

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



**Prayer Walk for Peace**

GoWest Bus Provided

Wear Purple

Remember Your Water Bottle

Ends @ Chandler Park

**Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm**  
Meet @ Wesley Foundation  
1325 W University Dr.

In case of rain, we will still gather at Wesley Foundation, 1325 University Dr.

Sponsored by MACMA

**potluck**

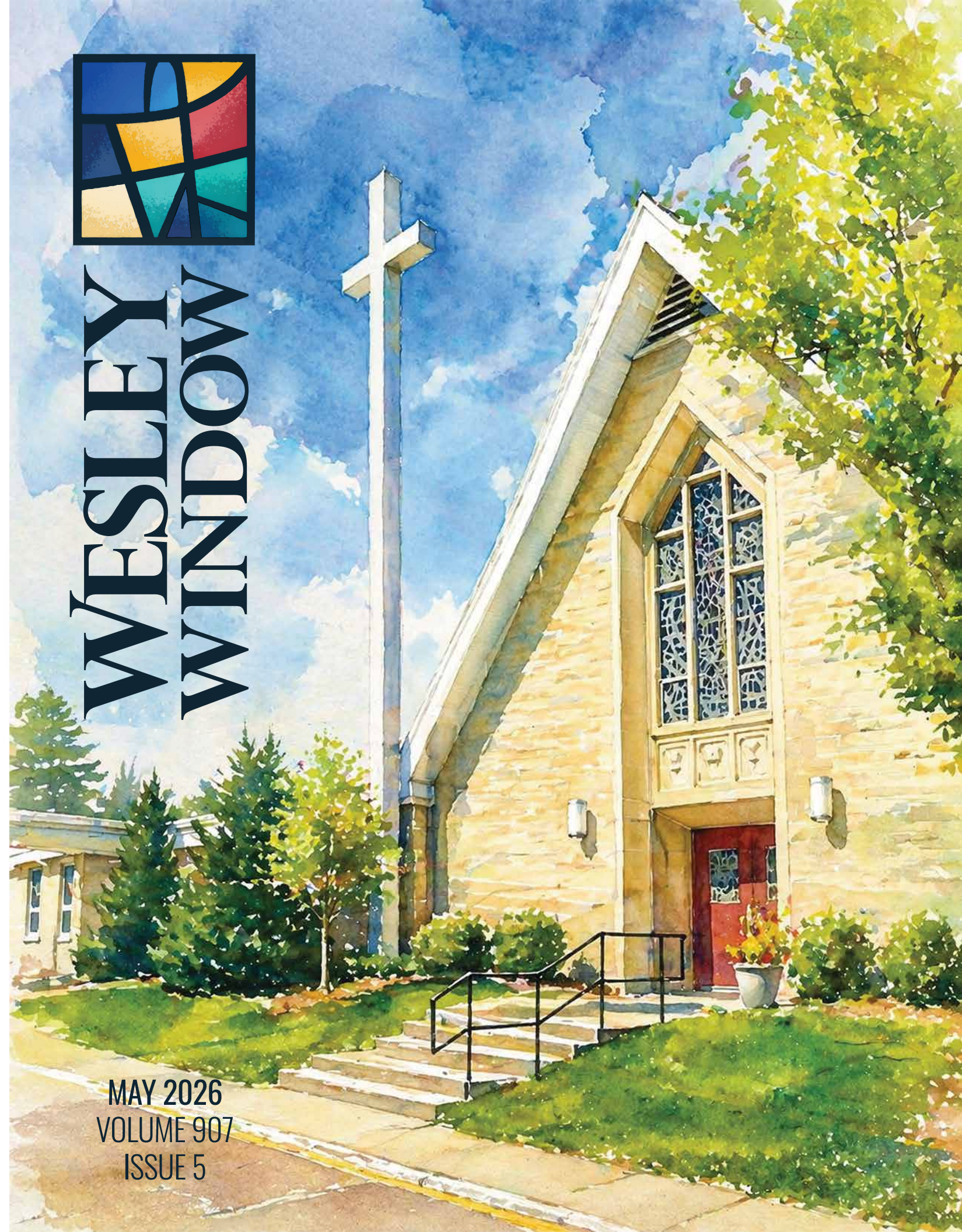
*Melly Momo*

**\*JUNE 14TH\***  
AFTER 2ND SERVICE

**save the date**



# WESLEY WINDOW



MAY 2026  
VOLUME 907  
ISSUE 5



# PASTORAL LETTER

pastor don

May is a busy month! Proms, graduations, beginnings and endings. So much to do.

I thought about the words of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God." I thought about Minong, WI, a place where I can quiet my mind, and how, for the second year in a row, I won't be going because... well, because we're just too busy.

Then I read something from my friend Tom called, "Thin Places." He wrote about a time we all spent together in the Smoky Mountains.

He rented a lodge with lots of rooms and gathered a couple of dozen of his closest family and friends to celebrate his 60th birthday in March 2020. (Little did we know just a few days after that gathering the world would shut down because of COVID).

Tom's friends and family weren't the only visitors. A few bears showed up on the deck of the lodge. About this he wrote, "We went very still. The bears did not. They moved along the railing with that unhurried confidence that large wild animals have when they are entirely at home and you are entirely a guest. For a few long moments, the only thing between us was glass."

I remember the moment. He's right. We all froze. Nobody said anything. We just watched.

He continued, "What settled over that cabin wasn't fear, exactly. It was something older

than fear. Something closer to awe.

The Celtic Christians had a phrase for places like that. They called them thin places—where the distance between the human and the holy, between the visible and the invisible, grows so thin you can almost see through it. You don't have to be told when you've found one. Something in you goes quiet before you even decide to.

The created world has always been the most widely available scripture. Long before anyone wrote anything down, human beings were reading it — the stars, the sea, the sunrise, the bears and the birds. Every tradition that has ever tried to say something true about God has reached for the natural world around them, because it refuses to merely be scenery."

**"Something in you goes quiet before you even decide to."**

The same God who called creation good in the beginning is the God who meets us there still. Not metaphorically. Actually. The thin places are thin because God is closer than we imagine, present in

ways that exceed our categories and resist being contained inside our buildings and our doctrines and our Sunday mornings. God is with us, always, everywhere, anywhere.

So go about the busy month ahead, and as you do, don't forget to take time and be still. Let the world do what it does. See God in the sky, a line of trees, and a field of grass. Hear God in a bird's call, a baby's cry, and laughter and celebratory cheers.

The God who made it all is still in it. Still speaking. Still very near! Discover the thin places, and when you do: Stop. Look! Listen! Be still and know that God is.

Grace and peace,

# ENVIRONMENTAL TALK

mary gillingham

I've been reading Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home, Laudato Si', the second encyclical of Pope Francis (2015). It's written in short, numbered sections (1-246), which is helpful because it's a challenging read that I've needed to process slowly.

These readings have led me to reflect on how human activity is affecting the environment. Creation, entrusted to us by God, is suffering under our care. In paragraph 152, Pope Francis writes:

*"Our difficulty in taking up this challenge seriously has much to do with an ethical and cultural decline which has accompanied the deterioration of the environment."*

In other words, we may be unaware—or so distracted by prosperity—that we miss how our actions negatively impact the world around us.

These words have given me pause and led me to consider these questions:

- Do we live in a self-centered culture?
- Are we prone to impulsiveness and wastefulness?
- Do we consider how our actions affect future generations?
- What steps can we take to care for the environment?

I encourage you to reflect on these questions with me—and to explore, discern, and commit to action, no matter how small. Together, may we take this challenge seriously, as our faith calls us to do.



# RIPPLE EFFECT!

We're called to care for what we've been given—and that includes the world around us. Wesley Church is now 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](http://rippleglass.com).



## get to know our wonderful NURSERY STAFF

Xander Merritt is a sophomore at MHS and is in his second year working in the WUMC Nursery. Xander is a dedicated member of the MHS cross country and track teams, as well as an active member of the Boy Scouts of America. Xander likes to spend his free time outside running, fishing, and exploring.



# CROSS & LIFE PROJECT

On Palm Sunday, the 3rd-6th grade Sunday School class made a special Easter project out of a single piece of paper. Read about it at [macombwesleyumc.com/cross\\_life\\_project](http://macombwesleyumc.com/cross_life_project)

## COMMITTEE CORNER

**XYZ**  
 We are pleased to announce that our own Melly Momo will present at the next XYZ gathering on May 21, 2026, at 1:00 PM. She will share the story of a dream coming to fruition—Barakah ONG in Kolwezi, Congo. Join us to hear the full story and learn about the vision for the future.  
*marcia moulde*

**Threads of Friendship**  
 Several months ago, our group started meeting twice a month for fellowship to enjoy our love of creativeness--sewing, knitting, crocheting or basically any hobby. Individuals bring their own crafting supplies. The group meets twice a month on Mondays from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the church. Recently, we decided to start designating a day to work on mission projects. This month we will meet on the 4th and 18th. When we meet on May 4th, we will be sewing one-handed cloth bags for Midwest Missions. We would love to have new crafters join our group! If you have questions, please contact Cindy at 309.255.5080.  
*cindy hare*

**Study Bags**  
 Thank you for your generous contributions to the "study bags" for local high school and college students. The Nurture Committee will have them available on May 5. Your support helps provide snacks for students during exams—thank you!  
*nurture committee*

**Blessing Bags**  
 Thank you for your generous support of the "blessing bags" for Countryside Care Center. The Social Concerns Committee delivered them on April 20. Your kindness brings joy to residents—thank you!  
*social concerns committee*



### Wesley Leadership & Ministry Teams

*Interested in serving or learning more? Contact the chairperson listed below.*

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Staff Parish Relations Committee</b><br>Chair: Steve Hopper<br>Meets: 4th Monday Monthly   | <b>Missions Committee</b><br>Chair: Jim Olsen<br>Meets: 3rd Monday Monthly                  | <b>Witness, Hospitality &amp; Communications</b><br>Chair: Tim Rice<br>Meets: 4th Tuesday Monthly       | <b>Nominations Committee</b><br>Chair: Pastor Don Long  |
| <b>Board of Trustees</b><br>Chair: Jay Cremer & Chris Trennepohl<br>Meets: 4th Monday Monthly | <b>Christian Education Committee</b><br>Chair: Sarah Clemente<br>Meets: 1st Tuesday Monthly | <b>Social Concerns Committee</b><br>Chairs: Sharon Evans & Mary Gillingham<br>Meets: 3rd Monday Monthly | <b>Fellheimer Trust Board</b><br>Chair: Ericka Hendrickson                                    |
| <b>Finance Committee</b><br>Chair: Mike Haefner<br>Meets: 3rd Tuesday Monthly                 | <b>Nurture Committee</b><br>Meets: 3rd Wednesday Monthly                                    | <b>Worship Committee</b><br>Chair: Michele Long<br>Meets: 3rd Monday (Bi-Monthly)                       | <b>Wesley Christian Child Care Board</b><br>Chair: Breann Pumo<br>Meets: 4th Thursday Monthly |

# MISSION OF THE MONTH: Rice Project



## Help us provide hunger relief.

Our goal is again to pack 1,000 rice meal kits. These meal packs will provide food for 6,000 people in need, and we need your help to make it happen. Each kit includes a mix of protein/vitamin powder, dehydrated vegetables, soy flour, and white rice, and will be assembled for the Midwest Mission Distribution Center, which distributes these meals to countries in need around the world.

## How can you contribute?

We are also collecting donations to cover the cost of the meal packs and shipping, which is \$2 per bag. If you'd like to contribute, please note "Rice Project" on the memo line of your check. Don't want to waste a paper check? Use the QR code to pay online.

## Sign up to help!

To help us plan, we encourage you to sign up in advance (but this is not required), for our next packing event on June 13th from 8am-Noon.

*Thank You* for your generosity!



## OUR "MIDWEST MISSION" AT-A-GLANCE



## THE IMPACT *in* 2025

**2000** Rice & Soy Blessing bags

**12,000** Individuals Fed

**Direct Aid  
\$4,000  
Provided**

## MINISTRY METRICS: *lauren merritt*

As we review our first quarter financials, a few key items stand out across our ministries. Operations are currently in the red, primarily due to the annual Church Mutual insurance payment made early in the year. This normal, one-time expense impacts early reports but will balance out over time.

Payroll costs are also above budget and will remain elevated through June. Beginning in July, expenses will decrease as we welcome Pastor Marcus and share payroll costs with Bushnell and Walnut Grove UMCs. We expect finances to even out and anticipate ending the year in the black, barring any major unexpected expenses.

Trustees have had a steady start to the year, with no major building projects—only routine maintenance and minor repairs. As a result, they have not needed to draw significantly from the Capital Fund, preserving it for future needs. The Capital Fund currently stands at \$108,041.21, providing a healthy cushion.

The Wesley Christian Childcare Development Center is currently operating in the red; however, an installment from the Smart Start Workforce Grant received in early April will help move the center closer to breaking even. Two additional installments are expected. Enrollment has also increased in recent months, which will continue to improve the financial outlook. Pastor Don, the Finance

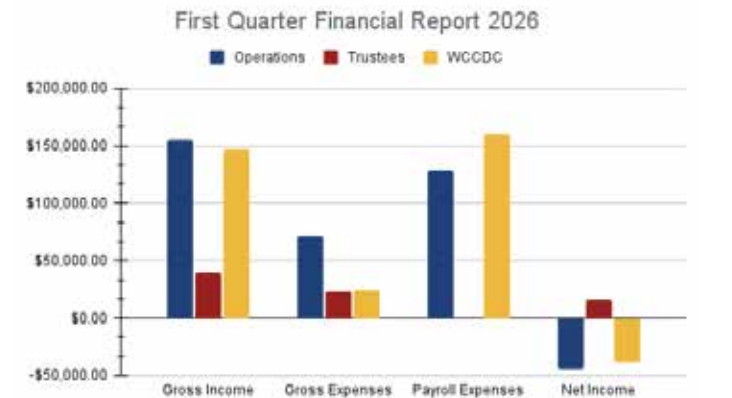
Office, WCCDC Director Marci Weiss, and the WCCDC Board are closely monitoring the situation and working diligently to return the daycare to a positive financial position.

Missions are not included in this report, as those funds are distributed as received. Monthly updates are provided in the newsletter, along with a full year-end summary each January. The church also maintains designated funds for Missions, Operations, and Trustees, which are carefully tracked and used only as intended by the donor; these are not included in this report.

Overall, while the year has started with some expected challenges, we remain in a stable position and are encouraged by the months ahead. Please reach out with any questions at [lauren@macombwesleyumc.com](mailto:lauren@macombwesleyumc.com).

## Financial Summary – First Quarter 2026 (January-March)

*Net Income by Ministry Area*  
Operations **-\$44,627.49** Trustees **\$16,450.10** WCCDC **-\$37,799.08**



## EASTER COLLECTION

The children's coin challenge collected \$373.35. The total raised in special offerings for Easter (including the change) is \$3,325.35. *Each charity will get 1,108.45!*

## MARCH MISSION OF THE MONTH:

*wesley christian childcare development center*

**Amount: \$9,895**

Additional money raised for scholarships to cover *Summer Program Fees: \$2,395* - enough to cover the fees for 12 students!



## MIRACLE SUNDAY

Our church will join United Methodists around the world in a global movement supporting theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. On Miracle Sunday, we will receive a special offering to help equip and sustain future pastors and church leaders. *more info coming soon!*