

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

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries & Missions	2
Birthdays, Buddy Packs	3
Getting To Know You	4
Mission Committee	5
On the Rez	6-7
Prayer Walk	8
Spaghetti Dinner for Youth	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 11:00  
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed  
Open Noon to 5 p.m.

#### This Month

#### October 9-12

Midway Students Fall Retreat

#### Tuesday, October 14

Second Tuesday Lunch — Noon  
Prayer Ministry — 1:30

#### October 19— 3:30 –6:00 p.m.

Harvest Festival

#### October 27 — 11:00 a.m.

Gorgeous Girls  
At Just Love Coffee Cafe  
Monday, October 27  
Locust Leaves Deadline

Midway Locust Grove Church



# Locust Leaves

Volume 38  
Number 10  
October 2025

## The Theology of Generosity

What does the Bible really teach us about generosity? Is giving just about money, or is it something deeper? This month, we will journey together through a new sermon series, *The Theology of Generosity*, exploring how Scripture shapes our understanding of wealth, tithing, stewardship, and sacrifice.

At its heart, generosity is not just about what we give, but whom we trust. Jesus makes it clear: our treasure and our hearts are always connected. This series will help us see how generosity flows not from guilt or pressure but from a posture of worship, gratitude, and the Spirit's leading.

Each week, we'll unpack how God calls His people to live with open hands and open hearts:

### •Week 1 – Managing Our Treasures

Jesus calls us to store up treasures in heaven, not on earth. In both Old and New Testaments, giving has always been an act of worship and obedience. God expects us to support His work and the needs of others, but He also invites us to seek His Spirit's guidance as we prayerfully determine what to give.

### •Week 2 – Having the Right Attitude

Jesus reminds us that giving is not about recognition, but about trust and thanksgiving.

### •Week 3 – Being Wealthy and Faithful

Generosity grows when we release worry and trust God for daily provision.

### •Week 4 – Turning Generous Living into Generous Giving

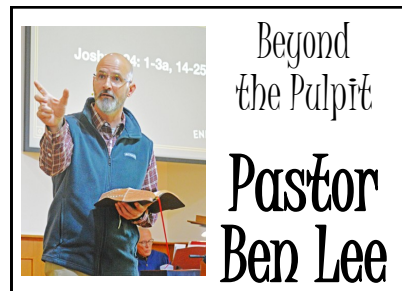
The early church models a Spirit-led, community-focused generosity that reflects the generosity of Jesus Himself.

This series will help us see generosity not as a duty to check off, but as a response to God's extravagant grace. It will remind us that generosity is not about losing what is ours, but about gaining the joy of investing in God's kingdom.

As we begin, let's ask ourselves: *What does my giving, or lack thereof, say about my trust in God? Am I holding tighter to possessions, or to the Provider?*

Join us each Sunday in October as we discover how the generosity of Jesus transforms our lives and how He calls us to extend that same generosity to those around us.

Peace,  
**Ben**



Beyond  
the Pulpit

Pastor  
Ben Lee

# Ministries & Missions



## GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

**October 27 —  
11:00 a.m.**

**Just Love Coffee Cafe**

Crossroads Shopping Center

Email Kathy Koehler

if interested;

[kkoehler1976@gmail.com](mailto:kkoehler1976@gmail.com)

The Gorgeous Girls will meet **October 27 at 11:00 at Just Love Coffee**. It's located at 2101 W. Broadway Ste 104. It's in the Crossroads Shopping Center, facing Stadium, next to the UPS Store. We had a hard time deciding where to go in October and came up with Just Love Coffee Café for someplace different. If you're interested, check out their menu options at <https://justlovecoffeecafe.com>

**Please note the date.** As I mentioned previously, we are going to an every other month gathering, skipping the busy holiday months of November and December. This will be the last Gorgeous Girls Lunch until January. January weather can be iffy, so stay tuned and we'll keep you informed.

We are called Gorgeous Girls in memory of one of our favorite MLG family members, Leon Brown. You may remember Leon from handing out yummy samples at the Broadway Hy-Vee. Leon could never remember names so all the women were called "gorgeous"!

After he passed and we took Helen to lunch, we decided to do lunch on a regular basis and the Gorgeous Girls was formed. One male friend said they should also be invited and call themselves Ugly Bums! So far, that group has not materialized! Whew! There are usually about 12-14 of us. We'd love to meet new MLG family members, so come join us. Reach out to me with any questions or more information. Hope to see you in October.

## Midway Meals Program Providing Free Food To Go

This summer, all families with kids and teens 18 and under can enjoy FREE to-go meals from our church. For more information, contact Jessie Kempf at [Jessica@weichertft.com](mailto:Jessica@weichertft.com) or 573-445-4667.

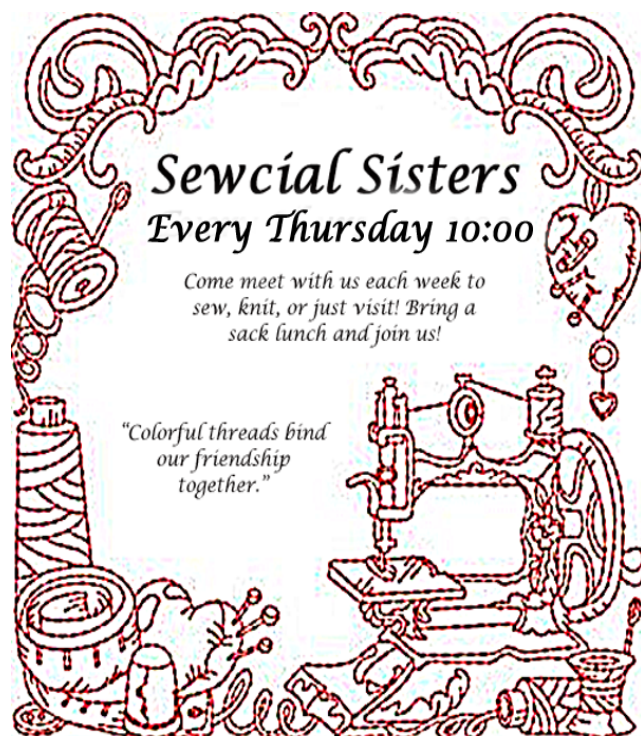
All volunteer openings are filled for this program, thanks to the giving and helping spirit of our congregation.



**International  
Mission Trip to  
Harmons,**

**August 1-8, 2026**

The registration deadline has been extended to February 1, 2026, with 10 spots available. Contact Jessie Kempf at [Jessica@weichertft.com](mailto:Jessica@weichertft.com) if you are interested or have questions.





# Happy Birthday

## October 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.*

2 Isabelle Klaas  
2 Marjorie McFann  
4 Russell Barnes  
5 Suzi Bass Moore  
7 Hope Burkart

9 Marla Le  
13 Vaughn Mueller  
16 Kayla Meyer  
16 Austin Mueller

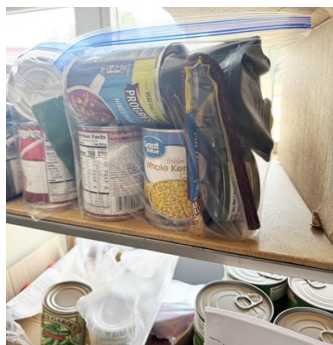
17 Lauren Mendez  
19 Erin White  
21 Zeke Lee  
22 Kelly Cochran

23 Callie Kempf  
26 Noah Mendez  
27 Dalton Perry  
28 Randy Elmore  
30 Lois Douglass

## "Missions Team partners with Midway Elementary to pack Buddy Packs"

Each week, several dedicated volunteers from Midway Locust Grove are lending a hand to help pack Buddy Packs for local children in need at Midway Heights Elementary. These special packs go home with around 15 students every Friday, ensuring they have snacks and simple meals to enjoy throughout the weekend.

The food, provided by the Food Bank, is picked up by our volunteers, delivered to the school, and stored until Thursday morning-when our team gathers to pack the bags. Each Buddy Pack includes a variety of items



such as pre-packaged fruits and veggies, an easy meal (like pasta or soup), and tasty snacks. Many weeks also include milk, juice, or other drinks.

For long weekends or holiday breaks, we add extra items so the children have plenty to carry them through. The school staff has expressed heartfelt thanks for this ministry, which allows them to focus on their students without the added task of coordinating food pickup and packing.

We are thrilled to be part of this outreach and look forward to continuing to serve these children and their families throughout the year.

*Jessie Kempf*

## Mark Your Calendar.

### HARVEST FESTIVAL



3:30-6:00 PM

Food - Games - and Much More!

**19**

October

**Midway Locust Grove Church**

Questions? Contact Shayla Roop  
573-406-4349 [sroop@cpsk12.org](mailto:sroop@cpsk12.org)



## 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.*

### The Moore Family — Karen, Jaxyn, Jordyn

Look up the term “church family” in the dictionary and you might see a photo of Karen Moore and her children, Jaxyn and Jordyn. Then look up “church buffet dinner” and you will find them again.

The Moores are active participants in our church, and are known for having prepared and served some of the best special occasion lunches in their years here.

Karen is the daughter of a Kansas City-based United Methodist Pastor. When Jaxyn was born, Karen decided that she wanted to raise her kids in the church closest to their Brennan Road house, which just happened to be Midway Locust Grove.

Both children were baptized in the church and have grown up getting to know many of its great members. Both Jaxyn and Jordyn participated in Christmas plays and a notable skit in which 8-year-old Jordyn was dumped out of a whale to represent the Jonah Story.

As mentioned above, Karen is well-

known for her famous after-service hosting, which provides members with an array of casseroles, dishes and desserts.

Karen currently works as a patient transporter at Boone Hospital, but was a former physical education teacher for 23 years and an athletic trainer for 10 years.

Jaxyn, a recent honors graduate from Mizzou, currently volunteers at the Russell Boulevard Elementary Library, with hopes to someday becoming a media clerk.

Jordyn formerly served as an accompanist for Rock Bridge High School choirs for six years, and now is participating in a three-year master's Counseling Program.

Both children were born on holidays. Jaxyn was born on Valentine's Day in 2001; Jordyn as born on New Year's Eve in 2004, just 16 hours before the new year.

Karen enjoys reading, traveling and cheering for both Mizzou and Chiefs football.

Jaxyn enjoys reading, traveling, making cards, and listening to music.

Jordyn enjoys playing piano, traveling, talking to people, and crafting. He also enjoys providing special music for worship and accompanying Jim and Glenna's worship music

All three enjoy their pets, two energetic four-year-old German Shepherds, Harley and Buddy, a 10-year old small dog, Daisy, and two cats who live separate lives, trying to hide from their large canine companions.

As mentioned, all three love to travel, both domestically and internationally. They have been to all 50 states and 12 countries. Some favorite memories include celebrating Karen's birthday in front of the Eiffel Tower, watching Jimmy Carter teach Sunday School in Georgia, and seeing the beauty that this world has to offer.





## Missions Committee helps immigrants with home repair

This past Spring the Missions Committee was made aware that a Burmese family who attends Midway Baptist Church had lost the wife due to a fall. The Stull's and the Baumgartner's visited with the father to see if there was anything we could do to help the family.

The family has two children (elementary and high school aged). It was obvious that the front porch of the house needed to be raised because water was running toward the front door. In addition, there was some brick work that needed to be done to the front porch area.

We contacted Raising Solutions to get a bid on the front porch repair and Steve located a brick mason to help him with the brick work. Raising Solutions was excellent to work with!

We contacted Midway Baptist Church and they agreed to pay half of the bill. The Locust Grove Missions Committee voted to assist with this project and approved the payment of the remainder of the bill.

The Missions Committee felt that this was a perfect way in which we could assist a local international family, knowing that a great deal of our church community will not have the opportunity to travel overseas to mission sites. The family is so grateful for this assistance!

If you are interested in directly supporting the work of the Locust Grove Missions committee, donations can be given to the church. Please designate your donation is for the Missions Committee.

***Lynda Baumgartner***



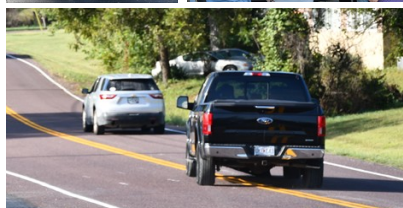
# ON THE REZ

*With Kathy Hughes*

Our adult mission trip of fall 2025 is all wrapped up. And what a gift it turned out to be. Due to our being the next to last week of Re-Member Volunteers season, school back in session and other circumstances, the volunteer core consisted of only the 7 of us from Locust Grove, 4 new friends from Michigan and Keith and Bruce; our volunteer staff leaders. (Keith was there for his second session when we arrived.) Over the course of the week we were all able to connect on a very personal level. Instead of the 4 or 5 people responsible for meal prep and clean-up each meal, the rotation just naturally became whomever was available or had the energy to pitch in, covering for anyone needing ice or a shower or some extra rest. A true team effort all week. What a blessing to witness and experience.

We arrived with our three vehicles packed with gifts for the tribe. Warm coats, hats, gloves and scarves for the winter ahead. Prom dresses for the teen girls. A large cooler packed with meat, and bags of potatoes, carrots, onions, squash and garlic for stews to feed hungry children. Cash to meet some emergency needs. Boxes of books for an elementary school teacher. But the biggest gift? Us. The fact that we cared enough to travel the distance. The fact that we offered our time and service to walk alongside people who mostly feel invisible and forgotten. We were the hands and feet of Christ all week.

Gifts given to us were being able to experience life on the Rez: tours of the area and seeing life up close and personal, a hike and meditation in the Sanctuary, a usually-off-limits area of the Badland. The painful gift of feeling deeply the experience of the Wounded Knee Massacre from a perspective

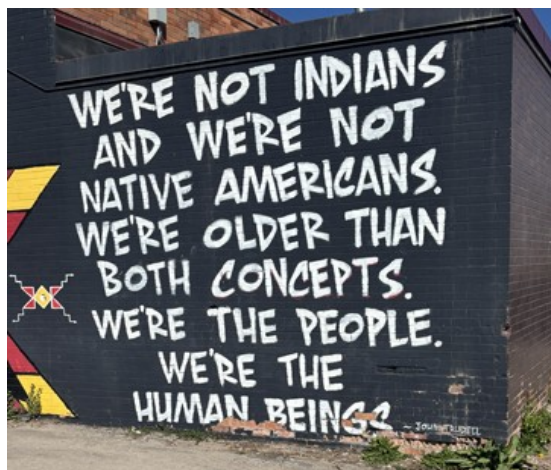


*The team getting ready to leave the church for the trip to the reservation in South Dakota, except for Keith Andersen, who had gone a week earlier. Those shown here left to right are Deborah Taylor, Susan Leach, Dan Meives, Cyn-die Meives, Kathy Hughes, Belinda Thompson, and Mariea Caruthers. Brenda bestowed a Native American blessing on each member of the team and the Meives and Hughes vehicles were loaded and hit the road.*

not found in history books. The gift of having real conversations with present day Lakota and feeling their appreciation, observe their arts and artistic abilities, and make connections.

Our team built bunk bed components, delivered them to homes and assembled them in bedrooms, making the beds with mattresses, sheets, blankets, pillows and leaving bedtime books. We constructed small porches with steps for safe entry into trailers ; leaving behind the stacked pallets with broken slats or piles of unstable cinder blocks used previously. We constructed porches with ramps to allow safe entry and exit for someone in a wheelchair, previously unable to go in and out independently. We did some end-of-season cleanup work at the garden, distributing some vegetables out in a small village, seeing first-hand the benefits of helping establish some food sovereignty in a food desert. We had the





We worked  
and played.



opportunity to spend time with, and work with a family we are assisting with long-term housing.

Our mornings consisted of the opportunity to grab early coffee then hike to the hill above the campus, with a 360 degree view of the area. As the sun first peaked over the horizon below, Belinda led the group in singing the Cherokee Morning Song, followed by morning prayer. What an amazing gift, and inspirational way to start off each day. Our evenings consisted of more learning opportunities, elder speakers coming in and sharing wisdom, history, life on the Rez, music, etc.

Like any mission trip, there were a few hitches, things we might have organized differently. But I am proud to say that our team worked like a well-oiled machine, absolutely supportive of each other, showing nothing but love and comfort (and backrubs!) In future Locust Leaves, I will ask other team members to write about their impressions. As for me, I leave part of my heart on the reservation each time I return. What a blessing. What a gift.





## *A Beautiful Morning of Prayer and Fellowship*



Our Missions Team hosted the second annual Midway Prayer Walk on a gorgeous Saturday morning, and what a blessing it was! About 40 people came together to share in prayer, conversation, and connection with God and one another.

We kicked things off with donuts, coffee, and plenty of smiles before gathering to sing two beloved hymns and pray as a group. Each walker received a lanyard with prayer cards, starting with "P" for Pause. Along the route, new cards were handed out every half mile—R for Rejoice, A for Ask, and Y for Yield—each filled with scripture, prayer prompts, and conversation starters to spark meaningful talks with a walking buddy.

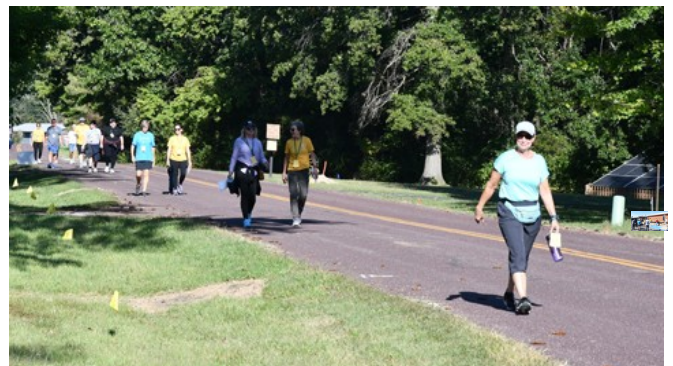
Participants also carried ribbons where they wrote their personal prayers. At the middle of the walk, everyone tied their ribbons to the prayer cross at Midway Heights Baptist Church, creating a beautiful display of faith and hope.

For those who preferred a shorter route, a mini walk and prayer circle were offered at the school so everyone could join in.

It was a wonderful morning of fellowship, reflection, and heartfelt prayer—reminding us once again how powerful it is to pause and pray together as a community.

Please stay tuned for further announcements about another prayer walk in the Spring of 2026!

*Jessie Kempf*





## Midway Students Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction - A Huge Success!

What a night! Our Midway Students ministry hosted the second annual Spaghetti Supper & Silent Auction, and the results were beyond what we imagined. We served dinner to approximately 115 people and were blessed with 47 nearly-famous desserts donated for the auction. When all was said and done, we raised over \$8,000, every penny going directly to support our student ministry.

We are deeply grateful for the many hands that made this event possible. A special thank you to Leslie Brown for heading the entire evening with excellence. Curt Brown and Jerry Wirth worked tirelessly in the kitchen, while Bill & Dale Graff generously donated the beef for our spaghetti sauce. The Sewcial Sisters (plus some!) filled the room with beauty through their floral centerpieces and décor. In addition, there were MANY hands working hard before, during, and after, to make the event all that it was. Thank you all!

Thank you, church family, for showing up, bidding generously, and supporting the next generation of Christ-followers in this place. God is at work in our Midway Students ministry, and your love and support are a central theme of that story!

**Ben Lee**



*The Fellowship Hall was filled to capacity for dining, as was the dessert table for the silent auction fundraiser.*



*Following their service to the diners, the Students invited their guests to the sanctuary where each described their participation in the year's activities.*



**October** brings changing leaves of red and gold, cooler breezes and hectic nights with family activities. This is a quick delicious recipe that can be prepped in 5 minutes and baked and on table in 30 minutes. I always have a rotisserie chicken in fridge for quick casseroles or salads.

Enjoy,

**Hope Burkart**

### ***Ritz Chicken Casserole***

3 cups shredded chicken (I use a rotisserie)  
 1 can cream of chicken soup  
 1 cup sour cream  
 1/2 cup chopped green onions  
 2 sleeves Ritz crackers  
 1 stick melted butter  
 Bake - 350 degrees for 30 minutes

Combine shredded chicken, soup and sour cream and pour into sprayed 9x13 baking dish. Crush Ritz crackers and mix with melted butter. Sprinkle on top of casserole. Top with green onions and bake.



## **Don't forget to join the Harvest Festival Oct. 19**

Our 2nd Annual Harvest Festival will be on Sunday, October 19th from 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Midway Locust Grove Church. Some of the fun events that we are planning are a hayride, bonfire/s'mores, bounce house, petting zoo, yard games, haystack fun, corn sensory play area, and dinner.

This event will be fun for all ages! Please be sure to invite your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of fall fun! Thank you!

### **Harvest Festival Committee**

Shayla Roop [sroop@cpsk12.org](mailto:sroop@cpsk12.org) or (573) 406-4349

Kelley Frink  
 Darren and Erin White  
 Amber Vroman  
 Angie Gerzen

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



*Have you  
visited our  
shop lately?*



Basic necessities free of charge  
to those temporarily in need

Open Oct. 2 & 16

**Twice  
blessed**

Open 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays  
12:00 – 5:00

Midway Locust Grove  
United Methodist Church

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



Twice Blessed is ready to head into Fall with a new inventory on the shelves in the store. We also (thanks to Julie Maxwell!) have a wonderful selection of Halloween costumes and accessories to select from.

Our Twice Blessed Christmas Store is fast approaching and will be on Saturday, December 6th. If you have new or gently used unwanted items in your closets, drawers or cabinets, please consider a donation for the Christmas Store.

Thank you to our wonderful church

family and our community for all your support and donations for Twice Blessed. We could not serve all the customers that we have without you!

Blessings,  
*Glenna and Jill*







## **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  
Email: [mwlocustgrove@gmail.com](mailto:mwlocustgrove@gmail.com)  
Email: [blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Rocheport@aol.com) 573-445-1998

***Find the hidden Bible***  ***in this issue.***

Visit our Web Site: [www.mwlocustgrove.com](http://www.mwlocustgrove.com)

*Volume 38 Issue 10 October 2025*

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



### **The Back Row** **By Gene Baumann**

We have a number of members of our church with a Rocheport address, so I want to point out a new attraction in that historic town.

This being the town's bicentennial year, the Friends of Rocheport Historical Society has just dedicated a mural on the side of its museum building down by the KATY Trail.

Local artist Joe Schlottach completed the mural this month. It features a number of Rocheport's most important historical features, from Lewis and Clark's visit in 1804 to the welcoming couple from the 1970s.

Once the busiest river port

between St. Louis and Omaha, the town also features the only railroad tunnel on the entire KATY Trail.

The mural is visible any time, but the museum is open 1:00 to 4:00 on weekends from May through October. The town is a Boone County treasure; come and help us celebrate our 200th birthday.

