

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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

Meditation

Ronna Davis, organ

J.E. Newell, composer (1949)

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, You are the Mystery of Love.

ALL: Wonder! Praise!

One: Christ, You are the Light of Love.

ALL: Thanks! Adoration!

One: Spirit, You are the Energy of Love.

ALL: Fill us, that we may fall in love.

***Opening Hymn**

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

UMH 158

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!
Let Praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!
He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;
his love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!
Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!
On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,
singing forever more: Alleluia! Amen!

***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!

Joy Like a River

Joy like a river in my soul...

Opening Prayer

There are far too many times, O God, when we have neglected or ignored the needs of others because it just wasn't convenient for us to help. We backed away with excuses on our lips and indifference in our hearts. Forgive us and set us on the right path of service and compassion in the name of Jesus who modeled faithful living for us. Remind us that we are residents of a global community. Help us to hear the plight of those who have been voiceless. With the gifts that we have and the love of Christ, direct our lives in compassionate service to others. In Jesus' name, 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

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.

Your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path 2X

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 16: 13-20 (NRSVUE)

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

Message

Who Do You Say I Am?

Rev. Nizzi Digan

The Offering & Offertory Music

Ghanaian Choir

To God Be the Glory Great Things He Hath Done

John Troutman, composer

To God be the glory, great things He hath done,
 So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
 Who yielded His life our redemption to win,
 And opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
 Let the earth hear His voice;
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
 Let the people rejoice;
 Oh, come to the Father, through Jesus the Son,
 And give Him the glory; great things He hath done.

***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, we thank You for this mystery in which you have given yourself to us. In thanks, we give you our gifts as symbols of our lives. Receive them with love, bless them with grace and use them according to your will. Send us, blessed, led and accompanied by Jesus, out into the world to bear His presence to all people, to be Christ for the sake of the healing of the world, in the power of Your Spirit. 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

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: **Refrain**

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,
we will work with each other, we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: **Refrain**

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: **Refrain**

***Benediction**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Postlude

Ronna Davis, organ

Jubilate

Roger C. Wilson, composer (1912-1988)

Worship Leaders: Obama Taylor (liturgist), 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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