



WESLEY WINDOW



WINTER IN JULY?

THE COOLEST WEEK OF THE SUMMER IS COMING TO
WESLEY AS SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN VBS ARRIVES!

SEE INSIDE!

JULY 2026
VOLUME 907
ISSUE 7



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



PASTORAL LETTER

pastor don

I don't know much about him, except that his name is Brian Robles, AKA: Jefferson Parker, AKA: Professor Jefferson Parker, and according to his Facebook page, he lives in Wichita, Kansas. If so, then the professor took a seven-hour, 500-mile journey to Macomb to take part in our Heritage Days festivities this past weekend. I had the chance to meet Professor Parker at the parade. The word that keeps coming to mind is "whimsical."

Granted Mr. Parker was likely paid to participate in the festivities, considering his page also says he is "self-employed," but none-the-less, he drove a great distance to share what I've heard referred to as, "L'eco di piccolo gentilezze. Translated from Italian, it means "echo of small kindnesses."

I first heard the phrase in a social media post called "Conspiracy of Kindness" by Neal Foard when he told the story of an encounter that took place in a small café between a little girl (dressed like a princess) and her father, and two college students. Foard had the chance to talk with one of the students after the delightful exchange, and he learned that she was simply trying to "never leave a room without leaving behind a smile," a lesson she had learned from her Italian grandfather. (To hear the story, search Neal Foard on Instagram).

I walked away with a smile from my meeting with the professor on his Penny-Farthing High Wheel Bicycle.

I also ended the weekend smiling following the retirement celebration of Pastor Paul

and Tess Newhall after serving the Wesley Foundation on the campus of WIU for three years. In my message celebrating Paul's ministry I quoted James 2, in which he writes, "show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds."

We people of faith, we are called to be doers of the Word, not merely hearers (James 1). We are to sow the seeds of the gospel, watered by grace, that God may bring growth (1 Corinth. 3:6-7), bearing the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).

Surely there will be grand celebrations for our 250 years, and rightly so. But amid parades, parties, and lots of fireworks, what I will probably remember most will be the moments that left me smiling, from which the fruit of the Spirit will grow.

L'eco di piccolo gentilezze!



THANKS/GIVING!

Dear Pastor Don and wonderful congregation of Wesley,

Thank you so much for the beautiful farewell and the warm send-off you gave me. I am deeply touched by your love, your prayers, gifts, and the fellowship we shared. It has been a true blessing to be part of such a caring church family, and I will miss you all dearly.

In Christ,
pastor melly

Dear Friends at Wesley Church,

Thank you for the generous donation to the Wesley Foundation. We received the check from your May Mission giving and it was overwhelming! Knowing there are many folks supporting our ministry in so many different ways always makes me smile. We couldn't do the things we do without you.

Thank you for all you do!
rev. paul newhall, director emeritus

MAY MISSION OF THE MONTH:

Thank you for your generous support of our May Mission of the Month, the Wesley Foundation! Thanks to the congregation's giving, along with our Missions Committee pledge, we were able to present the Wesley Foundation with a check for \$6,135 to support their ministry with college students. Thank you for making a difference through your generosity!

missions committee



ENVIRONMENTAL TALK

mary gillingham

It has been 20 years since Al Gore introduced climate change to a mainstream audience through the film *An Inconvenient Truth*. This prompted more and more people to talk about climate change as a moral imperative. It remains a morally based movement, just as history has seen other moral movements—the anti-slavery movement, the anti-apartheid movement, the civil rights movement, and the women's rights movement. In every one of these cases, there were times of doubt. Yet in each, the central choice was between right and wrong.

Regarding climate change, Gore argues that alternative sources of energy are not only cleaner but also much less expensive. He also points to growing evidence that pollution contributes to a wide range of health problems. Gore urges us to take this issue seriously. Look at what you can do in your household, your neighborhood, and your community. It is important to get involved in conversations where you live.



RIPPLE EFFECT!

We're called to care for what we've been given—and that includes the world around us. Wesley Church is a Ripple Glass drop-off location. Bring your glass, reduce waste, and join us in turning everyday choices into meaningful impact.

Learn how to "give glass a second chance" at rippleglass.com.

MISSION OF THE MONTH:



Special Sundays:

Throughout the year, United Methodist churches across the globe participate in Special Sundays—designated days that focus on ministries that reflect our shared commitment to love, justice, learning, and unity. Our June Mission of the Month supports the work made possible by these five offerings:

Human Relations Day • Native American Ministries Sunday • Peace with Justice Sunday
World Communion Sunday • United Methodist Student Day

Together, these Special Sundays allow us to extend Christ's love and hope in tangible, transformative ways.

Our Golden Cross ministries include:

Chaddock (Quincy, IL) • Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House (East St. Louis, IL)
The Baby Fold (Normal, IL) • Spero Family Services (Mt. Vernon, IL) • Evenglow Lodge (Pontiac, IL)
Sunset Home (Quincy, IL) • Wesley Village (Macomb, IL) • Hospital Pastoral Care at Alton Memorial Hospital (Alton, IL)

Golden Cross Sunday is a time to remember our call to care for others. Your gifts this month will be shared among these ministries, helping extend God's love beyond the church doors.

GETTING TO KNOW *pastor markus mckinney*



rooted in family

Pastor Markus McKinney was born and raised on Chicago's South Side. His mother, Arnette McKinney, is a teacher with Chicago Public Schools, and his father, Mark McKinney, retired from Morgan Stanley. He has two older sisters—Ariel, who works in nursing, and Nia, who is in education—as well as an 11-year-old niece, Hannah, and five-year-old twin nephews, Stephon and Shaquan.

a calling that grew naturally

Being active in church from an early age laid the foundation for Pastor Markus's call to ministry.

"I was involved in so many church organizations that I was basically at church every other day."

Serving others and building relationships became second nature. While attending college, he joined the Student Ministry Fellowship, where he saw both the impact ministry had on his own life and the difference it made in the lives of others. That experience led him to discern God's call into full-time ministry.

a faith that started early

Faith has always been woven into Pastor Markus's life.

He remembers singing during Vacation Bible School at just three years old—never imagining that one day the pulpit would become such a familiar place. Looking back, he sees how those early experiences helped shape a lifelong relationship with God.

Today, his faith reminds him to trust God, love people well, seek the good in others, and build meaningful relationships.

looking ahead

Pastor Markus hopes to build a strong foundation of trust throughout the Tree of Life Parish.

"I want everyone to know they have a new pastor who cares and will love them endlessly."

He recognizes that transitions are never easy after saying goodbye to a beloved pastor, and he wants members to know that while he isn't replacing Pastor Melly, he is committed to loving and serving the congregation wholeheartedly.

- Brown Belt in Taekwondo
- Used to Play the Saxophone
- Proud Jeep Enthusiast
- Loves Architecture & Building Projects
- Favorite Foods: Burgers and BBQ
- Dream Destination: Egypt

✉ pastormarkus@macombwesleyumc.com



CHALLENGE ACCEPTED!



MORE THAN JUST GAMES

A Week That Builds Faith

Every summer, Vacation Bible School becomes one of the most important weeks in the life of our church. Children laugh, sing, create, explore, and make new friends—but even more importantly, they discover who God is and how deeply they are loved.

This year, our church is heading to Snowball Mountain Challenge, an unforgettable winter adventure where children become Challengers, learning that true strength doesn't come from being the fastest, strongest, or bravest on their own.

It comes from God.

"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

Inspired by Philippians 4:13—each day combines energetic games, music, crafts, science activities, Bible stories, and hands-on experiences that help children discover how God gives us strength for everyday life.

Throughout the week, our energetic Activities Director and the lovable Ollie the Arctic Seal will guide children through exciting snowy adventures while sharing timeless biblical truths.



LIFT LESSONS

I can share my gifts.
I can be brave.
I can give my all.
I can pray.
I can hope.

These aren't just lessons for one week, they're truths children can carry into school, friendships, sports, and everyday life.

It Takes an Entire Church

Vacation Bible School isn't simply a children's ministry. It's one of the biggest mission opportunities our congregation has each summer.



Invite!



Volunteer!



Pray!



Join the Adventure!

Snowball Mountain Challenge
July 20–24

6:00–7:45 PM

Wesley United Methodist Church