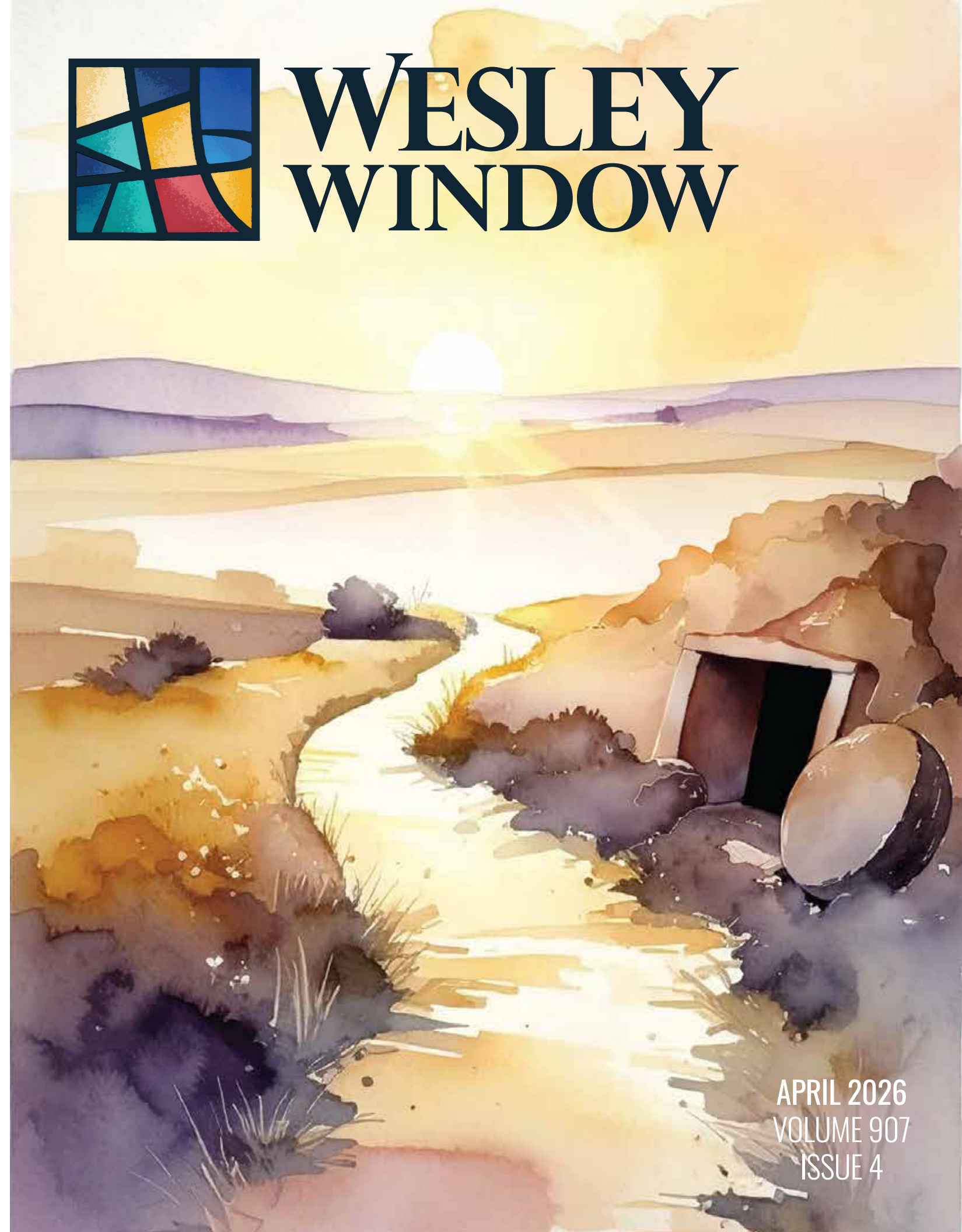




# WESLEY WINDOW



Nonprofit Org.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Macomb, IL  
Permit # 507



# PASTORAL LETTER

*pastor don*

## Confession... I've got nothing! Nadda. Zilch.


If you were in worship recently, you may remember hearing me share with the children that I've broken both my arms and legs in my life. Once when I fell out of the back of a truck and got run over, and another time when I fell out of a tree. You could say, I'm accustomed to pain. Well, I prefer those pains over the pangs of frustration and emptiness I'm feeling as I sit here staring at a blank screen waiting for the inspiration for my Easter newsletter article.

There's nothing I can do, and the harder I try, the worse it gets. That's when it happened. "Bubbling Up and Bursting Out!" was the title of the text this morning from my good friend Carl. He sends me—and about a dozen other friends—a text every morning at 9am, and it usually includes a picture or two, an inspirational thought, and a few sentences about what's going on in his life. I

can always count on Carl's text. Today it was especially appreciated.

His message was about a mural that hangs in the corridor between Midway Airport and the "L" in Chicago. It was created by Chicago teens in the After School Matters Pro-level Painting program. The mural started with the boards that covered the ground floor windows of BMO (Bank of Montreal) U.S. headquarters during the protests following the killing of George Floyd in May 2020. BMO invited Chicago students to transform the boards into works of art calling for a more inclusive and just community. Each student shared an individual message in a "bubble" to inspire change.

Easter is bubbling up and bursting out—both literally and metaphorically. Life has burst forth from death ("for death could not keep him in its grip." ~ Acts 2:24 NLT), and new life is bubbling up all around us in spectacular and simple ways; through grand revelations and gradual evolutions; by profound transformations and private conversations. Through death comes life! Through desperation comes inspiration. Thank you Carl. Thank you for seeing beauty all around you, and for sharing the beauty you see. This is Easter!

Grace and peace, 



Created with mentor instructors Russell Weiss and Andrea Jablonski through the After School Matters program in arts, communications and leadership, STEM and sports - <https://afterschoolmatters.org/about-us/>.

## EASTER OFFERING

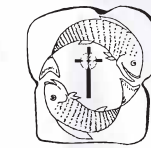
*This Easter we are pleased to dedicate our special offering to support three important local ministries that serve our neighbors in need:*



Samaritan Well, Inc. provides transitional housing and compassionate support services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness here in Macomb — offering not just shelter, but help with the tools and resources needed to find stability and move toward lasting change.



Genesis Garden is focused on emergency shelter and housing solutions for families facing housing crises, helping individuals move from instability to safe, stable living situations. Their work reflects a strengths-based, supportive approach to addressing homelessness right here in our community.



**Loaves and Fishes Etc.**

Loaves & Fishes has long been a vital food assistance resource for people struggling with food insecurity in McDonough County. After facing funding challenges that led to a temporary closure and subsequent reopening, the need for consistent support remains high as they continue to provide grocery vouchers and essential food resources to hundreds of households each month.

***We chose these ministries because more families are depending on them—and because they need encouragement during a season of transition. Your Easter gift will strengthen their work when our community needs it most.***

***Give by scanning the QR code above or by writing "Easter Offering" on your check to Wesley UMC. A giving envelope is included with the newsletter, and in the pews, for your Easter offering.***



*get to know our wonderful*

## NURSERY STAFF

Ada Mealiff, a sophomore at MHS, aspires to become a musical theater stage actor. Ada plays the flute in the high school band and the Quincy Area Youth Orchestra, sings in multiple choirs at school, and performs in MHS and Summer Stage productions. This is Ada's second year working in the WUMC Nursery, and you may also see her working at the Macomb Public Library.



# COMMITTEE CORNER

## Blessing Bags

Thank you, church, for your generous contributions to the "blessing bags" for Countryside Care Center. The Social Concerns committee will deliver these bags on April 20th. Your generosity will brighten the lives of the residents of Countryside. Thank you for your support.

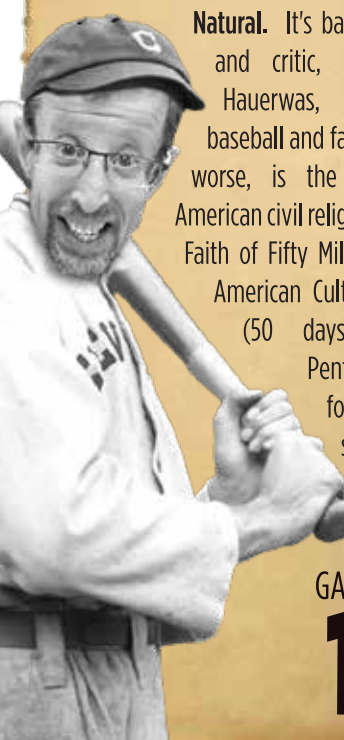
*sharon evans*



**ADMIT ONE • HEAVEN'S GATE**

FIELD of  
*Dreams*  
AFTER THE RESURRECTION

**JOIN US** for this four week series starting Sunday, April 12th. Be sure to support your team for game 1 by wearing your favorite team colors and attire. Each Sunday will be themed on a classic Baseball movie like: **Field of Dreams, Bull Durham, A League of Their Own, The Sandlot and The Natural.** It's baseball season, and as a fan and critic, Pastor Don, like Stanley Hauerwas, sees parallels between baseball and faith. "...baseball, for better or worse, is the great exemplification of American civil religion" wrote Hauerwas in "The Faith of Fifty Million: Baseball, Religion and American Culture." So, during Eastertide (50 days between Easter and Pentecost) we'll explore the forty days of resurrection stories in the gospels, celebrating new life in Christ. **Play ball!**



GAME | **APRIL 12TH**

**1** | *Paid in Full*

**Wesley Leadership & Ministry Teams**  
*Interested in serving or learning more?*  
*Contact the chairperson listed below.*

**Staff Parish Relations Committee**  
Chair: Steve Hopper  
Meets: 4th Monday Monthly

**Board of Trustees**  
Chair: Jay Cremer & Chris Trennepohl  
Meets: 4th Monday Monthly

**Finance Committee**  
Chair: Mike Haefner  
Meets: 3rd Tuesday Monthly

**Missions Committee**  
Chair: Jim Olsen  
Meets: 3rd Monday Monthly

**Christian Education Committee**  
Chair: Sarah Clemente  
Meets: 1st Tuesday Monthly

**Nurture Committee**  
Meets: 3rd Wednesday Monthly

**Witness, Hospitality & Communications**  
Chair: Tim Rice  
Meets: 4th Tuesday Monthly

**Social Concerns Committee**  
Chairs: Sharon Evans & Mary Gillingham  
Meets: 3rd Monday Monthly

**Worship Committee**  
Chair: Michele Long  
Meets: 3rd Monday (Bi-Monthly)

**Nominations Committee**  
Chair: Pastor Don Long

**Fellheimer Trust Board**  
Chair: Ericka Hendrickson

**Wesley Christian Child Care Board**  
Chair: Breann Pumo  
Meets: 4th Thursday Monthly

# MISSION OF THE MONTH:

## International Assistance Fund

### What would you do if an emergency happened far from home?

Imagine being thousands of miles away when a dentist tells you that you need a root canal—immediately. Or receiving news that a loved one is dying, but realizing that even with careful budgeting, you can't afford the trip home.

These are real situations faced by international students in our community.

Recognizing this need, Rodney and Bertha Fink established the **International Student Assistance Fund** with a generous gift and a vision: to ensure that students facing unexpected financial hardships would not have to navigate them alone. They entrusted the Missions Team to carry that vision forward—and that promise continues today.

Through this fund, our church is able to respond when urgent needs arise—whether medical, personal, or professional. The fund is intended for emergencies and does not cover regular, ongoing expenses.

Assistance is available to international students at Western Illinois University, with priority given to those connected to WUMC and the WIU Wesley Foundation. Each request is thoughtfully considered through an application and conversation with a pastor.

### You can be part of this ministry.

Your gift provides more than financial help—it offers compassion, dignity, and a reminder that no one is alone, even far from home.

*Please consider making a contribution to the International Assistance Fund this month and help us continue caring for our international students in meaningful, life-changing ways.*



## INTERNATIONAL ASSIST. AT A GLANCE



**THE IMPACT** *Since* **JAN 2025**

**7** **Students & Families**

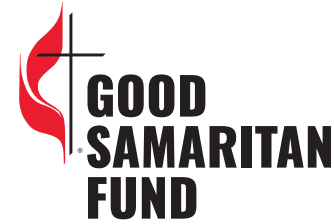
**Direct Aid**  
**\$5,810.00**  
**Provided**

*Thank You* **for your generosity!**

## MISSIONS UPDATE:

We're excited to introduce a new monthly Missions update in our newsletter!

Each month, we will share an update reflecting how much was raised for our Mission of the Month and how your gifts are making an impact.



### January Mission of the Month – Wesley Good Samaritan Fund

In January, our focus was the Wesley Good Samaritan Fund. Together, we were able to contribute an incredible \$10,834 to this vital ministry. This fund allows our church to respond directly to individuals and families in our community who are facing urgent financial needs—providing assistance with things like utilities, housing, and other essentials. Many members of our congregation also support this fund year-round, making it a continual source of compassion and care.



### February Mission of the Month – Midwest Mission

Thanks to your generosity, we sent a check for \$3,400 to Midwest Mission! Midwest Mission is a United Methodist organization based in Illinois that collects, assembles, and distributes disaster relief supplies and humanitarian aid both across the United States and around the world. From cleaning kits and school supplies to medical equipment, their work brings hope and practical support to communities in need.

**Thank you for your faithful giving and for helping us live out our mission to serve others!**

**Learning.**  
**Growing.**  
**Serving.**

