

# Wesley United Methodist Church

*Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!*

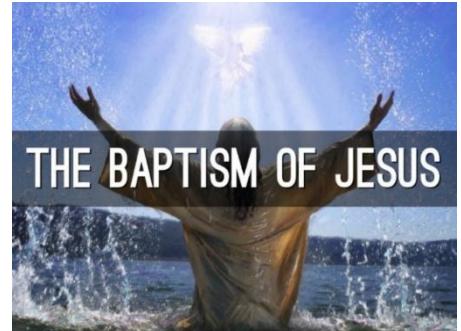
Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Baptism of Jesus & Renewal of Baptismal Vows

January 11, 2026

*At Wesley United Methodist Church, 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**

*Shall We Gather at the River*

Ronna Davis, Organ

Gordon Young, composer

**Welcome**

Pastor Nizzi

**Centering**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

UMH 206

I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
In Him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the Light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Come to the waters, all who thirst for grace and renewal.

**ALL: We come, seeking the Spirit who moves over the waters.**

One: In Christ, the heavens are torn open, and God's voice declares love.

**ALL: We hear the call to follow and live as beloved children of God.**

One: Let us remember our baptism and rejoice in the promise of new life.

**ALL: With joy and thanksgiving, we worship the Lord who makes us new! Amen.**

## Opening Hymn/Processional

### *When Jesus Came to Jordan*

UMH 252

1. When Jesus came to Jordan to be baptized by John,  
he did not come for pardon but as the sinless one.  
He came to share repentance with all who mourn their sins,  
to speak the vital sentence with which good news begins
  
2. He came to share temptation, our utmost woe and loss,  
for us and our salvation to die upon the cross.  
So when the dove descended on him, the Son of Man,  
the hidden years had ended, the age of grace begin.
  
3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us to keep the vows we make;  
this very day invade us, and every bondage break.  
Come, give our lives direction, the gift we covet most:  
to share the resurrection that leads to Pentecost.

## \*Praise Songs

### **Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise)** *[Feel free to sing in either language]*

A-ye-yi Wurae' ----A-ye-yi Wurae'  
Ye yi W'aye Na yε Ma Wo so!

*You own our praise! You own our praise!  
We praise you, Lord, and we lift you high!*

### **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.

## Opening Prayer

**Most wonderful God, foolish and flawed though we are, we too delight in Your beloved Son. As in His name we gather in the house of many praises, may the heavens be opened for us, that we may catch a glimpse of that Light and Love that transforms our common days with beauty not of our making.**

**Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!**

(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)

**Assurance of Pardon*****God Is Forgiveness***

Debbie O'Driscoll

God is forgiveness. Dare to forgive and God will be with you.  
God is forgiveness.  
Love and do not fear.

**Time for the Child in Each of Us**

Pastor Nizzi

**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 to celebrate our diversity.)*

**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.**

**Responsive Reading***Psalm 29 v1-4*

UMH 761

**Response: With joy the Lord of Hosts proclaim;  
extol the great almighty name.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; Worship the Lord in holy splendor.**

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; The God of glory thunders,  
the Lord, upon many waters.

**The voice of the Lord is powerful,  
The voice of the Lord is full of majesty. (Response)**

**\*Gospel Reading***Matthew 3:13-17 (NRSVUE)*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Anthem***Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized*

Kenneth Lowenberg

Christ, when for us You were baptized, God's Spirit on You came,  
As peaceful as a dove and yet as urgent as a flame.  
God called You "My beloved Son", the suffering servant true,  
Sent You the kingdom to proclaim, God's holy will to do.  
Straightway and steadfast until death You then obeyed God's call  
Freely as Son of Man to serve and give Your life for all.  
Baptize us, O Lord, Your cross be signed,  
That, likewise in God's service, we may perfect freedom find.

**Message***Beloved Before Anything Else*

Rev. Nizzi Digan

**Renewal of Baptism****Invitation**

Because of flu season, we'll renew our baptism in a symbolic and safe way.  
God's grace is not limited by water or touch. God's grace is carried by promise and received by faith.

**Prayer**

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

I invite you now to hold your **left palm open**, as if receiving water.

With your **right thumb**, gently touch your palm and make the sign of the cross on your forehead.

(Moment of Silence)

**Renewal Litany**

**Pastor:** Remember your baptism and be thankful.

**People:** We remember that we are God's beloved.

**Pastor:** In baptism, we are marked with the sign of Christ's love and sealed by the Holy Spirit.

**People:** We belong to God.

**Pastor:** May the Spirit who descended like a dove upon Jesus renew us, guide us, and send us forth.

**All:** Amen.

## The Offering & Offertory Music

*Your Grace and Mercy*

Ghanaian Choir

*Newlove Kojo Annan, composer*

Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far,  
Lord, had it not been for Your Grace, what would life have been like?  
Life has been very rough; but Grace has always been my guide,  
Lord, Your Grace has taken care of me to date. (2x)

You never gave the promise that the journey would be easy,  
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far!  
Your Grace and Mercy is all I need,  
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far. (2x)

Abundant Grace, Abundant Grace, Abundant Grace, and having Mercy upon us,  
Your Grace and Mercy has brought us thus far!  
Your Grace and Mercy, is all I need, your Grace and Mercy  
has brought us thus far!

Your Grace and Mercy, Your Grace and Mercy,  
Your Grace and Mercy has brought me thus far!

## \*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

**God of glory and strength, we share this offering with you as a response to your powerful acts in our own lives. We share our financial resources with you because of the splendid ways that you have blessed us. Your majestic spirit fills our lives like the mighty waters fill the oceans. All glory is given to you, Lord God. In your powerful name, we pray. Amen.**

## \*Passing of Peace

*Shalom*

*Mensah Essilifie, composer*

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

## Announcements

Gifty Bentum-Asante

## \*Closing Hymn/Recessional

*Spirit of God*

TFWS 2117

1. Spirit of God, bright Wind, breath that bids life begin,  
blow as you always do; create us anew.  
Give us the breath to sing, lifted on soaring wing,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
2. Spirit of God, bright Dove, grant us your peace and love,  
healing upon your wings for all living things.  
For when we live your peace captives will find release,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
3. Spirit of God, bright Hands, even in far-off lands  
you hold all the human race in one warm embrace.  
No matter where we go you hold us together so,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
4. Spirit of God, bright Flame, send us in your holy name,  
with power to heal, to share your love everywhere.  
We cannot fail or fall or know defeat at all,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!
5. Spirit of God in all, we gladly hear your call,  
the life in our hands that sings, the power of your wings.  
Born of your grace we rise, love shining in our eyes,  
held in your hands, borne on your wings.  
Alleluia! Come, Spirit, come!

## \*Benediction

**Benediction Response**

Congregation

May the grace and peace of Christ be with you, my friends.  
Go and share the love of God, love that never ends.

## Postlude

*Convocation*

Ronna Davis, organ

*Charles Callahan, composer*

Worship Leaders: Stephanie Smyth (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante,  
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Deborah O'Driscoll, Antonio Paredes,  
David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Scott Shackett (acolyte),  
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

The Call to Worship is from ottumc.org.

The Opening Prayer is written by Bruce Prewer

The Renewal Prayer is from ministrymatter.com

The Prayer of Dedication is from davidsbell.org.

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## **This Week at Wesley**

The church office is open Tuesday through Friday, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.

*\*Outside groups. Registration is required.*

### **Sunday, January 11, 2026**

10:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Children's Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship Time  
11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
**12:00 pm UWF Annual Meeting & Memorial Service Lunch (BH)**  
7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

### **Monday, January 12, 2026**

6:00 pm Eye Glass Clinic

### **Tuesday, January 13, 2026**

### **Wednesday, January 14, 2026**

12:00 pm Prayer Circle (MEL)  
7:00 pm AA-BBSS (CH)  
7:00 pm Wesley Ringers (BH)

### **Thursday, January 15, 2026**

5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB\*

### **Friday, January 16, 2026**

5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB\*

### **Saturday, January 17, 2026**

9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)  
10:00 am Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

### **Sunday, January 18, 2026**

10:00 am Worship  
10:15 am Children's Sunday School  
11:00 am Fellowship Time  
11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

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

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