

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth 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

Meditation on Amazing Grace

Charles Callahan

God Is So Good

Traditional

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
for God's steadfast love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

***Call to Worship**

One: "Friends, God invites us into God's presence, where the spirit of judgment is not our guide, but rather, mercy and understanding are.

ALL: In His wisdom, Jesus teaches, 'Do not judge, or you too will be judged.'

One: So, let us begin this worship by humbly acknowledging our own imperfections, (pause for brief silence) recognizing that we all stumble.

ALL: Let us choose to see the good in one another, to extend grace, and to trust in God's justice, that we may truly experience the love and compassion Jesus calls us to.

One: Come! Let us worship ready to be transformed-

ALL: So that this faith community may truly become a Judgment Free Zone, praising the Triune God through our radical welcome and outreach.

***Opening Hymn/Processional**

How Can We Name a Love

UMH 111

1. How can we name a love that wakens heart and mind,
Indwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world: in every human face,
Love's echoes sound, and God is found, hid in the commonplace.

2. If we awoke to life, built on a rock of care
That asked no great reward but firm, assured, was simply there,
We can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.
3. When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
In projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,
Our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,
That all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.
4. So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
A presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.

***Praise Songs**

God You're So Good

God You're so good. God you are kind.
God You are wonderful. My God, You are excellent...

Excellent is Thy name. Excellent is Thy might.
God You are wonderful. My God You are excellent...

Unto The Lord Be the Glory

Unto the Lord be the glory. Great things He has done...

Great things He has done. Greater things He will do.
Unto the Lord be the glory. Great things He has done...

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Merciful God, we thank You for Your boundless love and grace, which You extend to us freely and without condition. We rejoice that You welcome us, just as Jesus welcomed tax collectors and sinners, demonstrating Your compassion and desire for all to be found.

As we reflect on Your unconditional welcome, we acknowledge that we all have fallen short and stand in need of Your mercy and forgiveness. May we never become like the Pharisees who grumbled at Your compassion but instead be humbled by Your grace. We ask for Your strength to be like the shepherd who leaves the ninety-nine to search for the one lost sheep. Give us the courage to reach out to those who feel lost, forgotten, and alone, sharing Your unconditional love with them. Help us to see others with Your heart, that we might celebrate with great joy every time a lost soul is found and brought home.

In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who came to seek and save the lost, we pray. Amen.

(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)

Time for the Child in Each of Us

Pastor Nizzi 101: Seek God First, Part 2

Wesley Ambassador Award

Presented by Gary Robinson

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

Pastor Nizzi

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.

New Testament Reading

1 Timothy 1:12-17

***Gospel Reading**

Luke 15:1-10

Anthem*Grace*

Chancel Choir

Mark Hayes

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.
6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less day to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Message*Judgment Free Zone*

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering**Offertory Music***For Your Blessings in my Life*

Ghanaian Choir

James Varrick Armaah

For your blessings in my life, your glory will never fade away
Your glory will never fade away, Saviour.
For your blessings in my life, how can I repay you?
Your glory will never fade away, Lord of grace.

What song shall I sing? What dance shall I dance?
What words can I express, Lord of grace?
For your blessings in my life, how can I repay you?
I will praise you without end, Lord of grace.

***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**

Pastor Nizzi

***Passing of Peace**

Shalom

Mensah Essilfie

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

Announcements

***Closing Hymn/Recessional**

Together We Serve

TFWS 2175

1. Together we serve, united by love,
Inviting God's world to the glorious feast.
We work and pray through sorrow and joy,
Extending your love to the last and the least.
2. We seek to become a beacon of hope,
A lamp for the heart and a light for the feet.
We learn, year by year, to let love shine through
Until we see Christ in each person we meet.
3. We welcome the scarred, the wealthy, the poor,
The busy, the lonely, and all who need care.
We offer a home to those who will come,
Our hands quick to help, our hearts ready to dare.
4. Together, by grace, we witness and work,
Remembering Jesus, in whom we grow strong.
Together we serve in Spirit and truth,
Remembering love is the strength of our song.

***Benediction**

Pastor Nizzi

Postlude

Improvisation on TERRA BEATA

*F.L. Sheppard &
David H. Hegarty*

This Week at Wesley

**Outside groups. Registration is required.*

Sunday, September 14th

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:15 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 4:00 pm Wedding
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (Chapel)

Monday, September 15th

- 5:30 pm Go Hard or Stay Home BB*
- 6:30 pm SPRC

Tuesday, September 16th

- 5:30 pm Go Hard or Stay Home BB*

Wednesday, September 17th

- 7:00 pm AA – BBSS (Chapel)

Thursday, September 18th

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB*

Friday, September 19th

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB*

Saturday, September 20th

- 9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 am Carty Cupboard Food Pantry (ends at 11:30 am)

Sunday, September 21st

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:15 am Ministry Fair
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (Chapel)

For more events this month, there are copies of the September calendar in the Narthex.

The image on the front of the bulletin is a picture of Wesley UMC with an image from etsy.com.

Worship Leaders: Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle,
Rev. Nizzi Digan, Ronna Davis, Cynthia Fletcher, Chris Kerns, Debbie O'Driscoll, David Potts,
Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

The Call to Worship and Opening Prayer are written with help from Google AI.

The scripture readings are from the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition* (NRSVUE).

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