

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 16, 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

Tranquility

Ronna Davis, organ
Gilbert Martin (1941), *composer*

Welcome

Gary Robinson

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: Come, siblings in Christ, for God is with us.

ALL: We come trusting in God's presence and faithfulness.

One: When we are uncertain, God says, "Do not fear, for I am with you."

ALL: When we are weary, God says, "I will strengthen you."

One: When we wonder if our service makes a difference, God says, "I will help you."

ALL: When we feel unable to continue, God says, "I will uphold you."

One: We are here to listen, to learn, and to say, "yes" to God's call.

**ALL: Let us worship God who walks with us, strengthens us, and uses our lives to bless others.
Amen.**

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain: On Christ the solid rock I stand,
all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.
In every height and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. **Refrain.**

His oath, his covenant, his blood support me in the whelming flood.
When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. **Refrain.**

When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!
Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! **Refrain.**

***Praise Songs**

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...

Unto the Lord Be the Glory

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...

Opening Payer

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of Your presence. You remind us, "Do not fear, for I am with you." Thank you for the people who encouraged us, opened doors for us, and invited us to serve. Thank You for young people who teach us, challenge us, and remind us of the joy of faith.

As we listen to Janet's reflection today, help us to recognize Your presence in her journey and in our own journeys. Give us courage to say yes when You call, strength when the work is difficult, and faith to trust that even our small acts of service can make a lasting difference. Open our hearts to hear Your voice and to see where You are calling us next. In the name of Jesus Christ, who welcomes and blesses the children, we pray. 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

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

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 1

Response: Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's might.

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**

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 41:10 (NRSVUE)

Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

*Gospel Reading *Jesus Blesses Little Children* Mark 10:13-16 (NRSVUE)

People were bringing children to Jesus in order that He might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, He was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Reflection *Isaiah 41:10*

Janet Amoako, SPRC Co-Chair & Sunday School Teacher

The Offering & Offertory Music

Ghanaian Choir

Mo Mma Yenmbo se (Let us Rejoice)

Nana Kofi Ampong Darkwa, composer

Let us rejoice, God lives always. Let us rejoice; He will always fight for us. Let us rejoice; we will always be victorious. Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

Let us rejoice, Christ our King walks with us always. Let us rejoice; He will grant us all our needs. Let us rejoice; we will be victorious. Alleluia! Uplift and rejoice.

*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

Gracious God, You have given us so much, and You continue to strengthen and sustain us each day. We offer these gifts with grateful hearts. Use them to share Your love, to strengthen Your church, to care for those in need, and to nurture children and young people in faith. Just as you have called Janet to teach, encourage, and influence young lives, call each of us to use what we have—our time, our gifts, and our resources—for Your purposes. Take these offerings and multiply them for Your work in the world. In the name of Jesus, who welcomed the children and blessed them, 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

Here I Am, Lord

UMH 593

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me.

I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? **Refrain.**

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **Refrain.**

*Benediction

Debbie O'Driscoll

Postlude

Ronna Davis, organ

The Power and the Glory

Roy E. Nolte (1896-1979), composer

Worship Leaders: Harllen Orofino (liturgist), Janet Amoako, Gifty Bentum-Asante,
Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Debbie O'Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah,
Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

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