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-Second Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 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
I Need Thee Every Hour *Robert Lowry, composer*

Welcome Rev. Nizzi Digan

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: Spirit of Love, we are children of Your delight.

ALL: We who are born of Your love sing Your praise.

One: Spirit of Love, You enfold us in Your blessing.

ALL: We who are healed by Your love give You thanks.

One: Spirit of Love, You, You flow through us into the world.

ALL: Alleluia! We who bear Your love bless You. Come, Spirit of Love, and transform us by Your grace. Alleluia!

***Processional Hymn** *How Can We Name a Love* UMH 111

How can we name a Love that wakens heart and mind,
in dwelling all we know or think or do or seek or find?
Within our daily world, in every human face,
Love's echoes sound and God is found, hid in the common place.

If we awoke to life built on a rock of care
that asked no great reward buy firm, assured, was simply there,
we can, with parents' names, describe, and thus adore,
Love unconfined, a father kind, a mother strong and sure.

When people share a task, and strength and skills unite
in projects old or new, to make or do with shared delight,
our Friend and Partner's will is better understood,
that all should share, create, and care, and know that life is good.

So in a hundred names, each day we all can meet
a presence, sensed and shown at work, at home, or in the street.
Yet every name we see, shines in a brighter sun:
In Christ alone is Love full grown and life and hope begun.

***Praise Songs**

Osee Praise

Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Praise the almighty God!
He is worthy of our praise! Oh…
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God…
He is worthy of our praise! Halleluyah!

Osee Yee Praise Him Halleluyah!...
He is worthy of our praise! Oh…
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God…

Ayeyi Wura (You Own Our Praise) *[Feel free to sing in either language]*

A-ye-yi Wurae' ----A-ye-yi Wurae'
Ye yi W'ayɛ Na yɛ Ma Wo so!

You own our praise! You own our praise!
We praise you, Lord, and we lift you high!

Opening Prayer

God of love, help us to see ourselves with the eyes of love, to see all that is in us that is loving, and all that is not loving. By the grace that we know in Christ, receive us, forgive us, heal us, and perfect Your love in us. 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 Joseph Wilson

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 22:34-46* (NRSVUE)

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" '?

"If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

Anthem Chancel Choir

Great Is Thy Faithfulness *Gilbert M. Martin, composer*

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changeset not, Thy compassions, they fail not:
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Great is Thy faithfulness, Great is Thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide:
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see:
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Message *What Does Love Require of Us?* Rev. Nizzi Digan

Prayer of Comfort for the Bereaved Family of Alice Boateng Pastor Joseph Wilson

The Offering & Offertory Music Ghanaian Choir

Kyere me Kwan (Show Me the Way) *Justice G. Francois, composer*

Show me the way, show me the way, Almighty God
Show me the way so that I may not get lost
Where are we going? Only you know. Will all be well? Only you know.
Take my hand, lead the way. Almighty God.
Take my hand, lead the way so that I may not stumble.

***Doxology** UMH 95

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

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

With what you see before us, God, we demonstrate our deepest love. Receive our gifts – our very best – as sweet offerings before You. May they be the blessing to others as they have been for us. 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 Hymn** *Lord God, Your Love Has Called Us Here* UMH 579

Lord God, your love has called us here, as we, by love, for love were made;
your living likeness still we bear, though marred, dishonored, disobeyed;
we come, with all our heart and mind, your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half free, half bound by inner chains, by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined, yet seeking hope for humankind.

Lord God, in Christ you call our name, and then receive us as your own;
not through some merit, right, or claim, buy by your gracious love along;
we strain to glimpse your mercy seat, and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread, and humble us, and call us friends;
suffer and serve till all are fed, and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings, to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Lord God, in Christ you set us free your life to live, your joy to share;
give us your Spirit's liberty to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do, while love is making all things new.

***Benediction** Rev. Nizzi Digan

Postlude Eun Hee Park, organ

Tuba Tune *Paul Fey, composer*

Worship Leaders: Allison Hansen (liturgist), Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, Debbie O'Driscoll (Lay Spiritual Director), Eun Hee Park, Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Pastor Joseph Wilson

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

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The Call to Worship is from https://unfoldinglight.net/2023/03/01/ot-30-22nd-sunday-after-pentecost/
The Opening Prayer is from Unfolding Light
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This Week at Wesley

**Outside groups. Registration is required.*

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
2:00 pm International Community Church Launch Service (CH)
7:00 pm Sunday AA (CH)

Monday, October 26, 2026

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

8:30 am DS Meeting (JW)
10:30 am Sunshine Girls – Dot Ellis

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

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

Thursday, October 29, 2026

5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball *

Friday, October 30, 2026

5:30 pm Fruits of Labor Basketball *

Saturday, October 31, 2026

9:30 am Ghanaian Choir Rehearsal (MEL)
10:00 am Korean School (3Fl)
4:00 pm Community Dinner (BH)

Sunday, November 1, 2026 – All Saints Sunday

8:00 am Community Breakfast
9:00 am Adult Sunday School (JW)
10:00 am Worship
10:30 am Children's Sunday School
11:00 am Coffee Fellowship
11:15 am Communion Breakfast
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