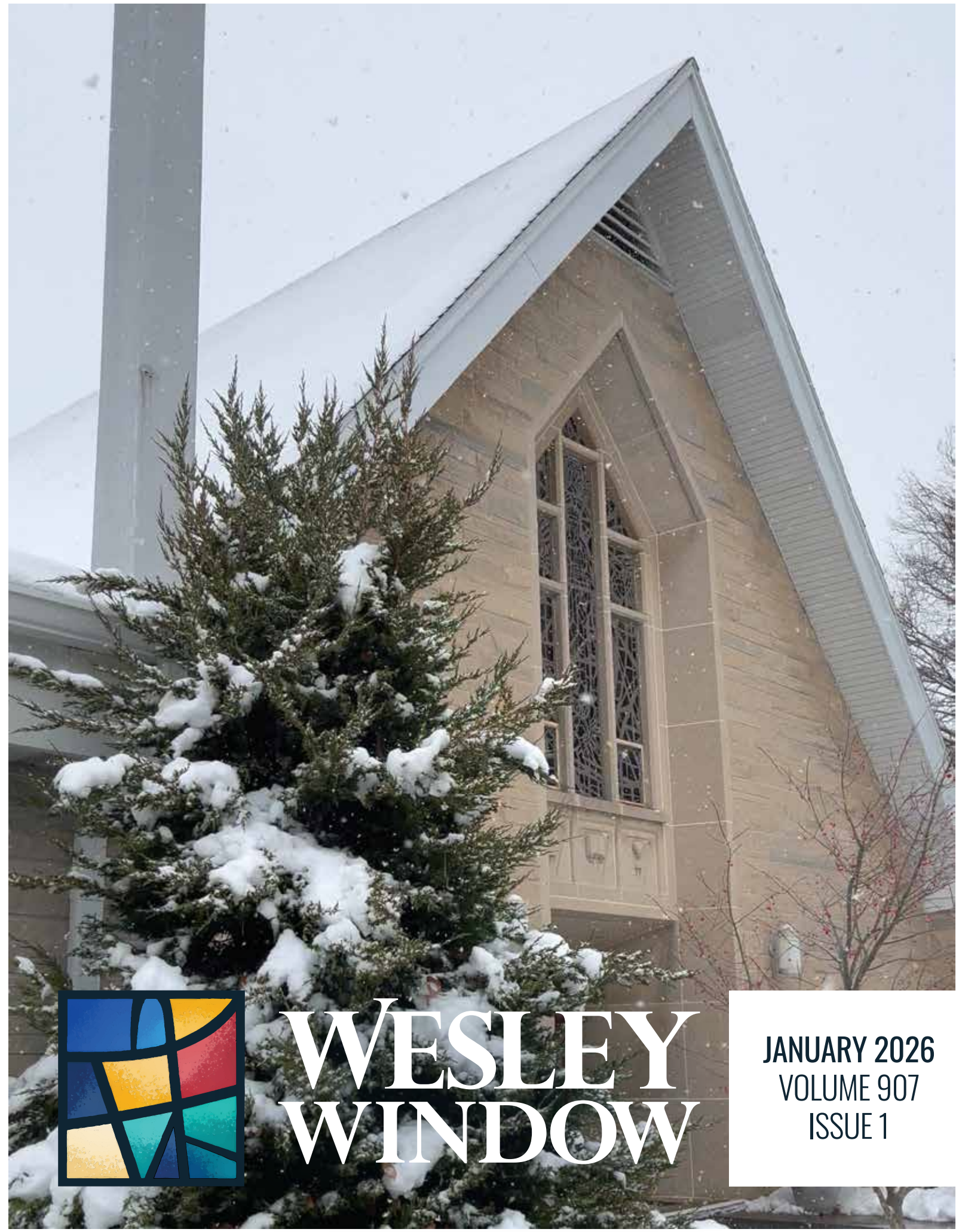
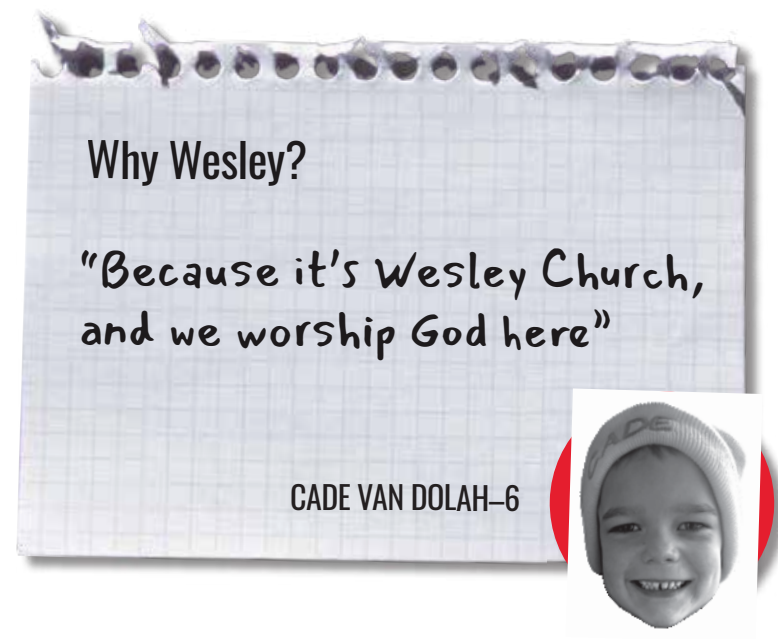
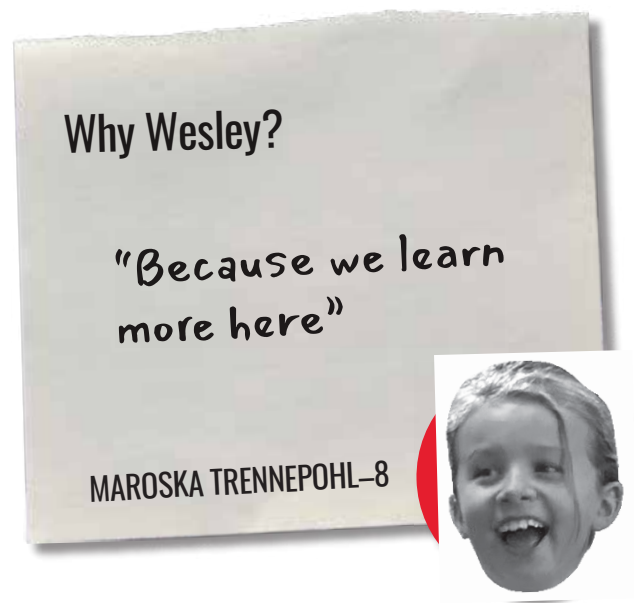


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JANUARY 2026
VOLUME 907
ISSUE 1



PASTORAL LETTER

pastor don

This new year brings new beginnings, and with it I hope for fresh commitments, deeper trust, renewed hope, and passionate growth for us here at Wesley UMC. At the heart of our church’s life is a simple but powerful mission: “to help people cultivate a growing, personal relationship with God through Christ.” This mission continues to guide us as we look ahead, calling one another to choose an intentional path of faith through worship, study, fellowship and service.

Wesley UMC is named for the founding brothers of Methodism—John and Charles Wesley—and so, I am turning to the words of John and Charles to illuminate our path as we begin our journey.

In his hymn “Soldiers of Christ, Arise,” (he wrote over 2,000 hymns) Charles Wesley wrote of worship: “In Fellowship, alone to God, with faith, draw near, approach His courts, besiege His throne with all the power of Prayer.” Our faith journey begins in worship and is continually renewed by it. When we gather in fellowship, we’re reminded who God is and who we are in God’s grace. Through prayer, song, Scripture, proclamation, and praise, worship shapes our hearts and aligns our lives in the shared purpose God has for us. Choosing to worship regularly is more than a habit—it is an act of love and trust, placing God at the center of our days, our decisions, and our connections. John Wesley said, “Though we cannot think

alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.” Study, both personal and communal, invites us to grow deeper in understanding and faith. Through devotion, study and dialogue, we invite the Holy Spirit to teach, challenge, and transform us. Bible studies, study groups, personal devotion, and the like equip us to live out our faith with wisdom, confidence, and most of all, grace. In the new year, choosing study means choosing to be rooted, connected, growing, and strengthened in Christ.

John also said, “Beware you be not swallowed up in books! An ounce of love is worth a pound of knowledge.” Fellowship is more than just getting together. It reminds us that faith is not meant to be lived alone. When we connect with one another in shared opportunities to know joy, laughter, and love, we’re reminded God has created

us for community, and the church is a place where relationships encourage, support, and inspire us. Through fellowship, we share joys and burdens, serve together, and reflect

Christ’s love to one another and to the world. Choosing fellowship is choosing connection, compassion, and shared purpose.

Finally, the Wesley Covenant Prayer, which Methodists often use to start the year says, “I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you... I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.” Service to God and others, not self, and service to the greater good of the gospel is at the heart of our Christian faith. John Wesley is famously

Our faith journey begins in worship and is continually renewed by it.

JANUARY CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
				Office Closed	7am Men's Coffee HyVee 12pm Office Closes Noon	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 7pm Wesley Foundation	10am Sit and Sew 1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Choral Society Prac.	7pm Christian Ed. Com.	12pm Prayer Circle 7pm Praise Band	7pm Choir Practice	7am Men's Coffee HyVee 12pm Office Closes Noon	9am-3pm West District Meeting
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 6pm Youth Group 7pm Wesley Foundation	1pm Staff Meeting 7pm Choral Society Prac.		12pm Prayer Circle 7pm Praise Band	5pm DayCare Board 7pm Choir Practice 7pm Habitat for Humanity	7am Men's Coffee HyVee 12pm Office Closes Noon	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 6pm Youth Group 7pm Wesley Foundation	10am Sit and Sew 1pm Staff Meeting 3pm Social Concerns Com. 6pm Worship Committee 7pm Choral Society Prac. 	4pm Missions Committee 5:30pm Finance Comm.	9:30am Fellheimer Meeting 12pm Prayer Circle 3pm Nurture Comm. 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7pm Praise Band	7pm Choir Practice	7am Men's Coffee HyVee 12pm Office Closes Noon	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
8:30am Worship 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 9:45am Sunday School 11am Worship 6pm Youth Group 7pm Wesley Foundation	1pm Staff Meeting 5:30pm Staff Parish Com. 7pm Choral Society Prac. 7pm Trustees Committee	5pm Witness, Hospitality, & Communications Com.	12pm Prayer Circle 6:30pm Wesley Ringers 7pm Praise Band	7pm Choir Practice	7am Men's Coffee HyVee 12pm Office Closes Noon	

DATE	TIME	USHERS	GREETERS (Downstairs)	WELCOME (Upstairs)
Jan 4	8:30am	Marilyn Hopper & Wayner Steward	Kessiena Erebi	Ginny Kessler
Jan 4	11am	Dale Hample & Dana Walker	Marti Dallmyer	Louise Reynolds
Jan 11	8:30am	Lois Bigham & Bonnie Barker	Merrit Family	Genie Marshall
Jan 11	11am	Michele Long & Sharon Evans	Ben & Kim Lampitt	Jan Armstrong
Jan 18	8:30am	Jerry Lieber & Beth Shryock	Michele Long	Laurie Black
Jan 18	11am	Marcia Moulden & Scott Smith	Param & Abha Singh	Kim Smith
Jan 25	8:30am	Dennis Danowski & Rick Iverson	Steve Hopper	Marilyn Hopper
Jan 25	11am	Michele Long & Janice Monninger	Jon & JoAnn (Hairston) Jones	Sharon Evans



Praise Kids-In A Manger



Leading in Every Corner



Music Sunday



Christmas Eve



Blue Christmas

PASTORAL LETTER CONT.

known to have said, "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can." In short embody the good of God's love, always.

So, as we journey in this new year together, I hope you will prayerfully choose to live the Wesleyan way of Christ: passionately participating in worship, devoted to engaging study, communally connected in fellowship, and lovingly serving God and one another. By doing so, you open yourself to God's work in your life and in the life of our church community. May this be a year of growth, faith, and joyful obedience as we walk together with Christ, cultivating a deeper, personal relationship with God.

Happy New Year, and God bless,

Pastor Don

PATHWAYS TO FAITH: Exploring Membership at Wesley UMC

with pastor don

As the new year begins, I want to invite you to take the next step in your faith journey at Wesley UMC. *"Pathways to Faith: Exploring Membership"* is a welcoming opportunity to learn more about who we are, what we believe, and how you can grow, serve, and belong here at Wesley. Whether you're new to Wesley, have been attending for a while, or are even a member, but never had the opportunity to explore and learn more about your church, this experience is designed to help you connect more deeply.

Join me beginning Sunday, January 25th during the discipleship hour from 9:45-10:45am for three Sundays, as we explore faith together, ask questions, and discover the many ways God is at work at Wesley UMC. Sign up today online, on the app, calling the church, office or on Sunday mornings at church, and start the year by finding your place in our church family!



MISSION OF THE MONTH:

The Good Samaritan Fund is a vital ministry of our church that provides direct assistance to individuals and families in our community facing unexpected financial hardship. Through this fund, we help cover essential needs like housing, utilities, and other critical expenses—offering hope and stability in moments of crisis. As our January Mission of the Month, your generosity makes immediate, life-giving impact.

IMPACT CONTINUED ON PG. 4

Give
online



BEYOND OUR WALLS

tim rice

This season, Wesley's Angel Tree became a powerful witness to generosity—both within our congregation and beyond our walls. When the tree went up with 100 tags, each representing a child in need, we didn't know how long it would take to place them all. But one by one, the tags disappeared, taken by caring hands ready to bring joy to a child this Christmas.

Then something especially meaningful happened. The final tag was taken by a woman named Leslie, who had never participated in an Angel Tree before. After seeing a recent video shared through Wesley social media, she felt compelled to stop by the church, walk through our doors, and choose a child to bless. Her simple act of kindness completed the tree—and beautifully illustrated the reach of our shared story.

Leslie's story reminds us that ministry doesn't stop at our front doors. Just as John Wesley used the printing press to spread the message of grace in his time, today we are blessed with modern tools—social media, digital storytelling, and online outreach—that allow us to

extend an invitation far beyond Sunday morning. Sometimes, a single message shared with care can move a heart to action.

This is the vision we continue to live into at Wesley: a church that shines hope through both **what we do** and **how we communicate**. When we tell our story with clarity, creativity, and purpose, we create space for generosity, connection, and transformation to take root.

Thank you to everyone who gave, shared, and participated. Because of you—and because the story was shared—every child was remembered, and love was multiplied.



2025 GOOD SAMARITAN AT A GLANCE



THE IMPACT

134 Requests for Assistance

103 Individuals & Families

Direct Aid
\$17,116.75
Provided

HOW HELP WAS GIVEN



64
Rental Assistance



24
Electric Bills



15
Water Bills



31
Other Essentials



STEWARDSHIP & GROWING NEED

Of the requests we were unable to fulfill, each was due to eligibility guidelines—either assistance had already been received within the past year or program qualifications were not met. We remain committed to stewarding this ministry responsibly while extending compassion wherever possible.

2024

2025

108 **134**

\$13,208 **\$17,116**

Thank You for your generosity!