



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

March 30, 2025
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Preparing for worship

Forgiveness might be the most difficult spiritual practice. It's certainly one of the most important. Forgiveness is ultimately relational. It's vital to our relationships with others and our relationship with ourselves.

Forgiveness isn't limited to faith groups. Some folks in the UK have discovered the power of forgiveness and are sharing those stories with the world. They've learned that forgiveness is just good medicine for people "from all faiths and none." You can read more about the Forgiveness Project at theforgivenessproject.com/stories.

As Christians, we forgive because we're called to forgive. But the scriptural call to forgive comes with a promise, a promise from Jesus himself, a promise we recite every week: "forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

Of course, we forgive for the sake of others. To forgive is to promote the good in others, to lift up in some way those who are just like us, fellow humans created by God.

We also forgive for our own sakes: to paraphrase a famous quote, to fail to forgive is like drinking poison and waiting for the other person to die. When we withhold forgiveness, we keep emotions bottled up inside of us that are better released. To forgive is, in some ways, a self-centered act. We do it for ourselves as well as for others.

When we forgive, we also are setting an example for others. We find the energy to forgive in the stories of others who've made the choice to forgive. When we forgive, we're making room for others to do the same. There's a communal synergy that occurs when communities choose forgiveness.

One of the participants in the Forgiveness Project said this about their experience: "For me forgiveness started with first forgiving the system, then forgiving my perpetrator and eventually forgiving myself."

How about you? Who will you forgive today? How will you forgive today?

—Charlie Fuller



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | 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

March 30, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Fourth 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

Ariel Merivil

Prelude

Wondrous Love

arr. Dale Wood

+Congregational Song

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
No. 312
Stanzas 1-4

MARION

+Call to Worship

Debby Burton

One: Let us join our voices with the angel choirs, with all the saints of heaven and earth

All: Rejoice, give thanks and sing

One: Let us sing out with songs of joy and bliss, true delight and noblest cheer

All: Rejoice, give thanks and sing

One: We raise our clear hosannas up to you, O God

All: Rejoice, give thanks and sing

One: Let us proclaim the good news of Christ

All: Rejoice, give thanks and sing

+Response in Song

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
Stanza 5

MARION

**Praise God, who reigns on high, the Lord whom we adore,
The Father, Son, and Spirit blest, one God forevermore.
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing.**

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

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Godself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Godself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making God's appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Offertory

Order My Steps
Sanctuary Choir

Burleigh/arr. Schraeder

Order my steps in your Word, dear Lord, lead me, guide me, every day.
Send your anointing, Father, I pray.
Order my steps in your Word, please order my steps in your Word.

Humbly I ask thee, teach me your will, while you are working, help me be still.
Tho' Satan is busy, God is real!
Order my steps in your Word, please order my steps in your Word.

I want to walk worthy, my calling to fulfill.
Please order my steps, Lord, and I'll do your blessed will.
The world is ever changing, but you are still the same.
If you order my steps, I'll praise your name, praise your name.

Order my steps in your Word, order my tongue in your Word;
guide my feet in your Word, wash my heart in your Word.
Show me how to walk in your Word, show me how to talk in your Word.
When I need a brand new song to sing, show me how to let your praises ring, in your Word.
Please order my steps in your Word.

+Gospel Reading — Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Charlie Fuller

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable. ... “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and

traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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

Softly and Tenderly

THOMPSON

No. 474

Please join in singing at the first refrain.

Message

“The Invitation to Forgiveness”

Maggie Morey

Anthem

No Hard Feelings
Michael Sheaffer, Elle Sheaffer
Darren DeMent, guitar

Timothy Avett, Scott Avett
Robert Crawford

When my body won't hold me anymore
and it finally lets me free, will I be ready?
When my feet won't walk another mile
And my lips give their last kiss goodbye, will my hands be steady?
When I lay down my fears, my hopes and my doubts
The rings on my fingers, and the keys to my house
With no hard feelings

When the sun hangs low in the west
And the light in my chest won't be kept held at bay any longer
When the jealousy fades away
And it's ash and dust for cash and lust and it's just hallelujah
And love in thought, love in the words
Love in the songs they sing in the church
And no hard feelings

Lord knows, they haven't done much good for anyone
Kept me afraid and cold with so much to have and hold

When my body won't hold me anymore
And it finally lets me free, where will I go?
Will the trade winds take me south through Georgia grain?
Or tropical rain? Or snow from the heavens?

Will I join with the ocean blue? Or run into a savior true?
And shake hands laughing
And walk through the night, straight to the light
Holding the love I've known in my life
And no hard feelings

Lord knows, they haven't done much good for anyone
Kept me afraid and cold with so much to have and hold

Under the curving sky
I'm finally learning why
It matters for me and you
To say it and mean it too
For life and its loveliness
And all of its ugliness
Good as it's been to me
I have no enemies

Prayers of the People

Timothy Peoples

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 Then Shall Live
No. 680

FINLANDIA

Sharing of Decisions

Maggie Morey

Benediction

Maggie Morey

Postlude

Fugue sur le jeux d'anches

François Couperin



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.

Scripture quotations: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America, used by permission, all rights reserved, adapted for inclusive language. Music reprinted/podcast/streamed with permission under One License #A-739361. All rights reserved. *Order My Steps* ©2000 Burleigh Inspirations Music. *No Hard Feelings* © 2016 NemolVMusic, First Big Snow Publishing, Truth Comes True Publishing, Ramseur Family Fold Music and BMG Silver Songs US.

Meet today's worship leaders

Debby Burton joined Wilshire in 1998 when she became executive assistant to the senior pastor, a position she held for 26 years. She now serves as part-time assistant for Pathways to Ministry. Debby attends Foundations of Faith Class and leads the WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club. She is married to David, and they have two adult sons, Andrew and Josh.

Margie Lynn joined Wilshire in 2020. She attends Discovery Class, teaches KidConnect and serves on the Funeral Ministry Team. Margie is retired from a 40-year career in tax prep and accounting. She has one daughter, Lauren, and is a cousin to Wilshire member Matt Mosley.

Elle Sheaffer is a junior at Woodrow Wilson High School, where she is active in student council and performing arts. She also sings in the Mixed Youth Choir of the Greater Dallas Choral Society and serves as vice president of Wilshire's Youth Choir this year.

Michael Sheaffer and his wife, Dawn, joined Wilshire in 2009. They are parents of Elle, who is a high school junior. Michael works as senior director of client services at Yardi Systems.

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 30, 2025

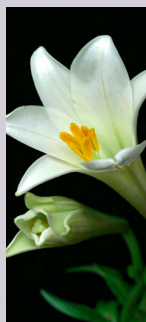
Special business meeting today

All Wilshire members are encouraged to attend a special business meeting after worship today, March 30, in Community Hall. In February, the deacon bylaws workgroup presented the deacons with amended church bylaws for their review. By a unanimous vote, the deacons recommended the amended bylaws be presented to the church for their vote of approval.

The sole purpose of today's meeting will be to adopt the amended bylaws to replace the bylaws currently in effect. Lunch will not be served. Zoom will be offered but only those in



person will be able to vote. Scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/by-laws for details of the amendments and Zoom information.



Order Easter lilies by April 13

Congregants are invited to provide Easter lilies for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones. Dedications will be listed on Easter. Each plant costs \$20; order at wilshirebc.org/easter-lilies or in the office by April 13.

New member Boyd Holland

Condolences to

Daryl Kirkham on the death of his wife, **Gail Kirkham**, March 23.

Lunch & Learn this week



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. Minister to

Senior Adults Katie Murray will teach on April 2. See the schedule at wilshirebc.org/events/lunch-learn.

Adopt-a-Book next Sunday



At the Wilshire Library's Adopt-a-Book event on Sunday, April 6, you can help the Library defray the cost of new books by purchasing a dedication in honor or memory of a loved one. Dedications will be printed on plaques placed inside the books. Not sure who to honor? The Library will have lists of teachers, children's leaders, ministers and staff. Stop by the South Atrium from 9 to 10:45 a.m. or after worship.



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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

**April 2: New Bible Study
series begins**

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner. Cash/check/credit accepted. See prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **April 2:** Chicken enchiladas with green sauce, Spanish rice, elote, chips and salsa, pozole, tres leches, peanut butter cookies, jello. **Kids:** Cheese quesadillas, elote, rice.

Preschool Music & Missions

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

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.

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 | New singers are always welcome in our main adult choir. No audition.



April Series: Mystics & Misfits

6 p.m. | Community Hall | Christians throughout history have sought God in radical ways — some by locking themselves in solitude for a life of prayer, others by leaving behind comfort to serve the poor and challenge injustice. Through contemplation and bold action, these mystics and cultural misfits saw God in ways that changed the world. In this series, we'll explore their stories and what they can teach us about faith today.

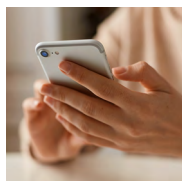
■ **April 2: Meet the Early Mystics.** The series starts with a podcast-style conversation with our pastoral residents on early mystics like Francis of Assisi and Julian of Norwich. They'll cover what mysticism is and why these ancient contemplative practices still matter.

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

Preschool Playdate on April 5

Preschoolers and their families are invited to have fun with science at a Preschool Playdate on Saturday, April 5, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room. Contact Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins (kakins@wilshirebc.org) with questions.

Internet safety presentation



The rate of technological expansion provides us with both opportunities and challenges. Wilshire member Teri Walker, who works in this ever-evolving space, will lead a presentation on Internet safety after worship on Sunday, April 6, in Community Hall. You'll learn how to protect yourself and your information in email, social media, text messaging and more. Lunch is available for \$10. Registration is encouraged, not required. This event is hosted by the Adventurers but is open to anyone. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/life-and-tech.

Child safety training on April 13

Wilshire member Dawn Hallman will lead a child safety training session after worship on Sunday, April 13. The training is open to anyone but is required for those who work with kids under 18, including teachers, volunteers, parents and deacons. The training will be held in Community Hall and will end by 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Childcare for preschoolers is available by registration; contact Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins (kakins@wilshirebc.org) by April 6.

Men's Book Club meets April 15

The Men's Book Club will discuss Frank Bruni's *The Age of Grievance* on Tuesday, April 15, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

Women of Wilshire

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | April 8 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *Framed* by John Grisham and Jim McClosky. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | May 1 | Noon | 1205-L | *Dragonfly* by Leila Meacham. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

■ Women of Wilshire will hold a **Mini-Retreat** at the church on Saturday, April 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/wow-mini-retreat.

Virtual phone banking

Want to make your voice heard to elected officials but not sure how or what to say? Starting in April, Wilshire will offer help in the form of a weekly Zoom call that will provide encouragement and a briefing on urgent issues. Participants will then have the chance to call their own representatives. This virtual phone banking, a project of the Missions and Christian Advocacy Committee, will be held at noon each Wednesday during April. Email Associate Pastor Heather Mustain (hmustain@wilshirebc.org) for the Zoom link.

Team to distribute groceries

You can join a team to distribute groceries in partnership with Catholic Charities and the Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation on the last Friday of each month from 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Contact Associate Pastor Heather Mustain (hmustain@wilshirebc.org) if you're interested in serving.

Clanton art show continues

A Celebration of God's Gift of Seeing, featuring the digital photography of Wilshire member David Clanton, will be on display in the South Lobby through April 20. The prints in the show are for sale, with purchases benefiting the Youth Choir's summer mission tour to Chicago.



PREPARE THE WAY | Wilshire Lent 2025

Sacred Space

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

Join us each Sunday in Lent 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. Led by Associate Pastor Darren DeMent, Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray and Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee.

Lenten playlist

Our 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/len](https://www.wilshirebc.org/len).

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 are using the book, but it is also appropriate for individual study. To connect with a class, contact Associate Pastor Darren DeMent or Minister to Senior Adults Katie Murray.

Resources

The following resources are available at [wilshirebc.org/len](https://www.wilshirebc.org/len):

- Wilshire ministers and staff have compiled a **Lenten resource guide** focused on spiritual practices.
- Our **family Lenten guide** has ideas for parents about how to engage in spiritual practices with children.

Holy Week: Stations of the Cross

Visit McIver Chapel during Holy Week for a Stations of the Cross exhibit featuring the art of 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 when the church is open through Good Friday at 3 p.m.

Palm Sunday worship

April 13 | 11 a.m. | Sanctuary | Music from Sanctuary Choir, Youth and Children's Choirs, Carillon Ringers and brass.

Maundy Thursday

April 17 | 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary | Always one of the year's most moving worship services, Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper with readings and the Lord's Supper, then carries through to the crucifixion, ending in darkened silence. This year's service will include music by Sanctuary Choir and Nova.

Easter Sunday

April 20

- Sunrise Service, T. & P. Hill at White Rock Lake, 6:30 a.m.
- Columbarium Service, 9:30 a.m.
- Worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m.
- Visit the Flowering Cross.

[wilshirebc.org/len](https://www.wilshirebc.org/len)

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 30

- David Clanton Art Exhibit, South Lobby, through April 20
- Sacred Space Gathering, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Special Business Meeting, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 pm.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Monday, March 31

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

Tuesday, April 1

- Building, Interior and Grounds Committee, 3105, 5:30 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry Training, 1205-L, 6 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry CE/Supervision, 1100-B & 1205-G, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Preschool Music, Missions, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 3

- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, April 4

- MomCo, James Gallery, 9 a.m.
- WSM Spring Retreat, Greene Family Camp, 5 p.m.

Saturday, April 5

- WSM Spring Retreat, Greene Family Camp
- Preschool Playtime, Multipurpose Room, 9:30 a.m.
- Memorial Service: Gail Kirkham, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Memorial Service: Mac Buchanan, McIver Chapel, 2 p.m.

Gil Brand

Hometown: Gulfport, Mississippi

Present City: Dallas

Education: Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, Mississippi State University

Profession: 10 years with Computer Associates and 21 years with Bank of America; IT Systems Engineer

Tell us about your family.

Marilyn and I have been married 50 years. We enjoy visiting her brother for Christmas in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Tell us about your faith journey.

I was baptized at First Baptist Church in Gulfport, Mississippi, at age 13. During college, I had four friends who enjoyed alternating among Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian and Lutheran services.

How about your work or volunteer life?

After retiring in 2000, I was a volunteer and then CEO of Computers for the Blind for 20 years. Since 2020, I have led a group of volunteers refurbishing computers for local nonprofit and refugee groups, delivering 1,160 systems to needy families.

Any favorite hobbies?

I'm a one-trick pony. I love refurbishing computers. My "team" (Max Post and two other friends) delivers 20 to 30 monthly to local nonprofits. We are always looking for donations of old computers (hint, hint).



What brought you to Wilshire and when?

We joined Wilshire in 1992 from Park Cities Baptist after visiting to hear George Mason.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

Compass Class, Missions Committee

and Rise Against Hunger.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

The way Wilshire responded during the Ebola crisis. Wilshire's openness and love for all was on display when other groups were less compassionate.

What do you think God is up to in your life right now?

Working to preserve democracy, justice and equality. I dedicated 20 hours per week for 50 weeks in 2024 registering new voters. This effort is ongoing. We need scores of additional volunteers (hint, hint).

What's something interesting most people would not know about you?

I have donated 10 gallons of blood.

What adjectives best describe you?

Computer guy, can't say no.



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

