

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

September 7, 2025

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

***Please Stand in Body or in Spirit When You See the ***

Prelude

Convocation

Charles Callahan

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

***Call to Worship**

One: We are gathered to worship God,

ALL: who loved us before we were born.

One: We welcome Jesus and the Holy Spirit,

ALL: whose presence is always with us.

One: We celebrate God with songs of joy

ALL: because God knows us even better than we know ourselves.

One: We offer ourselves to God as an act of worship

ALL: because God's mercy is new every morning, giving us a fresh start each day regardless of our past failures. How great is our God! Let's worship the Triune God together!

***Opening Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

UMH 103

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
and wither and perish but naught changeth Thee.
4. Thou reignest in glory, Thou dwellest in light,
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
all laud we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

*Praise Songs

I Will Lift Up Your Name Higher

I will lift up your name higher...

Great Jehovah you are wonderful

I will lift up your name higher...

Me yi N'aye (I Will Praise Him) [Feel free to sing in either language]

Me yi n'aye, Me yi Nyamea' ye...

Me yi Nyamea' ye, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah ...

I will praise God, I will praise my God...

I will praise my God, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

All-knowing God, we gather together with praise and thanksgiving for who You are, and for all that You have done for us. You know us better than we know ourselves— all our thoughts and actions— and yet You love us. No matter where we go or what we do, Your love encircles us—ahead and behind— gently leading and guiding and blessing.

We praise You for Your love and Your faithful presence in our lives. May Your Spirit move in our hearts and minds as we worship together—examine our attitudes and actions, lay bare the things we need to confess, challenge us with Your Word, and guide us on to paths that lead to life. For we are Your people, called by Your name.

(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)

Time for the Child in Each of Us

Pastor Nizzi 101

Celebration of Rev. Nizzi Digan's Appointment at Wesley UMC

Chris Flagg: Dear Friends, today we welcome Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, who has been appointed to serve as the pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church. We believe that she is well qualified and has been prayerfully appointed by our Bishop, Thomas Bickerton. Pastor Nizzi, you have been sent to live among us, as a bearer of the Word of God; a minister of the Sacraments; and a sustainer of the love, order, service and discipleship of the people of God.

Pastor Nizzi: Today, I reaffirm this commitment in the presence of this congregation, friends, visitors & those who are joining us in worship via live stream.

Janet Amoako: Brothers & Sisters in Christ, as a people committed to participate in the ministries of the Church by your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service, will you who celebrate this new beginning, support and uphold Pastor Nizzi in these ministries?

Congregation: We reaffirm our commitment to support you with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness.

Janet A: How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger...

Congregation: who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation.

Chris F: Let us pray. Eternal God, strengthen and sustain us in our ministries together, with Nizzi as our pastor. Give her and us patience, courage, and wisdom so to care for one another and challenge one another, that together we may follow Jesus Christ, living together in love and offering our gifts and talents in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Congregation: Almighty God, you still call us to go into your service and spread the message of salvation of your Son. Bless richly, we pray, your servant, Pastor Nizzi's entrance into our fellowship. Fill her with the power of your Holy Spirit and let her find with us an open door for the Word. We also pray for your church on earth. Equip us all with a spirit of willingness, that we with courage can witness about you by the profession of our mouths and through our way of living. Grant us all to partake in your strength and joy, so that we can enter into the anxiety and suffering of the world, to be radiating and make alive that hope which Christ gives. All this we dare to pray of You; for You are to us the God of mercy and the God of all grace; You are the Son, the Savior and the Redeemer; You are the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Helper and the Giver of life. Blessed be You. Amen.

Evans Quayson: Pastor Nizzi, accept this Bible, and be among us as one who proclaims the Word. Amen.

Linda Dylewicz: Pastor Nizzi, take this water, and baptize new Christians in this place and remind us of our baptisms. Amen.

Ellen & Huberto Orofino: Pastor Nizzi, take this bread and cup, and keep us in communion with Christ and his Church. Amen.

Debbie O'Driscoll: Pastor Nizzi, use this United Methodist Hymnal and The United Methodist Book of Worship to guide us in our prayers, meetings, worship, and fellowship. Amen.

Brent Drajesk: Pastor Nizzi, receive this Book of Discipline to order the life of Wesley United Methodist Church. Help us keep the covenant that strengthens our connections as United Methodists. Amen.

Jospeh Fletcher: Pastor Nizzi, John Wesley said, "I look upon the world as my parish." So, receive this globe, and lead us in our mission to this community and all the world. Amen.

Child: Pastor Nizzi, receive this John Wesley plate. Share with us stories about John Wesley, the Father of Methodism, who traveled two hundred fifty thousand miles on horseback and preached over forty thousand sermons.

Chris: Pastor Nizzi, receive this stole, signifying your ordination and servant leadership. Shepherd us, as our pastor. Amen.

Pastor Nizzi: This yoke, this responsibility, has been laid upon me by God, through our Bishop Thomas Bickerton. I willingly take it upon myself, knowing that we are in this journey together. Let us pray.

Congregation (Gifty leads): Lord God, bless the ministries of your Church. We thank you for the variety of gifts you have bestowed upon us. Draw us together in one Spirit, that each of us may use our differing gifts as members of one body. May your Word be proclaimed with faithfulness, and may we be doers of your Word and not hearers only. As we who have died and risen with Christ in baptism gathered at his table and then scattered into the world, may we be one in service to others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Pastor Nizzi kneels. The congregation may raise hand a hand toward the pastor while saying the blessing)

Presenters (Gifty leads) & Congregation: Pastor Nizzi, may the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make God's face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. The Lord lifts God's countenance upon you and give you peace. Amen.

Pastor Nizzi: The peace and joy of the Lord be always with you.

Congregation: And also with you. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn

Dear Lord, Lead Me Day by Day (verse 2 only)

UMH 411

Dear Lord, lead me day by day; make me follow and obey
Faithfully Your words of life, that Your love ever abide.
Praise to God, fount of love, praise from morn till the set of sun;
Praise at home, praise in church; praise to God everywhere on earth

Call to Prayer

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

TFWS 2120, refrain

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free.
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (You are invited to pray in the language of your choice.)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Psalter

Psalms 139:1-6 & 13-18

UMH 854

Response: Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts.

¹ O Lord, you have searched me and known me!

² **You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**

³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.

⁴ **Even before a word is on my tongue,
O Lord, you know it altogether.**

⁵ You pursue me, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.

⁶ **Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high, I cannot attain it. [Response]**

¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts,
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

¹⁴ I praise you, for you are fearful and wonderful.
Wonderful are your works!

You know me very well;

¹⁵ **my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret,
intricately wrought in the depths of the earth.**

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance;
**in your book were written all the days that were formed for me,
every day, before they came into being.**

¹⁷ How profound to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

¹⁸ **If I would count them, they are more than the sand;
When I awake, I am still with you. [Response]**

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 14:25-33 NRSVUE

Anthem

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

The Chancel Choir
Harold W. Friedell (1905-1958)

Draw us in the Spirit's tether,
For when humbly in Thy name,
Two or three are met together
Thou are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Touch we now Thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
So knit Thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living
Make as sacraments of Thee,
That by caring, helping, giving
We may true disciples be.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Message

God & Us Synergy

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering

Offertory Music

Aseda Ndwom – Song of Thanks

The Ghanaian Choir
James Varrick Armaah

I will always mention your name to the world,
I will always mention your name to the world,
What you have done for me, what you have done for me,
I will speak of your name to the whole world.
You have changed my life, you have not left me astray
I will sing and praise your name
Thanks belong to You always.

Thanks, thanks, thanks, song of thanks,
It is from my heart,
Praises, praises, praises, song of praises
It is from my heart,
We have brought them, we have brought them, song of thanks,
Thanks always belongs to You.

***Doxology**

UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Passing of Peace**

Shalom

Composer: Mensah Essilfie

God's peace be unto you,
We wish you Shalom!
The peace of God which transcends all
understanding be with you forevermore.

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion

UMH 17, Musical Setting A

Communion Music & Meditation

Improvisation on Break Thou the Bread of Life

William F. Sherwin

Announcements

***Closing Hymn**

We Are Marching

TFWS 2235b

1. We are **marching** in the light of God. 4x
We are marching, Ooo
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, Ooo
We are marching in the light of God.
2. We are **living** in the love of God. 4x
We are living Ooo
We are living in the love of God.
We are living, Ooo
We are living in the love of God.
3. We are **moving** in the love of God. 4x
We are moving, Ooo
We are moving in the love of God.
We are moving, Ooo
We are moving in the love of God.

***Benediction**

Pastor Nizzi

Postlude

The Prayer

David Potts, soloist

Carole Bayer Sager and David Foster

*I pray you'll be our eyes, and watch us where we go,
and help us to be wise in times when we don't know.
Let this be our prayer, when we lose our way.
Lead us to a place, guide us with your grace
to a place where we'll be safe.*

*I pray you'll be our light and hold it in our hearts.
When stars go out each night, remind us where you are.
Let this be our prayer, when shadows fill our day.
Help us find a place, guide us with your grace.
Give us faith so we'll be safe.*

*A world where pain and sorrow will be ended,
and every heart that's broken will be mended.
And we'll remember we are all God's children,
reaching out to touch you, reaching to the sky.*

*We ask that you be kind, and watch us from above.
We hope each soul will find another soul to love.
Let this be our prayer, just like every child
who needs to find a place, guide us with your grace.
Give us faith so we'll be safe. Needs to find a place,
guide us with your grace. Give us faith so we'll be safe.*

The image on the front of the bulletin is a picture of Wesley UMC combined with a Vacation Bible Camp picture posted on the WUMC Facebook page taken during the Vacation Bible School.

Worship Leaders: Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle,
Ronna Davis, Chris Kerns, Debbie O'Driscoll, David Potts, Jennifer Quansah,
Gary Robinson, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship is by Rev. Nizzi Digan

Opening Prayer: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/07/opening-prayer-psalm-139.html>

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