



Wesley Window

October 2025

Volume 906 Issue 10

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Blanket Sunday (CWS)



"THE GRASS WITHERS, THE FLOWER
FADES; BUT THE WORD OF OUR GOD
WILL STAND FOREVER."

ISAIAH 40:8

IMPORTANT DATES

September 27-October 5

Mission Guatemala

October 13 - Office Closed

Indigenous Peoples Day

October 19

Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

October 24

Newsletter Submission Deadline

October 24

WCCDC Fall Family Event

October 26

Fall Festival

October 31

Halloween





Pastoral Letter

Pastor Don Long, Jr.
pastordon@macombwesleyumc.com

As you probably know, things have been really hectic around the Long household lately. Since the last newsletter, I've been in the Netherlands for 10 days getting Zac settled in for the next two years while he pursues his Master's Degree in Archeology at Leiden University; I spent the better part of two weeks at my dad's bedside in the hospital as he recovered from a grand mal seizures from a meningioma (non-cancerous tumor) on the frontal lobe of his brain, prepared for a week-long mission trip to Guatemala that I will be leading, starting today, and before coming to the office, Becky and I laid-to-rest one of our cats (Gracie) that we've had for the last 10 years, not to mention the many important ministries of Wesley, including all the paperwork for Charge Conference.

I have to say THANK YOU to Pastor Melly and the amazing staff here at Wesley! They have done amazing ministry and work!

Given the hectic schedule, this month's article is the one I submitted to the "Community News Briefs" for next week. In case you didn't know, Becky and I contribute an article every three weeks to the paper, and this article will appear next week. (You may recognize the theme from a recent sermon).

What if?

Security is one of our basic needs. We crave a sense of financial security, physical security, emotional security and the security that comes from being a part of a community. Occasionally that security is threatened when we start thinking about all of the "what ifs" like "What if I lose my job?" "What if I am a bad parent?" "What if I can't find a place to belong?"

Thinking about all the "what ifs" can cause panic and despair. Our anxiety rises when we don't know what tomorrow will bring. But "what if" we stop focusing on the fear and start focusing on the possibility? "What if I make a difference doing my job?" "What if I learn ways to become a better parent?" "What if I put myself out there and find a place in the community?"

What if I take a chance?

In the book of Ecclesiastes (11:4 NIV) it says, "Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap." What the author means is if we spend too much time worrying about what could go wrong, we won't step out in faith and find out what could go right. If we constantly measure the risks, we may not do what our faith calls us to do."

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1 The troubles of the everyday get overwhelming sometimes. The purposeful chaos that is occurring day after day is exhausting. The barrage of anger and fear and violence and malice are disheartening, and it all makes my soul weary. There are days when I feel that I can't handle one more thing and I can't find a way to make any of it improve.

This is where we find God. God grows in the gap.

God meets us where we are and takes us to something better, not easier, better.

Contemporary, cultural Christianity has become more about cushioning our comfort than calling us out into the gaps where God sized hopes are forged, Christlike dreams are pursued, and Spirit filled power is experienced. We don't like the unknown, uncomfortable, unpredictable places that trusting God sends us.

When Jesus called the disciples, he asked them to leave their home, their occupation, their families, and all that

Staff Updates

was familiar. Jesus didn't call the disciples to prosperity and comfort; He called them to sacrifice and discomfort. By contrast, the religious leaders of the day were those who most opposed the teachings of Jesus, and they ridiculed and reprimanded Jesus for breaking the established man-made rules to keep order, maintain control, and protect the power of the institutions. Jesus asked the disciples to leave what was known, stand up to authority, and start something new that would transform the lives of millions of people all around the world.

What if... what if we take a chance to be radically different, like Jesus was, and recklessly trust God to become a better community of faith with our hands, our words, and our ways?

What if... what if we take a chance and speak lovingly like Jesus did to those who are not like us: the outcast and marginalized, the hopeless and hurting, the people who don't look like us, think like us, or live like us?

What if... what if we risk it all, embrace the unknown, and attempt to let God grow in the gap between our comfort and the uncomfortable?

What if... what if we let God grow in the gap between what is and what could be?

What if we take a chance?

Be blessed my friends,
Pastor Don and Becky Long



Dear Wesley Church Family,

I want to share with you that I have recently made the difficult decision to resign from my position as Financial Manager, as our family will be relocating out of state for my husband's work.

It has truly been a blessing and an honor to serve this congregation alongside such dedicated staff and faithful members. I am deeply grateful for the support, encouragement, and fellowship I have experienced during my time here. Working in this role has strengthened not only my professional growth but also my faith, and I will carry those lessons and memories with me.

While I will no longer be here in my official capacity, please know that you will all remain in my thoughts and prayers. I am excited to see how God continues to guide and bless this church in the seasons ahead.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and for the kindness you have extended to me and my family.

With gratitude and love, Bridget Huggins

Bridget's last day in office was September 26. She is still working part-time remotely for a short time.

Church Finance Questions?

finance@macombwesleyumc.com

Church staff will try to address urgent questions as they arise. Others will be put on hold until a new financial manager is hired. Thank you for your patience and grace during this time of transition.



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!!!

Announcements

🍁🎉 Fall Festival Fun This Month! 🎉🍁

Mark your calendars and join us for our Fall Festival on **Sunday, October 26 from 4–6pm** in the lower parking lot! This community event will be packed with fun for the whole family. Enjoy live music from our Praise Band, bounce through inflatables (including an obstacle course!), get your face painted, and be amazed by balloon animals. Kids and adults alike will love the crafts, temporary tattoos, photo area, food, and special gift bags—plus so much more! Bring your friends, family, and neighbors—it's open to everyone and promises to be a joyful celebration of the season. 🍁🌟



JUNIOR CHURCH



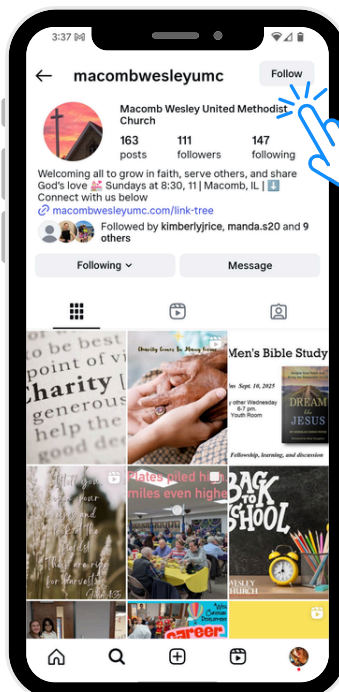
We are excited to introduce Junior Church, a special worship opportunity for children ages 5 and up during the first service. After “A Time with Young Disciples,” kids are invited to gather in Room U19 for a meaningful time of prayer, offering, scripture, and song, followed by a fun, play-based response to the message. Junior Church is a joyful space where young hearts can grow in faith while engaging in worship at their own level.

Fall Cleanup Day: Branch Out & Pitch In

Join us for our annual Fall Cleanup Day on **Saturday, October 25, starting at 8am!** We'll work together to spruce up the church grounds and get everything looking tidy for the fall season. We'll keep going until the work is finished, so come for as long as you're able.

Please bring gloves and any tools you'd like to use—pruners, rakes, leaf blowers, sawzalls, wheelbarrows, shovels, hoes, or any other yard tools that could help with light outdoor work. If you have a trailer, that would also be very helpful for hauling away debris.

This is a great way to care for our church home while enjoying time together. Many hands make light work—thank you in advance for helping us keep Wesley's grounds looking beautiful!



Announcements

Environmental Talk by Mary Gillingham



For several months FAITH BASED CREATION CARE has been meeting and exchanging information about the environment. This group includes people from the First Christian Church, First Presbyterian, Trinity Lutheran, St. Paul's Catholic and Wesley United Methodist (Darlos Mummert and Mary Gillingham). It was reported at our last meeting that the Ripple Glass glass recycling container at Farm King was predicted to need to be emptied every 4 month but was recently full and emptied after only 2 1/2 months. This definitely show all the hard work was worth it. They are looking to place a stool so that the 5 foot high opening in the bin will be easier to reach. The FBCC is working on several projects and we'll keep you updated.

Auction Basket for YFC Banquet



The United Women of Faith are putting together a basket for the Youth For Christ (YFC) Banquet's silent auction, and we need your help! **Please bring donations of chocolate and coffee items to the church office by October 15.** Jan

Armstrong will assemble and deliver the basket for the event. Thank you for your generosity—this auction is one of YFC's biggest fundraisers of the year!

Rummage Sale Thanks From UWF

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED PULL TOGETHER ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL RUMMAGE SALE. **THROUGH YOUR HELP WE RAISED \$6,279.34 THAT WE WILL DISTRIBUTE AMONG LOCAL CHARITIES** (LOAVES AND FISHES, SAMARITAN WELL, GOOD FOOD PANTRY, SALVATION ARMY, YOUTH FOR CHRIST). Many other local organizations directly received items that were donated. Thank you to those who brought in items, thank you to those who helped in planning and advertising and getting out the signage, thank you to those who helped set up. Thank you to everyone who brought food for the workers all week long, THANK YOU for everyone who came ALL WEEK LONG and worked sorting and organizing and pricing. Thank you to those who helped pack up and those who loaded and delivered the leftover items to the Salvation Army and the Crossing. THANK YOU to the church office staff and thank you to the custodial staff for their extra help. It was a GREAT WEEK and it was truly a group effort.

New Glass Recycling Program in McDonough County

A new countywide glass recycling program, spearheaded by the Macomb Woman's Club, is now underway. Church member JoAnn Hairston-Jones, along with co-chair Susan DiGrino, began working on this initiative in 2019 to expand recycling options in the area.

While Macomb residents have biweekly recycling pick-up, glass often ends up in landfills if it breaks in the bin. The new program solves this by offering a centrally located, glass-only recycling dumpster at the south end of Farm King's parking lot (1620 E. Jackson St.). Glass collected there will be transported to Ripple Glass Recycling in Kansas City, MO.

Start-up costs were funded through grants totaling \$53,000 from the Fellheimer Trust and the Glass Recycling Foundation. Ongoing expenses of \$4,000–\$5,000 per year will be shared by the Woman's Club, individual contributors, the City of Macomb, the McDonough County Board, local townships, and other partners. The Woman's Club will continue seeking support to keep the program sustainable.

For more information about the Macomb Woman's Club, visit macombwomansclub-gfwc.weebly.com.



Thank you for the many cards and notes for my 100th birthday! It was very special to hear from old friends and new!

Blessings,
Eileen Haas



October Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Mission Guatemala Mission Trip			
			Noon: Prayer Circle 5:00pm: Praise Kids 7:00pm: Praise Band Practice 1	7:00pm: Choir Practice 2	7:00am: Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee Noon: Church Office Closed 3	4
8:30am: Worship 9:30am: Coffee Fellowship 9:45am: Sunday School 11:00am: Worship 1:00pm: CFCM 3:00pm: Youth Group, Ball Fore 5	10:00am: Sit & Sew 1:00pm: Staff Meeting 7:00pm: Choral Society Practice 6	6:30pm: Boy Scouts #315 7:00pm: Christian Education, Zoom 7	10:00am: Faith/Love Fellowship Noon: Prayer Circle 5:00pm: Praise Kids Practice 6:0pm: Men's Bible Study 7:00pm: Praise Band Practice 8	7:00pm: Choir Practice 9	7:00am: Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee Noon: Church Office Closed 10	11
8:30am: Worship 9:30am: Coffee Fellowship 9:45am: Sunday School 11am: Worship 1pm: CFCM 4:30pm: Charge Conference 12	13	6:30pm: Boy Scouts #315 14	9:30am: Fellheimer 10:00am: UWF Noon: Prayer Circle 3:00pm: Nurture 5:00pm: Praise Kids Practice 7:00pm: Praise Band Practice 15	5:00pm: WCCDC Board Meeting 7:00pm: Habitat for Humanity 7:00pm: Choir Practice 16	7:00am: Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee Noon: Church Office Closed 17	9:00am: Prairie Quilters 18
8:30am: Worship 9:30am: Coffee Fellowship 9:45am: Sunday School 11am: Worship 1pm: CFCM 6:00pm: Youth Group Blessing of Prayer Shawls 19	10:00am: Sit & Sew 1:00pm: Staff Mtg 3:00pm: Social Concerns 4:00pm: Missions 6:00pm: Worship 7:00pm: Choral Society Practice 20	11:00am: SUAA Luncheon 5:30pm: Finance Committee 21	Noon: Prayer Circle 5:00pm: Praise Kids 6:00pm: Men's Bible Study 7:00pm: Praise Band Practice 22	7:00pm: Choir Practice 23	7:00am: Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee Noon: Church Office Closed 5:00pm: WCCDC Fall Family Night & Scholastic Book Fair 24	8:00am: Fall Cleanup 10:00am: West District Meeting 25
8:30am: Worship 9:30am: Coffee Fellowship 9:45am: Sunday School 11:00am: Worship 1:00pm: CFCM 4:00pm: Fall Festival Chili Supper Ticket Sales 26	1:00pm: Staff Meeting 5:30pm: Staff Parish Committee 7:00pm: Trustees Committee 7:00pm: Choral Society Practice 7:00pm: Scout Badge Class 27	5:00pm: Witness, Hospitality & Communications Committee 28	Noon: Prayer Circle 5:00pm: Praise Kids 7:00pm: Praise Band Practice 29	7:00pm: Choir Practice 30	7:00am: Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee Noon: Church Office Closed HALLOWEEN 31	

Our Wesley mission team is currently serving in Guatemala through **Mission Guatemala** from September 27–October 5, under the leadership of Pastor Don. We invite you to join us in prayer this week for our team of missionaries. Pray for their safety, good health, and for God's Spirit to guide them as they work alongside Mission Guatemala in health, nutrition, education, and community development. May their hands and hearts be used to do the most good possible, and may their time in Guatemala be a blessing both to those they serve and to their own spiritual journeys. Please also pray for safe travels home and for the seeds planted during their time there to continue to grow long after their return.

Participants from Wesley: Pastor Don, Jim Olsen, Marilyn Olsen, Sharon Evans, Byron Baughman, Sandy Collier, and Linda Cremer. **Participants from O'Fallon:** Ken Gustaveson and Vicki Whitener-Lepanto.



October Worship Volunteer Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>USHERS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u> (Downstairs)	<u>WELCOME</u> (Upstairs)
Oct 5	8:30am	Gina Anderson & Wayne Steward	Marti Dallmeyer	Marilyn Hopper
Oct 5	11:00am	Michele Long & Dana Walker	Param & Abha Singh	Louise Reynolds
Oct 12	8:30am	Lois Bigham & Dennis Danowski	Steve & Janet Hopper	Genie Marshall
Oct 12	11:00am	Kyong Taite & Sharon Evans	Gina Anderson	Dave & Marilyn Eck
Oct 19	8:30am	Marlin France & Beth Shryock	Merritt Family	Laurie Black
Oct 19	11:00am	Marcia Moulden & Scott Smith	Jon & JoAnn(Hairston) Jones	Kim Smith
Oct 26	8:30am	Dennis Danowski & Jerry Lieber	Kessiena Erebi	Bonnie Barker
Oct 26	11:00am	Janice Monninger & Dale Hample	Ben & Kim Lampitt	Jan Armstrong

Mission of the Month: Blanket Sunday

This October, our Mission of the Month is Blanket Sunday, supporting the work of Church World Service (CWS). Every year, congregations like ours come together to provide essential resources for people facing displacement, poverty, and disaster. A simple blanket can provide warmth on a cold night, shelter from the elements, or comfort in times of crisis. Beyond blankets, CWS uses these gifts to support sustainable development programs and disaster response efforts around the world.

Please note: We are not collecting physical blankets at the church. In the past, there has been some confusion, but this year's support will be through monetary donations only. Your gift ensures that CWS can provide blankets and other vital resources where they are needed most.

You can support Blanket Sunday this month by giving online (see QR code) and selecting "Mission of the Month," or by writing a check to Wesley UMC with "October Mission of the Month" in the memo line.



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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 daily NOON-1:00pm
Closed on national holidays

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REV. DON LONG JR.
SENIOR PASTOR

REV. MELLY MOMO
ASSOCIATE PASTOR