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Wesley UMC to host Gillespie's Coles County poverty presentation

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CHARLESTON — The Work Area on Church and Society of Wesley United Methodist Church will host a presentation by Michael Gillespie, assistant professor in the department of sociology and anthropology at Eastern Illinois University.

Gillespie will discuss his ongoing research project on poverty in Coles County and East Central Illinois, based on results to date generated from his Coles County Poverty Data Project.

The presentation will take place from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Sunday, in Room 125 at Wesley Church, 2206 Fourth St., Charleston.

The research project draws from data available from sources such as the Census Bureau and state and local government agencies, with the goal of enhancing understanding of the extent and realities of poverty in this region.

Gillespie hopes not only to increase the understanding and awareness of area poverty and inequality, but also to generate information that will help local leaders along with social service agencies, organizations and groups involved in addressing this complex problem.

The program will include an opportunity for questions and open discussion, and snacks and beverages will be served.

The community is invited to attend. The building is wheelchair accessible with ample parking available.

For more information, call 217-345-3917.