

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

July 12, 2026

10:00 AM

Mission Statement:

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

O Rest In The Lord from Elijah

Felix Mendelssohn, composer (1809-1847)

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him, and He shall give thee thy hearts desires.

Welcome

Pastor Nizzi

Centering

Spirit of the Living God

UMH 393

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us. 2X

Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us. Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on us.

***Call to Worship**

One: God scatters the seeds of reconciliation and love, and waits.

ALL: So much of it lands on flat pathways or rocky roads and won't take root.

One: God scatters the seeds of healing and hope, and waits.

ALL: Shallowness and fear claim the seeds and they cannot live.

One: God scatters the seeds of redemption and peace, and waits.

ALL: These are the places of deep growth where the seed will cast down strong roots. May our hearts be the rich soil in which God's love takes root. Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

Wonderful Words of Life

UMH 600

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
words of life and beauty teach me faith and duty.

Refrain: Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, list to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
all so freely given, wooing us to heaven. **Refrain**

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, sanctify forever. **Refrain**

***Praise Songs**

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...

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

O good and generous God, You have sown the seed of Your Word in our hearts. Nourish that Word by our worship today, so that Your Word may grow and flourish in us, and so that in all our lives we may bear the fruit of Your love. Amen.

(Moment of Silence for Personal Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

God Is Forgiveness

Pastor Nizzi

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

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

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.

Hymn

Thy Word Is a Lamp

UMH 601

Refrain: *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
still you're there right beside me,
and nothing will I fear as long as you are near.

Please be near me to the end. **Refrain**

Now I will not forget your love for me
and yet my heart forever is wondering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to your side
and I love will you to the end. **Refrain**

*Gospel Reading

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

NRSVUE

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Message

A Faith That Bears Fruit

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

Ghanaian Choir

Adepa Nyinaa (All Good Things)

K. Donkor, composer

All good things are from you God. All praises are from you God.
If we don't praise you, we will be ungrateful.
You deserve praises, you deserve all the glory, you deserve all the adoration.

Work and children, strength and well being, wealth and peace, all are by your Grace. If we don't praise you, we will be ungrateful. All praise and honor are yours always.

*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**

Debbie O'Driscoll

Living God, you meet us this day with grace that frees and a Spirit that gives life. As we bring these gifts, we set our minds on You—not on fear or self-interest, but on the life and peace You promise. Shape us by your Spirit to live generously, to seek the good of our neighbors, and to share in your work of healing and reconciliation. Receive these offerings as signs of our attention focused on Christ and our lives opened to Your renewing power. We give thanks; we give ourselves, and we trust your Spirit to lead us into abundant life. 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**

Bring Forth the Kingdom

TFWS 2190

You are salt for the earth, O people: Salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: Life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain: Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy, bring forth the Kingdom of peace;
bring forth the Kingdom of justice, bring forth the City of God!

You are a light on the hill, O people: Light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: Shine for the Kingdom of God! **Refrain**

You are a seed of the Word, O people: Bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice, grow in the Kingdom of God! **Refrain**

We are a blest and a pilgrim people: Bound for the Kingdom of God!
Love our journey and love our homeland: Love is the Kingdom of God! **Refrain**

***Benediction**

Postlude

Foundation

David Schelat, composer (1955-)

Worship Leaders: Naa Dromo Aryee (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham,
David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Debbie O'Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

The Call to Worship is from https://ministrymatters.com/2020-06-01_worship_connection_proper_10_a_option_2_/

The Opening Prayer is from <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/02/01/ot-15-2/>

The Prayer of Dedication is from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning>

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