

# Wesley United Methodist Church

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

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 25, 2026

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*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.*

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

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

**Prelude**

*How Brightly Shines the Morning Star*

Ronna Davis, organ

Angela Kraft Cross, composer

Tune: WIE SCHON LEUCHTET by Philipp Nicolai

**Welcome**

Matt Crane

**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: We come seeking God,

**ALL: the one who guides us and protects us.**

One: People of God, there is nothing to fear,

**ALL: for God dwells in our hearts.**

One: Let us shout with joy, for God is here!

**ALL: Let us sing praises to the Holy One!**

## Opening Hymn/Processional

*Jesus Calls Us*

UMH 398

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea;  
day by day his sweet voice soundeth, saying, "Christian, follow me!"

As of old the apostles heard it by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus' sake.

Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store,  
from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"

In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"

Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call,  
give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

## \*Praise Songs

### Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

### Osee Praise

Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Praise the almighty God!  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh...  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...  
He is worthy of our praise! Halleluyah!

Osee Yee Praise Him Halleluyah!...  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh...  
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

## Opening Prayer

**God of love, our eyes are on the nets of our work.  
Open them to receive your call.  
Our hands are on the worn, familiar wood of the boats of our lives.  
Open them to reach for you.  
We are casting our nets into the riches of this world.  
May we cast the nets of our hearts into the deep sea of your grace.  
May all of our work, and all of our lives,  
become one with your work of the healing of the world,  
in the name and Spirit of Christ. 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**

Matthew Crane

**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**

Matt Crane

**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.**

**\*Gospel Reading**

*Matthew 4:12-23 (NRSVUE)*

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Anthem**

Chancel Choir

*The Lord Is My Light**Michael Bedford, composer*

The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear.  
 Of whom shall I be afraid?  
 For in times of trouble you hide me in your dwelling;  
 You shelter me and comfort me, and set me high on a rock.  
 Hear, O Lord, when I cry to you, give ear to me and answer;  
 O hide not your face from me, your face, O Lord, do I seek.

**Message***Repentance that Leads to Light*

Matt Crane

**The Offering & Offertory Music**

Ghanaian Choir

*Oye (He Is Good)**James Varrick Armaah, composer*

I have heard some good news, he is good, he is good,  
 I have heard some good news that Jesus is love...  
 He is good, Father God is good, he is good indeed, he is good, he is good...  
 Let us all join together and sing a song that He is good, He is good.  
 My heart is full of praise, and I will sing a song that he is good.

God is good, Father God is good, he is good, he is good indeed.  
 I will say it again and again, that he is good, he is good, he is good indeed.  
 Look at me, he has blessed me, he is a good father.  
 Come to him and he will save you as well.  
 I will say it again and again,  
 He is good, Father God is good. He is good indeed, he is good, he is good.

**\*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**

**Gracious God, we give you our lives, symbolized in our gifts. Receive them with love, bless them with grace and use them according to your will. Jesus goes before us and beckons us to follow. By your Spirit help us follow: help us live lives of love and courage, for the sake of the healing of the world, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

**\*Passing of Peace***Shalom**Mensah Essilfie, composer*

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

**\*Closing Hymn/Recessional**

*Would I Have Answered When You Called*

TFWS 2137

Would I have answered when you called, "Come, follow, follow me!"?  
Would I at once have left behind both work and family?  
Or would the old, familiar round have held me by its claim  
and kept the spark within my heart from bursting into flame?

Would I have followed where you led through ancient Galilee,  
on roads unknown, by ways untried, beyond security?  
Or would I soon have hurried back where home and comfort drew,  
where truth you taught would not disturb the ordered world I knew?

Would I have matched my step with yours when crowds cried, ""Crucify!""  
when on a rocky hill I saw a cross against the sky?  
Or would I too have slipped away and left you there alone,  
a dying king with crown of thorns upon a terrible throne?

O Christ, I cannot search my heart through all its tangled ways,  
nor can I with a certain mind my steadfastness appraise.  
I only pray that when you call, "Come, follow, follow me!"  
you'll give me strength beyond my own to follow faithfully.

**\*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**

*Ye Holy Angles Bright*

Ronna Davis, organ

*Franklin Ritter, composer*

Tune: DARWALL'S 148<sup>TH</sup> by John Darwall



Capernaum by the Sea

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

Cover image: Duccio, di Buoninsegna, Christ Calling the Apostles Peter and Andrew, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=49261> [retrieved January 9, 2026]. Original source:

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The Opening Prayer and Prayer of Dedication are written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes, [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net)

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## **This Week at Wesley**

*\*Outside groups. Registration is required.*

### **Sunday, January 25, 2026**

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 2:00 pm Master Class, Worcester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists(organ)\*
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

### **Monday, January 26, 2026**

- 6:00 pm Eye Glass Clinic

### **Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB\*

### **Wednesday, January 28, 2026**

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

### **Thursday, January 29, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB\*

### **Friday, January 30, 2026**

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor BB\*

### **Saturday, January 31, 2026**

- 9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
- 4:00 am Community Dinner (BH)

### **Sunday, February 1, 2026**

- 8:00 am Community Breakfast
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:15 am Communion Breakfast
- 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.*

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