item someone else can put to good use, every donation becomes a blessing: passed from one neighbor to another. We are deeply grateful for the continued support that keeps this ministry thriving.

As we prepare for spring, we look forward to welcoming familiar faces and meeting new ones. Thank you for helping us create a space where compassion is shared freely, needs are met with dignity, and everyone who walks through our doors is reminded that they are valued and loved.

...t Cook and Glenna Johnson



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.***

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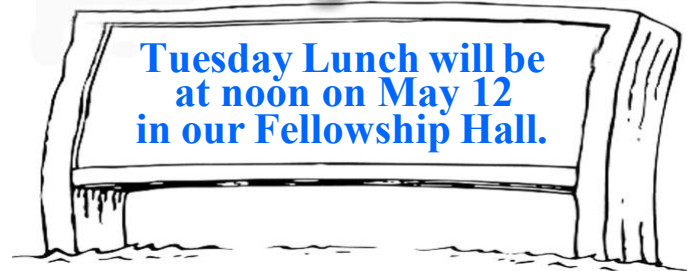


Find the hidden Bible in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: at www.locustgrove.com

Volume 39 Issue 5 May 2026

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



The Back Row By Gene Baumann

As I sit here in front of my computer, wondering what I am going to fill this space with, I glance up at the table of contents on page 1.

It suddenly becomes obvious that it is not I, but YOU who fills twelve pages of *Locust Leaves* every month. You make things happen; I just report what you do.

It won't take you long to realize what an active church you've helped create. Rev. Ben needed extra space to describe a new rhythm for Midway Kids and Sprouts.

We continue getting to know our fellow parishioners, how they got here and why they continue to contribute to our worship experience.

Every issue of *Locust Leaves* contains

May 2026

several reports on activities our youth and adults have experienced and those yet to come.

Our Mission Chair Leslie Brown coordinated and reports on a Give Back Day activity in Columbia. Director of Children's Ministries Shayla Roop has put together a very active team for our Kids and Sprouts programs.

One of the most important mission activities in the mission area is Twice Blessed, directed by Glenna Johnson and Jill Cook.

There and many others who deserve kudos for their leadership and participation, but we then would be aware of our lack of space to give everyone their due recognition. Don't forget to say thanks for all the sharing and caring that is our claim to fame in the ministry.