



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**March 9, 2025**  
*First Sunday in Lent*

# Preparing for worship

Ever since Jesus' resurrection people have worked to find ways to connect the spiritual world and the physical world. One of the names we use for these activities is "spiritual practices." You may not realize it, but you're engaging in a spiritual practice this morning by participating in corporate worship.

During Lent this year, we will be highlighting some specific spiritual practices during our Sunday morning worship. We'll be looking at and thinking about the experiences of fasting, stillness/prayer, study, forgiveness, sacrifice, confession, and celebration.

This morning we're focusing on fasting. What comes to your mind? Monks in brown robes? Being constantly hungry? The idea of fasting is a stretch for most of us, especially when we're inundated with commercials for burgers, tacos and pizzas almost 24/7.

Let's face it. Most all of us have never truly experienced hunger. We've experienced cravings, but not often have we experienced true hunger. In addition, most of us have never experienced a lack of any other genuine need. We have enough food to eat as well as shelter and clothing. All our basic needs are being met.

Yet, the commercial media culture that surrounds us is constantly blaring the message

that we're not all we can be if we don't have a new house, the latest model of car, eat at the nicest restaurants, or cook the coolest dishes. We're drowning in messages of consumption, consumption that, if we're honest, distracts us from God.

This is where fasting comes in. Fasting isn't just the denial of food. Fasting is an intentional act of defiance to these messages of "less than." Fasting is a way to rebel against the prevailing culture and say "enough!"

Fasting doesn't have to even be about food. We can take a media fast and limit the amount of time we spend watching our screens. We can fast from fast food, from social media, from spending money, from our connection to things. I recently read about fasting from complaining.

The point of fasting isn't denial. The point of fasting is to remove something — either partially or fully — that distracts from one's focus on God. We fast to make more room for God in our lives.

Think about what you might give up during this season — or maybe permanently — to make more room for God in your life.

—Charlie Fuller



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:** *Cloudburst at Black Mesa, New Mexico*, Allen Tucker, 1925, oil on canvas, Smithsonian American Art Museum.

**March 9, 2025**  
11:00 a.m.  
First Sunday in Lent

**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**

Charlie Fuller

**Prelude**

*At Morning's First Light*  
Wilshire Winds  
Shana Gaines, director

David R. Gillingham

**+Congregational Song**

*For the Fruit of All Creation*  
No. 376

AR HYD Y NOS

**+Call to Worship**

Julie Girards

Leader: In the beginning, before time, before people, before the world began,

**People: God was.**

Leader: Here and now among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven,

**People: God is.**

Leader: In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found its fulfillment,

**People: God will be.**

Leader: Not denying the world but delighting in it,  
not understanding the world, but redeeming it,  
through Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

**All: God was, God is, God will be.**

**+Response in Song**

*Day Has Dawned*

AR HYD Y NOS

**Day has dawned, but love unfailing  
Dwells ever here;  
Shadows fall, but hope, prevailing,  
Calms every fear.  
God, our Maker, none forsaking,  
Take our hearts, of love's own making;  
Watch our sleeping; guard our waking;  
Be always near.**

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+All congregants are invited to stand in body or spirit.  
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**Offertory**

*Meditation*  
Wilshire Winds

Dwayne S. Milburn

**+Gospel Reading** — Luke 4:1–13

Laura Smith

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only the Lord.’” Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘God will command God’s angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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!**

**+Congregational Song**

*We Walk By Faith*  
No. 634

FAITH’S JOURNEY

**Message**

“Prepare the Way”

Timothy Peoples

**Anthem**

*Declare Your Maker's Praise*  
New Song Community Choir  
Sarah Stafford, director; Crysta Jones, accompanist  
Dwight Roan, percussion; Mark McKenzie, soprano saxophone

arr. Lloyd Larson

This is my Father's world, and to my listening ears,  
All nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.  
This is my Father's world, I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,  
Of skies and seas; his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world, the birds their carols raise;  
The morning light, the lily white declare their Maker's praise.  
This is my Father's world, he shines in all that's fair;  
In the rustling grass I hear him pass, he speaks to me everywhere.

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget  
That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.  
This is my Father's world, why should my heart be sad?  
The Lord is King! Let the heavens ring!  
God reigns, let the earth be glad!  
Declare your Maker's praise!

**Prayers of the People**

Lynette DeBose

**Silence**

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.

**+Congregational Song**

*I Love to Tell the Story*  
No. 581

HANKEY

**Sharing of Decisions**

Timothy Peoples

**Benediction**

Timothy Peoples

**Postlude**

*Fruits of Kindness*

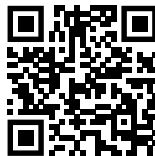
Angela Kraft Cross

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Lynette DeBose** joined Wilshire in 2017. She sings in Sanctuary Choir, attends Discovery Class and is a Faith in 3D participant. Lynette works as an office administrator at RE/MAX.

**Cindy and Charlie Fuller** joined Wilshire one year ago when Charlie began as director of Pathways to Ministry and coach in residence. Charlie previously served as interim minister of music. Cindy is a longtime church musician who most recently served as organist and pianist at Lake Shore Baptist in Waco. Cindy and Charlie attend Epiphany Class, and Cindy sings in Sanctuary Choir and serves as a substitute organist, pianist and handbell ringer. The Fullers have two daughters and four grandchildren.

**Laura Smith** and her husband, Dennis, joined Wilshire in 2001 and together direct the Foundations of Faith Class. Laura is a deacon and serves on the Library Committee, Committee on Committees, the Belong Team and the lay support team for Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee. The Smiths have two adult children and two grandchildren.



**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.

# 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

- Haley Garcia, Food Service Director (3117)
- Luke Munion, Prep Cook
- Monique Roberts, Sous-Chef
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Steward

## 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
- Bryant Greer, Building Operations Manager (3146)
- 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)

# Tapestry



Wilshire  
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements  
March 9, 2025



## PREPARE THE WAY | Wilshire Lent 2025

**J**OIN US THIS LENT as we *Prepare the Way* for Christ's resurrection. Together, we'll journey through the wilderness of these 40 days, embracing spiritual practices that open our hearts to the sacred and prepare us for the mystery of what's to come. In a world that feels fractured and uncertain, these practices will ground us in the reality of God's

presence, equipping us to rise, resist and rebuild. Like Jesus, we are called into the untamed spaces of our lives to pause, listen and reorient ourselves toward the Divine. This Lent, let us prepare not just for Easter, but for the ongoing work of healing and hope in our world. Come, let us walk this path together, trusting that even in the wilderness, God is making a way.



**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.

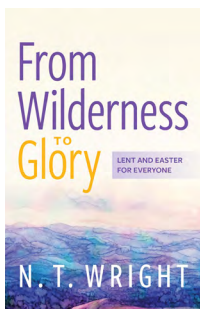
## Sacred Space each Sunday



**Sundays through April 13 | 9–9:30 a.m. | McIver Chapel**

Join us each Lenten Sunday for a time of quiet contemplation and spiritual practice. Each gathering will begin with a brief prompt, but the focus will be on creating space to quiet your mind and engage in the spiritual practices we're exploring this season. All are welcome. Led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent, Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray and Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee.

## Lenten book focus



All are invited to read along as we study N.T. Wright's *From Wilderness to Glory: Lent and Easter for Everyone*. Many Sunday School classes will use the book during Lent, but it is also appropriate for individual study. If you'd like to connect with a class, contact Associate

Pastor Darren DeMent or Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray for recommendations. This new book is available at Amazon and other sellers.

## Resources on spiritual practices

The following resources can be viewed or downloaded at [wilshirebc.org/lent](http://wilshirebc.org/lent):

■ Wilshire ministers and staff have compiled a **Lenten resource guide** focused on spiritual practices. The list contains book suggestions and other resources, including several for families and children.

■ Our **family Lenten guide** has ideas for parents about how to engage in spiritual practices with children.

## Lenten playlist

Our eclectic Lenten playlist can be found on the digital music service Spotify under the name "Prepare The Way - Wilshire Lent 2025." Find the direct link at [wilshirebc.org/lent](http://wilshirebc.org/lent).

## Songwriter Vespers: John Prine

**Sunday, March 23 | 4:30 p.m. | Choral Hall**

This unique worship opportunity will be a fusion of a coffeehouse-style concert and a vespers service. Join Associate Pastor Darren DeMent and other musicians as they explore themes of home, connection, loss and redemption found in the music of John Prine. Coffee and light snacks will be provided.

## Holy Week: Stations of the Cross



Visit McIver Chapel during Holy Week for a Stations of the Cross exhibit featuring work by artist Scott Erickson. The exhibit, which invites us to reflect as we walk with Jesus on his journey to the cross, will be introduced on Palm

Sunday, April 13, at the 9 a.m. Sacred Space gathering and can be seen whenever the church is open through Friday, April 18, at 3 p.m.

## Palm Sunday

**April 13 | 11 a.m. | Sanctuary**

## Maundy Thursday

**April 17 | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary**

## Easter Sunday

**April 20**

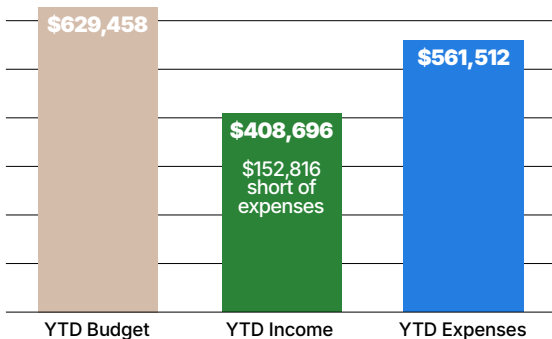
■ Sunrise Service, T. & P. Hill at White Rock Lake, 6:30 a.m.

■ Columbarium Service, 9:30 a.m.

■ Worship in the Sanctuary, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

■ Visit the Flowering Cross

## Unified Budget Update



Pathways Endowment YTD gifts..... \$8,286  
Pathways Endowment Feb. balance .....\$10,206,430

### Condolences to

**Joe King** on the death of his wife, **Cissy King**,  
March 4.

### No Wednesday Night Live activities March 12

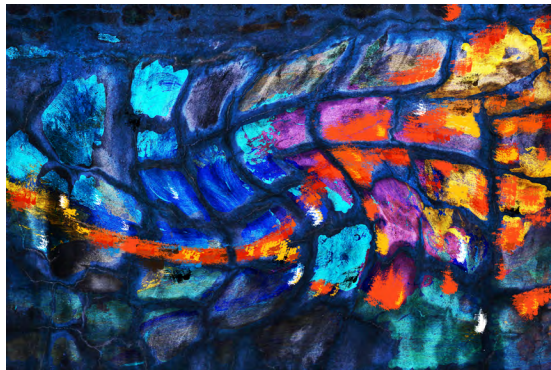
There will be no dinner or faith formation offerings at Wilshire on Wednesday evening, March 12, due to Spring Break. Sanctuary Choir will meet at 7 p.m. as usual.

### Blood Drive here March 12

Carter BloodCare will be at Wilshire for a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12. There is a critical need for several blood types, including A+, A-, O+, O- and B-. Walk-ins are welcome; appointments are recommended. Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive](http://wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive) or scan the QR code on the back cover.

### Next Lunch & Learn is March 19

All are invited to Community Hall the first and third Wednesdays every month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch (\$10 ea.) and Bible study. Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee will teach on March 19. See the spring schedule at [wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn](http://wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn).



# David Clanton

## A CELEBRATION OF God's Gift of Seeing

Art Exhibit  
South Lobby  
Ends April 20

Sales benefit Youth Choir Tour

## Auction events still have spots



There are still openings for you to attend one of the “Sign & Go” events from last Sunday’s silent auction supporting the Youth Choir’s summer trip. There’s no bidding; simply sign up. Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/3XsJCvF](https://bit.ly/3XsJCvF).

■ You can also support the Youth Choir by bidding on pieces in the **David Clanton art exhibit**, which is on display in the South Lobby through Easter, April 20. Each piece has a bid sheet posted next to it, and winners will be announced after the exhibit ends.

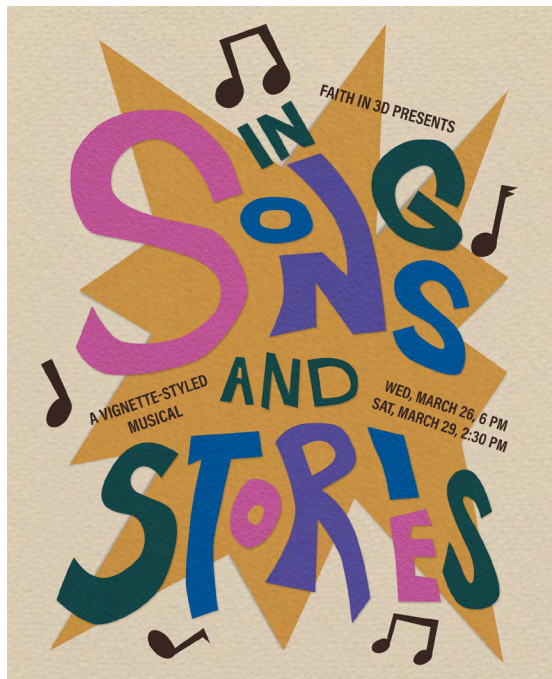
## Easter lily ordering is open

It’s time to order lilies to beautify the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 20. Congregants are invited to provide the flowers in honor or memory of family members or friends, and dedications will be listed in the worship folder. Each plant costs \$20; orders can be made at [wilshirebc.org/easter-lilies](https://wilshirebc.org/easter-lilies) or in the church office. The deadline to order is Palm Sunday, April 13.

## Children’s Choirs start March 23

Kindergartners through fifth graders are invited to “Sing This Spring” by participating in the spring session of Children’s Choirs, which includes four Sunday rehearsals, two times singing in Sunday worship plus a year-end program. Rehearsals will run from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. after a snack lunch.

- March 23: rehearsal
- March 30: rehearsal
- April 6: rehearsal
- April 13: sing in worship on Palm Sunday; no rehearsal April 13 or 20.
- April 27: rehearsal (Pizza Day!)
- May 4: sing in worship
- May 7: year-end program and party



## Faith in 3D: two free shows March 26 & 29

Wilshire’s 2025 Faith in 3D production is an original vignette-styled musical, *In Songs and Stories*. The show will feature a compilation of songs, most from Broadway musicals, that will not only entertain but also stimulate discussion with the potential to change individuals — and maybe the world.

Director Nancy Poynter is returning for her 11th Faith in 3D production, and Ralph Manuel will serve as musical director.

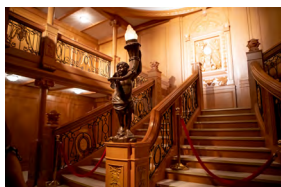
The free show will be performed at Wilshire on **Wednesday, March 26**, at 6 p.m. and **Saturday, March 29**, at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Wednesday performance will take the place of Wilshire’s usual faith formation offerings (childcare will be offered for preschoolers).

The 3D in Faith in 3D stands for drama, dialogue and dessert. Each performance will be followed by a moderated discussion, and dessert will be available in the Narthex.

## Free yoga classes start March 15

Wilshire member Mary Lu Hare will lead free yoga class in the Youth Center on three Saturdays: March 15, April 19 and May 17. The one-hour sessions will start at 10 a.m. and are suitable for all experience levels. Bring a yoga mat, water and a friend.

## Adventurers to Titanic exhibit



The Wilshire Adventurers, a fellowship group for those 60 and above, will visit Titanic: The Exhibition on Thursday,

March 20, at 10 a.m. at Pepper Square (14902 Preston Road #386). The immersive, interactive tour includes vast recreations of the ship's interior and exterior along with artifacts from the Titanic and props and costumes from the 1997 film. Admission costs \$22. Space is limited; register at [wilshirebc.org/events/titanic](http://wilshirebc.org/events/titanic).

## Women of Wilshire Book Clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | March 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *Death on the Nile* by Agatha Christie. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

■ The **Brown Bag Book Club** has canceled its April 3 meeting and will next meet on May 1 for a discussion of Leila Meacham's *Dragonfly*. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

## Men's Book Club meets March 18

The Men's Book Club will discuss Erik Larson's *The Demon of Unrest* (originally scheduled for February) on Tuesday, March 18, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Frank Bruni's *The Age of Grievance* will be discussed on April 15. Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net))

WOMEN OF WILSHIRE

# Mini-Retreat

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12**  
**9:30AM-3:00PM**  
**WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
register at [wilshirebc.org/events/wow-mini-retreat](http://wilshirebc.org/events/wow-mini-retreat)

## Someone to talk with.

If you're facing a life challenge and would like to have a spiritual friend to walk alongside you for a season of healing, perhaps you would benefit from a Stephen Minister. Stephen Ministry pairs trained lay people with those in need of Christian companionship during times of crisis. Reach out using our dedicated email address, [stephenministry@wilshirebc.org](mailto:stephenministry@wilshirebc.org), or call 214-452-3176.

stephen  
MINISTRY

# 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, March 9**

- David Clanton Exhibit, South Lobby, through April 20
- Sacred Space Lenten Gathering, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Faith in 3D Rehearsal, McIver Chapel, noon
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

## **Monday, March 10**

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

## **Tuesday, March 11**

- Stephen Ministry Training, 1205-L, 6 p.m.
- WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, March 12**

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Blood Drive, North parking lot, 10 a.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, March 13**

- Stewpot Meal Service, 11:15 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

## **Friday, March 14**

- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.

## **Saturday, March 15**

- Yoga Class, Youth Center, 10 a.m.



# 2025 Summer CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

## **VBS: CAMP FIRELIGHT**

**Mon.-Fri., June 9-13, 9 a.m.-noon**

This year's Vacation Bible School is a summer camp-themed adventure where kids learn to trust God no matter what life brings. Older preschool (age 3 by 9/1/24) through completed grade 5. Free. Advance registration ends June 1. Walk-ins as space allows.

## **KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL CAMP**

**Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-noon**

With "Listening to God" as our theme, we'll use Godly Play to explore Bible stories. Art and science too! Older preschool (age 3 by 9/1/24) through completed Kindergarten. \$50. Register by June 30.

## **COOKING CAMP**

**Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Completed first through fifth graders will learn about food safety and nutrition and prepare a three-course lunch daily. \$100. **Sold out; waitlist available.**

## **LISTEN TO YOUR ART!**

**Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 12:30-5 p.m.**

Creative arts camp with music, visual art, drama, movement, crafts and more. On Friday, kids stay for dinner, and families are invited to a 6:30 p.m. performance and art showcase. Lunch not provided; cost includes T-shirt. Completed first through fifth graders. \$100. Register by June 30.

## **FULL-DAY COOKING & ART**

**Mon.-Fri., July 7-11, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Full-day option for grades 2-5. Lunch included. \$175. **Sold out; waitlist available.**

## **PASSPORT KIDS! PRETEEN CAMP**

**Sun.-Wed., July 20-23**

Completed third through fifth graders will travel by chartered bus to Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Glen Rose for high-energy worship, interactive Bible study, recreation, missions and more, led by camp staff and Wilshire chaperones. \$450. \$50 nonrefundable deposit guarantees a spot. Full payment due July 15.

**REGISTER AT [WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS](https://www.wilshirebc.org/summer-camps)**

Wilshire Baptist Church | 4316 Abrams Rd. | 214-452-3100



# Ben Gibson

**Hometown:** Muskogee, Oklahoma  
**Present City:** The Colony  
**Education:** SMU Guildhall  
**Profession:** Video game developer

**Tell us about your family.**  
Oldest sibling of three!

**How about your work or volunteer life?**  
I've worked at Gearbox Software since 2017 as a game programmer and now a release engineer.

**Any favorite hobbies?**  
Anime and indie games. Social VR in particular has been incredibly life-changing for me.

**What brought you to Wilshire and when?**  
Social distancing gave me momentum to double down on reconstructing my faith, first bringing me to Broadway Baptist in Fort Worth before I found out about Wilshire through your hosting AWAB last year!

**Where are you engaged at Wilshire?**  
Primarily Ithaka Class up until this year, when I've felt compelled to relearn "how we share biblical narratives" — just as Foundations of Faith started studying Genesis. Special thanks to Heather, Abbey and others for opportunities to help in mission and advocacy work.

**What's surprised you most about Wilshire?**  
The degree to which I don't feel alone in trying to move from deconstruction through to reconstruction when it comes to my evangelical upbringing.

**What do you think God is up to in your life right now?**  
My Epiphany star word was "awareness." Two



months later, I'm still unpacking it.

**Tell us about your faith journey.**

It kicks off on my mom's United Methodist side before shifting to a stronger support network with the Southern Baptist church my dad grew up in while deployed overseas.

I remember hearing "you kids remembered the sermon all week long" as another point in its favor. In high school and college I doubled down across evangelical apologetics and theology programs. After moving to Texas to pursue game development in 2015, my apartment was a stone's throw from possibly the biggest SBC megachurch north of Dallas. But it was actually thanks to some of the questioning people there that I found resources challenging my traditional beliefs and found my way here.

**What is something interesting most people would not know about you?**

During a sermon here, convicted about my distance's limiting me to irregular fellowship and volunteering outside of Sundays, I searched "church serve nerds" online. I found a blog written by a pastor whose "fully online faith community" I've started to help ever since. If you know (or are!) a geeky type or think comparing media and faith sounds interesting, definitely take a look at Checkpoint Church on YouTube.

**What adjectives best describe you?**

I like to focus on appreciating, learning and creating.



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