



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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Ministries & Missions	2
Birthdays, In Memoriam	3
Getting To Know You	4
Ronald McDonald House	5
Fami8ly Fun Day	6
A-Frame Preparation	7
Spaghetti Dinner	8
On the Rez	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.

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

Tuesday, September 2 — 6:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study

Tuesday, September 9 — Noon

Second Tuesday Lunch

Prayer Ministry — 1:30

September 20-26

Re-Member Mission Trip

Sunday, September 21

Midway Students Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, September 27

Midway Prayer Walk

Monday, September 29

Locust Leaves Deadline

Midway Locust Grove Church

Locust Leaves



Volume 38

Number 9

September 2025

The Book of Jonah

This month, we're launching a new sermon series called "Running Away: The Book of Jonah." It will be a four-week adventure into the story of a run-away prophet and a relentless God.



Beyond
the Pulpit

Pastor
Ben Lee

Jonah's short book has lots of lessons. From the belly of the ship to the belly of the fish, Jonah shows us what happens when we try to outrun God, as well as what happens when God's mercy runs after us. At the heart of Jonah's story is the good news that no one is beyond the reach of God. Not rebellious cities. Not runaway prophets. Not you or me.

Each week, we will see God's great love and relentless pursuit of sinful people in fresh ways:

Week 1: "Floating in a Sea of Regret" (Jonah 1:1–16)

Jonah rejects God's call and runs away, only to discover his rebellion has consequences for everyone around him. You cannot outrun God's plan for your life.

Week 2: "Prayer from the Deep" (Jonah 1:17–2:10)

While Jonah is at rock bottom, he finds God's mercy. God hears our cries, even in our hard times and lowest moments, and He can use us to fulfill His purposes.

Week 3: "Simple Words, Great Repentance" (Jonah 3:1–10)

Jonah obeys God reluctantly, and an entire city repents of their terrible ways. God does not need our flourish—only our obedience!

Week 4: "Lessons in Grace" (Jonah 4:1–11)

Jonah struggles with God's compassion, but God explains that His mercy is much wider than Jonah's.

This is not just the story of a prophet, it is our story too. Like Jonah, we run, and like Jonah, we discover a God who runs after us continually with unshakeable grace. Our hope with this series is that you will see God's heart much clearer, experience His mercy more completely, and trust His plan more fully.

Let's remind ourselves: we can run, but we cannot outrun the love of God!

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions



GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

October 27 —

11:00 a.m.

Just Coffee

2101 W. Broadway

Email Kathy Koehler

if interested;

kkoehler1976@gmail.com

The Gorgeous Girls will meet **October 27 at 11:00 at Just 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 Coffee 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.

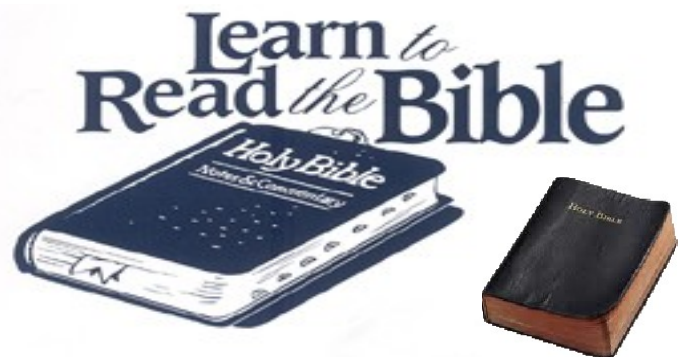
We are called Gorgeous Girls in memory of one of our favorite MLG family members, Leon Brown. You may remember Leon from handing out yummy samples at the Broadway Hy-Vee. Leon could never remember names so all the women were called "gorgeous"!

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.

Pickin' and shuckin' pays off for Twice Blessed and food pantry.

Midway Locust Grove members gathered at the Glenn and Barb Gregory home on Wednesday, July 30 to pick, shuck, and eat sweet corn. Visiting and somewhat cooler temperatures were also enjoyed.

Many members took home extra sweet corn and donations to Twice Blessed totaled \$265; 40 dozen extra ears were donated to the food pantry on Thursday.



**The Men's Bible Study
will meet this Tuesday,
September 2 at 6:00 p.m.
at the church.**

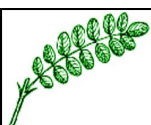
Happy Birthday

September 2025

3 Kieley White 16 Lou Pegues
 5 Stephen Cunningham 16 Lindsey Weaver
 14 John Preus 17 Jane Fulhage
 14 Sheri Stewart 17 Logan Hovis
 14 Shari Thomas 18 Matthew Frink

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.

18 Duane Perry 24 Dean Hovis
 20 Margaret Preus 26 Creed Leverett
 23 Claire Butzlaff 28 Helen Brown
 23 Frank Klaas 30 Rhett O'Neal
 24 Steve Lightner 30 Dennis Shannon



In Memoriam

Randall Edward Elmore

October 28, 1946 - August 18, 2025

Randall E. (Randy) Elmore, age 78, husband of Gyla Elmore, died on August 18, 2025 surrounded by loved ones. Randy was born in Kirksville, MO on October 28, 1946. His parents were the late Francis Elmore and Guyneth (Selby) Elmore of Hurdland, MO.

Randy was very well known in the Northeast Missouri area from his teen years and well into adulthood as the singer and guitarist in "The Twilighters", "Country Flavor" and "B.J. Allen Band". His love of music included Elvis, The Beatles, and Eric Clapton. Randy's special talent has been inherited by his family: for which he was very proud.



Randy graduated Knox Co. High School in 1964. He was active in sports and even played in the over 35 men's softball league. His work history included three jobs: McGraw Edison for about a year, AT & T (formerly Southwestern Bell Telephone) for 36 1/2

years, and Weber Bus Co. for one year.

Randy married Dixie Daniels in 1965. Two children were born to this union. He later married Gyla Rogers on February 28, 1977 and they had one daughter. He is proceeded in death by both his parents, one son, Kayle Edward in 1967, his mother and father-in-law, Merlene and Leon Rogers, one brother-in-law, Bob Rogers and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Those surviving are: his wife, Gyla of 48 years, daughter Kimberly (Elmore) Wynn and husband Jeff of Kirksville: daughter Kassi (Elmore) Jones and husband Brett of Columbia, MO; grandchildren: Brody and Tanner Mathes of Kirksville. Ashtyn Mathes of Lawrence, KS, and Hallie Jones of Columbia.

His favorite past time was watching baseball Cardinals and the K.C. Chiefs games. Unknown to many was his soft heart for all animals.

Randy was raised in the Hurdland Methodist Church and currently was a member of Midway Locust Grove Church.

Funeral services were August 23 at Travis-Noe Funeral Home in Kirksville, officiated by Virgil Jones of Kirksville. Burial followed the funeral at Midway Locust Grove Cemetery in Columbia, officiated by the Rev. Ben Lee.

Pallbearers were: Chris Rogers, Tanner Mathes, Brody Mathes, Joe Maggart, Kolby Martin and Jeff Ransey. Honorary Pall Bearers were: David Daniels, Gary Blurton, Gary Bunch, Jerry Fuller, Bill Daniels and Steve McPherson.



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.

Travis and Michelle O'Neal

Hi, I'm Michelle O'Neal, and my husband is Travis O'Neal. I was born on November 24, and Travis's birthday is March 20. We have two wonderful children, Dalli (born August 26) and Rhett (born September 30), along with our dogs, Haggard and Cash. I've been attending Midway Locust Grove since 1985, and Travis started coming after we met in December 2009.

Travis and I were actually set up by my best friend while I was home in Missouri for two weeks over Christmas — at the time, I was living in Michigan. Just four weeks later, I decided to move back home from Michigan, and 11 months after meeting Travis, we were engaged!

We were married September 3, 2011 right here in the church, and it's been such a joy to raise our family in this church community, where I was raised.

We love the Midway Kids and Students programs, and both Dalli and Rhett look forward to church each week. It's also been wonderful to see the growth and impact of the church over the years

I work as the Operations Manager of Weichert, Realtors® – House of Brokers,



and Travis manages the day-to-day operations of the Big O on the Business Loop. Our kids stay busy with baseball, softball, cheer, wrestling, and football, which keeps our family active and on the go.

In our free time, we love camping, fishing, and spending time outdoors. Travis also enjoys hunting and makes custom duck and turkey calls in his shop at home.

A fun fact about our family: Dalli and Rhett are fourth-generation members of Midway Locust Grove, and we also have a unique historical connection — I'm a relative of Abraham Clark, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Editor's note: Michelle wrote this introduction to her family. Further regarding the multi-generation aspect, her parents are Joe and Hope Burkart, long time MLG members, maternal grandparents were members Dick and Jerry French, and her brother Brian and his wife, Amber, and their four children are currently members.

Do for others what you want them to do for you. Matthew 7:12

Ronald McDonald House team sets record for lunch production



On August 8th our church prepared lunches for children and their families staying at Ronald McDonald House. We made 60 sack lunches and they were delivered to four hospitals in Columbia where children are being cared for. The Ronald McDonald van takes the lunches to the area hospitals for the family members who have children in the hospital. It is so organized and a wonderful blessing for families going through hardship.

While they don't always keep track of their time, someone noted that these meals were prepared in the first half hour of their scheduled time on the job.

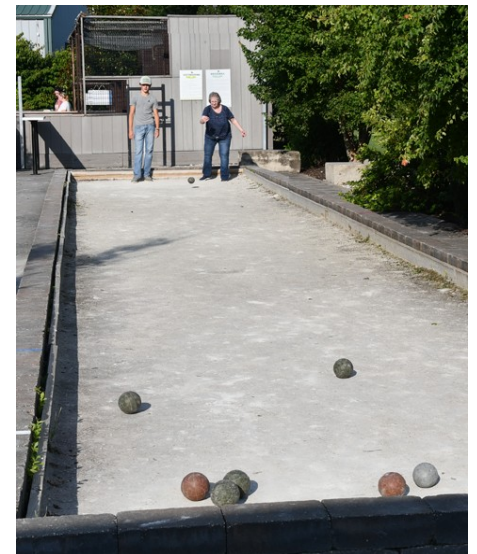
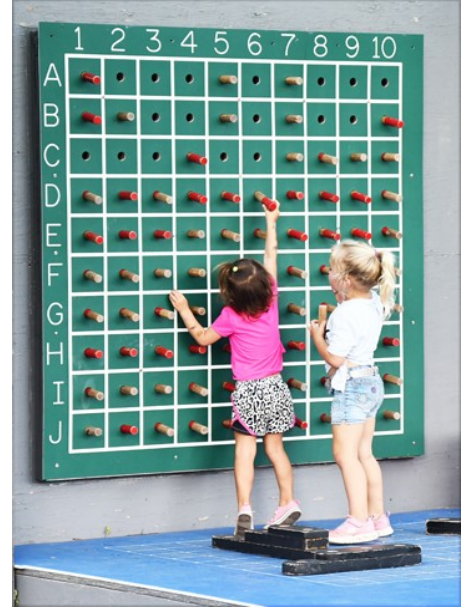


The speedy team, left to right: Steve Luetjen, Beth Luetjen, Cyndie Meives, Dan Meives, Louise Stanley, Carolyn Doyle, Connie Wieberg, and the McDonald van..

Family Fun outing provides abundance of games

Once again the convenience of Midway Golf and Games in our neighborhood provided a good site for family fun August 5.

As the photos show, there was something for all members of our congregation's families.



A-Frame prep continues Danny Coleman Mission

A team of volunteers came together this summer to clean, repair and prepare the Danny Coleman A-Frame for new occupants.

The original residents were able to acquire their own home, making the property available for another family, who are now also attending worship at MLG.

The home was donated to the church by Marsha Coleman for this purpose in honor of her late husband.



Midway Students Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction Fundraiser

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 21, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. and join us for the Second Annual Midway Students Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction Fundraiser!

Last year's very first event was a huge success, raising over \$4,000 to support our youth ministry. This year, we're back and excited to make it even better.

For just \$10 per ticket, you'll enjoy a hearty spaghetti dinner with salad, bread, and dessert, all while investing in the lives of our students. Tickets will be available in the church office or from any Midway Student on Sunday mornings.

Why It Matters

This evening isn't only about food and fun, it's about transformation. Our students will share highlights and testimonies from their 2025 Summer Mission Trip, reflecting

on the ways God shaped their faith and used them to serve others. By attending, you'll get a front-row seat to the impact your support makes.

Silent Auction Fun

Don't miss the Silent Auction, featuring the nearly famous desserts of Middle Missouri! From pies to cookies to decadent cakes, the bidding is lively, the treats are delicious, and every dollar goes toward strengthening our youth ministry.

An Evening of Fellowship and Support

The Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction is becoming a highlight in the life of our church family. It's an evening of churchwide fellowship, celebration, and generosity, all directed toward building up the next generation of believers.

We can't wait to see you there!



During its summer hiatus, choir members have provided special music for worship,

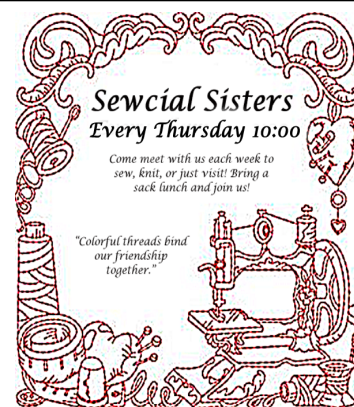


receiving thunderous applause on July 27 for the mixed group, August 17 for the men. Several individuals also have performed through the summer.



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 if you are interested or have questions.



Sewcial Sisters has made 26 aprons and 10 tablecloths for a teachers preschool class.

MISSION: POSSIBLE

Operation: Choir 2025.26

Your mission, should you choose to accept it:
Join the MLG Chancel Choir and help us bring joy, unity, and powerful praise to our worship gatherings.

Rehearsals Begin: Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:29 p.m.

Location: Church Sanctuary

No auditions. All voices welcome.

Contact: Glenna, Jim or ANY choir member

Why Join the Mission?

- Build community through music
- Strengthen worship with your gifts
- Laugh, learn, and grow together
- Be part of something bigger than yourself

Bonus Intel:

- Sunglasses optional, but joy is required
- Choir folders = mission dossiers
- Coffee and camaraderie included
- This message will not self-destruct—
but it might just ignite your spirit

We will spend a week exploring parts of the reservation, learning more about the culture of the Lakota and meeting and catching up with Lakota friends and relatives Will and

With Kathy Hughes

As the Lakota say, Mitakuye Oyasin –
we are all related



The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Falling leaves and cooler temperatures lead us into **September**. This is a make it and forget it type recipe that you can put in oven and walk away till it is done. This recipe is from my friend Carol Lee who was the Midway School Secretary for many years.

Enjoy,
Hope Burkart

Hebrew Chicken

- 2 lbs. Chicken (whole cut-up chicken, legs, thighs, whatever is on sale)
- 1 bottle Russian salad dressing
- 1 pkg. Lipton onion soup mix
- 1 small jar apricot preserves

Place chicken in casserole dish. Mix dressing, soup mix and preserves and pour over chicken.

Bake 45 minutes covered with foil, remove foil and bake additional 15 minutes. Can be served with sweet or russet potatoes.

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@weichhertft.Com or 573-445-4667.

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

Back to School time

Mariea Caruthers and Keith Andersen helped the City of Refuge with its Back to School Bash activities August 11 at the agency's facility in Columbia. They helped put together packets of school supplies for children of immigrant families in central Missouri.



(Brita Sjogren photo)

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
September 9**

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



PRAY. WALK. REFLECT. CONNECT.

Save The Date!
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!



August took off like a rocket on revival fuel at Twice Blessed!

Before the clock even struck 12:35, we had already served 60 guests—and the blessings kept flowing. By day's end, we welcomed **49 new customers** and served a total of **111 people** with warmth, dignity, and joy.

It was more than just a busy day—it was a beautiful reminder of what happens when generosity meets purpose. Thank you to every volunteer, donor, and shopper who helped make this day unforgettable. The mission is alive, and the impact is real!

Jill and Glenna

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

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church



Twice
blessed

Open Sept. 4&18

Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays

12:00 – 5:00

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



We celebrate Ashly and every individual at Twice Blessed who reminds us that grace is never in short supply. At Twice Blessed, we believe in second chances, sacred dignity, and the power of community to transform lives.

As a soon-to-be mom, I was overwhelmed with gratitude when Midway Locust Grove Church became a source of support and blessing for my family during my pregnancy. Their church store provided essential items for our baby, including a precious handmade "Twice Blessed" onesie.

When complications led to early labor, we scrambled through our collection, searching for something that would fit our tiny baby. Miraculously, the "Twice Blessed" onesie was the perfect fit. Seeing my baby girl in that outfit filled my heart with joy, and I couldn't wait to share the picture with the kind ladies at the church store.

Although life got busy, and I delayed my visit, six months later, I finally returned to share the picture and introduce my growing baby girl. The ladies' reactions were priceless, and their congratulations warmed my heart. Their kindness and generosity had made a significant difference in our lives.

I'm forever grateful for the selfless individuals at the church store. Your kindness has blessed my baby girl and me in ways you may never fully know. We're truly twice blessed, and we'll always cherish the love and support you've shown us.

Thank you, Twice Blessed & Midway Locust Grove Church, for being a shining example of community and compassion.

- love Ashly



Glenn and Barb Gregory held their annual CornFest, this year inviting the church for an evening of wonderful food, fellowship, and some of the best sweet corn in Mid-Missouri. It was a wonderful summer evening spent at one of the most beautiful farms around. The pot-luck dinner was spectacular and all the corn anyone could eat was provided. Corn was available to take home, with a donation designated for Twice Blessed. The generous folks attending took home bags of this delicious corn-on-the-cob and donated over \$265 to our own mission, Twice Blessed.

Jill and Glennie want to give a big, buttery shoutout to the Gregorys for hosting the most a-maze-ing CornFest ever! From the delicious meal to the overflowing bags of sweet corn, it was a celebration of generosity with a side of joy. And to everyone who donated to Twice Blessed — thank you for turning kernels of kindness into a full harvest of hope. Your support helps us keep the shelves stocked, the smiles flowing, and the blessings multiplying.



MIDWAY LOCUST GROVE CHURCH

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Columbia, MO 65202

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Administrative Assistant: Catherine Shanahan
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Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
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Facebook: @mwlocustgrove
YouTube: mwlocustgrove
Instagram: @mwlocustgrove

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

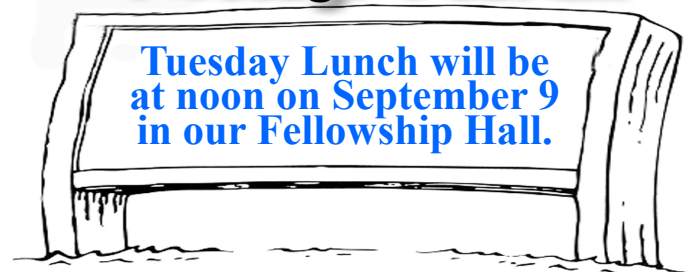
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Find the hidden Bible  ***in this issue.***

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 38 Issue 9 September 2025

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



The Back Row **By Gene Baumann**

I'm sure you have heard me talk about my Corona Tours from the Covid days. I have gotten the urge again to explore the back roads of the area. Surprises like the photo here keep that urge alive and irresistible.

I was prowling Stanley Poe Road south of Columbia recently and came around a curve in the road to see these two life size characters.

I went back the next day to visit residents in the area, and as I arrived next to them, a lady came jogging by. I asked her about them, and she responded, "They just showed up one day." I inquired no further, but in mentioning it to my son, he told me who placed them there. . . a friend of his, someone I know and have visited with. I can hardly wait to see him again



and learn the story behind the display.

While I trust those of you reading this, I don't want to make a big deal of it to the general public for fear of making them a target for graffiti and other mischief. I have learned from my experience with the Big Bur Oak Tree that some folks have no respect for such treasures.

My renewed travels have prompted another topic for discussion. There are a number of roads named after individuals. I would like to research them and introduce those namesakes to my readers. Anyone know anything about Stanley Poe?