



# Wesley Window

August 2025

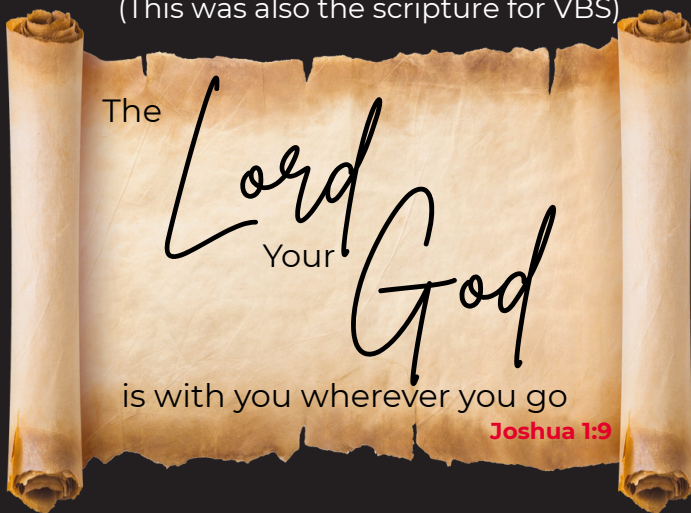
Volume 906 Issue 8

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

Heifer Project International & Haiti (Rocourt)

*August Scripture*

(This was also the scripture for VBS)



## IMPORTANT DATES

**August 1**

Wesley Village Ice Cream Social

**August 2**

Men's Breakfast

**August 5**

MPD 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Night Out

**August 8**

Youth for Christ Ice Cream Social

**August 17**

Blessing of the Backpacks

**August 24**

Church Potluck







# Pastoral Letter

Pastor Don Long Jr.

[pastordon@macombwesleyumc.com](mailto:pastordon@macombwesleyumc.com)

I really enjoy trees. I love hiking in the woods, especially in the winter, in part because the unique structure of each tree isn't hidden by a leafy canopy. When I look at the barren branches I wonder, "what made that branch grow in that direction, or twist that particular way?" Each tree is unique in the way it grows, shaped by its environment, affected by its experiences... something like us.

There's a tree in the evergreen family called "Madrone," or "Mandrona" (*arbutus menziesii*) that grows along the Pacific coastal area from California to Canada, and what I find interesting is the twisting and winding ways in which it grows (probably from the coastal winds), and its flaky bark.



Most trees have thick bark made up of dead cells that protect them from pests, disease, and water loss, but not the Madrone tree. The Madrone tree's bark is flaky. It cracks and peels away letting us see their growing edges. Biologists aren't sure why Madrones are so quick to shed their bark—some speculate it's to fight against fungi which proliferate in the moist environments Madrones call home.

Also, the Madrone tree, like many others, utilizes a large underground network of mycelium to exchange water and nutrients between plants. This community of tree roots can even keep stumps alive for years and have led to "dead" trees sending up new shoots through the ground and resurrecting the tree.

## **We can learn a lot from trees, particularly the Madrone tree.**

First, vulnerability is not weak. It's an honest way to be healthy. Instead of a thick crusty exterior meant to protect us from the world around us, but which also holds in destructive dis-ease, we can honestly reveal our growing edges and expedite maturity. But being vulnerable can also invite attacks. I recently shared (*albeit in a rather vague way on Facebook—sometimes called "vaguebooking"*) my emotional distress on social media (*not the best place to do such a thing*), and I was rebuffed for revealing my vulnerability and not being more "positive." It's as if radical independence and toxic positivity are the norm. But this way of thinking can cause "terminal uniqueness"—believing we're the only one feeling this way, thinking this way, living this way—which leads to suffering alone.

While our culture sees anything less than radical independence as weakness, the New Testament repeatedly stresses the opposite. Our culture values wealth, fame and power, but the upside down of gospel logic sees something different. From Mary's Magnificat (*Luke 1:46-55*) to the words of Jesus, and in the letters of Paul (*1 Corinth. 1:27*) we are repeatedly told that what appears to be weakness is strength; that wealth is not evidence of blessing, but a problem; that the proud will be humbled and the humble exalted, and that the first will be last and the last, first in a kingdom that has come near, not just some eschatological hereafter, but being built in the world now.

Second, we learn that community (*and connection to our community*) is key to our survival and prosperity, not as individuals, but as the whole. Ultimately, our wealth is not in individual accomplishment—who grows the tallest or has the largest canopy—it's in the shared wealth of the community. A healthy community values service to others. Jesus said, "...the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many" (*Matthew 20:28, Mark 10:45, John 13:1-17*) In community we share burdens and celebrations, we show up for each other in times of need, and we build one another up. Insulating oneself with wealth, strength and power might seem like a recipe for success, but the gospel message of Jesus would suggest otherwise. So do the trees.

So, if you'll excuse me, I think I'll go for a walk and see what the trees have to say. Wanna come?

*Don Long*  
Pastor Don Long Jr.

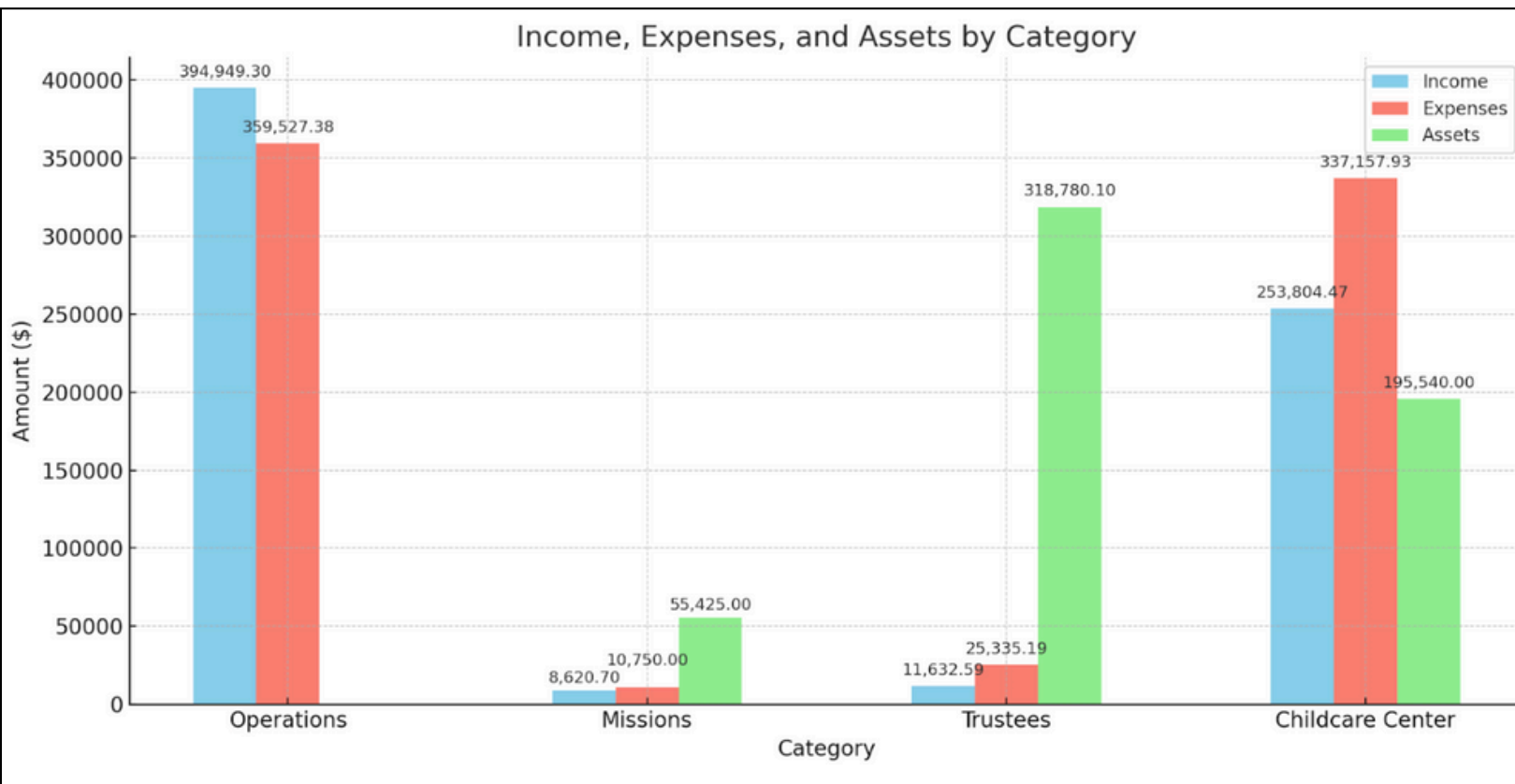
## Balancing Faith & Finances: A Mid-Year Glance -Bridget Huggins, Financial Manager

As we reach the halfway point of our fiscal year, we'd like to share a brief update on the financial health of our church across our main fund categories: Operations, Missions, Trustees, and our Childcare Center. A bar chart is included to visually summarize the income, expenses, and assets for each category. This offers a clear look at where we stand financially and how each ministry or department is stewarding its resources.

Here's a quick overview:

- **Operations:** This is our primary ministry fund, covering the essential day-to-day functions of the church such as worship services, music, staff, utilities, and general administration. While income is steady, this is historically the area where we face the greatest challenge in avoiding a year-end deficit.
- **Missions:** Though expenses slightly exceed income, this fund remains strong thanks to reserve assets.
- **Trustees:** This fund, supporting facilities and maintenance, holds significant assets, with expenditures for ongoing building care and improvements.
- **Childcare Center:** Income continues to grow, but rising costs have resulted in higher mid-year expenses. The center remains supported by a healthy reserve.

Each bar in the chart represents these financial categories and is accompanied by the specific line items included in each fund for full transparency. We are grateful for your continued faithfulness and support.



## Looking Ahead in Children & Youth Ministry -Sarah Clemente, Christian Education Director

- **Sunday, August 17** – Blessing of the Backpacks at both services. Our Summer Sunday Camp End-of-Summer Celebration will take place during the Sunday School Hour!
- **Sunday, August 24** – It's the First Day of Regular Sunday School for children and youth. We're excited to kick off a new year of learning and growth together!
- 📌 **Save the Date:** Youth Group Family Kick-Off is Sunday evening, **September 7** – more details coming soon!



# Announcements

## Save the Date: Rummage Sale September 12-13

Please put the dates of September 12 and 13 on your calendar for the annual church rummage sale. This is a very labor intensive project and many hands are needed to make this sale the success it has been in past years. Look for additional information in the September Wesley Window and Sunday bulletins leading up to the sale.



## School Supply Collection

The Social Concerns Team is once again collecting school supplies for Lincoln Elementary School. **Please bring in any of these listed below by August 8.** If you have any questions please contact Barry Witten at [b.witten@comcast.net](mailto:b.witten@comcast.net) or at 309-333-5057.

- **Crayons** – Box of 24 regular size (not florescent). Crayola preferred.
- **Washable Broad Line Markers** – Box of 8 basic colors
- **Pocket Folders** – Assorted colors would be fine
- **Disinfecting Wipes** – Large container
- **Facial Tissues** – Large box
- **Stuffed Animals** – Any size and design would be great



## August Volunteer Spotlight - VBS Crew

This month, we're shining a spotlight on the amazing team of volunteers who made Vacation Bible School such a joyful, faith-filled week at Wesley! From creative decorators who transformed our space, to group leaders guiding children through stories and songs, to those behind the scenes preparing snacks, running registration, and keeping everything running smoothly—you are the heart of VBS. ♥



*Wesley Village's 35<sup>th</sup>*  
**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
**FRIDAY AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> 6:00 TO 8:00 PM**  
**Adults \$10**  
**KIDS \$5**

**\*KING GRAFFITI BAND**

**\*LIVE "UNICORNS"**

**\*WORLD'S BEST PIE AUCTION**

**\*KIDS ZONE: BOUNCY HOUSE & MORE**

*New Added Attractions*

**\*MHS FOOTBALL & SOCCER PLAYERS**

**MIMI COACHING CLINIC**

**\*CELEBRITY CARNIVAL GAMES**

**WITH CASH & PRIZES**

*Special Thanks to our  
5 Scoop Sponsor*

*Fink Family Farms*



As we gear up for a new school year, our classrooms could use a little extra love. If you'd like to support our teachers and students, please consider donating supplies from our wishlist. Every item helps!



[bit.ly/wccdcwishlist](https://bit.ly/wccdcwishlist)  
[bit.ly/wddcwishlist2](https://bit.ly/wddcwishlist2)





# Announcements

## Church Potluck on August 24!

Make plans to join us for a delicious church potluck on **Sunday, August 24**, right after worship! We'll gather at noon in the Fellowship Hall for great food and even better fellowship.

We'll be serving up fried and baked chicken, mac and cheese, hot dogs, and baked beans. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share—and be sure it's nut-free. (**NO** nuts, nut butters, or desserts with nuts, please.)

All are welcome, and there's always room at the table! **Register online at [bit.ly/wesleypotluck25](https://bit.ly/wesleypotluck25) or in the Atrium** to let us know if you and/or your family are attending!



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, August 2, 2025  
Join us for food, fellowship, and discussion  
Wesley Church Atrium

Doors open at 8:15 am  
Eat at 8:30  
Out by 9:30

*You are Invited !*



## Volunteer Photos Needed

We want to continue to spotlight a volunteer every month, but we need your help getting photos! Submit photos and the volunteer name and responsibility to Lauren Merritt and we will feature them in an upcoming newsletter!!!

Thank you for helping us give recognition!

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST<sup>®</sup>**  
WESTERN ILLINOIS

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**Friday  
Aug. 8  
2025**

**5 to 8 pm**

All proceeds benefit  
Macomb youth programs!

Ice cream provided by  
*The Full Scoop* of Colchester!

**Raspberry, Lemon, Chocolate, & Vanilla!**

Plus, a **TON** of fun toppings!



\$\$\$  
FREE  
WITH  
DONATION  
\$\$\$

**@ YFC Building  
1224 Maple Ave.  
Macomb, IL**

Indoor & Outdoor Seating

## Solar Panel Project Update

The church did not receive the REAP grant we had originally applied for, and that funding option is no longer available. We are now pursuing a new grant opportunity through the State of Illinois under the Illinois Solar for All program. This program may cover an even greater portion of the installation cost than the REAP grant would have, though it does require a few efficiency-related adjustments to the system design.

One key change is that the solar panels must now face south, rather than west as originally planned. This means the system will consist of four shorter rows of panels instead of two longer ones. While the total area covered will be about the same, the revised layout will result in a slightly less aesthetically pleasing view from Adams Street. However, this new configuration will generate a higher percentage of energy offset and could reduce the church's overall installation cost.

We are continuing to work with the same company, Tron Solar, on the updated proposal and grant application.

# August Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee  <b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed  <b>6:00pm:</b> Ice Cream Social, Wesley Village	<b>8:15am:</b> Men's Breakfast
<b>8:30am:</b> Worship <b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am:</b> Worship  <b>3</b>	<b>10:00am:</b> Sewing Group  <b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting  <b>6:00pm:</b> Worship Committee  <b>4</b>	<b>5:00pm:</b> MPD National Night Out  <b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315  <b>7:00pm:</b> Christian Education, Atrium  <b>5</b>	<b>9:30am:</b> Fellheimer Trust  <b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle  <b>6</b>	<b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee  <b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed  <b>5:00pm:</b> Youth for Christ Ice Cream Social, YFC  <b>7</b>	<b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee  <b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed  <b>5:00pm:</b> Youth for Christ Ice Cream Social, YFC  <b>8</b>	<b>8:15am:</b> Men's Breakfast  <b>9</b>
<b>8:30am:</b> Worship <b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am:</b> Worship  <b>10</b>	<b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting  <b>11</b>	<b>2:00pm:</b> Prayer Shawl, LP  <b>5:30pm:</b> Witness & Hospitality, LP  <b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315  <b>12</b>	<b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle  <b>1:30pm:</b> United Women of Faith (UWF)  <b>13</b>	<b>First Day of School</b> Macomb School District #185  <b>14</b>	<b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee  <b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed  <b>15</b>	<b>8:15am:</b> Men's Breakfast  <b>16</b>
<b>8:30am:</b> Worship <b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School & Summer Camp Celebration <b>11:00am:</b> Worship  <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>	<b>10:00am:</b> Sewing Group <b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting <b>3:00pm:</b> Social Concerns <b>4:30pm:</b> Missions  <b>17</b>	<b>5:30pm:</b> Finance Committee  <b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315  <b>19</b>	<b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle  <b>3:00pm:</b> Congregational Nurture Committee  <b>20</b>	<b>5:00pm:</b> WCCDC Board Meeting  <b>7:00pm:</b> Habitat for Humanity  <b>21</b>	<b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee  <b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed  <b>22</b>	<b>8:15am:</b> Men's Breakfast  <b>23</b>
<b>8:30am:</b> Worship <b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am:</b> Worship <b>Noon:</b> Church Potluck  <b>24</b>	<b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting  <b>5:30pm:</b> Staff Parish  <b>7:00pm:</b> Trustees  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>5:00pm:</b> Witness, Hospitality & Communications Committee  <b>26</b>	<b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle  <b>27</b>	<b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee  <b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed  <b>28</b>	<b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee  <b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed  <b>29</b>	<b>8:15am:</b> Men's Breakfast  <b>30</b>
<b>8:30am:</b> Worship <b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School <b>11:00am:</b> Worship  <b>31</b>	  Church Office Closed September 1	<p> <i>"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning..."</i>            Lamentations 3:22-23         </p> 				



# Last Month @ Wesley



## August Worship Volunteer Schedule

DATE	TIME	USHERS	GREETERS (Downstairs)	WELCOME (Upstairs)
Aug 3	8:30am	Gina Anderson & Dennis Danowski	Marti Dallmeyer	Ginny Kessler
Aug 3	11:00am	Michele Long & Scott Smith	Kim Smith	Louise Reynolds
Aug 10	8:30am	Lois Bigham & Jerry Lieber	John & Rita Corson	Kessinae Erebi
Aug 10	11:00am	Marcia Moulden & Barb Sandall	Ben & Kim Lampitt	Dave & Marilyn Eck
Aug 17	8:30am	Rick Iverson & Beth Shryock	The Merritt Family	Genie Marshall
Aug 17	11:00am	Michele Long & Scott Smith		Kim Smith
Aug 24	8:30am	Bonnie Barker & Dennis Danowski	Steve & Janet Hopper	Laurie Black
Aug 24	11:00am	Dale Hample & Judi Dallinger	Jon & JoAnn(Hairston) Jones	Kyong Taite
Aug 31	8:30am	Marlin France & Wayne Steward	Gina Anderson	Marilyn Hopper
Aug 31	11:00am	Janice Monninger & Dana Walker	Param & Abha Singh	Jan Armstrong

## Mission of the Month: Heifer Project International & Haiti (Rocourt)

This month we are supporting two impactful missions:

🌱 **Heifer Project International** works to end hunger and poverty by equipping families around the world with livestock, agricultural training, and sustainable resources. Through their signature Passing on the Gift program, families who receive animals share the first offspring—and their knowledge—with another family, creating a powerful ripple of hope and self-reliance.

🌍 **Haiti (Rocourt)** is supported through the Alain Rocourt Endowment Fund, which provides tuition, teacher salaries, school supplies, and daily meals to children in Methodist schools across rural Haiti. Named for Rev. Alain Rocourt, the first Haitian ordained by the Methodist Church of England, this mission offers education, nourishment, and opportunity to thousands of students each year.

**To give:** Donate online and select Mission of the Month, or write a check with Mission of the Month in the memo line. Thank you for making a difference!

*Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Macomb, IL 61455  
Permit No. 507*

### Sunday Services

**Contemporary Worship: 8:30 am**  
**Coffee Fellowship: 9:30 am**  
**Sunday School: 9:45 am**  
**Traditional Worship: 11:00 am**

### Office Hours

**Monday-Thursday 8:00am-4:00pm**  
**Friday: 8:00am-NOON**  
  
**Closed on national holidays**

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**REV. DON LONG JR.**  
**SENIOR PASTOR**

**REV. MELLY MOMO**  
**ASSOCIATE PASTOR**