

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

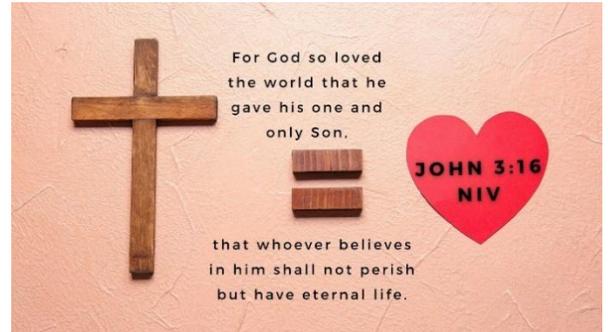
Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Second Sunday in Lent

March 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

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Ronna Davis, organ

Paul Heinlein (1626-1868), 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: Friends of God, believe this –God loved the world, God loves the world, we are the beloved!

ALL: May the truth of this great love story, shine through our worship today, and renew our calling.

One: So come, with your tiredness, your frustrations and your discouragements; come with your doubts, your fears, and your longings; come, to discover yet again how Jesus reveals God’s love and mercy.

ALL: Come, in friendship to God and to each other, and in friendship to the world, to listen for God’s Word to us, to offer our prayers, and to renew our calling. Let us worship!

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more; (want no more)
feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; (strength and shield) be
thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee; (give to thee)
I will ever give to thee.

***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 ye Ma Wo so!

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

I Will Lift Up Your Name Higher

I will lift up your name higher...
Great Jehovah you are wonderful
I will lift up your name higher...

Opening Prayer

One: We live fractured lives, and God seeks not to punish us for those faults and fault lines, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession together, first in silent prayer.

ALL: Loving God, help us.

**When we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love,
when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing,
help us.**

Merciful God, forgive us.

**When we have been selfish, when we have been mean,
when we have neglected the cries of others,
forgive us.**

Powerful God, heal us.

**When we are so broken we cannot move,
when we don't know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds,
when we are too ashamed to seek community,
heal us.**

**Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope
to accept your grace and embrace your call in 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

Pastor Nizzi

Call to Prayer

Lead Me, Guide Me

TFWS 2214

Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if You lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with you. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Prayers of the People

Pastor Nizzi

Happy birthday to you, to Jesus be true.
May God’s richest blessings, now rest upon you.

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 121

UMH 844, Response 2

Response : *In the shadow of your wings, I sing for joy.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From whence does my help come?

**My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved,
the Lord who keeps you will not slumber.

**Behold, the One who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

The Lord is your keeper;

the Lord is your shade on your right hand.

The sun shall not smite you by day,
nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all evil,
and will keep your life.

**The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and for evermore.**

Response: *In the shadow of your wing, I sing for joy.*

***Gospel Reading** *John 3:1-17*

There was a man named Nicodemus, a Jewish religious leader who was a Pharisee. After dark one evening, he came to speak with Jesus. “Rabbi, we all know that God has sent you to teach us. Your miraculous signs are evidence that God is with you.”

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Nicodemus asked, “What do you mean? How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?”

Jesus replied, “I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life. So don’t be surprised when I say, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can’t tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can’t explain how people are born of the Spirit.

Nicodemus wondered, “How are these things possible?”

Jesus answered, “You are a respected Jewish teacher, and yet you don’t understand these things? I assure you, we tell you what we know and have seen, and yet you won’t believe our testimony. But if you don’t believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ever gone to heaven and returned. But the Son of Man has come down from heaven. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that God gave God’s one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent God’s Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. This is the Word of God for us, the people of God. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

God So Loved the World

Chancel Choir

Sir John Stainer, composer

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son,
that who-so believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.
For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through him might be saved.

Message

From Night to New Life: Renewed in God’s Mercy

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

For Your Blessings in my Life

Ghanaian Choir

James Varrick Armaah, composer

For your blessings in my life, your glory will never fade away
Your glory will never fade away, Saviour.
For your blessings in my life, how can I repay you?
Your glory will never fade away, Lord of grace.

What song shall I sing? What dance shall I dance?
What words can I express, Lord of grace?
For your blessings in my life, how can I repay you?
I will praise you without end, Lord of grace

***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**

Faithful God of new beginnings, as Nicodemus discovered, Your love is not earned but freely given. Receive now these gifts we offer—not as payment or proof, but as signs of our belief, our hope, and our gratitude. Use them to share Your transforming love with a world still searching in the dark. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, given in love, 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.

The Sacrament of the Holy Communion

UMH 17, Musical Setting A

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.

Communion Music

Shepherd of Souls
My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Let All Mortal Flesh

Arr. Jerry van der Pol

Announcements

Gifty Bentum-Asante

***Closing Hymn/Recessional**

Gather Us In

TFWS 2236

Here in this place new light is streaming,
now is the darkness vanished away,
see in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in – the lost and forsaken, gather us in – the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young – our lives are a myst'ry
we are the old - who yearn for your face,
we have been sung throughout all of hist'ry,

called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in – the rich and the haughty, gather us in – the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Here we will take the wine and the water,
here we will take the bread of new birth,
here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light-years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining,
now is the Kingdom, now is the day.

Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in – all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Congregation

Tune: SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD

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

Postlude

Meditation

Ronna Davis, organ

Charles Williams (1893-1978), composer

Worship Leaders: Joseph Fletcher (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Tessa Burke (acolyte),
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Deborah O'Driscoll,
David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Douglas Taylor
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Communion Servers: Hubert and Ellen Orofino, Joseph and Margaret Wilson

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The Call to Worship is written by Ann Siddall, and posted on the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre website.
<https://stillpointsa.org.au/>

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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, March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent

- 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)

Monday, March 2, 2026

- 5:30 pm Go Hard or Stay Home Basketball*
- 7:00 pm Church Council (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

- 5:30 pm Go Hard or Stay Home Basketball*

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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

Thursday, March 5, 2026

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball*

Friday, March 6, 2026

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball*

Saturday, March 7, 2026

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

Sunday, March 8, 2026 – Daylight-Saving Time Begins

- 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 March calendar in the Narthex.

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