

*Hope for a weary world*

**DECEMBER 3, 2023  
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH**

# Preparing for worship

Today we begin the season of Advent. One of my favorite worship elements during this season is the children processing down the aisle at the beginning of each service with the various pieces to build our nativity scene. Each week a new element is added and gradually, cow by cow and sheep by sheep, the scene is set.

I love that we involve our children in this way and that they get the opportunity to lead worship in such a visible manner. Some of the kids stride confidently down to the front very sure of what they are doing. Others seem a little more hesitant and uncertain of their task. Some relish the opportunity to have the congregation's attention focused solely on them. Others are only comfortable if they have a friend or older sibling making the walk with them. Some make it down to the front just fine, but then seem a little confused about what to do once they get there. And still others walk a slow and steady pace with a look of wide-eyed wonder as they take the moment in.

However they make it down there, it's beautiful. There is no one right way for them

to experience that moment, and I think maybe that's a good thing for all of us to consider as we begin our Advent journey. There is no one right way to experience Advent. Some of us enter into this season full of expectation and excitement. Others of us come to this time of year with trepidation. Some of us look forward to celebrations with friends and family. Others of us are keenly aware of the challenging and maybe painful interactions that lay ahead. Some of us feel put together and focused. Others of us may feel like we are lost and wandering.

However you are entering this season of Advent, know that you are not taking this journey alone. You are part of a community of faith that will love and support you no matter what this season holds for you. My prayer is that you will lean into that reality this Advent as together we look to experience the hope, peace, joy and love that only God can provide.

Happy Advent, Wilshire.

—Darren DeMent



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | [wilshirebc.org](http://wilshirebc.org)

*Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ*

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

December 3, 2023  
11:00 a.m.  
First Sunday of Advent

## Chiming of the Hour

The people of Wilshire gather this morning to worship God. In order for this service to be focused upon that purpose, please silence all electronic devices.

## Welcome to Worshipers

Candy McComb

## Prelude

*Sleepers Awake! BWV 645*

Johann Sebastian Bach

## Invocation

Linda Imhoof

## +Processional Song

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

1. Come, thou long ex - spect - ed Je - sus born to set thy peo - ple free;  
2. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er born a child, and yet a King,  
3. Come a - gain, our ris - en Sav - ior, come to set thy peo - ple free.

from our fears \_ and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign \_ in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
From our sin - ful ways re - deem us, let us find our hope in thee.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;  
As you came in in - car - na - tion, come a - gain as heav - en's King.

dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ry long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.  
Thine the king - dom and the pow - er; Glo - ry, laud and praise we sing.

Stanzas 1 and 2: Charles Wesley; Stanza 3: Mark Wingfield

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+All congregants who are able are invited to stand.  
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

## Lighting the Candle of Hope

John, Mary, Emily and Caroline Skinner

## Preparing for the Nativity

Charles Lovejoy, William Lovejoy,  
Annie Murray, Drew Murray

## A Moment of Hope

Charlie Fuller

*Rough Translations* by Jan Richardson

hope nonetheless.  
hope despite.  
hope regardless.  
hope still.

hope where we had ceased to hope.  
hope amid what threatens hope.  
hope with those who feed our hope.  
hope beyond what we had hoped.

hope that draws us past our limits.  
hope that defies expectations.  
hope that questions what we have known.  
hope that makes a way where there is none.

hope that takes us past our fear.  
hope that calls us into life.  
hope that holds us beyond death.  
hope that blesses those to come.

## Response

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

VENI EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Em - ma - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el, that  
mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
Re - jice! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a sharp sign, and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a five-line staff with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the piece with a double bar line.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Prayers of the People**

Mark Wingfield

**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 sins,  
As we forgive those who sin 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.**

**Choral Offertory**

*The First Nowell*  
Sanctuary Choir

arr. Mack Wilberg

The first nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.  
They looked up and saw a star shining in the East beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.  
Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord  
That hath made heav'n and earth of nought, and with his blood mankind hath bought.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell! Born is the King of Israel, Nowell!

**Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

Heather Mustain

All followers of Christ are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, whether you are a Wilshire member or not. The bread used this morning is gluten free.

**Passing of the Bread**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. Jeff Brummel

**Passing of the Cup**

*Once in Royal David's City*

arr. David Willcocks

**Passing of the Peace**

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence — as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

For the Word of God in Scripture,  
For the Word of God among us,  
And for the Word of God within us,  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

“Hope for a Weary World”

Timothy Peoples

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.

**+Congregational Song**

*He is Born*  
No. 106

IL EST NÉ

**Sharing of Decisions**

Timothy Peoples

**Benediction**

Timothy Peoples

**Postlude**

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Laurie Diffe** grew up at Wilshire and returned as an adult with her husband, Mike, in 2006. Laurie sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova, plays in Carillon Ringers, volunteers in the church office on Sunday mornings and serves on the Library and Building and Grounds Committees. She works in IT services at GuideStone.

**Linda Imhoof** and her husband, Mike, joined Wilshire in 1982. They have two adult children, David and Karen. Linda is a deacon, a member of Compass Class, sings in New Song Community Choir and serves on the Wilshire Adventurers Committee and the Hospitality Team.

**Candy McComb** and her husband, Vic Henry, joined Wilshire in 2017, and they direct and teach in Odyssey Class. As Wilshire's Children's Choir coordinator, Candy directs the Young Musicians choir and leads the summer creative arts camp. She also serves as a deacon, sings in Sanctuary Choir and co-directs Nova.

**John and Mary Skinner** joined Wilshire in 2022. Their two daughters are **Emily**, a kindergarten at Hexter Elementary School who also participates in Girl Scouts, and **Caroline**, age 3. John and Mary are members of Labyrinth Class and attend Marriage Connections. Mary, who works as a video producer, sings in Sanctuary Choir, and John, a retail manager, volunteers in Wilshire's preschool ministry and will serve on the Children's Education Committee in 2024.

**Everett Williams** joined Wilshire in 1970 with his wife, Gail. They have two adult children, Rett and Erin, and four grandchildren. Everett is co-director of the BEST Sunday School Class and serves on the Deacon Nominating Committee as chair-elect. He is retired after 28-plus years as an elementary school principal in Richardson ISD.

**Mark Wingfield** and his wife, Alison, joined Wilshire in 1999 with their twin sons, Luke and Garrett. Mark teaches in Discovery Class and was Wilshire's associate pastor for 16 years until 2020, when he became executive director of Baptist News Global, an independent news organization.



**Connect with Wilshire.** Scan the QR code using your smartphone camera to make a financial contribution, fill out our online guest card or submit a prayer request. You may also use the response card or offering envelope found in the pew rack. These items can be placed in the offering plate or in one of the secure offering boxes located near the Sanctuary exits.

*Wilshire Baptist Church gratefully acknowledges those who gave poinsettias to beautify the Sanctuary this Advent season. The love expressed through these flowers is dedicated to the Lord and Savior whose birth we celebrate.*

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**In memory of:**

E. Maxey Abernathy by Carole Jean Abernathy  
E. Maxey Abernathy by the Woodbury family  
Charles F. Ackerman by Betty Ackerman  
Paul Alloway by Jane Alloway  
Paul Alloway by Paula Alloway  
Paul Alloway by Sue Alloway  
Zane Thomas Anderson by Amy, Cory, Bryn  
and Whit Anderson  
Stanley Baker by Jeri Baker  
Wanda Ballard by Jane and Kyle Ballard  
Jeffrey Basden by Jenyce Gush  
Mimi Basden by Jenyce Gush  
James Beasley by Vickie Conn  
Robert Jack Beck by David Beck  
Shelly Kay Miller Beck by David Beck  
Emma Blohm and Geneva Blohm McElyea  
by Betty Ackerman  
Opal and Art Blohm by Betty Ackerman  
Maxine Bradford by Cindy and David Coleman  
Kay Brashear by Foundations of Faith  
Sunday School Class  
Preston Bright by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Preston Bright by Kay and Don Simons  
Ezekiel Brown and Cherry Brown  
by Dorrell Brown  
Glen Bufton by Donna Howell  
Avonne Bullock by Allison, Chad, Forrest,  
Peyton and Carson Brown  
Avonne Bullock by Stan Bullock  
Sodi Castleberry by Emily Herrick  
Bobbie Coleman by Cindy and David Coleman  
Spencer Cordell by Barron Cordell  
Spencer Cordell by Haidynn Cordell  
Spencer Cordell by Laura Cordell  
Spencer Cordell by Lisa and Elton Cordell  
Leon DeMent Jr. by Darren, Joannah, Virginia  
and Elias DeMent  
Frances and Joe Diffie by Laurie and Mike Diffie  
Margaret Duncan by David Duncan  
Lori Wallace Dusek by Pat and Jim Wallace  
Emery Evans by Christina and Mark Evans  
Emery Evans by the Evans family  
Jesse Evans by Christina and Mark Evans  
Jesse Evans by the Evans family  
Sue Fiset by Dorrell Brown  
Ruby and Dave Fitzgerald by Davanel Fitzgerald  
Tom Fry by Melanie Beller  
Elaine and John Gibson by Debbie and  
Marc LaChéy  
Peaches and Sandy Hallman and John Shaw  
by Dawn and Steven Hallman



Sasha Nicole Hallman by Dawn and Steven Hallman

Lanetha Harrison by Donna Howell

Miriam Henry by Tina and Bill Johnson and Drew and Mitchell Easley

Suzanne Evans Herrick by Gil Herrick

Dollie Hill by Donna Gregory

Randy Hodges by Shirley Vaughn

Jill Gush Hrcncir by Jenyce Gush

Bob Jones by Kay and Don Simons

Joanna Ching-Ping Wong Jones by Bill Jones and family

Julian Kampfschulte by the Woodbury family

Robert Kung by Foundations of Faith Sunday School Class

Elizabeth and M.H. LaChey by Debbie and Marc LaChey

Myrtle and Alfred Lautenschlager by Linda and Ivan Martinez

Doris and Dick Luttrell by Sally and Richard Luttrell

Adam Townsend Malcik by Vy and Michael Malcik

Adam Townsend Malcik by Sara and Price Tinsley

Diane Malone by Sunny, Grace and Evelyn Carroum

Domingo, Manuela, Evelio, Fela, Marie, Eneida, Alberto and Daisy by Linda and Ivan Martinez

Terry and Kathleen Miller by David Beck

Marilyn Williamson Moore by Angie Moore

Michael Ray Moore by Angie Moore

Fred Mount by the Hare family

Billie and Asa A. Newsom, Sr. by the Newsom families

Dot and Asa A. Newsom, Jr. by the Newsom families

Dot and Asa A. Newsom, Jr. by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson

Bill O'Brien by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class

Bill O'Brien by Linda Sacco

Ann O'Hara by Jane and Kyle Ballard

Gary Perales by Gina and Kenneth Waterman

Javier Perales by Gina and Kenneth Waterman

Jesus (Uncle J) Perales by Gina and Kenneth Waterman

Maria Cruz Perales by Gina and Kenneth Waterman

Carmen Perez by Tommie and Shamalee Haliman

Candy Post by Max Post and family

Lawanna Robinson by Foundations of Faith Sunday School Class

Marian Rollins by Bryan Rollins

Stephen Rollins by Bryan Rollins

Wells Rollins by Bryan Rollins

Shirley Sanders by Laurie and Mike Diffee

Margaret and Jim Self by Kay and Don Simons

Carol Sikes by Pat Spikes

Sharron Simmons by Jennifer Jenkins

Lucille and LaVern Spreier by the Hare and Spreier families

Ellen and Louis Sturdivant and Oneta and Marvin Coyle by Tracy Sturdivant

Joyce and Bob Sturdivant by Tracy Sturdivant

Nancy Taft by the Cury-Frederick family

Sam Vaughter by Vanessa Vaughter and Woody Weilage

Judy and Forrest Wallace by Pat and Jim Wallace  
Louise and Otto Wallace by Pat and Jim Wallace  
LuFan and Charlie Watson by Charlene  
and Bob Law  
Louise and Al Weilage by Vanessa Vaughter  
and Woody Weilage  
Mary and James Wehnes by the Hare and Spreier  
families  
Jim White by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class  
Woodrow Wilson White by Gayle Cox  
Jenna Worthen by Jenyce Gush

### **In honor of:**

Carole Jean Abernathy by the Woodbury family  
Carole Jean Abernathy by Vy and Michael Malcik  
Abbey Adcox by Dorrell Brown  
Jane Alloway by Sara and Price Tinsley  
Kathy Alverson by the Perry family  
Ron Ballard by the Ballard family  
Reva Jean Schroeder Beck by David Beck  
Mary Lynne Bright by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Jessica, Andy and Callum Brookshire by  
Gail and Steve Brookshire  
Monna Brown by Pam and Rob Banta  
Jeff Brummel by Jeri Baker  
Jeff Brummel by Pam and Rob Banta  
Jeff Brummel by Dorrell Brown  
Jeff Brummel by Laurie and Mike Diffie  
Jeff Brummel by Barbara and Don Floyd  
Jeff Brummel by the Perry family  
Jeff Brummel by Katherine Pottkotter

Debby Burton by Laurie and Mike Diffie  
Debby Burton by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Debby Burton by Kay and Don Simons  
Carol Cabaniss by Laurie and Mike Diffie  
Carol and Kevin Cabaniss by LeAnn and  
Jeff Hampton  
Jessica Capps by Dorrell Brown  
Compass Sunday School Class by David Beck  
Allyson and Matt Cook by the Perry family  
Samantha Cury-Frederick by Papi and Daddy  
Lynette DeBose by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Joannah and Darren DeMent by Megan and  
Trey Wilson  
David Duncan by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Peggy Earthman by Davanel Fitzgerald  
Joy Fenner by Debbie and Marc LaChey  
Davanel Fitzgerald by Pam and Rob Banta  
Barbara and Don Floyd by Meredith, Matt  
and Parker Mosley  
Anne and John Foster by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Charlie Fuller by Jeri Baker  
Charlie Fuller by Laurie and Mike Diffie  
Shana Gaines by Donna Manning  
Merik Gillett by Laurie and Mike Diffie  
Pagett and Mike Gosslee by Megan and  
Trey Wilson  
LeAnn and Jeff Hampton by Pam and Rob Banta  
LeAnn and Jeff Hampton by Barbara and  
Don Floyd  
Fran and Steve Holley by Megan and Trey Wilson  
Kay and Craig Keith by Max Post and family

Catherine LaChey and Matt Robinson by  
Debbie and Marc LaChey

Charlene and Bob Law by Dorrell Brown

Sean, Adrienne and Savannah Lothery by  
Debbie and Marc LaChey

Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples by Vickie Conn

Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples by Barbara and  
Don Floyd

Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples by Jenyce Gush

Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples by LeAnn  
and Jeff Hampton

Valerie Lott and Timothy Peoples by the  
Perry family

Michael Malcik by Dorrell Brown

Ralph Manuel by Laurie and Mike Diffie

Kim and George Mason by Barbara and Don Floyd

Val Mason by Dorrell Brown

Candy McComb by Laurie and Mike Diffie

Geri and Mark McKenzie by LeAnn and Jeff  
Hampton

Suzy McLaughlin by Dorrell Brown

Skye and Nick McQuillan and Dorothy Shaw  
by Dawn and Steven Hallman

The Mooi family by the Ballard family

Mary Morgan by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton

Meredith, Matt and Parker Mosley by Barbara  
and Don Floyd

Parker Mosley by Meredith and Matt Mosley

Carolyn Murray by Journey Sunday School Class

Heather Mustain by Abbey Adcox

Barbara Peterson by Jeri Baker

Nancy Poynter by Katherine Pottkotter

Kristi and Ben Reavis by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton

Neal Sanders by Laurie and Mike Diffie

Lindsey and James Michael Sobolik-Williams by  
LeAnn and Jeff Hampton

Sarah Stafford by Jeri Baker

Sarah Stafford by Kay and Don Simons

Sarah and Allan Stafford by Davanel Fitzgerald

Sarah and Allan Stafford by Kay and Louis Moore

Laura Summers by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton

Melinda Thompson by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton

The Tooley family by the Ballard family

Charlotte Vaughter by Vanessa Vaughter  
and Woody Weilage

Judy Ward by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class

Gina and Kenneth Waterman by Davanel  
Fitzgerald

Wilshire Administrative Team by Abbey Adcox

Wilshire Minister of Music Search Committee and  
Personnel Committee by Dorrell Brown

Wilshire Preschool and Children's Ministry  
teachers by Julie Girards

Wilshire Winds by Donna Manning

Wilshire, our church home, by the Cury-Frederick  
family

Holly and Bubba Wilson by Megan and  
Trey Wilson

Paula and Jason Woodbury by the Perry family

Paula, Jason, Garrett and Kathryn Woodbury and  
Sher Moo Ku by Carole Jean Abernathy

Judy Yarbrough by Charles Yarbrough

The children and grandchildren of Judy and  
Charles Yarbrough by Judy and Charles  
Yarbrough

# Staff contacts

**Phone numbers:** 214-452- followed by extension shown below. **Email addresses:** first letter of first name and full last name followed by @wilshirebc.org (example: tpeoples@wilshirebc.org). Staff members without phone extensions do not have Wilshire email addresses.

## Communications

- Mark McKenzie, Communications Director (3169)

## Congregational Care

- Barbara Clayton, Pastoral Care Assistant (3125)
- Linda Garner, Parish Nurse (3151)
- Carolyn Murray, Coordinator of Congregational Life (3170)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

## Early Childhood Learning Center

- Kelly Akins, Assistant Director and Curriculum Specialist (3139)
- Ramona Randle, Director (3140)

## Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

## Food Services

- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Haley Robinson, Food Service Director (3117)
- Gillian Tinsley, Food Service Staff
- Elias Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Leyvi Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Food Service Staff

## Hospitality & Facilities

- Maricela Escutia, Facilities Supervisor
- Holly Irvin, Director of Hospitality (3150)
- Daniel Latin, Facilities
- Leticia Medina, Facilities
- Kevin Sierra, Facilities
- Leticia Vega, Facilities
- Glenda Williams, Receptionist (3165)

## Missions & Advocacy

- Abbey Adcox, Missions and Advocacy Coordinator (3127)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

## Music & Worship

- Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music/Organist (3122)
- Charlie Fuller, Interim Minister of Music (3123)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)

## Operations & Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Merik Gillett, Operations Director (3146)
- Eric Mirochna, IT Manager (3136)

## Pathways to Ministry

- John Kelly, McIver Fellow (3156)
- George Mason, Director of Pathways to Ministry and Senior Pastor Emeritus (3133)

## Senior Pastor

- Debby Burton, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Geri McKenzie, Executive Director of Administration (3159)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

## Spiritual Formation

- Carol Cabaniss, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3106)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Staci Langley, Childcare Coordinator
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

# Tapestry

 Wilshire  
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements  
December 3, 2023



## *Celebration of the Green*

TONIGHT AT 6:30 P.M.

All are invited back this evening for Celebration of the Green, which will be presented at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The event is a slightly reimagined version of Wilshire's traditional Hanging of the Green, with fewer moving parts and more of a focus on music — congregational carol singing and performances from Wilshire's choral and instrumental groups. Sanctuary Choir, Nova, Youth Choir, Shekinah,

New Song Community Choir, Carillon Ringers, Wilshire Winds and Children's Choirs will participate, and James Michael Sobolik-Williams will read the nativity story from Luke's Gospel. The event is a great way to get your holiday season started, so invite your friends and family. A reception with cider and treats will follow in Community Hall. Celebration of the Green will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.



**Sundays:** Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Our service livestreams at [youtube.com/wilshirebaptist](https://youtube.com/wilshirebaptist) and at [wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream](https://wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream). Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

## MINISTER OF MUSIC CANDIDATE

# Ariel Merivil



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dear Wilshire, your deep love for the worship and music legacy at our church has been such an encouragement. Over the past eight months, our committee's priorities have been to gather feedback from all, to reflect with you on the past while looking forward with anticipation and to pray. Through many hours of focus group sessions, discussions with staff, reviews of congregant survey feedback, guidance from Timothy and enlightening conversations, we have worked very hard to fully understand the most critical and desired attributes in our next minister of music.

After listening to and considering so many candidates in the context of our requirements, we are grateful and joyful to unanimously recommend that the church call Ariel Merivil as our next Minister of Music. We believe wholeheartedly that Ariel's deep faith, relational and personable demeanor, heart for ministry, strong administrative and organizational abilities and profound talent as a conductor, vocalist and instrumentalist are an excellent match for our church.

We see his varied prior professional experiences in church music ministry leadership — over 20 years, currently at First-Plymouth Congregational

Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, a church with some important similarities to Wilshire — as well as in choral leadership in academic settings (two-plus years) as highly compatible to our many music programs for all ages.

We are confident his performance experience provides ample evidence of his passion and giftedness. We appreciate his insights into the ever-evolving challenges facing churches and their music programs in our day, and we have been impressed with the innovative efforts made at Ariel's current church. We are prayerful and hopeful that Ariel will lead us further into the Wilshire vision of becoming a bold witness to the way of Christ in our time. He is beloved by our committee already, and we are delighted to see him meet the entire congregation.

Thank you for trusting us to serve and provide leadership on this journey. Wilshire, may we continue together to build a community of faith shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ — and may there continue to be beautiful music among us.

*Kevin Cabaniss, Lynette DeBose, David Duncan, Anne Foster, LeAnn Hampton, Mary Morgan, Timothy Peoples, Kristi Reavis, James Sobolik-Williams, Laura Summers, Melinda Thompson*

## ABOUT ARIEL

Since July 2017 Ariel has served as associate minister of music at First-Plymouth Congregational Church, a 5,000-member United Church of Christ congregation in Lincoln, Nebraska. He provides music and program leadership for at least five weekly worship services and directs seven choral and instrumental ensembles for both youth and adults.

Born in Boston and raised in Atlanta, Ariel graduated in 2007 from Southern Polytechnic State University (now Kennesaw State University) in Marietta, Georgia, with a Bachelor of Architecture degree. After working several years for an architectural firm in Atlanta, he earned a dual-concentration Master of Music in choral conducting and organ performance from Georgia State University in 2013.

Prior to his current role, Ariel served 13 years in various ministerial positions of progressive responsibility at Atlanta First United Methodist Church, including director of music, worship and administration from 2014 to 2017 and director of music and worship from 2012 to 2014.

He has conducted, instructed and accompanied high school and collegiate choirs in Nebraska and Georgia and has sung and performed as a soloist in a variety of groups, including the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta's Chorale – New Creation, Sounding Light and Exigence, as well as at national conventions and in local concert series and music festivals.

Ariel believes “music has the power to elevate our worship and connect us to each other and the divine.” This fuels his commitment to serving and ministering to all members of the congregation. The diversity of his musical background gives him the confidence to lead worship through a variety of musical styles, from classical and traditional hymns and anthems to spirituals, gospel and more. Similarly, his versatility and experience as a vocalist and choral instructor, along with his proficiency as an accompanist,



enable him to lead musicians and congregants across a broad range of musical abilities.

Performances under Ariel's direction reflect his creativity, which he also applies to stimulate participation in choral or instrumental opportunities targeted to accommodate those whose schedules may not permit weekly rehearsals or long-term commitments.

Personable, articulate and humble, he values collaboration in ministry and worship planning. Multiple colleagues and choristers commended the ingenuity and insightfulness of his organizational skills. The depth and earnestness of his Spirit-driven faith have been evident in all of his interactions with the search committee and church staff.

Perhaps fitting for someone with his education background and artistry, Ariel enjoys design, photography and gardening. He also is a cyclist and an accomplished weightlifter, having won multiple competitions in USA Powerlifting since 2016.

## EDUCATION

- Master of Music in Choral Conducting and Organ Performance, Georgia State University, 2013
- Bachelor of Architecture, Southern Polytechnic State University, 2007

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

- Associate Minister of Music, First-Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, Nebraska, 2017 – Present
- Director of Music, Worship and Administration, Atlanta First United Methodist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, 2014 – 2017
- Director of Music and Worship, Atlanta First United Methodist Church, 2012 – 2014
- Music Associate, Atlanta First United Methodist Church, 2004 – 2012

## PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Adjunct Professor and Conductor, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Department of Music, Unity Choir (40-voice ensemble of students and community members), 2023
- Tenor Soloist, Abendmusik Season Concert Finale, 2023
- Tenor Soloist, Lincoln Symphony Chorus, Beethoven, *Symphony No. 9*, 2022
- Clinician, Wayne State College Honor Choir (Led a 90-voice high school regional honor choir), 2022
- Accompanist, Nebraska Wesleyan University Choirs, 2019 – Present
- Choral Director, Atlanta Adventist Academy (Led Adoramus, a 40-voice high school choral ensemble), 2015 – 2016
- Lenten Solo Organ Recital, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Marietta, Georgia), 2015
- Adjunct Instructor and Conductor, School of Music, Georgia State University (Led Choral Union, a 90-voice choral ensemble of undergraduate and graduate students), 2014 – 2016
- Member and Soloist, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, 2013 – 2015
- Accompanist, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Choir (advanced 100-voice touring high school choir), 2012 – Present

Dear Wilshire,

I am honored and excited to join you as Minister of Music candidate. It is not by chance that God has called us to work together to continue the great work that has been alive in and through you for decades.

I pray that in the days ahead, the Spirit will enliven our hearts with worship and music that speaks of God's ever-inclusive love for all people. May our worship remind us of who God is and inspire us to provide a seat at the table for all who need to experience the presence of God.

We've come this far by faith, so God is not finished with us yet!

Ariel





# MINISTER OF MUSIC CALL WEEKEND, DEC. 14-17

**A**riel Merivil, the candidate recommended by the Minister of Music Search Committee and the Personnel Committee, will participate in a Call Weekend starting Thursday, Dec. 14, and culminating in a special church business meeting after worship on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Three Meet and Greet sessions in Community Hall will be the main opportunities for church members to meet Ariel. Attend the session of your choice; no need to RSVP. During the first part of each event, attendees will be invited to write and submit questions for a moderated time of Q&A to follow.

■ **Meet and Greet 1 | Friday, Dec. 15 | 10:15-11:30 a.m.** | Beverages provided.

■ **Meet and Greet 2 | Saturday, Dec. 16 | 8:30-9:45 a.m.** | Families with preschoolers, children and youth are encouraged to attend this session. Activities are planned for the children. Childcare (infants - age 4) is available during this session only.

■ **Meet and Greet 3 | Saturday, Dec. 16 | 11:45 - 1 p.m.** | Snacks provided.

**WORSHIP.** During worship on Sunday, Dec. 17, Ariel will sing a solo, lead congregational singing and conduct Sanctuary Choir on one piece.

**ABOUT THE VOTE.** On Nov. 27, Wilshire's deacons voted to call a special church business meeting on Dec. 17 for the purpose of voting to call a new minister of music. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary at 12:15 p.m.

Voting will be conducted by private ballot. Members, please pick up your ballot in James Gallery on Dec. 17 between 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Distribution will stop at 11 and will resume from the end of worship until 12:15 p.m.

In accordance with Wilshire bylaws, *only Wilshire members present in the Sanctuary may vote.* To be eligible to vote, you must have joined the church by Dec. 6, or 10 days prior to the meeting.

After votes have been collected, the meeting

## Call Weekend activities

### Thursday, Dec. 14

- Lunch with staff and individual meetings.
- Dinner with search committee.

### Friday, Dec. 15

- **Meet and Greet 1**, 10:15-11:30 a.m.
- Dinner with music staff.

### Saturday, Dec. 16

- **Meet and Greet 2**, 8:30-9:45 a.m.
- Sanctuary Choir rehearsal, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
- **Meet and Greet 3**, 11:45 - 1 p.m.

### Sunday, Dec. 17

- Breakfast with youth, 9:30 - 10 a.m.
- Ballot pickup, 9:15 - 11:15 a.m.
- Worship, 11 a.m.
- Ballot pickup, 12 - 12:15 p.m.
- Called church conference, 12:15 p.m.

will be called into recess for votes to be counted. Members may stay in the Sanctuary during counting or leave if needed. The meeting will then be called back into session and the results announced. We will email the members later in the day to announce the result.

**Worship Care** will be extended to allow preschool families to attend the business meeting. Parents should pick up their children during the vote-counting recess.

■ The information on these pages can be found at [wilshirebc.org/music-minister](http://wilshirebc.org/music-minister) and will also be emailed to members. If you have questions, email [wilshiremusicsearch@gmail.com](mailto:wilshiremusicsearch@gmail.com). Printed copies of the candidate profile will be available through Dec. 17 in the main office and at the Welcome Desk in James Gallery.

# Pathways changes announced

For most of this year, the Pathways to Ministry Committee, in consultation with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples and Pathways Director George Mason, has been evaluating Wilshire's pastoral residency program with a view toward how best to shape its work in forming young ministers for the next generation.

As Wilshire moves forward with this vital ministry, several leadership changes will support the work and build on our church's success. Already, Geri McKenzie, who administered the Pathways program as Associate Director, has moved into the role of Wilshire's Executive Director of Administration.

Now we are announcing that George Mason will shift his focus from directing Pathways to nurturing the more than 40 Pathways alumni around the country and helping to continue their growth in ministry. We are also pleased to announce that George is joining the Center for Healthy Churches, which is led by Wilshire member Matt Cook, as a consultant. George will focus on exporting the learnings of Wilshire's Pathways model of clergy apprenticeship to other churches nationwide. Already, one of our resident alumni, Jason Edwards, has begun a residency program, and several other churches in our Baptist network have begun residencies. George will also work beyond Baptists in this effort and seek to integrate the Wilshire program and our alumni in these broader contexts.

We are further happy to say that Charlie Fuller, currently Wilshire's interim minister of music, has agreed to take on the role of director of Pathways to Ministry and coach-in-residence. Timothy said, "While Wilshire knows him mainly as a musician, that's only one facet of what Charlie brings to the table. His vast experience in church life, academia and as a consultant make him ideal to lead our clergy apprenticeship efforts." After serving for many years as a choral director, professor and fine arts dean at the university

level, Charlie returned to school in 2007, earning Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry degrees. Since 2010 he has served in church positions including minister for congregational life at Little Rock's Second Baptist Church, executive pastor at First Baptist Church of the City of Washington, D.C., and most recently transition pastor at Lake Shore Baptist Church in Waco. He also works as a personal coach and consultant and is credentialed through the International Coaching Federation.

"It's a joy to join the wonderfully talented Wilshire staff team in a more permanent role," Charlie said. "To lead and build upon George Mason's faithful, creative and innovative legacy is a joy and a privilege. I'm so very pleased to both lead this program and make coaching services available to staff and others." Charlie will transition into the Pathways role in the coming months as his time in our music ministry comes to a close.

George said, "As I begin yet another transition in my work with Wilshire, I want to thank the church for its generous support of me and the Pathways program over these past 22 years. I am grateful for the gift of knowing that my name will continue to be attached to the endowment fund that will sustain the program for years to come. I want to thank Geri McKenzie for her faithful partnership in this work for many years and congratulate her on her new role. I am confident that the program is in good hands under Timothy and Charlie's leadership as they work in concert with the Pathways Committee."

Wilshire remains on track to add two new pastoral residents in 2024. Meredith Mosley, Pathways Committee chair, said, "The committee eagerly anticipates the start of the recruiting process and looks forward to welcoming our newest residents next August."

## New members

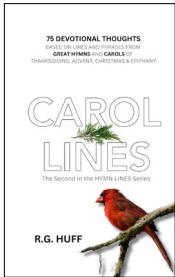
Ruby McClung  
Anabelle Tinsley

## Condolences to

■ **Emily and Gil Herrick** on the death of Gil's mother, Suzanne Evans Herrick, Nov. 24. Granddaughter is **Paige Herrick**.

■ **Bryan Rollins** on the death of his aunt, Diane Thedford Collins, Nov. 27.

## R.G. Huff book signing today



Wilshire is hosting a book signing for member R.G. Huff on Sunday, Dec. 3. R.G.'s new book is *Carol Lines: 75 Devotional Thoughts Based on Lines and Phrases from Great Hymns and Carols of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany*. Semiretired after 40-plus years

in music ministry, R.G. is adjunct faculty at Dallas Baptist University and a published hymn writer, lyricist and composer. The book signing will take place in the South Atrium from 9 to 10 a.m. and after worship at noon.

## Lunch & Learn is Dec. 6

Join us for fellowship and a holiday project at the 2023's final Lunch & Learn on Wednesday, Dec. 6. We'll assemble cutlery packets for Cornerstone Baptist Community Kitchen, which serves 1,200 at its annual holiday meal. Lunch & Learn, open to all ages, starts at 11:30 a.m. in Community Hall. Lunch costs \$10 per person. No reservation needed. Contact: Barbara Clayton ([bclayton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:bclayton@wilshirebc.org)).

## Blessing for John Kelly, Dec. 10

Worship on Dec. 10 will include a time of blessing for John Kelly as his time at Wilshire comes to a close at year end. Since his two-year pastoral residency ended in August, John has served on staff as a McIver Fellow. Keep John in your prayers as he continues his job search.

PRESCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR



# EARLY BIRD

# CAFÉ AND PLAY

YOU'RE UP EARLY, SO COME ON OVER!

UNSTRUCTURED FELLOWSHIP TIME FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN.

COFFEE PROVIDED.  
FEEL FREE TO BRING YOUR OWN BREAKFAST.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10  
8:30 AM | COMMUNITY HALL



## Adventurers San Francisco trip

Plans for the September 2024 Adventurers trip to San Francisco are underway! Join us for sightseeing and community building, including visits to Alcatraz, Muir Woods and Napa Valley. Please complete our interest form at [wilshirebc.org/san-fran](http://wilshirebc.org/san-fran) or in the main office. This doesn't commit you to going but tells us you're strongly considering it. Registration will start in January. The cost will be, at most, \$2,500 per person, covering transportation, lodging, attractions and some meals. Wilshire Adventurers plans social and education opportunities for those 60 and older. Guests are welcome.

## For guests and new members: Time with Tim on Dec. 10

Time with Tim, an informal chance for guests and new members to meet and visit with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will be held Dec. 10 at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy's office. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org)).



*Hope for a weary world / Advent 2023*

The world's weariness abounds. It seems to be everywhere and in everything. Unattended, this weariness settles deep into our bodies, creating exhaustion, resentment, apathy and possibly even despair. Advent is a season when God fully embraces all that we are — our weariness included. We hope you'll join us this season in reflecting on how the incarnational presence of Jesus offers hope for a weary world.

### **Register by today for Dec. 8 Parents Night Out**

■ **Children's Christmas Party** | First through sixth graders are invited to the home of Timothy Peoples and Valerie Lott for cookie decorating and festive fun, 7 to 9 p.m.

■ **Preschool Parents Night Out** | Free childcare at Wilshire for infants through kindergarten from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

■ **Registration required** for the above by Dec. 3. Find Realm link at [wilshirebc.org/advent](http://wilshirebc.org/advent).

### **Giving Tree gifts due soon**

Visit the Giving Tree in James Gallery, select a tag and fulfill a wish for a child or adult served by one of our local mission partners. Many gifts are due today, **Dec. 3**, and others are due **Dec. 6** or next Sunday, **Dec. 10**. Each tag has a QR code you can use to let us know which tag you selected, enabling us to send you a due-date reminder.

## Sign up kids to build nativity

Children in kindergarten through grade 6 can help build the Sanctuary nativity scene by carrying an element to the chancel during worship. We'll build the scene week by week until it is complete at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Sign-up link at [wilshirebc.org/nativity](http://wilshirebc.org/nativity).

## Christmas Pageant

**Wednesday, Dec. 13 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary |**



Kindergarten, Pre-K and 3-Year-Old choirs will be in costume as they sing and act out the nativity. Themed *Alleluia! Bells Are Ringing*, the program will also feature Children's Choirs and the new

Wilshire Bells handbell group. A reception with cookies and cocoa follows.

## Beer & Carols

**Saturday, Dec. 16 | 5-8 p.m. | Oak Highlands Brewery |** Carol singalong with a live band led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent.

## Dec. 17 choral music

Morning worship on Sunday, Dec. 17, will feature Sanctuary Choir and chamber orchestra in a presentation of *Magnificat* by the American composer Mark Hayes.

## Adventurers theater outing

**Sunday, Dec. 17 | 2 p.m. |** Wilshire Adventurers will take in a matinee presentation of the musical *White Christmas* at Richardson's Courtyard Theater. \$31.50 per person. Adventurers is a fellowship group for those 60 and above. Registration required by Dec. 13. Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/adventurers-theater](http://wilshirebc.org/events/adventurers-theater).

## Blue Christmas service

**Sunday, Dec. 17 | 4 p.m. | McIver Chapel |**  
A contemplative service for those carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration.

## Tree of Hope and Remembrance

Help decorate Wilshire's Tree of Hope and Remembrance in the South Lobby by writing the name of a loved one as a memorial or your name as a survivor of cancer or another disease. Blank ornaments and markers are provided near the tree, which is decorated with bracelets representing different forms of cancer. Hang your ornament on the tree anytime during Advent and feel free to take it home close to Christmas for your own tree.

## Library nativity sets are up

Stop by the Library during the holiday season to enjoy a display of nativity sets from around the world. Most are from the collection of Wilshire member Linda Garner.



## Christmas Eve

**Sunday, Dec. 24**

- No Sunday School or morning worship.
- 4 p.m. Christmas Eve family service.
- 11 p.m. Christmas Eve liturgical service with Lord's Supper. Youth Choir and alumni singing.

## New Year's Eve

**Sunday, Dec. 31 |** Worship at 11 a.m.  
No Sunday School.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

DEC.  
06

Midweek fellowship & faith formation for all ages

## Koinonia Café

**5 – 6 p.m.** | **Community Hall** | Buffet-style dinner for the whole family. Cash/check/credit. Pricing at [wilshirebc.org/events/koinonia-cafe](http://wilshirebc.org/events/koinonia-cafe). Takeout available. **Dec. 6:** Stuffed chicken breast, wild rice, grilled vegetables, cream of mushroom soup, garlic bread, brown sugar caramel cake, sugar cookies, jello. **Kids:** Chicken tenders, fries.

## Music, Missions & More

**6 – 7 p.m.** | **Age 3 – Pre-K** | Preschool choir, plus fun activities focused on God's love.

## KidConnect

**6 – 7 p.m.** | **K – Grade 6** | This rotation of art, music and more will help kids learn how to love God and others with every part of themselves.

## Also on Wednesdays

- **Watershed** | 6:30 p.m. | **Youth Center**
- **Sanctuary Choir** | 7 p.m. | **Choral Hall**

## Next week

On the final Wednesday Night Live of the year, we'll have Koinonia Café as usual, but in lieu of other programs, all are invited to the **Preschool Christmas Pageant** at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Reception follows.

## A WNL HOLIDAY SPECIAL

# Traditions with Tim



**Dec. 6 | 6 p.m.** | **Community Hall** | Join Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples after dinner for a fun, casual time of sharing favorite Christmas traditions.

*Childcare for infants to 2-year-olds whose parents are involved in church activities is offered 6 – 7:15 p.m.*

## How to Give

*Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Below are several methods you can use to contribute financially. Thanks for your generosity.*

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**ONLINE.** Set up a recurring or one-time gift charged to your debit or credit card or as an ACH from your checking account. Get started at [wilshirebc.org/give](http://wilshirebc.org/give).

**REALM CONNECT APP.** Easily make gifts and see past giving on your mobile device. Available at your device's app store. Find download links at [wilshirebc.org/realms](http://wilshirebc.org/realms).

**AUTOMATIC BANK PAY.** Visit your bank's website and set up Wilshire as a payee. The bank will send the church a check.

**MAIL.** Send to Finance Director Lori Gooden's attention at Wilshire.

**TEXT.** Text WILSHIRE and a dollar amount (ex: WILSHIRE 50) to 73256.

**DONATE STOCKS.** Contact Lori to learn how to donate appreciated stocks.

**FROM YOUR IRA.** For those over 70.5 years old, tax-free IRA gifts offer a financial benefit and may reduce future tax burdens.



Scan QR code with your smartphone camera to make an electronic contribution.

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At Wilshire, we use a one-fund approach to giving called the Unified Budget. Your gifts support the basic mission, ministry and operations of the church. Once the Unified Budget is fulfilled, gifts overflow into visionary aspects of our mission.

# This Week

## Sunday, Dec. 3

- WSM Book Club, Youth Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Belong Team, 1205-L, 11:45 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Children's Choirs, 12:35 p.m.
- Wilshire Bells, Handbell Room, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.
- Celebration of the Green, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.
- Celebration of the Green Reception, Community Hall, 7:30 p.m.

## Monday, Dec. 4

- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Tuesday, Dec. 5

- Stephen Ministry Supervision, 1205-G & Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, Dec. 6

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Preschool Music, Missions & More, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 2224, 2225, 2226, 6 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Collective Consciousness Cohort, 1205-L, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Dec. 7

- WOW Brown Bag Book Club, Parlor, noon
- Knit Unto Others, James Gallery, 1:30 p.m.

## Friday, Dec. 8

- Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 1205-L, 10 a.m.
- Friday Friends, 3211, 10 a.m.
- Childcare for Preschool Parents' Night Out, Preschool Classrooms, 6:30 p.m.
- Children's Christmas Party, Home of Timothy Peoples and Valerie Lott, 7 p.m.

