



# Wesley Window

September 2025

Volume 906 Issue 9

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

UMCOR (One Great Hour of Sharing)

### SEPTEMBER SCRIPTURE

"IN THE SAME WAY, LET  
YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE  
OTHERS, SO THAT THEY  
MAY SEE YOUR GOOD  
WORKS AND GIVE GLORY TO  
YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN."

MATTHEW 5:16



## IMPORTANT DATES

### September 1

Labor Day - Church Office Closed

### September 5-6

Macomb Balloon Rally

### September 7

Youth Group Kickoff Party

### September 7-11

Rummage Sale Set Up

### September 12

Downtown Block Party

### September 12-13

Rummage Sale

### September 25

Rocky Mountaineer Trail - XYZ

### September 27

Mission Trip to Guatemala begins





# Pastoral Letter

Pastor Melly Momo

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



Many of you are aware that I am a naturalized American citizen originally from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) in Africa. It's the largest country in Central Africa and is unfortunately plagued by persistent poverty due to various factors. According to a World Bank study, as of 2024, approximately 73.5% of the population lives below the extreme poverty line of \$2.15 per day. The country consistently ranks among the poorest nations globally, wrestling with limited economic growth, a high population density, and a history of conflicts.

My hometown, Kolwezi, is situated in the southeastern region of the DRC, with an estimated population of around 573,000 as of 2024. Three of my six siblings and their families reside in Kolwezi, while the others are located in different cities. While my childhood was relatively stable, recent years have seen a significant decline in living conditions. Unfortunately, there are no government welfare programs available to alleviate this poverty, and community support primarily comes from local organizations and churches. This reliance echoes the biblical call for believers to care for the less fortunate. The importance of supporting those in need, particularly children, is a reminder of our collective responsibility.

Often during my time with the Lord, I would ask Him to use me in ways that I can be a blessing to others; "bless me so that I can be a blessing to others." Then came October 2023 during a session of personal prayers the Lord told me to ask for something I could do back home to help people. I wasn't expecting that, in my heart, I said, I wish the Lord could tell me what I can do, but He wanted me to come up with something. He has been putting in my heart the idea of helping vulnerable children, I didn't even know how I would do that. I would dismiss it, because I didn't think I would be able to do anything as I am far away. Often, I would help people I know here and there, or people my sisters would refer to me when unable to help themselves. I prayed about it for a few days as the Lord instructed me to do, and I had an answer. I asked the Lord that He helps me build and run something to help the children, an orphanage, and a school. The Lord agreed with me and gave me some details on how He would want it to be.

I am pleased to report that progress is being made; the orphanage is nearing completion with one building already habitable. We anticipate welcoming a minimum of ten children by September, while the second building remains under construction with plans for timely completion. I am truly grateful for the financial support that has made this project possible. I view myself as a bridge connecting your generosity to a community in great need. Together we are making a difference in the DRC, your lights shine over there too!

As the Apostle Paul articulated in Galatians 6:9-10, "And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

I will continue to provide updates on this endeavor through Facebook. God bless you!

Pastor Melly



Water tower that stores water from a well for the orphanage. Locals can also access the water outside, making the orphanage an oasis for many in the area.



# Staff Updates

## September Staff Spotlight - Meet Doug!

We are excited to welcome Doug Mang'anda to our staff as our new part-time custodian! Doug is originally from Malawi in southeastern Africa and is currently pursuing his master's degree in Public Health at WIU, focusing on behavioral sciences and community well-being.

Doug is here in Macomb with his wife, Catherine, and their two children, Duwa and Mizu. "We're a young, close-knit family learning and growing together," he shared. "Having them with me in this new chapter keeps me grounded and reminds me daily of God's faithfulness. They are my biggest motivation and greatest joy, and we're embracing Macomb as our new home away from home."

When Doug and his family first arrived in the United States, they quickly found a warm welcome at Wesley Foundation and Wesley United Methodist Church. "Everything felt new, uncertain, and overwhelming," Doug recalls. "The Wesley Foundation and Wesley UMC became a home away from home. It wasn't just the worship or programs that drew us in, but the way people lived out their faith through kindness and community."

In his new role, Doug sees his work as an extension of ministry. "I hope to serve with both my hands and my heart. Creating a clean, orderly, and welcoming environment is itself a ministry as it allows others to experience God's peace and presence," he said. With his background in public health, Doug is passionate about spaces that promote health, safety, and dignity for all.

Back home, Doug was heavily involved in youth ministry and community outreach, and he continues to carry that heart for service. Outside of work and study, he enjoys spending time with his family, having deep conversations, listening to podcasts, and exploring new places. He also admits he's still on the hunt for a good local substitute for his favorite Malawian dish, "nsima with chambo (tilapia)," though he says Chicken Alfredo has been a tempting contender lately.

We are grateful to have Doug on our team and look forward to the many ways his presence and gifts will bless our church community.



## Nursery Staff Is Ready for a New School Year!



On Sunday, August 24, our Nursery Team gathered for our yearly training session to prepare for the year ahead. We are excited and ready to serve the families of Wesley UMC and look forward to caring for our youngest members with joy and love each Sunday morning. Find us in U21 or contact [nursery@macombwesleyumc.com](mailto:nursery@macombwesleyumc.com) for more information.



## 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



Mark your calendars—our annual Rummage Sale is coming up soon! The sale will take place **Friday, September 12 (8am–5pm)** and **Saturday, September 13 (8am–noon)**. Donations may be dropped off September 8–11 from 8am–4pm in the Atrium. We need many hands to make this a success!

#### **Volunteer opportunities include:**

- Friday, September 5 (1:00–3:00pm)
- Sunday, September 7 (12:00–2:00pm)
- Monday–Saturday, September 8–13 (8:00am–5:00pm)
- Saturday, September 13 (1:00–3:00pm)

Please sign up for a slot in the Atrium.

In addition, donations of snacks (cookies, candy, chips, etc.) are much appreciated for our volunteers throughout the week. We would also be grateful for donations of salads to go along with volunteers' lunches. Please leave all food items in the Atrium kitchen labeled "Rummage Sale Volunteers." Thank you for your generosity! Make sure you share the dates with friends and family!

## NOTICE

**If you have left behind any dishes, containers, or kitchenware at the church, please be sure to pick them up before Rummage Sale set-up begins. Any unclaimed items will be donated to the sale—so if you'd like to keep your bowls and casseroles, please collect them now (otherwise you may have to buy them back!).**

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our Church Potluck such a success! We are especially grateful to Charlene Callison for her leadership and hard work. Thank you also to all who attended—the Fellowship Hall was packed with good food and great fellowship! Through your generosity, we raised \$306.01, which will be split between Good Food Pantry, Loaves and Fishes, Samaritan Well, and the Salvation Army. **THANK YOU!**



# Announcements

## Guatemala Mission Trip Begins September 27

Wesley UMC will be sending a mission team to Guatemala this fall, partnering with Mission Guatemala in San Andrés Semetabaj. The trip runs from September 27–October 5 and will be led by Pastor Don.

Mission Guatemala lives out its calling to “Do all the good you can,” working in health, nutrition, education, and community development. Founded in 2009 by United Methodist pastor Tom Heaton, the organization operates a medical clinic, preschool feeding program, nutritional support, scholarship funds for students, and broader community aid—all with a deep commitment to respectful and equitable service.

Please keep our mission team in your prayers as they prepare, travel, and serve. Pray for their safety, health, and hearts open to the Lord’s work—as well as for the communities they’ll serve in Guatemala.



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

## Men’s Bible Study – Fall 2025

**Book:** *Dream Like Jesus* by Rebekah Simon-Peter

**When & Where:** Every other Wednesday, 6–7:00pm, Youth Room (L-3)

**Dates:** Sept. 10 & 24; Oct. 8 & 22; Nov. 5 & 19; Dec. 3 & 17

**Leader:** Pastor Don

This study invites us to deepen our faith and dream big for God’s Kingdom. Each participant may order their own copy (print or Kindle) or ask the church office to order one **NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 5**. Cost is \$16.95 (paperback).

Join us for a meaningful time of study and discussion!

## XYZ Presentation on Rocky Mountaineer Train

Join us as we travel with our own Gina and Mark Anderson and Monica and Rick Iverson at our next XYZ program on **September 25 at 1:00pm**. In July they rode the Rocky Mountaineer train through British Columbia before boarding a cruise ship through Alaska’s inside passage. Come hear about their breathtaking adventures. Be sure to mark your calendar so you don’t miss hearing their story.

## Youth Group Kickoff September 7

All 6th–12<sup>th</sup> graders and their families are invited to join us **September 7 from 5–7:00pm** at the church for food, fellowship, and fun as we plan for an exciting year ahead for Wesley Youth Group! Contact Sarah for more information.



Sarah Clemente at (309) 255-8836 or [sarah@macombwesleyumc.com](mailto:sarah@macombwesleyumc.com)



**The Talent Show & Dessert Auction**  
that was scheduled for  
**September 14 has been cancelled.**

# September Calendar

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday  | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|---|---|---|--|-----------|---|--|
|   | <br><b>Church Office Closed</b><br><b>1</b>  | <b>5:30pm:</b> Finance Committee<br><b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315<br><b>7:00pm:</b> Christian Education<br><b>2</b>                          | <b>9:30am:</b> Fellheimer Trust<br><b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle<br><b>1:30pm:</b> UWF<br><b>3</b>   | <b>4</b>  | <b>Macomb Balloon Rally</b><br><b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee<br><b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed<br><b>5</b>                         | <br><b>6</b>                                  |
| <b>Rummage Sale Setup</b>   |   |   |  |           | <b>Rummage Sale</b>   |  |
| <b>8:30am:</b> Worship<br><b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship<br><b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00am:</b> Worship<br><b>5:00pm:</b> Youth Group Kickoff<br><b>7</b>                 | <b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>5:00pm:</b> Church Council<br><b>8</b>   | <b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315<br><b>2:00pm:</b> Prayer Shawl Ministry<br><b>5:00pm:</b> Quality of Life Awards, WIU Lamoine Room<br><b>9</b> | <b>10:00am:</b> Faith/Love Fellowship<br><b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle<br><b>6:00pm:</b> Men's Bible Study<br><b>10</b>  | <b>11</b> | <b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee<br><b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed<br><b>4:30pm:</b> Downtown Block Party, Chandler Park<br><b>12</b> | <b>13</b>  |
| <b>8:30am:</b> Worship<br><b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship<br><b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00am:</b> Worship<br><b>1:00pm:</b> CFCM<br><b>6:00pm:</b> Youth Group<br><b>14</b> | <b>10am:</b> Sewing Group<br><b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>3:00pm:</b> Social Concerns Committee<br><b>4:00pm:</b> Missions Committee<br><b>7:00:</b> Worship Committee<br><b>15</b> | <b>5:30pm:</b> Finance Committee<br><b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315<br><b>16</b>   | <b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle<br><b>3:00pm:</b> Nurture Committee<br><b>17</b>   | <b>18</b> | <b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee<br><b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed<br><b>19</b>   | <b>20</b>  |
| <b>8:30am:</b> Worship<br><b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship<br><b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00am:</b> Worship<br><b>1:00pm:</b> CFCM<br><b>6:00pm:</b> Youth Group<br><b>21</b> | <b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>5:30pm:</b> Staff Parish Committee<br><b>7:00pm:</b> Trustees Committee<br><b>First Day of Fall!</b><br><b>22</b>                                      | <b>5:00pm:</b> Witness, Hospitality & Communications Committee<br><b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315<br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b><br><b>23</b>   | <b>Noon:</b> Chapel Prayer Circle<br><b>6:00pm:</b> Men's Bible Study<br><b>24</b>   | <b>25</b> | <b>7:00am:</b> Men's Coffee, Hy-Vee<br><b>Noon:</b> Church Office Closed<br><b>26</b>   | <br><b>Mission Trip Begins</b><br><b>27</b> |
| <b>8:30am:</b> Worship<br><b>9:30am:</b> Coffee Fellowship<br><b>9:45am:</b> Sunday School<br><b>11:00am:</b> Worship<br><b>1:00pm:</b> CFCM<br><b>6:00pm:</b> Youth Group<br><b>28</b> | <b>10:00am:</b> Sewing Group<br><b>1:00pm:</b> Staff Meeting<br><b>5:30pm:</b> Staff Parish<br><b>7:00pm:</b> Trustees<br><b>29</b>   | <b>6:30pm:</b> Boy Scouts #315 Court of Honor<br><b>30</b>  | <br><b>Save the Date</b><br><b>FALL FESTIVAL</b><br>Sunday, October 26, 4pm<br> |           |   |  |









## **Mission of the Month: UMCOR (One Great Hour of Sharing)**

This month, our Mission of the Month supports the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) through the special One Great Hour of Sharing offering. UMCOR is the humanitarian relief and development arm of the United Methodist Church, responding to disasters, poverty, hunger, migration, and health needs around the world.

One Great Hour of Sharing plays a vital role in making UMCOR's work possible. Because this special offering covers administrative costs, 100% of gifts given to UMCOR's designated projects go directly to relief efforts and programs—bringing hope and tangible help to people in their greatest times of need.

You can support UMCOR this month by giving online (see QR code) and selecting "Mission of the Month," or by writing a check to Wesley UMC with "September 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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