

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

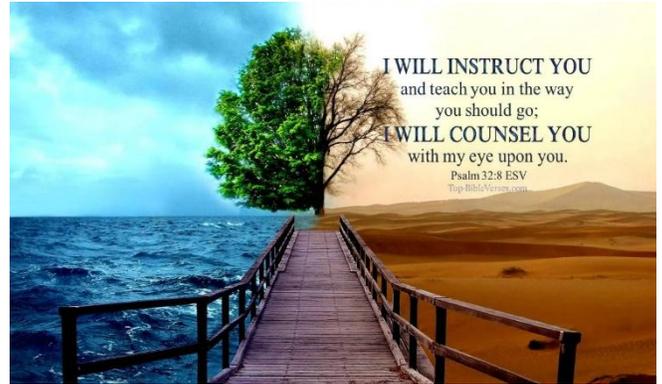
Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 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

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Wesley Ringers

Jason W. Krug, composer

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering

Lord Jesus Christ

Taizé Music

Lord Jesus Christ, Your light shines within us.
Let not our doubts nor our darkness speak to us.
Lord Jesus Christ, Your light shines within us.
Let our hearts always welcome Your love.

***Call to Worship**

One: Jesus began His ministry to the world, led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

ALL: As we begin our Lenten journey, let us be led by the Spirit, even into the uncomfortable places.

One: In those forty days, and in that place, Jesus was faced with hunger, doubt and temptation.

ALL: As we seek to follow Jesus, we would be led, even into the uncomfortable choices.

One: Jesus left the wilderness, faithful and obedient to God, rejoicing in the One in whom he trusted.

ALL: As we continue our path to faithfulness, we will be led by our Christ, rejoicing in the Lord our God.

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.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil, a life of joy and peace.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

***Praise Songs**

Me yi N'aye (I Will Praise Him) [Feel free to sing in either language]

Me yi n'aye, Me yi Nyamea' ye...

Me yi Nyamea' ye, Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Halleluyah ...

I will praise God, I will praise my God...

I will praise my God, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah...

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

Almighty God,

**Your Son fasted in the wilderness,
and faced human temptations.**

**Give us courage to face and name our own temptations,
and to direct our lives in obedience to Your Spirit.**

**You know us better than we know ourselves;
may we know You and grow closer to the vision You have for us,
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever; 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.

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

Psalms 32

UMH 766

Response: *Be glad in the Lord and rejoice; shout for joy, you upright in heart.*

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

**Blessed are those whom the Lord does not hold guilty,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

When I did not declare my sin, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;

**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord";
then you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Response: *Be glad in the Lord and rejoice; shout for joy, you upright in heart.*

Therefore let those who are godly
offer prayer to you;

**at a time of distress, the rush of great waters
shall not reach them.**

You are a hiding place for me,
you preserve me from trouble; you encompass me with deliverance.

**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Do not be like an unruly horse or a mule, without
understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle.

**Many are the pangs of the wicked;
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.**

Be glad in the Lord, and rejoice, O righteous;
shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Response: *Be glad in the Lord and rejoice; shout for joy, you upright in heart.*

The Testing of Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Chancel Choir

Jeffrey Van, composer

Jesus walked this lonesome valley; he had to walk it by himself.
Oh, nobody else could walk it for him; he had to walk it by himself.

We must walk this lonesome valley; we have to walk it by ourselves.
Oh, nobody else can walk it for us; we have to walk it by ourselves.

Message

Renewed in the Wilderness: Sustained by God's Mercy

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

Amman Mma – Children of the World

Ghanaian Choir

Emmanuel K. B. Attah, composer

Children of the word, children of the world, praise the Lord,
for He is a mighty King.
Children of the world, children of the world, praise the Lord,
for He is a mighty King.
He has conquered death. When He speaks, everything remains still.
He is a conqueror. We will worship Him always.
Children of the world, children of the world, praise the Lord,
for he is a mighty King.
Children of the world, go! We will sing for Him.
We will shout praises unto Him. We will magnify Him always.
We will give him all the glory and honor.

***Doxology**

Tune: OLD 100th

Praise God throughout these forty days
Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.
And praise the Spirit who imparts
God's love in Christ into our hearts. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

**God of Mercy, in this moment of giving, we offer not just our resources, but our trust that You are already at work, shaping us through challenge, strengthening us through sacrifice, and surrounding us with unseen angels. Use these gifts to bring hope where there is hunger, healing where there is pain, and light where there is despair. May what we give reflect our desire to walk more closely with You, even in the hard places.
In Christ's name we pray, 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**

Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

TFWS 2105

Jesus, tempted in the desert, lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
"Use your power," the tempter tells him; "Turn these barren rocks to bread!"
"Not alone by bread," he answers, "Can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us is our deepest hunger stilled!"

Jesus, tempted at the temple, high above its ancient wall:
"Throw yourself from lofty turret; angels wait to break your fall!"
Jesus shuns such empty marvels, feats that fickle crowds request:
"God, whose grace protects, preserves us, we must never vainly test."

Jesus, tempted on the mountain by the lure of vast domain:
"Fall before me! Be my servant! Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!"
Jesus sees the dazzling vision, turns his eyes another way:
"God alone deserves our homage! God alone will I obey!"

When we face temptation's power, lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour, come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us lest we fall your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices, be the Word we hear, obey.

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

Postlude *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

David Potts, soloist
Ronna Davis, organ
B.F. White, composer
Shirley Erena Murray, words

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed.
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare.

Music Notes

Throughout the Lenten services, the music team will shape, during the postlude, a moment of contemplation. A sung text, a pensive piano, or a thoughtful organ selection will invite worshipers into stillness - a time for reflection, inward listening, and holy preparation.

Worship Leaders: Danielle Ferdinand (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Tessa Burke (acolyte),
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Deborah O'Driscoll, Antonio Paredes,
David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Scott Shackett (acolyte),
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Wesley Ringers, Worship Tech Team

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The Call to Worship is written by Thom Shuman and posted on <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.ca/>

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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 22, 2026 – First Sunday in Lent

- 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 23, 2026

- 6:00 pm Eye Glass Clinic

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

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

Thursday, February 26, 2026

Friday, February 27, 2026

Saturday, February 28, 2026

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

Sunday, March 1, 2026

- 8:00 am Community Breakfast
- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:00 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 February calendar in the Narthex.

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