

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Children's Mini Harvest

August 30, 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.



I Have Decided to Follow Jesus!

***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

Jesus Loves Me (based on Clair de Lune)

Ronna Davis, piano

*William Bradbury, Claude Debussy
arr. Fred Bock*

Welcome

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Centering

Spirit of the Living God

Pastor Nizzi & Our Children

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**

Joyce Botwe & Joseph Fletcher

One: Loving God, Fountain of Life, Eternal Source, our very being flows from You.

ALL: We sing Your praise, with all Creation.

One: Your heart is among us in Christ. Your hand is upon us in the call of Jesus.

ALL: We rise to Your call, humble and longing.

One: Your Holy Spirit stirs in us. We breathe deeply of holy courage, divine grace, infinite life.

ALL: Alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, and transform us by Your grace. Alleluia!

***Opening Hymn**

This Is the Day 2x

UMH 657

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made.

Let us rejoice, let us rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made.

***Praise Songs**

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...

I Have Joy in My Heart

I have joy in my heart, deep, deep down in my heart...

Jesus gave to me, and no one can destroy it.

I have joy in my heart; deep, deep down in my heart...

Opening Prayer

Jeremiah Baffour-Awkah & Janet Amoako

Christ Jesus, our teacher and our friend, we have not listened for Your word amid the clamor of words all around us. We are more pleased to repeat familiar tunes than to listen for new melodies and strange harmonies. We try harder to defend what we think we know, than to reach for that which is beyond our grasp. Slow to trust, afraid of the unknown, we are cautious to hear and do Your will. We pray for our hearts to pay attention to the cries of our neighbor and to resonate with Your Spirit. Silence us and instruct us until we learn afresh to sing the songs of faith, hope, and love. 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

Jesus Loves Me Remix

Our Children

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

Catherine Simpson & 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.

Response: At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow.

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God,
did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a servant,
being born in our likeness.

And being found in human form
he humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God has highly exalted him
and bestowed on him the name which is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. (Response)

***Gospel Reading**

Matthew 16:21-28 (NRSVUE)

Joyce Botwe

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance^[a] to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?"

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

Message

Listen. Follow. Serve.

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Children's Mini Harvest/Kofi & Ama Offering

Jesus Loves Me Remix

Gifted Bentum-Asante

Sunday School Children

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.

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**

Evyanah Difore & Rhianna Burke

Loving God, sometimes we try to do everything by ourselves instead of trusting You. Help us remember that You are always with us and that You love us. Help us give our worries and fears to You. Everything we have comes from You, and we are thankful for Your many blessings. Bless these gifts and everyone who gives them. May these gifts help bring love, comfort, and hope to others. In Jesus' name, 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**

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

TFWS 2129

I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus – no turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me, the world behind me, the cross before me
The world behind me, the cross before me – no turning back, no turning back.

Though none go with me, still I will follow, though none go with me, still I will follow,
Though none go with me, still I will follow – no turning back, no turning back.

***Benediction**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Postlude

DARWALL'S 148TH

Ronna Davis, organ

John Darwall and Franklin Ritter

Worship Leaders: Joyce Botwe (liturgist), Tessa Burke & Emmanuel Taylor (acolytes), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, David Dagle, Ronna Davis, Debbie O'Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson, George Hammond & Mandela Taylor (ushers), Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

The cover image is from etsy.com

The Call to Worship is from <https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/01/ot-23-14th-sunday-after-pentecost/>

The Opening Prayer is from Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, May 2026

The Prayer of Dedication is from Pastor Nizzi with AI assistance

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