

**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**August 11, 2024**

*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

Today in worship we are reminded of the new beginnings all around us. Students with backpacks signal the start of the school year and a change from the summer routine. Participating in the family dedication for R.J. Murphy gives us the opportunity to celebrate the gift of new life in our church family. For some of us, it may have been many years since we welcomed someone new in our families or enjoyed the excitement of new beginnings.

You may be one who eagerly welcomes changes and the start of something new, and the person next to you may be facing the prospect of change with feelings of dread, uncertainty, anxiety or fear.

One of our hymns today, *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*, reminds us about our Lord's abiding presence when we are facing new challenges and unusual situations. Thomas A. Dorsey, the composer of more than 1,000 musical works, wrote this gospel song in 1932 in response to the tragedy of losing his wife and infant son during childbirth. After their deaths, he described being lost in grief and unable to find his way. A dear friend, Professor Frye, was

sensitive to Dorsey's needs and took him to a neighborhood music school on a Saturday evening when no one else was present. Seated at a piano, Dorsey consoled himself by playing a familiar tune and composing today's hymn text. A phrase repeated throughout the hymn is a plea for the Lord to take or hold our hands to give us assurance of God's presence with us.

Who knew that recent medical research has confirmed the important benefits of holding hands? The findings were that holding someone's hand gives a sense of security, provides stress relief and even can improve heart health. As we worship together, let's think about ways we can literally or figuratively hold the hand of another and be the presence of Jesus. Your actions may encourage and add to the excitement of those who are enjoying the new beginnings this time of year brings. Like Dorsey's friend, Professor Frye, you may be the hands of Jesus to those who feel tired, weak, worn, overwhelmed, confused and sad. Whose hand can you hold this week?

—LeAnn Hampton



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

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**On the cover:** *wonderbread*, Corita Kent, 1962, serigraph. Courtesy of Corita Art Center, Los Angeles, [corita.org](http://corita.org). Corita Kent (1918-1986), also known as Sister Mary Corita, was an educator, artist and social justice pioneer known for her bold and colorful artwork that pushed boundaries in the art world and the church and conveyed a message of love, hope and justice.

August 11, 2024

11:00 a.m.

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

## Chiming of the Hour

We gather in community this morning to worship God.  
To help center our focus in worship, please silence all electronic devices.

## Welcome to Worshipers

Peggy Tinsley

## Prelude

*Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*  
Jeff Brummel, piano; Ariel Merivil, organ

arr. Joel Raney

## Opening Sentences

Cindy Tibbals

O God, help us to feel your presence everywhere we go today. To see you in everyone we meet today. To sense you in all we hear today. And to reflect you in all we do today.

## +Congregational Song

*We Praise You with Our Minds, O Lord*

FOREST GREEN



1. We praise you with our minds, O Lord, kept sharp to think your thought;  
2. We praise you through our bod - ies, Lord, kept strong to do your will;  
3. We praise you in our hearts, O King, kept pure to know your ways;



Come, Ho - ly Ghost with grace out - poured, to teach what Christ has taught.  
your Spir - it's tem - ples, which af - ford a means to praise you still.  
and raise to you a hymn to sing e - ter - nal - ly your praise.



In all our learn - ing may we seek that wis - dom from a - bove  
We give our - selves, a sac - ri - fice, to live our lives for you;  
Al - though a - dor - ing hearts will bow as age on a - ges roll;



which comes to all: the brave, the meek, who ask in faith and love.  
for you a - lone have paid the price to bring sal - va - tion true.  
we praise you in our be - ings now, mind, bod - y, heart, and soul.

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

**Leader:** God our keeper, as summer winds down and another school year comes into view, we find ourselves grateful. For our students — their surprising imaginations, refreshing perspectives, boundless creativity and enthusiastic kindness.

**People:** **We thank you, God, for our students.**

**Leader:** As they begin gathering supplies and packing their bags, God, we trust you to grace our students with peace for the year ahead. We trust you to guide them as they grow into their truest, most authentic selves. We trust you to guard and protect them against self-doubt, anxiety and all kinds of harm.

**People:** **We trust you, God, to bless and keep our students. We are grateful for your loving presence within and around them.**

**Leader:** God, we also remember that our students only grow and learn because of the work of compassionate, dedicated teachers. As our educators begin finalizing lesson plans and finish preparing their classrooms, God, we ask that you grace them with clear understanding, sturdy patience and convicted wisdom.

**People:** **We trust you, God, to bless and keep our teachers. We are grateful for your loving presence within and around them.**

**Leader:** God, as caregivers, we find comfort in divine empathy. You know what it's like to send a child into the unknown. Give us peace as we prepare to do the same. When we want to hold tighter, grace us with healthy grips. Remind us that our children are ultimately yours.

**People:** **We trust you, God, to help us love and challenge and guide them well, as you have loved and challenged and guided us.**

**Leader:** God, when crayons, posterboard, technological mishaps and impossible schedules threaten to drag us under, remind us of your love and care. As we begin a new school year,

**People:** **May we be carried along by fresh wonder at God's unfolding work in the world.**

**All:** **Amen.**

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.  
Lord, hear my voice!  
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of my supplications!

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,  
Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you,  
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the LORD; my soul waits,  
and in God's word I hope;  
my soul waits for the Lord  
more than those who watch for the morning,  
more than those who watch for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the LORD!  
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,  
and with God is great power to redeem.  
It is the Lord who will redeem Israel  
from all its iniquities.

**Choral Offertory**

*We Sing the Mighty Power of God*  
Summer Drop-In Choir  
Susan Kimball, flute

Hal H. Hopson

We sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.  
We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

We sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;  
God formed the creatures with a word and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed where'er we turn our eyes;  
If we survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the skies.

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known;  
And clouds arise and tempests blow by order from thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,  
And everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

Sing hallelujah. Praise the Lord.

**+Gospel Reading** — John 6:35, 41-58

Ava McClung

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty. ... Then the Jews began to complain about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They were saying, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'" Jesus answered them, "Do not complain among yourselves. No one can come to me unless drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise that person up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard

and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day, for my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which the ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

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!**

<b>+Congregational Song</b>	<i>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</i> No. 400	PRECIOUS LORD
<b>Message</b>	“The Ingredients of Life”	Timothy Peoples
<b>Prayers of the People</b>		Gina Ortegon
<b>Silence</b>		

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

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**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.**

<b>+Congregational Song</b>	<i>Halle, Halle, Hallelujah</i> No. 433	HALLE, HALLE
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**Family Dedication** — Rachel and Sam Murphy with R.J.

Timothy Peoples

We welcome into the life of the church Roger Jon “R.J.” Murphy, son of Rachel and Sam Murphy and brother to Sophia. Present for today’s dedication are grandparents Roger and Kathy Rossiter and Jon and Mendy Murphy; great uncle Steve Rossiter; and special guests Brian Park and Ithaka Class.

**Sharing of Decisions**

Timothy Peoples

**Benediction**

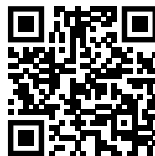
Timothy Peoples

**Postlude**

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

The flowers today are given in memory of Debra Wearden Hampton on her birthday by Jeff and LeAnn Hampton.



**We're glad you're here.** If you're a guest today and would like to let us know, please scan the QR code with your smartphone camera to access our online response card. You can also scan the code to make a financial contribution or submit a prayer request. Response cards and offering envelopes are available in the pew racks and can be placed in the offering plate or offering boxes.

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# Meet today's worship leaders

**Ava McClung** is the oldest daughter of Carole and Britt McClung and sister to Miriam and Ruby. Ava will soon start her third year at Rice University, where she studies religion and medieval history. She is active in her residential college (Lovett) and the Episcopal Church at Rice ministry, Atry House. Ava served as a pastoral intern at Wilshire this summer.

**Gina Ortegon** and her husband, Ronnie, joined Wilshire in 2001. They are parents to three daughters: Ana, a freshman at the University of Arkansas, and young adult twins Erika and Elena. Gina is chair-elect of deacons, a member of Journey Class and serves on the Interior Design and Building and Grounds Committees. She works for Smith Brown as a sales representative serving the interior design industry.

**Cindy Tibbals** came to Wilshire in 2003 and met her husband, Fred, here. They attend Compass Class. Cindy is a regular volunteer in Wilshire's children's ministry, teaching second grade Sunday School and helping lead KidConnect, VBS, Listen to Your Art! Camp and other activities. She also serves on the Children's Education Committee and works with Friday Friends. Cindy is a retired science and math teacher.

**Peggy Tinsley** and her husband, Sam, who were married 58 years ago today, joined Wilshire in 1972 and are among the founders of Compass Class. They have two adult sons, Steve and Price, and four grandchildren. Price and his family — wife Sara and daughters Gillian and Anabelle — attend Wilshire. Peggy taught at South Garland High School for 21 years and at Richland College as an adjunct professor for 12 years.



# 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 with phone extensions 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

- Carole McClung, ECLC Administrative Assistant (3115)
- Ramona Randle, ECLC Director (3140)

## Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

## Food Services

- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Haley Robinson, Food Service Director (3117)
- Shari Spell, Food Service Staff
- Gillian Tinsley, Food Service Staff
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Food Service Staff

## Hospitality and Facilities

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

## Missions and Advocacy

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

## Music and Worship

- Jeff Brummel, Associate Minister of Music/Organist (3122)
- Carol Cabaniss, Music and Worship Coordinator (3106)
- Shana Gaines, Wilshire Winds Director (3163)
- Ralph Manuel, Handbell Coordinator (3161)
- Candy McComb, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)
- Ariel Merivil, Minister of Music (3135)

## Operations and Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Jim Tapley, Audio and Video Coordinator

## Pathways to Ministry

- Debby Burton, Pathways to Ministry Assistant (3158)
- Charlie Fuller, Pathways to Ministry Director and Coach in Residence (3123)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Georgia McKee, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Maggie Morey, Pastoral Resident (3153)

## Senior Pastor

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

## Spiritual Formation

- Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers (3139)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)
- Sarah Yodh, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3130)

# Tapestry



News & Announcements  
August 11, 2024

## Back to School Drive

Benefiting Dover Elementary  
and Gateway of Grace

DEADLINE EXTENDED  
TO SUNDAY, AUG. 18!



Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/bts-drive](https://wilshirebc.org/events/bts-drive) for full info and wishlists. We are especially in need of items for Gateway of Grace — baby wipes, diapers (sizes 4-7) and pull-ups (sizes 3T-5T).

### Condolences to

- **Amy and Cory Anderson** on the death of Amy's father, Tom Newsom, Aug. 4. Grandchildren are **Bryn Anderson** and **Whit Anderson**.
- **Debbie and Mike Meripolski** on the death of Debbie's aunt, Rhoda Reed, Aug. 4.

### Preschool help needed



With Promotion Sunday one week away, we still have open positions for preschool Sunday School teachers. We also need missions teachers for Preschool Music & Missions on Wednesday nights starting Aug. 21. Contact Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins ([kakins@wilshirebc.org](mailto:kakins@wilshirebc.org)) if you can serve.

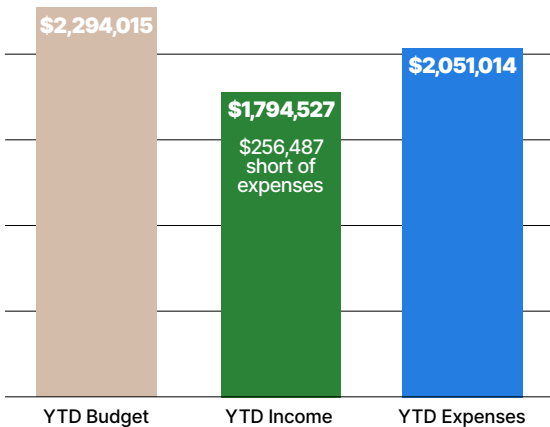
### CBF's Laura Ayala here Aug. 18

Rev. Laura Ayala, coordinator of global missions for the Co-operative Baptist Fellowship, will be at Wilshire on Sunday, Aug. 18. She will speak in McIver Chapel at 9:45 a.m. and will help lead in worship. Before her current role, Laura served as pastor of First Baptist Church of Rio Piedras in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Wilshire's partner in recent mission trips.



**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.

## Unified Budget Update



Pathways Endowment YTD gifts ..... \$31,035  
 Pathways Endowment July balance ..... \$10,079,883

## Pathways Endowment tops \$10 million

As of July 31, the George A. Mason Pathways to Ministry Endowment topped the \$10-million mark for the first time. The endowment is the primary funding mechanism for Wilshire’s pastoral residency program and other facets of Pathways to Ministry.

Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples said, “How exciting it is to see the endowment reach this goal we have been yearning to meet! I’m so grateful to all who have contributed. I’m also grateful to George for his vision for the endowment and program and his belief and reminder that this goal was reachable.”

Charlie Fuller, director of Pathways, added, “We’re grateful beyond words to all who have given to support this ministry. It was particularly exciting to reach this milestone at almost the very moment we welcomed two new residents. Thanks be to God!”

## Pam Stiles to be ordained Aug. 18

All are invited as Wilshire member Pam Stiles is ordained to the gospel ministry next Sunday, Aug. 18, at 4 p.m. in McIver Chapel. A reception will follow in the Parlor. Pam earned a Master of Divinity degree at Fort Worth’s Southwestern Seminary and currently is a chaplain resident at UT Southwestern Medical Center. She joined Wilshire in 2018, serves on the Belong Team and attends Shiloh Class. Members of Pam’s ordination council are Timothy Peoples, Charlie Fuller, Paula Woodbury, Ava McClung, Gina Biddle and Doug Watts.



## Time with Tim in two weeks

Time with Tim, an informal chance for guests and new members to visit with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will meet Sunday, Aug. 25, at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy’s office (2203). Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

## Bright Stars of Bethlehem gala

A virtual gala for mission partner Bright Stars of Bethlehem will be held the evening of Sept. 7 at the home of Mary and Kenton Keller. Bright Stars raises awareness and support for Dar al-Kalima University, the first and only university for arts, culture and design in Palestine. The evening will include stories of resilience from students and remarks from founder Mitri Raheb. RSVP to Associate Pastor Heather Mustain ([hmustain@wilshirebc.org](mailto:hmustain@wilshirebc.org)) by Aug. 30.

## African American history tour

Wilshire has reservations for a few folks to join with members of Northway Christian Church for the Hidden History Tour on Saturday, Sept. 14, from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The tour traces the African American experience from the Civil War to the 1960s. Cost is \$25 per person. Find links to learn more about the tour and to register at [wilshirebc.org/events/hidden-history-tour](http://wilshirebc.org/events/hidden-history-tour).

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# Welcome, Y'ALL!

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AUG.  
18

PROMOTION SUNDAY  
BBQ LUNCH  
ENTERTAINMENT

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### **Promotion Sunday**

Wilshire will celebrate the end of summer and kick off a new school year on Promotion Sunday, Aug. 18. Preschoolers, children and youth will move to new Sunday School classes, and it's a great day for adults to try a new class or try Sunday School for the first time.

### **Lunch and a show**

After worship, all are invited to Community Hall for a BBQ lunch and some down-home entertainment by Wilshire's own. Cost for the meal is \$10 per adult, \$5 for kids ages 4 to 9 and free for 3 and under. Cash/check/credit will be accepted at the door. Western wear is optional.

### **Half-price grub**

We're roundin' up a posse to help set up Community Hall on Saturday and for various tasks on Sunday. Volunteers get lunch for half price. Find the sign-up link at [wilshirebc.org/events/welcome-yall](http://wilshirebc.org/events/welcome-yall).

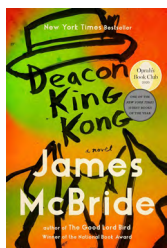


■ **WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Aug. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?: A Memoir of Learning to Believe You're Gonna Be Okay* by Sean Dietrich. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

■ **WOW Brown Bag Book Club** | Sept. 5 | Noon | 1205-L | *The Plot* by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

■ Join Women of Wilshire for **mahjong** the first Friday of each month at 10 a.m. Sign up at [wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong](http://wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong).

## Men's Book Club meets Aug. 20



Wilshire's new Men's Book Club will discuss James McBride's 2020 novel *Deacon King Kong* on Tuesday, Aug. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. The group plans to meet the third Tuesday of every month. Contact: Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net)) or Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)).

or Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)).

## Search the Library from home

Did you know the Wilshire Library has more than 15,000 items, has weekday hours and is open to the public? You can search the collection from home and even reserve a book and pick it up at the church. Learn more and find the search link at [wilshirebc.org/resources/library](http://wilshirebc.org/resources/library).

## Subscribe to sermon podcast

Sermons from Timothy Peoples and other Wilshire preachers are available as a weekly audio podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcasts and other podcast platforms. Search for "Wilshire Baptist Church" on your platform of choice.

## Music group start-ups

■ **Youth Choir** will begin rehearsals on Sunday, Aug. 18, at 12:30 p.m. in Choral Hall. All students in grades 6 through 12 are welcome.

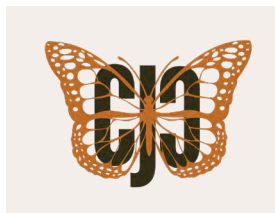
■ **Carillon Ringers** will resume rehearsals on Sunday, Aug. 25, at 2:15 p.m. in the Handbell Room. Contact: Ralph Manuel ([rmanuel@wilshirebc.org](mailto:rmanuel@wilshirebc.org)).

■ **Wilshire Winds** will start up on Monday, Sept. 9, at 7 p.m. in Choral Hall. Brass, woodwind and percussion players are welcome. Contact: Shana Gaines ([sgaines@wilshirebc.org](mailto:sgaines@wilshirebc.org)).

■ **Children's Choirs** (grades 1-5) will adopt a new approach this school year. Singers can now select one, two or three sections of choir. Each section will include a few rehearsals followed by a performance. The first section runs Sept. 8 to Oct. 6. Rehearsals will be held Sundays from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. after a snack lunch.

■ **Kindergarten Choir** will meet starting Aug. 21 as part of KidConnect on Wednesdays at 6 p.m. **Pre-K and 3-year-olds** will have choir during Preschool Music & Missions, Wednesdays at 6 p.m. To learn more, contact Candy McComb at [cmccomb@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmccomb@wilshirebc.org).

## Fellowship Southwest Conference



Wilshire is a sponsor for Fellowship Southwest's Compassion + Justice Conference, to be held Sept. 20 and 21 at Life in Deep Ellum. Speakers

will discuss topics including hunger, native issues, immigration and racial justice. Learn more and register at [fellowshipsouthwest.org/conference-2024](http://fellowshipsouthwest.org/conference-2024).

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

## Resumes Aug. 21

### Koinonia Café

**5 p.m. | Community Hall** | Buffet dinner for the whole family with kid-friendly options available. Cash/check/credit accepted at the door. Full Meal: \$10 for ages 10 and up; \$5 for kids 4 to 9; free for kids 3 and under; \$35 household max. Soup & Salad Meal: \$7.

### Preschool Music & Missions

**6 p.m. | Age 3–Pre-K** | Preschool choir plus fun activities and lessons focused on God's love and caring for others.

### KidConnect

**6 p.m. | K–Grade 5** | A rotation of activities to help kids learn how to love God and others with every part of themselves. Each week is different! Activities include art, music, recreation, science and more. Kindergartners will have choir as part of KidConnect.

Childcare is offered from 6 to 7:15 p.m. for infants to 2-year-olds with parents involved in church activities.

### Bible Study or Vespers

**6 p.m.** | Adults will remain in Community Hall after dinner most weeks for Bible Study, a topical series or a one-off event. On the fourth Wednesday each month, our pastoral residents will lead a Vespers service in McIver Chapel.

■ **Aug. 21:** Get to Know the New Residents

■ **Aug. 28:** Vespers

■ **Sept. 4:** Bible Study series begins

### Watershed

**6:30 p.m. | Grades 6–12** | Wilshire Student Ministry's weekly time of Bible study and music in the Youth Center.

### Sanctuary Choir

**7 p.m. | Choral Hall** | Wilshire's main adult choir rehearses weekly; new singers are always welcome. No audition.



### Lunch & Learn to be offered twice a month

Lunch & Learn will be held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month this fall, starting on **Sept. 4**. All are invited at 11:30 a.m. for a buffet lunch followed by minister-led Bible study. Watch the *Tapestry* each week to see who's teaching as we continue where we left off in our journey through the Old Testament. Lunch costs \$10 each. No RSVP necessary. Pay at the door.

# Chrissy Alvarez

**Name:** Chrissy Alvarez (they/them)  
**Present City:** Allen  
**Education:** Texas A&M University (B.S.),  
Texas A&M–Commerce (M.S.)  
**Profession:** Mental Health Counselor

## **Tell us about your family.**

My wife, Abigail, and I got married in March, and we live with our two cats, Nox and MacKenna. We live near Abigail’s family, so we have regular game nights and pickleball practice. I am the youngest of three, and I have family in Austin, San Antonio and Hilton Head, South Carolina.

## **How about your work?**

As a counselor, I specialize in religious and complex trauma, dissociative disorders, LGBTQ issues and neurodivergence. I love being able to see someone’s experiences as a puzzle and help them put the pieces together, understand more about themselves and live more authentically.

## **Any favorite hobbies?**

Playing and writing music, discovering new shows with my wife.

## **What brought you to Wilshire and when?**

During my journey of deconstruction, my co-worker Ann Meripolski mentioned her affirming Baptist church. I borrowed the book recounting Wilshire’s process to becoming affirming and decided to visit. I had never felt so comfortable at church! I started coming more consistently in May 2023 after joining Shiloh Class and becoming part of Faith in 3D.

## **Where are you engaged at Wilshire?**

Shiloh Class and Sanctuary Choir.



## **What has surprised you most about Wilshire?**

When the sign out front says “belong” or “come as you are,” it’s actually true, and people aren’t judgmental towards my views on various topics.

## **Tell us about your faith journey.**

I went to the Catholic Church growing up but wasn’t serious about faith until college. I found a nondenominational church where I accepted Christ and dove headfirst into ministry. Once I graduated, I joined the staff and loved ministering to college students, leading worship and being a voice for those struggling with mental illness. Unfortunately, this became a hurtful place for me, and I came to resent Christians around me. I still believed in God and went to church, but felt the hurt and resentment eating at me. I took some time off from church to figure out what I believed and hopefully start to heal from the trauma. Through that time, I reconciled my beliefs with God and found Wilshire. I think I’m finally beginning to enjoy how God created me and feel free in my relationship with God.

## **What’s something interesting most people would not know about you?**

My wife says I could win gold in the parallel parking Olympics.

## **What adjectives describe you?**

Good listener, artistic, curious.

# THANK YOU FOR GIVING

*Your gifts are changing lives inside and outside our walls. Here are some ways to make a financial contribution to Wilshire.*

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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 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, Aug. 11**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- Summer Drop-In Choir, Choral Hall, 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Fifth and Sixth Grade Blessing Service, 2230, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Enneagram with Heather, 1205-G, noon
- Building & Grounds Committee, 1205-L, noon

## **Tuesday, Aug. 13**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, Aug. 14**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- New Song Hymn Sing, Parlor, 10:30 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, 1205-G, 1 p.m.
- Spanish with a Mission Group, 1205-L, 4 p.m.
- Risk Management Committee, 1205-G, 6 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, Aug. 15**

- Back to School Drive Collection
- Memorial Service for Anita Hood, McIver Chapel, 1 p.m.
- Knit Unto Others, 1205-G, 1:30 p.m.

## **Saturday, Aug. 17**

- Sanctuary Choir Retreat, Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, 9:30 a.m.