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WESLEY WINDOW

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PASTORAL LETTER

pastor don

I've been in ministry for 34 years. I've served as a "solo" pastor (although I was never alone because of the connectional ministries of the United Methodist Church) and I've served with clergy colleagues, all of whom have taught me much.

For the last two years, I've had the distinct honor and privilege of serving alongside the Rev. Melly Momo. Through Pastor Melly's leadership, I have come to a much deeper understanding of Proverbs 9:10: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

The Bible talks about fear often. "Fear not!" is one of the most repeated commands, usually uttered by some kind of angel or heavenly being. Jesus himself said, "Fear not," or "don't be afraid," a dozen times. So, which is it? Fear God or fear not?

Pastor Melly has taught me it's both, not so much with her words but by her actions. Let me explain.

"Fear of God" is deeply misunderstood. It isn't about trembling before divine wrath; it means that wisdom begins by honoring reality—being profoundly honest about what is. Pastor Melly—in my estimation—embodies this. Some name it as a "calming," or "non-anxious presence." Others might experience it as a "peace that passes understanding." However you might describe it, Pastor Melly embodies the peaceful presence of Christ. When others would be filled with great angst, clamoring with uncertain speculation and nervous energy, Pastor Melly would respond, "oh my goodness!" then smile, quietly chuckle

in a way that disarms the moment, and finally, calmly set about walking with you and working through the nuanced reality.

I have watched Pastor Melly face uncertain circumstances with faith and certainty; Faith being "the assurance of what we hope for, confidence in what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1), and certainty knowing "God will work all things for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

Finally, Proverbs 3:5 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." Pastor Melly has helped us trust in the Lord. She has helped us face things as they are—even when it is scary and hard—and with the confidence and assurance of our faith, even smile and laugh a little because we know God will work this for our good.

Thank you, Pastor Melly, for teaching us how to "fear the Lord" and "fear not," and for constantly reminding us that the Lord is always with us, working all things together for good.

Pastor Don



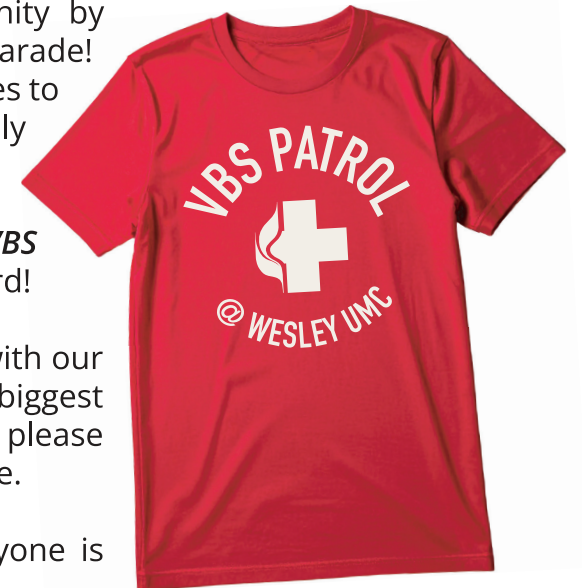
WALKIN' WITH WESLEY!

Help Wesley UMC share God's love with our community by walking with our church float in the Heritage Days Parade! Volunteers are needed to hand out flyers and invite families to our upcoming VBS, **Snowball Mountain Challenge**, July 20–24.

As a thank-you, all parade volunteers will receive a **free VBS Patrol t-shirt** to wear during the parade and keep afterward!

This is a fun and easy way to represent Wesley, connect with our neighbors, and help spread the word about one of our biggest outreach events of the summer. If you'd like to participate, please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the church office.

Let's show Macomb that Wesley is a place where everyone is welcome! Make sure to sign



get to know our wonderful NURSERY STAFF

Olivia Hawkins is a freshman at MHS and is thrilled to be working in the nursery for the first time this year. In addition to being an MHS cheerleader, Olivia participates in Color Guard, band (saxophone), choir, Student Council, and Thespians.

MISSION OF THE MONTH:

This month, Wesley UMC is supporting Barakah-ONG, the ministry founded by Pastor Melly Momo to serve vulnerable children and families in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Through your generosity, we are helping build a Christ-centered orphanage in Kolwezi that will provide a safe and loving home for children in need. Every gift makes a difference as we continue building hope, faith, and opportunity—one brick at a time.



ONG BARAKAH
Living Water. Living Hope.



← **GIVE ONLINE**



OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASST. FUND AT-A-GLANCE



THE IMPACT *in* APRIL

\$4,000 Missions

\$2,965 Congregation

Total
\$6,965
Provided

COMMITTEE CORNER

Diaper Drive

The Western Illinois Regional Council is in need of diapers for children and babies in our community. Disposal diapers are expensive. And, unfortunately, many families do not have money to purchase them. During the month of June, the Social Concerns Committee is collecting diapers, size newborn to size 5. At the end of June the Social Concerns members will deliver the diapers to WIRC. Your contributions and support are much appreciated. If you need us to shop for you, please drop off money in the office or put in an envelope marked "diapers" in the offering plate. Thank you so much for your generosity.

social concerns committee

Trip to Work at the Midwest Mission

Midwest Mission is a great place to work and it's fun. By serving there we are helping to serve people domestically and around the world.

We are forming a group to work at the Midwest Mission, in Pawnee, IL, on Thursday, July 9, 2026. We'll work the morning (8:30-11:30 am) and afternoon (12:30-4:00 pm) shifts. We'll drive down together in the morning and return home in the evening. The cost is \$16 per person, but scholarships are also available. We have 13 morning and 13 afternoon slots. Contact Jim Olsen for more information or to sign up at 309-313-4991.

jim olsen

XYZ

Are you frustrated by the scams that show up on your phone or computer? Our next XYZ presentation can help you navigate those challenges!

Our own Jeremy Merritt will present "Common Online Scams: How to Recognize and Avoid." Jeremy is the Director of Web Services at Western Illinois University (WIU), where he oversees the development and maintenance of the university's official website and web applications. He also directs the university-wide cybersecurity training program, managing annual compliance and phishing-awareness initiatives for all employees.

Mark your calendars for July 23 at 1:00 p.m. in the atrium.

marcia moulden

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