



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.

Wednesdays —

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

Thursdays — 9-4:00

Sewcial open sewing
Yoga at 11:00
Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

This Month

June 8-11 — 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.
Vacation Bible School

Tuesday, June 10 — Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch
Prayer Ministry — 1:30

June 15-21
Midway Students Mission trip

Sunday, June 15
FATHER'S DAY

Midway Locust Grove Church

Locust Leaves



Volume 38
Number 6
June 2025

A Home of Her Own: Celebrating God's Faithfulness in Transformational Housing

In the summer of 2023, our Transformational Housing Ministry selected our very first family for the A-Frame on OB Brown Road. Our team, Shayla Roop, Jessie Kempf, Kelley Frink, and myself, had the privilege of meeting a woman named Shereka Leverett during the interview process. We didn't know it at the time, but that encounter would become life-changing for everyone involved.

Today, we give enormous praise to God as we celebrate that on June 11, Shereka will close on her very own home! After 22 months with us, she has saved over \$17,000, all of which went toward the down payment on her new house. God is so, so faithful!

However, the success of this journey extends far beyond financial considerations. During their time with us, Shereka, Belle, Rosalind, Creed, and Miss Shirley have become a beloved part of our Locust Grove family. Their commitment to our community of faith has been extraordinary:

- Shereka and her daughters have been consistently present in worship and Midway Students.
- Creed has thrived in our children's ministry and has brought pure joy during VBS.
- Their entire family has shown faithfulness, warmth, and joy, embodying everything this ministry aims to nurture.

This moment is also a celebration of a team effort.

- Shayla Roop has gone above and beyond in supporting Shereka's family's educational goals.
- Jessie Kempf helped strengthen Shereka's résumé and led the search for the perfect home and the purchasing process.
- Kelley Frink provided coaching and tools to help structure Shereka's financial success.
- Suzi Moore is currently walking with Shereka through our 1:1 Discipleship process, building a beautiful bond along the way.

And behind it all is the generous gift of the OB Brown home by Marsha Coleman, who donated the home and property in honor of her late husband, Danny. Her desire was to see his legacy live on, and through this ministry, it is!

In the coming weeks, we'll assemble a team of volunteers to help move the Leveretts from our A-frame into their forever home. Shortly after, we'll gather a group of volunteers to prepare the A-frame for our next family. Interviews are already underway with the hope of welcoming new residents before the start of the school year.

To our entire church family, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude. Thank you for stepping out in faith, for embracing this ministry, and for pouring love into the lives of real people in mid-Missouri. You are making a difference.

The next time you see Shereka and her family, hug their necks and celebrate with them. And when you see Shayla, Jessie, Kelley, and Suzi, offer your thanks for all the time, effort, energy, and love they've poured into this work.

Please continue praying for the following:

- The Leverett's, as they begin this exciting new chapter.
- Our team, as we discern who God will send us next.
- Our Church, as we strive to remain faithful and open to God's work in our community.

To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Peace, **Ben**



Beyond
the Pulpit

Pastor
Ben Lee

Ministries & Missions

Double duty food prep at Ron McD House

Friday May 30 we did double duty at Ronald McDonald House. We started with making 75 sandwiches to be delivered to local hospitals for lunch. After that we made Sloppy Joe's, baked beans, potato salad, chips and 4 pans of brownies to serve 49 guests for the evening meal. Thank you to those who donated food and money. Our next time to serve will be June 23rd. We will need 6 volunteers. Please contact me if you would like to help. sherrileaperry@gmail.com



Save The Date: July 25.

We will be doing an
afternoon shift
of volunteering at
the Food Bank!
Time is to be
determined at
the moment.

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
June 10
at noon in the Fellowship Hall.
Kevin Yaeger Fish Fry
will be the provided entre.
Bring a dish and a friend .**

Happy Birthday

June 2025

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	6 Cohen Strubel	13 Caleb Patrick	23 Sharon Yaeger
1 Kathy Koehler	7 Wilson Cox	14 Chuck Lay	23 Shayla Roop
3 Dawson Roop	8 Charlotte Palmer	14 Gayanna Bohl-	23 Dave Weaver
3 Mark Quinley	8 Curt Brown	meyer	24 Kurt Zahringer
3 Kevin Yaeger	9 Norberto Mendez	16 Kylie Groh	27 Kevin Kaufman
3 Kelsey Strubel	10 Keith Andersen	17 Kathy Hughes	27 Mike Madolora
4 Barb Boillot	10 Cyndie Parks	17 Roger Walker	28 Jordan Cox
4 Deborah Taylor	Meives	18 Cletus Koehler	29 Sheila Scott
4 Maggie McPherson	12 Sherri Perry	22 Stan Frink	30 Jeff Crane

Cemetery plots to increase in price



The price of cemetery plots at Locust Grove will increase from \$300 to \$500 on August 1, 2025. If you would like to purchase a spot or pay for a reserved plot, please contact me before August 1. Cemetery plots in Columbia at Memorial range from \$2500 to \$5500. We have some maintenance planned for this summer on the road. While it is not possible to know the exact numbers, it is estimated that there are 744 buried in the cemetery, with 99 of those unknown as to location. Records show 376 plots are reserved.

Please contact me with any questions, Respectfully., Kevin Yaeger — 573-819-9210

Save The Date!

PRAY. WALK. REFLECT. CONNECT. **Midway Prayer Walk**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2025

Registration 8:00 AM

Walk 9:00 AM

Midway Heights Elementary School
8130 W. Hwy 40

FREE to register & attend!

A Guided 5K prayer walk to pray over our schools, community & world.

Shorter walk & prayer circle options will be available!

Can't attend but would like to send prayer requests?
Email prayerwalk@mwlocustgrove.com to submit your prayer requests!





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.

Carolyn Doyle

Carolyn was born on March 29, 1934, and is a retired Social Services Worker for State of Missouri, Children's Services, Adoption Specialist.

She was named Social Worker of the Year for Missouri. As she describes it, "I knew the nomination had come from families I'd worked with, and that was very touching. I don't remember what year it was, but somewhere there's a newspaper clipping of me getting the award from Governor John Ashcroft!"

She was baptized in 1934 as an infant in the Congregational Church in Lebanon, MO. She married Charles R Harrison in Lebanon in 1956. They divorced in January 1974 and he passed away the following December. She married Ron Doyle in January 1979; he died in February 1999. They had moved to Columbia in the spring of 1980.

Despite some losses, Carolyn is blessed with an extended family. Daughter Beth Hager-Harrison-Prado, born August 4, 1959, now lives in Columbia. She spent nine years in the Navy, then earned her Master's in Social Work, and recently retired from the VA where she oversaw the homeless programs. Beth was widowed in June of 2024 when Michele, her wife of 10 years, died.

Margaret Anne (Harrison) deVries, born Dec. 9, 1960, was a Registered Nurse. She

passed away in 2021, leaving a husband, Art deVries, and two children.

Hugh Harrison works for the U.S. Postal Service at the Main Columbia Post Office. He is divorced with two adult children.

Ronald T. Doyle lives in Mexico, MO. and is on medical disability. He has a stepson who is Carolyn's fourth grandson.

There are pets too, two brown tabby cats, Fred and the Duchess.

Carolyn is active in the Boone County Historical Society. "I volunteer at the front desk and am on the Historic Sites Committee



and the Maplewood House committee, and occasionally help lead school tours. I'm also active in the Columbia Garden Club, and I'm a National Garden Club Flower Show Judge. I enjoy taking care of my yard and flower beds and love

seeing what comes up next in the spring. I love singing in the choir at church, seldom miss the Second Tuesday lunch, belong to a Small Group, and volunteer once a month at Ronald McDonald House."

Through her childhood and young adult years Carolyn belonged to the Methodist Church. After Charlie and she were married she converted to Catholicism and their three children attended Catholic School.

"I was aware of the Midway Locust Grove Methodist Church, (as it was then), as three of my foster/adoptive families were active there. Then in November of 1997, when my stepfather passed away, and I saw how loved and supported my mother was by her church, I knew I needed that too. So a couple of Sundays later, I just walked into MLG, and was greeted with open arms! I joined soon after, and have always felt loved and supported here."



Serving Opportunities:

- ✓ Construct houses, bathrooms or kitchens
- ✓ Carry marl for making concrete
- ✓ Repair homes
- ✓ Assist Schools & serve as reading pals
- ✓ Faith Walks

Mission & Evangelism

- ✝ Build relationships with Jamaicans
- ✝ Share your story of faith
- ✝ Share the free gift of Christ's salvation

International Mission Trip to Harmons, Jamaica

with



**MIDWAY
LOCUST GROVE**
— CHURCH —

August 1 - 8 , 2026

Details:

- Cost: \$1,795 + airfare cost over \$700
- \$150-\$200 for spending money
- Age: Able bodies age 13 +
- Passport Needed for Travel
- Other opportunities to help if you cannot travel!
- One day of recreation included
- Accommodations are provided in a safe area with kitchen, dorm rooms, bathrooms, running filtered water & electricity.

Deadline to register: August 1, 2025

Please email Jessie Kempf at jessica@weichertft.com if you are interested in attending or have other questions!



MORE PROGRAM DETAILS:
www.wonbyonetojamaica.com

High school and college graduates honored during worship May 18

Rev. Ben blesses the graduates during worship services May 18



Teagan Groh

Zeke Lee

Amber Vroman

Teagan Groh will be graduating from Hickman High School next weekend. She was president of Future Business Leaders of America, president of Trireme, a chair on the student council as well as a member of National Honor Society and a leader for Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

She received departmental awards in art, digital media and outstanding student in graphic design. She's already done some design for local companies and events. She loves hanging with her friends, crafting and obviously singing in the choir with us. She has honored us here at church with her lovely voice.

If you ever have the opportunity to step back in the Midway Kids room and see the amazing artwork that Teagan and Kylie draw on the blackboard back there it is truly a masterpiece. Next year she's going to pursue business at the University of Missouri and anticipates a minor in law.

Zeke Lee will also be graduating from Hickman next weekend. Zeke ran cross country and early in high school played football and wrestled. He did four years of

varsity track. He was a two time district qualifier, district top eight finisher and received National Occupational Competency Testing Institute culinary certification. He loves to cook, jambalaya and gumbo and other Cajun cuisine.

He's been actively involved in our youth group and mission trips as well as volunteering for Vacation Bible School. He and Teagan have been the VBS co-hosts for the last two years. He's always finding opportunities to pour into our youth and Midway Kids and Midway Sprouts.

Zeke will be attending Missouri State University in Springfield in the fall. He is leaving his options open right now for his educational path. He enjoys fishing, running, hanging out with friends and cooking.

Now on to college. **Jordyn Moore** has attended Columbia College for the last two years and has graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology. He received the outstanding student in psychology award and while he was in this two year program, he found an interest in adolescent



Kylie Groh Rev. Ben Lee Jordan Moore Jana Wirth

psychology, and counseling. He works with high school students at Rock Bridge as he is the pianist for all of the choirs.

Jordyn has now been accepted into the Stephens College Master of Education in Counseling program, which he will attend for the next three years. Jordyn enjoys playing piano, learning more about music, talking with people and obviously being an amazing instrumental part of our music program here and accompanying our choir. It is always a treat for those in the choir when doing a song accompanied by Jordyn.

Kylie Groh is our next college graduate. She is graduating summa cum laude from the University of Missouri with a Bachelor of Science in business administration with an emphasis in marketing, a minor in music, a certificate in digital marketing and an honors certificate. Whew!

She played the viola for the University of Missouri Philharmonic Orchestra for a year and we've also had the privilege of hearing her musical talents on the viola here in our church. In college, she worked for the Mar-

keting Communications Department for the Trulaske College of Business as a student assistant.

In June, she will be starting her career as an account manager for COEGI, an industry leading digital marketing agency using cutting edge strategy, robust technology, and flexible processes to transform brands.

Kylie likes to play sand volleyball, go on walks around campus and have game nights with her friends.

And now I would like to introduce to you, **Dr. Amber Vroman!**

Amber has received her DNP degree, which is Doctor of Nursing Practice, from the University of Missouri Kansas City.

Her current job at the University of Missouri Columbia is the Director of Undergraduate Programs and Assistant Teaching Professor at the Mizzou School of Nursing. She plans to stay in this position now that she has received her Doctorate.

Amber has been working on this degree while running a farm with her husband Chris, bringing up those four gorgeous girls and running our Midway Sprouts program. Amber loves hanging out with her family and fishing and camping.

*Jana Wirth
Ceremony Narrator*



Church membership takes a leap after May 18 worship



Church membership grew by 13 following worship on May 18. Rev. Ben inducted the following, who were then ceremoniously welcomed by the congregation. David and Pam

Berry, Rich and Dru Dalton, Chuck and Roma Lay, Dusty and Angie Richardson, Dave and Laurie Weaver, and Jennifer Lea and her son Mason and daughter Bella.



Locust Grove has been a family-oriented church for its entire two-centuries-plus lifetime. The tradition was evident again on Mother's Day with a flower shop at the entry area of the church. Members were encouraged to select flowers to honor their mothers on their special day.



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

**August 25—11:00
Flat Branch
in Columbia**

Email Kathy Koehler
if interested;
kkoehler1976@gmail.com

Notice changes in the Gorgeous Girls schedule.

We are a busy group of women! We all have a lot going on, and the Gorgeous Girls group has been varying with the numbers each month. I know many of you enjoy getting together and going to different places each time.

I've reached out to a few of you, and we're going to try something different and see how this goes. We will meet every other month, with the exception of not gathering in November and December. For the remainder of this year, here are the dates and locations:

August 25 11:00 at Flat Branch

October 27 11:00 at Murray's

We hope to see you in August and maybe see some new faces too! Come join us.

Kathy Koehler

Second Tuesday Lunch



May's program continued the travel series as Glenn and Barb Gregory reported on their cruise of Greece, Turkey and several other nautical ports. As Barb narrated the script, Glenn showed slides of the various ports of call.

A near capacity crowd enjoyed a taco bar along with the usual wide selection of dishes shared by the attendees.

Hope to see you at the June 10 luncheon, featuring Kevin Yaeger's renowned Fish Fry.





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry



In memory of Mary Kaye Baumann's June 24 birthday, I decided to go through her cookbook and find one of her delicious recipes! Mary Kaye was author of our Locust Grove Food Ministry for 13 years and I enjoy going through her cookbook for

recipes and the short stories she wrote. Please enjoy her "Lemon Squares".

Enjoy,

Hope Burkart

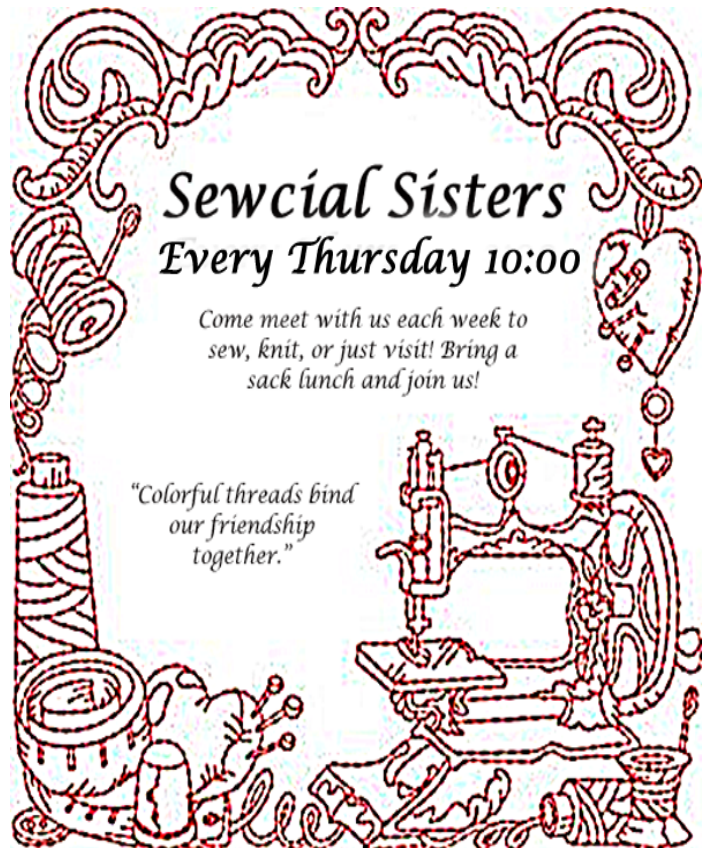
Lemon Squares

2 cups flour
1 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup powdered sugar
4 eggs
2 cups granulated sugar
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
2 tsp grated lemon peel
4 Tblsp fresh lemon juice

Heat oven to 350 . Mix flour, butter, and powdered sugar. Press evenly in a 15x8 inch pan building up on the sides 1/2 inch. Bake for 20 minutes.

Beat remaining ingredients until light and fluffy. Pour over hot crust. Bake 30 minutes or until no indentation remains in the center when touched.

Editor's note: In her memory, the photo above is from the first role of film I shot of her while she was news director for Channel 17 in Columbia, about 1975. Gene



**See you at
2nd Tuesday Lunch,
June 10.
Kevin Yaeger's
Fish Fry and Travels!**

**Check the
Bulletin Boards
in Fellowship Hall
for information
and inspiration.
Thanks to Angie Gerzen
for preparing these
monthly boards.**

ON THE REZ

With Kathy Hughes

Plans are underway for our annual adult mission to Re-Member on the Pine Ridge Lakota reservation in South Dakota. Right now we have 5 confirmed travelers, and a possible three other. As they always ask,

“When ya comin’ back?”

That would be Sept 20 – Sept 25. It is the last week of volunteers for the 2025 season, so it promises to be an amazing week.

Volunteers stay together in the same building, segregated men and women’s rooms. We sleep on the same bunk beds we build and put into homes. Speaking of which, volunteers are assigned to teams, so we will get to know the other volunteers pretty well. I actually still correspond with a volunteer from 6 years ago! It is not uncommon to re-connect with volunteers from other trips, especially on Senior Week. Connections.

Last year one of the volunteer team leaders, Rick, was from Columbia!! We enjoyed his company so much Keith Anderson is signed up as a volunteer team leader to work with Rick for two weeks! Connections.

And teams buddy up for projects, so it is also pretty usual for two or more volunteers from our group to work together on a job site. That is always fun.

Early mornings and late evenings our group usually gathers together to discuss the best and worst of the day – seeing the stark poverty and unmet needs is always hard. Sitting and talking with a Lakota family member, reading a book to a child in the shade of the work trailer, seeing an elder’s reaction to the gift of a bed is heart-warming.

Each evening an elder speaker joins everyone in the great room, to educate the volunteers on the Lakota creation story,

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



Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

June 5 & 19

Twice
blessed

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays

12:00 – 5:00

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

local events, music, Lakota hand games, etc. This is an opportunity to talk with those who are dialed in to the culture and events of the tribe. Because we have had volunteers traveling to Re-Member for more than 10 years, we have built up a trust with some members, and have made some REAL connections with teachers, older AIM members (American Indian Movement – warriors for the tribe), social workers and others. Some of us have connected deeply enough that we have been honored to meet with individuals or their families outside of our Re-Member time. Connections.

Our team is meeting monthly for a casual (shorts and tees!) fellowship and potluck meal to get to know each other better and what to expect with Re-Member and on the reservation. There are still a few slots open for our week. If you are interested in joining us or even just learning more about this mission, come join us for a meal. Our next meeting is at my house, (Kathy Hughes) Saturday, June 21st at 5ish. We would love to see you!!! We also plan to meet again in July and August, to finalize our trip the donations we will take, etc.



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202

Pastor: Rev. Ben Lee
Administrative Assistant: Catherine Shanahan
Church phone: 573-445-4667
Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
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YouTube: [mwlocustgrove](https://www.youtube.com/mwlocustgrove)
Instagram: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.instagram.com/@mwlocustgrove)

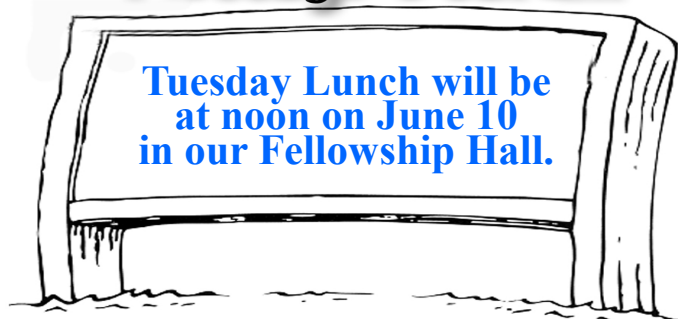
Our Mission:
We exist to
gather in grace,
grow in Christ,
and go share the Gospel.

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann
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Find the hidden Bible  in this issue.
Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 38 Issue 6 June 2025

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



The Back Row *By Gene Baumann*

How busy can we be?

Vacation Bible School - Sunday, June 8th-Wednesday, June 11th - 5:30-8:00 p.m. - Kids from age 3 to incoming 6th grade. - The ice cream social will be the evening of the 11th. - Register [here](#) or pick up a card with more information at the Opportunities table. - Point Person: Shayla Roop, SRoop@cpsk12.org.

2nd Tuesday Lunch - Tuesday, June 10th - 12:00 p.m. - Fish Fry and Father's Day Celebration. - Kevin Yaeger will present the program. - Point Person: Barb Harville, moharvillefamily@aol.com.

Prayer Ministry - Tuesday, June 10th - 1:30 p.m. - We will discuss and pray over the topic of the Holy Spirit. - Point Person: Catherine Shanahan, catherine@mwlocustgrove.com.

Father's Day - Sunday, June 15th - We will again have the Donuts for Dad booth set up for our fa-

thers and their families to enjoy.

Midway Students Mission Trip - June 15th-21st.

Ronald McDonald House - Monday, June 23rd - Packing lunches 10:00-11:30 a.m. - We need 6 volunteers to help with this shift. - Call or email Point Person: Sherri Perry, 573-808-1422, sherrileaperry@gmail.com.

Midway Students Fun Night - Thursday, June 26th - Midway Golf & Games.

Volunteering at the Food Bank of Central Missouri - We will be volunteering on Friday, July 25th from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Please email Jessie for more information or to sign up. - Point Person: Jessie Kempf, jessica@weichertft.com.

Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp - Our church children (those who have registered) will attend camp the week of July 27th-Aug 1st. - Registration is closed. - Point Person: Shayla Roop, SRoop@cpsk12.org.

And the list goes on...