

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

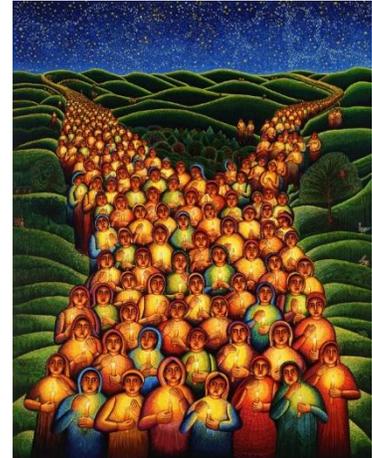
Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

February 8, 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

Be Thou My Vision

Ronna Davis, organ
John S. Dixon, composer

Welcome

Debbie O'Driscoll

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: Creator God, Light of heaven, we praise you!

ALL: Risen Christ, light of the world, we greet you!

One: Holy Spirit, light of God within us, we shine with your loveliness.

ALL: Our lives are your praise. Our Being is your glory.

One: God, you have created us to shine with your love.

**ALL: We confess that we have hidden your light;
but you forgive us, restore your radiance in us,
and give us as light to the world.**

One: May your light redeem us, and gleam in us with beauty.

ALL: Alleluia! Come, Spirit of Light, and transform us by your grace. Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn/Processional**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

UMH 103

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.

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.

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.

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**

Unto the Lord

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...

Praise O Praise, My God and King

Praise, O praise, my God and King.
Hymns of adoration, sing;
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful, ever sure ...

Alleluia, Alleluia!
King of Kings and Lord of Lords!
For his mercies, shall endure; Ever faithful ever sure...

Opening Prayer

**God, speak your word to us, a lamp unto our feet, so we may know your ways.
Shine your light upon us, so we can see your path.
Shine your light within us so we can know your presence.
Shine your light out through us,
so we can help you bring your love into this world.
In the name of Jesus, the Light of the World. 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

Debbie O'Driscoll

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

Debbie O'Driscoll

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.

Hebrew Bible Reading

Isaiah 58:1-9a (NRSVUE)

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
 Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
 Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
 as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
 and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
 they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side.
 "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
 Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers.
 You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
 Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
 Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
 Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
 Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?
 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

***Gospel Reading** *Matthew 5:13-16 (NRSVUE)*

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

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

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Teach Me, O Lord

Thomas Attwood, composer

Teach me, O Lord, the way of Thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

Message

Keeping God's Fast

Deborah O'Driscoll

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**

Loving God, we give thanks for all you have given to us and praise you for your astounding goodness. Receive the dedication of our hearts, minds, and bodies for the ministry of your church. Bless our offering for the work of your Kingdom, and give us wisdom for the right use of while you have provided, through Christ our Lord. 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.

Announcements

Gifty Bentum-Asante

***Closing Hymn/Recessional**

As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

TFWS 2237

As a fire is meant for burning
with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission,
giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs,
but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations,
finding neighbors everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers;
we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers;
we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions,
we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit,
we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the springtime
is the sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness
'mid earth's peoples, many hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens
when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance
of God's new and glorious dawn.

***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

Trumpet Voluntary

Ronna Davis, organ
Gordon Young, composer

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

Cover image: Swanson, John August. Festival of Lights, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the
Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56546>
[retrieved January 3, 2026]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson
<https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

Call to Worship and 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 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)

Monday, February 2, 2026

- 6:00 pm Eye Glass Clinic

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)
- 7:00 pm Contra-Dance (BH)

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- 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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