

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

February 1, 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

Let Us Break Bread Together

Wesley Ringers
Kurt Meyer, composer

Welcome

Rev. Stuart Tucker

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**

Psalm 15

UMH 747

Response: Justice alone is the way of the Lord; be just and worship God

O Lord, who shall abide in your tent?

Who shall dwell on thy holy hill?

**²The one who walks blamelessly, and does what is right,
and speaks truth from the heart;**

**³who does not slander with the tongue,
and does no evil to a friend,
nor takes up a reproach against a neighbor;**

**⁴in whose eyes a reproach is despised,
but who honors those who fear the Lord;**

⁵ who does not put out money at interest,
and does not take a bribe against the innocent.

The one who does these things shall never be moved.

Response: Justice alone is the way of the Lord; be just and worship God

***Opening Hymn/Processional**

Be Thou My Vision

UMH 451

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou and thou only, first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

***Praise Songs**

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

I Have Joy in My Heart

I have joy in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart...

Jesus gave to me, and no one can destroy it.

I have joy in my heart; deep, deep down in my heart...

Opening Prayer

Gracious God, we come to you poor in spirit. Fill us with the riches of your Word. We come to you hungry for justice. Give us hope and joy. We come to you powerless in this violent world. May we inherit the world of your grace. We come to you desiring to be your peacemakers. Bless us that we might receive your Spirit, and serve you in the name of Christ. Amen.

Time for the Child in Each of Us

Rev. Tucker

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

Rev. Tucker

Epistle Reading*1 Corinthians 1:18-21 (NRSVUE)*

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe.

Gospel ReadingMatthew 5:1-12 (NRSVUE)*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

*Blessed Are Those**Benjamin Harlin, composer*

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they who mourn; for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth;

and blessed are those who thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful, for they will have mercy;

and blessed are the pure, for they will see God.

Blessed the makers of peace, for they are the children of God;

and blessed are those who suffer for righteousness for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Rejoice and be glad those who sow in tears, for they will see God.

The Offering & Offertory Music

Ghanaian Choir

It is by Grace

James Varrick Armaah, composer

It is by Grace, God's Grace that has made me worthy.
Just Grace that has made me worthy.
It is that Grace that has brought me this far.
It is by Grace, God's Grace,
It is not by my might nor wisdom, but it is Grace
It is by Grace, God's Grace that has brought me this 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

We thank you, God, that you have blessed us with an abundance of gifts for the flourishing of your world. May this offering of our life and labor reveal your love as we seek to share your promised reign with all creation. 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.

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion

UMH 12, Musical Setting A, 17

The United Methodist Church practices Open Communion. All who desire to live in the love and peace of Jesus Christ are welcome to the bread and cup of communion. At the direction of the ushers, come forward using the center aisle to stand or kneel at the communion rail for distribution of the elements. After consuming the elements and private prayer at the rail, you may return to your seat via the side aisles. Please alert the ushers to anyone wishing to be served while remaining seated in the sanctuary. Non-alcoholic grape juice is used, and gluten-free wafers are available.

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.

Communion Music & Meditation

Ronna Davis, Organ

Break Thou the Bread of Life Charles Callahan, composer
Bread of the Word, IN Mercy Broken

Announcements

Gifty Bentum-Asante

***Closing Hymn/Recessional**

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

UMH 584

Lord, you give the great commission: "Heal the sick and preach the word."
Lest the church neglect its mission, and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose with renewed integrity:

Refrain: With the Spirit's gifts empower us for the work of ministry.

Lord, you call us to your service: "In my name, baptize and teach."
That the world may trust your promise, life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: [Refrain]

Lord, you make the common holy: "This my body, this my blood."
Let us all, for earth's true glory, daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us share your children's liberty: [Refrain]

Lord, you show us love's true measure: "Father, what they do, forgive."
Yet we hoard as private treasure all that you so freely give.
May your care and mercy lead us to a just society: [Refrain]

Lord, you bless with words assuring: "I am with you to the end."
Faith and hope and love restoring, may we serve as you intend
and, amid the cares that claim us, hold in mind eternity: [Refrain]

***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

Ronna Davis, organ

Ye Holy Angels Bright

Franklin Ritter, composer

Tune: DARWALL's 148th by John Darwall

Worship Leaders: Debbie O'Driscoll (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante,
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Antonio Paredes, David Potts,
Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson, Scott Shackett (acolyte), Rev, Stuart Tucker
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Wesley Ringers, Worship Tech Team

Communion Servers: Osei Ansah, Cordelia Ferdinand, Chris Flagg, and Gary Robinson

Cover image: JESUS MAFA. The Sermon on the Mount, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the
Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48284>
[retrieved January 9, 2026]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page:
<https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

Opening Prayer: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, unfoldinglight.net

Prayer of Dedication: *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.
Westminster John Knox Press, 2014.

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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, February 1, 2026

- 8:00 am Community Breakfast (until 9:30 am)
- 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)

Monday, February 2, 2026

Tuesday, February 3, 2026

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

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

Thursday, February 5, 2026

Friday, February 6, 2026

Saturday, February 7, 2026

- 9:00 am UWF Steering Committee Meeting (JW)
- 9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
- 10:00 am Carty Cupboard Food Pantry

Sunday, February 8, 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 February calendar in the Narthex.

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