Wesley United Methodist Church

114 Main St, Worcester, MA 01608
508-799-4191 • www.wesleyworc.org

Serving the Community with Faith & Love Since 1927!

Rev. Nizzi Santos Digan, Pastor & Spiritual Director

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 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 — Eun Hee Park, organ
Make Me a Channel of Blessings — *Lucy Ann Warriner, composer*

Welcome — Gary Robinson

Centering — *As We Gather*

As we gather may Your Spirit work within us. As we gather may we glorify Your name
Knowing well that as our hearts begin to worship, we'll be blessed because we came.

***Call to Worship**

One: The earth has its kings, but God is ruler of all.
ALL: Praise God above all, the giver of life!
One: The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar,
ALL: but God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself.
One: Come into God's presence, for God is among us now.
ALL: O God, show us Your glory; we seek Your ways. Come to the Rock, the God of life, for God is present now. Amen.

***Processional Hymn** — *Many Gifts, One Spirit* — UMH 114

God of change and glory, God of time and space,
when we fear the future, give to us your grace.
In the midst of changing ways give us still the grace to praise.

Refrain: Many gifts, one Spirit, one love known in many ways.
In our difference is blessing, from diversity we praise
one Giver, one Lord, one Spirit, one Word known in many ways,
hallowing our days. For the Giver, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

God of many colors, God of many signs,
you have made us different, blessing many kinds.
As the old ways disappear, let your love cast our out fear. ***Refrain***

Freshness of the morning, newness of each night,
you are still creating endless love and light.
This we see, as shadows part, many gifts from one great heart. ***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 Prayer

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You. We have thought our lives our own. We have spent them according to our desires and protected them according to our fears. And therefore we have not served You perfectly, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us, reclaim us, and restore your image in us, that we may faithfully love You and serve You. 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 Chris Flagg

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.

***Gospel Reading** *Matthew 22:15-22* (NRSVUE)

The Question about Paying Taxes

Then the Pharisees and the Herodians, said, "Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then Jesus said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Anthem Chancel Choir

Psalm 98 *Jane Marshall*

O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

Sing praises to the Lord, to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the song of melody!

O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

Sing praises to the Lord, to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody!

With trumpets, with trumpets, and the sound of the horn, with trumpets, with trumpets and the sound of the horn.

Make a joyful noise, a joyful noise, make a joyful noise, a joyful noise, make a joyful noise before the Lord, before the King, make a joyful noise before the Lord, before the King.

Song Testimony Ellen Orofino

Hymn *Trust & Obey* UMH 467

When we walk with the Lord in the light of his word,
what a glory he sheds on our way!
While we do his good will, he abides with us still,
and with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain: Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
but our toil he doth richly repay;
not a grief of a loss, not a frown or a cross,
but is blest if we trust and obey. ***Refrain***

But we never can prove the delights of his love
until all on the altar we lay;
for the favor he shows, for the joy he bestows,
are for me who will trust and obey. ***Refrain***

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at his feet,
our we'll walk by his side in the way;
what he says we will do, where he sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey. ***Refrain***

Song Testimony Enoh Ukpong

Hymn *It is Well with My Soul* UMH 377

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed his own blood for my soul. ***Refrain***

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! ***Refrain***

And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
even so, it is well with my soul. ***Refrain***

The Offering & Offertory Music Ghanaian Choir

Oye (He Is Good) *James Varrick Armaah, composer*

I have heard some good news, he is good, he is good,
I have heard some good news that Jesus is love…
He is good, Father God is good, he is good indeed, he is good, he is good…
Let us all join together and sing a song that He is good, He is good.
My heart is full of praise, and I will sing a song that he is good.

God is good, Father God is good, he is good, he is good indeed.
I will say it again and again, that he is good, he is good, he is good indeed.
Look at me, he has blessed me, he is a good father.
Come to him and he will save you as well.
I will say it again and again,
He is good, Father God is good. He is good indeed, he is good, he is good.

***Doxology** Tune: OLD 100TH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow, praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost!

***Prayer of Dedication** Debbie O'Driscoll

Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear Your words, challenging us to give You all the things that are Yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from You, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help us be a holy people who receive Your word with joy and live Your message with love. 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

***Recessional Hymnal** *God of Grace and God of Glory* UMH 577

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grand us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's waring madness, bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation be our glory ever more.
Grand us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee who we adore, serving thee whom we adore.

***Benediction** Debbie O'Driscoll

Postlude *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* Mark Muncey, Trumpet

Worship Leaders: Danielle Ferdinand (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, Debbie O'Driscoll (Lay Spiritual Director), Ellen Orofino, Eun Hee Park, Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Enoh Ukpong

Ushers: Akosua Ababio, Padmore Amoako, Vivian Assie, David Dagle, Bill Robbins, Douglas Taylor, Sharon Walters

Tech Team: Kwadwo Amoako, Kwame Boateng, Brent Drajesk, Lawrence Hammond, Peter Hansen

Chancel Choir: Janice England, Danielle Ferdinand, Bonnie Garriepy, Allison Hansen, Peter Hansen, Sandy McManus, Debbie O' Driscoll, Gary Robinson, Dick Segersten, Enoh Ukpong, Jackie Wetton, Pastor Nizzi

Ghanaian Choir: Mercy Agyemang, Pauline Ansah, Violet Ansah, Gifty Bentum Asante, Nora Demanya, Yaw Enyim, Elizabeth Osei Boateng, Emmanuel Paitoo, Jennifer Quansah, Evans Quayson, Florence Twumasi

The cover image is from: calpacumc.org
The Centering is from https://www.songlyrics.com/the-maranatha!-singers/as-we-gather-lyrics/
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This Week at Wesley

**Outside groups. Registration is required.*

Sunday, October 18, 2026

9:00 am Adult Sunday School (JW)
10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Children's Sunday School
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship
11:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

Monday, October 19, 2026

6:00 pm Eye Glass Clinic
7:00 pm SPRC (Zoom)

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

12:30 pm DS Meeting (JW)
2:30 pm Sunshine Girls – Janet DeNapoli

Wednesday, October 21, 2026

12:00 pm Prayer Circle (MEL) – *All are Invited!*
7:00 pm AA-BBSS (CH)

Thursday, October 22, 2026

5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball *

Friday, October 23, 2026

5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball *

Saturday, October 24, 2026

8:00 am Funeral for Alice Boateng
10:00 am Korean School (3Fl)
7:00 pm Ghanaian Funeral for Alice Boateng

Sunday, October 25, 2026

9:00 am Adult Sunday School (JW)
10:00 am Worship
Thanksgiving Service for Alice Boateng
10:30 am Children's Sunday School
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship
11:45 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

Mark Your Calendars!

Saturday, October 31st from 4pm to 6pm – Community Dinner

Sunday, November 1, 2026 – All Saints Sunday
Daylight-Saving Time Ends
Community Breakfast - 8 am – 9:30 am
Communion Breakfast following worship

Sunday, November 8, 2026 – International Luncheon

Sunday, November 15, 2026 – Church Conference

Sunday, November 22, 2026 – UWF Bake/Craft/Plant Sale