

Wesley United Methodist Church

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 13, 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

Humoresque

Eun Hee Park, organ

Paul Fey, composer

Welcome

Rev. Nizzi Digan

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: Creator God, You alone give us life!

ALL: We praise You. We thank You. We worship You.

One: Crucified and risen Christ, You show us the way of life.

ALL: We hear You. We love You. We follow You.

One: Holy Spirit, You fill us with life and call us to honor life.

ALL: We receive You. We breathe You. We bear You into the world.

One: Teach us Your ways. Change our hearts. Re-create us again.

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

***Opening Hymn**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

***Praise Songs**

We Will Celebrate Our God

We will celebrate our God!...
Let his banner be raised, let his glory be seen.
We will celebrate our God!...

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...

Opening Prayer

God of grace, it is Your will and your glory to forgive. In the cross of Christ, You have set us free from the power of sin and death. In awe and gratitude, we worship You, and pray that by Your Holy Spirit You might always set us free to worship and to serve, to love and forgive, in the name of Christ. 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

Happy birthday to you! To Jesus be true.
May God's richest blessings now rest upon you.

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

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.

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

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

Special Music

Katarina Kaonga Wantimba

Come to Jesus

Chris Rice, composer (2003)

Weak and wounded sinner, lost and left to die
Oh, raise your head for love is passing by.
Come to Jesus 3X and live.

Now your burdens lifted, and carried far away
And precious blood has washed away the stain. So,
Sing to Jesus 3X and live.

And like a newborn baby, don't be afraid to crawl
And remember when you walk sometimes, we fall. So,
Fall on Jesus 3X and live.

Sometimes the way is lonely. And steep and filled with pain
So, if your sky is dark and pours the rain, then
Cry to Jesus 3X and live.

Oh, and when the love spills over, and music fills the night
And when you can't contain your joy inside, then
Dance for Jesus 3X and live.

With your final heartbeat, kiss the world goodbye
Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side, and
Fly to Jesus 3X and live.

The Offering & Offertory Music

It is by Your Grace That I Am Alive

Sam Asare Bediako

It is by Your grace that I am alive.
 God, You have done a lot for me.
 My Lord, I owe you thanks.
 I will sing and give you adoration.
 Whatever I have belongs to you.
 It is by your Grace that I am still alive.
 My Lord, I owe you thanks.
 I will sing and give you adoration.

***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

God of Grace, You continually forgive and renew us. Teach us to extend that same mercy to others. Transform these offerings into ministries of compassion that reflect Your love to the world. We give with grateful hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. 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 Hymnal**

Freely, Freely

UMH 389

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
 I've been born again in Jesus' name,
 and in Jesus' name I come to you,
 to share his love as he told me to.

Refrain He said, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give.
 Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live."

All power is given in Jesus' name,
 in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
 and in Jesus' name I come to you,
 to share his power as he told me to. **Refrain**

***Benediction**

Rev. Nizzi Digan

Postlude

Trumpet Fanfare

Eun Hee Park, organ

Paul Fey, composer

Worship Leaders: Cynthia Fletcher (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham,
David Dagle, Eun Hee Park, Debbie O'Driscoll, Jennifer Quansah, Bill Robbins, Gary Robinson,
Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

The Call to Worship and the Opening Prayer are from [https://unfoldinglight.net/
2023/03/01/ot-24-16th-sunday-after-pentecost/](https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/01/ot-24-16th-sunday-after-pentecost/)

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

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