

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 in Lent

March 15, 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

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

Ronna Davis, organist
John S. Dixon, composer

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering

Lord Jesus Christ

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: We gather to worship and praise our 'Good Shepherd', who cares so well for us.

ALL: The Lord is our Shepherd, and we have all we are likely to need.

One: We gather to worship and praise our 'Good Shepherd', who safely leads us and gives us strength for the journey.

ALL: The Lord is our Shepherd, who allows us to rest and who renews our energies.

One: We gather to worship and praise our 'Good Shepherd', who offers us a feast when we are under pressure.

ALL: The Lord is our Shepherd, whose unfailing love is always there waiting for us. Praise be to God! Amen.

The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want. He makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness, e'en for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;
for thou art with me, and they rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me;
and in God's house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.

***Praise Songs**

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

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

Merciful God, the way to love and light leads through pain and loss, and the darkness of not seeing. And you, my Love, my Faithful One, You go there with me. Through the unknowing, through the powerlessness, through the grief, there You are, until we reach another green meadow. Thank You. Lead me. 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 Us, Guide Us

TFWS 2214

Lead us, guide us, along the way, for if You lead us, we cannot stray.

Lord, let us walk each day with you. Lead us O Lord, lead us.

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.

Old Testament Reading

Psalm 23

Pastor Joseph Wilson

*Gospel Reading

John 9:1-13 (verses); 14-41 Summary

NRSVUE

Jesus Heals a Blind Man on the Sabbath

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him.

We must work on the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

Summary of Verses 14-41. In this passage, the man whom Jesus healed from blindness is brought before the Pharisees because the healing happened on the Sabbath. Some of the Pharisees question whether Jesus could be from God since He broke Sabbath rules, while others wonder how a sinner could perform such signs. The man simply insists that Jesus healed him and calls Jesus a prophet.

The religious leaders then question the man's parents to confirm that he was truly born blind. His parents acknowledge that he is their son and that he was born blind but avoid explaining how he was healed because they fear the authorities.

The Pharisees question the healed man again and pressure him to say that Jesus is a sinner. Instead, the man boldly responds, "One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." Frustrated by his testimony, the leaders insulted him and finally cast him out.

Later, Jesus finds the man and asks if he believes in the Son of Man. When Jesus reveals himself, the man believes and worships Him. Jesus then teaches that He came so that those who do not see may see, and those who think they see may become blind—challenging the spiritual blindness of the Pharisees.

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

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem

Chancel Choir
Carlos Davis, clarinet; Pat Eggelston, flute
Mack Wilberg, composer

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need

My Shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name;
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back, when I forsake his ways,
and leads me for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
When I walk through the shades of death, thy presence is my stay;
One word of thy supporting breath drives all my fears away.
The hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows, thine oil anoints my head.
The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may thy house be mine abode and all my work be praise;
There would I find a settled rest while others go and come,
no more a stranger, nor a guest; but like a child at home.

Message *When Mercy Opens Our Eyes*

Rev. Nizzi Digan

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**

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**

Loving Lord, we confess how often we walk in shadows, blind to the brightness of Your love. Yet even still, You call us to bear Your light into the world. Help us reflect that radiance through our giving. Let these gifts shine with the hope of Christ, who lived, died, and rose for our sake. 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** *Open My Eyes, That I May See*

UMH 454

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Congregation

Tune: 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

Largo

Ronna Davis, organ
G. F. Handel, composer

Worship Leaders: Maria Gorsuch-Kennedy (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante,
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Carlos Davis (clarinet), Ronna Davis,
Deborah O'Driscoll, Pat Eggelston (flute)
David Potts, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson,
Chancel Choir, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

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The Opening Prayer is from Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes @<https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/18/praying-with-psalm-23/>.

The Prayer of Dedication is from <https://davidsbell.org/offertory-prayers/>

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This Week at Wesley

**Outside groups. Registration is required.*

Sunday, March 15, 2026 – Third 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
- 11:30 am Chapel Open for Labyrinth Walk
- 7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

Monday, March 16, 2026

- 5:30pm Go Hard or Stay Home Basketball *
- 6:30 pm SPRC

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

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

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026

- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball*
- 7:00 pm Sarah Circle

Friday, March 20, 2026

- 7:00 am Mass Music Educators Association (WH & JH/CH) *
- 5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball*

Saturday, March 21, 2026

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

Sunday, March 22, 2026

- 10:00 am Worship
- 10:15 am Children's Sunday School
- 11:00 am Fellowship Time
- 11:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 4:30 pm The Greater Accra Social Club *
- 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.