



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

November 16, 2025

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

You likely remember the story. Jesus has gone to Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph for Passover (Luke 2:41–51). Mary and Joseph were a day's journey on the way back to Nazareth before they realized that 12-year-old Jesus had stayed behind in Jerusalem.

While it's interesting to speculate why it took them an entire day to realize Jesus was missing and three days to find him, it's much more important to see where 12-year-old Jesus actually was. He was in the temple. Listening to the teachers and asking them questions. And Scripture tells us that “all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.” The teachers in the temple encouraged young Jesus and helped him to feel seen, heard and respected.

If you looked first at the bottom of this writing and saw my name, you may be wondering why the oldest minister (by some years) on the Wilshire staff is writing the Preparing for

Worship piece on a Youth Sunday. It's a fair question.

This might be the answer: Even back when I was a young person — over 50 years ago — I was nurtured by a church that listened to my questions and made me feel seen, heard and respected. And as a result, a faith was planted in me that has somehow survived all the ups and downs of the following decades.

Wilshire, as our youth lead us this morning, let's listen to their questions and honor their leadership. Let's always make sure our young people are seen, heard and respected. Let's pray for them as they lead us this morning. Let's pray for them as they continue the journey of growing as people of faith shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. May the Spirit of Jesus Christ walk with them on their own journeys through their own ups and downs for the many decades they have ahead of them. May it be so. Amen.

—Charlie Fuller



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

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

Cooperative Baptist Fellowship | Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

We acknowledge that this land where we gather once held the sacred voices of Indigenous peoples and bore the suffering of the enslaved.

On the cover: *Prayer*, Mike Moyers, 2014. From *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville.

November 16, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Twenty-Third 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

Miriam McClung, Rhona Phillips

Prelude

Sunset Serenade
Drew Murray, piano

Melody Bober

+Call to Worship

Henry McGill

One: I bless the night that nourished my heart
To set the ghosts of longing free
Into the flow and figure of dream
That went to harvest from the dark
Bread for the hunger no one sees.

**All: May my mind come alive today
To the invisible geography
That invites me to new frontiers,
To break the dead shell of yesterdays,
To risk being disturbed and changed.**

**All: All that is eternal in me
Welcomes the wonder of this day,
The field of brightness it creates
Offering time for each thing
To arise and illuminate.**

One: May I have the courage today
To live the life that I would love,

**All: To postpone my dream no longer
But do at last what I came here for
And waste my heart on fear no more.**

One: I place on the altar of dawn:
The quiet loyalty of breath,
The tent of thought where I shelter,
Waves of desire I am shore to
And all beauty drawn to the eye.

—*To Bless the Space Between Us*,
John O'Donohue

+Congregational Song

The Solid Rock
No. 590

SOLID ROCK

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

Why do you say, O Jacob,
and assert, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
God does not faint or grow weary;
God’s understanding is unsearchable.
The LORD gives power to the faint
and strengthens the powerless.
Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted,
but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.

Offertory

Simple Gifts
Shekinah

Jay Althouse

’Tis the gift to be simple, ’tis the gift to be free.
’Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
’Twill be in the valley of love and delight.

When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan’t be ashamed.
To turn, turn, will be our delight, till by turning, turning we come ’round right.

’Tis the gift to be loving, ’tis the gift to be kind.
’Tis the gift of grace we know that we will find.
And when we see the light at the break of day,
We’ll know that the truth will show us the way.

’Tis the gift to be simple and free.

Reflections

Judith Guthrie, Mary Lu Hare, Alden Henry

What good and deep things has God shown you recently
and where are you seeing God?

May I know that,
some days,
I cannot tune in
to the meaning of life.

That does not mean,
I cannot know other,
good and deep things,
about being alive.

—From *In the Low: Honest Prayers for Dark Seasons* by Justin McRoberts and Scott Erickson

Congregational Song

I've Got a Hope

Pierce Pettis

Man is born to trouble
All the days of his life
As the sparks fly upward
From bonfires at night
They fill up the heavens
With pinpoints of light
And I've got a hope
That is not in this world

Time, it is turning
Like a plow in the field
It roots up the earth
And what's hidden is revealed
Sowing the future
While the past, it is sealed
I've got a hope
That is not in this world

Half of the battle
Is only with myself
While the other half
Is something I can't help

Lest I should stumble
I try not to forget
That every hair is numbered
Every footstep, every breath
And this life that I'm living
It will not end in death
I've got a hope
That is not in this world

+Gospel Reading — Mark 9:14–29

Riley Koshkin

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak, and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid, and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him.

When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, help us! Have compassion on us!" Jesus said to him, "If you are able! All things can be done for the one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out, "I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!" After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "This kind can come out only through prayer."

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

Message

"What to Believe?"

Timothy Peoples

Anthem

They Shall Soar Like Eagles
Youth Choir

Laura Manzo

They shall soar like eagles; rise up and soar like eagles.
They who wait upon the Lord shall not be weary.
They shall never stumble, but gain new strength and power.
They who wait upon the Lord.

Those who are weary and burdened with sorrow need not despair, there is hope for tomorrow.
God will be there each time you call on him.

Prayers of the People

Claire Michie, Emily Reavis, Jack Taylor

One: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our prayers.

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

It Is Well With My Soul
No. 573

VILLE DU HAVRE

Sharing of Decisions

Ethan Howland, Elle Sheaffer

Musical Benediction

Last Song

Bill Mallonee/Julie Miller

May your peace be anchor in stormy tide,
May your hope run like a river that'll never run dry,
May your burdens grow light, may your worries subside,
This is my prayer for you.

May your soul grow deep, may your joy run wild,
May your heart know the face of mercy has smiled,
May your faith come to let you believe like a child,
This is my prayer for you.

Postlude

Psalm 19

Benedetto Marcello

Katherine Pottkotter and Whit Anderson,
Congregational Song Leaders

Today's flower dedications:

In memory of A.D. Brown on the occasion of his 100th birthday from his wife,
Monna Brown; children, Denise Thompson (Paul) and Alan Brown (Lisa);
grandchildren, Taylor Phillips (Alex), Travis Thompson, Caroline, Adam (Katie)
and Jake Brown; and great-granddaughter, Dottie Phillips.

In loving memory of George Gagliardi.



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.

Meet today's worship leaders

■ **Whit Anderson** is a senior at Woodrow Wilson High School, where his activities include drumline, the Variations show choir, musical theatre and National Honor Society.

■ **Charlotte Barker** is a sixth grader at Berry Middle School in Mesquite. She enjoys digital drawing, gaming and hanging out with Wilshire friends.

■ **Judith Guthrie** is a junior at the School for the Talented and Gifted, where she is involved in dance, Destination Imagination and yearbook. At Wilshire, Judith is Youth Choir vice president and serves on the Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee.

■ **Mary Lu Hare** grew up at Wilshire and volunteers with Wilshire Student Ministry as a leader for Sunday School, Youth Camp and Youth Choir tour. She is also a deacon and a member of the Deacon Nominating Committee and Ithaka Class. Mary Lu works in education for the American Heart Association.

■ **Alden Henry** is an eighth grader at Robert T. Hill Middle School. He plays clarinet in band, plays baseball and participates in Scouting.

■ **Ananda Henry** is a tenth grader at Bryan Adams High School, where she is part of the Theater Production Ensemble. At Wilshire, Ananda serves on the Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines.

■ **Ethan Howland** is a senior at Woodrow Wilson High School, where he is a member of the golf team, Young Men's Service League and National Honor Society.

■ **Riley Koshkin** is a junior at Lake Highlands High School, where she plays tennis, plays viola in orchestra and participates in National Honor Society, Girls Service League and NCL.

■ **Miriam McClung** is a senior at Lake Highlands High School, where she is involved with choir, musical theatre and Girls Service League. At Wilshire, Miriam serves on the Library Committee.

■ **Henry McGill** is a junior at St. Mark's School of Texas, where his activities include football, soccer, track, the Sports Medicine Club and the Improv Team.

■ **Claire Michie** is a junior at Richardson High School, where she is a cheerleader and participates in RHS PALS, a peer assistance and leadership program.

■ **Drew Murray** is a third grader at Wallace Elementary. He plays flag football and basketball and takes piano and voice lessons from Wilshire member Katherine Pottkotter.

■ **Rhona Phillips** is in sixth grade at Plano's Schimelpfenig Middle School, where she plays percussion in band.

■ **Katherine Pottkotter** is a senior at Lake Highlands High School and has sung in the Texas All State Choir, the Greater Dallas Choral Society and the Dallas Opera Chorus.

■ **Emily Reavis** is a freshman at CityLab High School. She sings with the Greater Dallas Choral Society Treble Chorus.

■ **Elle Sheaffer** is a senior at Woodrow Wilson High School, where she is active in student council and performing arts. Elle sings with the Mixed Youth Choir of the Greater Dallas Choral Society and is president of Wilshire's Youth Choir.

■ **Jack Taylor** is a ninth grader at the School for the Talented and Gifted. He enjoys playing soccer.

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)
- Katie Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care and to Senior Adults (3129)

Finance

- Shaffon Alexander, Director of Finance (3131)

Food Services

- Haley Garcia, Food Service Director (3117)
- Luke Munion, Prep Cook
- 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)
- Amanda Hines, Pastoral Resident (3154)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Georgia McKee, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Jordann McMahan, Pastoral Resident (3155)
- Maggie Morey, Pastoral Resident (3153)

Senior Pastor

- Chelsea Hopkins, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

Spiritual Formation

- Kelly Akins, Minister to Preschoolers (3139)
- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Carole McClung, Spiritual Formation Ministry Assistant (3130)
- Katie Murray, Minister of Pastoral Care and to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

Tapestry



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements
November 16, 2025



Fireside Chats

There's still room for you! Sign up to attend tonight

Wilshire will host Fireside Chats at members' homes on Sunday evening, Nov. 16. This social event with fellowship and light refreshments will deepen connections and provide an intimate setting for us to express our collective gratitude. Sign up to attend at any of the four host homes throughout the area. Two sites will start at 5 and end at 6:30, and two sites will run from 6:30 to 8. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/fireside-chats or scan code.



New member

Danielle Gerhart

Next Lunch & Learn: Nov. 19

All are invited to Community Hall at 11:30 a.m. the first and third Wednesdays every month for a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study. Pastoral Resident Maggie Morey will teach Nov. 19. No RSVP needed; pay at the door.

Sign up for Nov. 19 Blood Drive

Carter BloodCare will hold a blood drive at Wilshire from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19. There is a critical need for several blood types, including A+, A-, O+, O- and B-. To make an appointment, visit wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive or scan QR code on page 20.

Let's Organize! meets Nov. 19

Are you interested in working with others to create positive change in our community? Join Abbey Adcox and Georgia McKee on Wednesday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. in the Parlor for the final fall meeting of Let's Organize! Participants have identified four areas of emphasis — gun violence, human rights, immigration and public education — and are finalizing action plans.

Preschool Playdate on Nov. 24

Preschoolers and their families are invited to a Preschool Playdate with Ms. Kelly on Monday, Nov. 24, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Multipurpose Room.



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

Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVES

White Rock Center of Hope bags due today



Today's the day to place food bags on the chancel steps for White Rock Center of Hope. You can still help stock their food pantry by shopping from their Amazon wishlist. Scan the code or find the link at wilshirebc.org/events/food-drives.

Bring Wilkinson Center boxes today or Monday



Wilshire will provide 100 boxes for families in our community through the Wilkinson Center. A box costs \$50 to \$75 to assemble and provides a whole meal for a family. Scan the code or visit wilshirebc.org/events/food-drives to sign up and see instructions. If you didn't bring your box this morning, please complete it today and bring it to the South Parking Lot tomorrow, Nov. 17, between 8 and 9 a.m.

■ For more information, contact Abbey Adcox at aadcox@wilshirebc.org.

Advent Action Items

'Tis not quite the season, but there are some boxes you can check now.

Order a poinsettia

Help decorate the Sanctuary by ordering a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one. Dedications will be listed on Dec. 7. Each plant costs \$14, and donors may take them home after Christmas Eve services. Order forms are available in the office, or you can order and pay at wilshirebc.org/poinsettias. Deadline to order: Nov. 30.

Sign up kids for Nativity duty

Elementary school kids are invited to help build the Sanctuary Nativity scene by carrying elements to the chancel at the start of worship. We'll begin Nov. 30 and build the scene week by week until it is complete at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/nativity.

WILSHIRE ►►
ADVENTURERS

Register for Adventurers outing

Tuesday, Dec. 2 | 3 p.m. | Join the Adventurers for an outing to Grapevine, the Christmas Capitol of Texas. The group will enjoy the sights and sounds of the season as they wander Main Street for shopping, dining and fun. Cost: \$25 each for transportation by bus. We'll depart Wilshire at 3 p.m. and return at 9 p.m. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/grapevine. Adventurers is a fellowship group for anyone 60 and up.

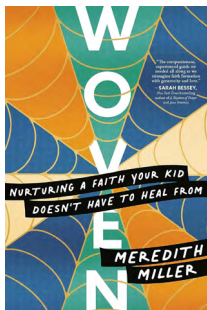
McKee to be ordained Nov. 30



All are invited to an ordination service for Pastoral Resident Georgia McKee on Sunday, Nov. 30, at 2 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Georgia, a second-year resident, recently accepted the call to become associate pastor at Glencoe Union Church near Chicago. Her last day at Wilshire will be Jan. 25. Georgia will lead Glencoe's youth and mission ministries while participating in worship leadership and preaching. Located in the village of Glencoe, just north of Chicago on the shore of Lake Michigan, Glencoe Union is a interdenominational church in the Protestant tradition.

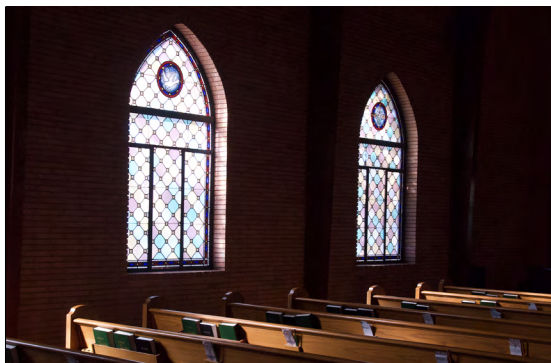
Author Meredith Miller here Jan. 11

Mark your calendars for Jan. 11, when Wilshire will host author, speaker and pastor Meredith Miller. Miller is the author of *Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kid Doesn't Have to Heal From*, and she has over 20 years of experience in children's ministry and curriculum. On Jan. 11, Miller will lead a Sunday School session geared toward parents and participate in 11 a.m. worship. After worship all are welcome to hear more from Meredith, including a time of Q&A, over a free lunch in Community Hall. Registration for lunch and childcare is coming soon.



Free exercise classes continue

TWU physical therapy students are leading a series of free classes geared toward fall prevention at Wilshire. Classes will be held Mondays through Nov. 24 from 10 a.m. to noon. Contact: Parish Nurse Linda Garner (lgarner@wilshirebc.org)



9 a.m. Worship

Weekly | McIver Chapel



Childcare available for preschoolers



Women of Wilshire

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Dec. 4 | Noon | 1205-L | *The Turtle House* by Amanda Churchill. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Dec. 9 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | The Dec. 9 meeting will include a cookie exchange and a special guest reviewing favorite Christmas books. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Women of Wilshire's 2026 retreat** will be held Feb. 20–22, at the Prothro Retreat Center at Lake Texoma. Get away and find community, encouragement and time with God through worship, art, learning and fun. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/wow-retreat-2026.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE NOVEMBER 19

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Nov. 19:** Turkey and stuffing casserole, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, butternut squash soup, pecan pie, pumpkin pie, cookies, jello.

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, plus Kindergarten choir.

Watershed

6:30 p.m. | Grades 6–12 | 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, and there's no audition.



Book study: Living Resistance

6 p.m. | Community Hall | On Nov. 5, 12 and 19 we will study Kaitlin Curtice's *Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Seeking Wholeness Every Day*. In the book, Curtice reclaims resistance as a basic human calling for every human who longs to see their neighbors' holistic flourishing.

■ **Nov. 26:** No Wednesday night activities.

■ **Dec. 3:** Resident-led Vespers.

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



Advent Sunday School series

Darren DeMent and Katie Murray will lead a Sunday School series for adults on the four Sundays of Advent at 9:45 a.m. in McIver Chapel. In the class, the Advent virtues of hope, peace, joy and love will be explored using the poetry of Wendell Berry, whose "Sabbath Poem: 1986, I" inspired our Advent theme. Starts Nov. 30.

Dec. 3 Vespers: Moravian love feast

Wednesday, Dec. 3 | 6 p.m. | McIver Chapel | Join our pastoral residents for a Moravian love feast-themed Vespers. Moravian love feasts, first held in Germany in 1727, are based on the agape meals of the early church and are often held at Christmas or other special occasions. The service will include music, Scripture and poetry; in keeping with love feast tradition, coffee, tea and sweets will be served in the Parlor afterward.

Celebration of the Green

Sunday, Dec. 7 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary | Wilshire's choral and instrumental groups will perform in the beauty of the decorated Sanctuary in this annual favorite event. A reception with cookies and cider will follow in Community Hall.

WHEN ADVENT BEGINS ON NOV. 30, Wilshire will enter into a liturgical season of expectant waiting where we will look to the themes of light and dark to guide us. In a time that feels so dark in our world, we will look to the Scriptures to inform how we, as people of faith, can reframe both light and dark in tandem. What does it mean to await the coming of the Light of the World? What do light and dark have to say about hope, joy, peace and love? Join us as we hold a candle for one another and discover together.

Children's pageant

Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary | Kindergarten, Pre-K and 3-Year-Old choirs will be in costume as they sing and act out the Nativity.

Songwriter Vespers: Holiday Edition

Sunday, Dec. 14. | 4:30 p.m. | Choral Hall | Darren DeMent and company will explore the full range of holiday emotions through songs by Joni Mitchell, Tom Waits, Lyle Lovett and others. Part worship service and part coffeehouse concert, this won't be your typical church Christmas program.

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, Dec. 24 | 4 and 11 p.m. | Sanctuary



Giving Tree

Starting next Sunday, Nov. 23, select a tag from the Giving Tree in James Gallery and fulfill a Christmas wish for a child or adult served by our Rental and Utility Assistance Program or a local mission partner. Scan your tag's QR code and we'll send you a due-date reminder. Our Virtual Giving Tree is also coming soon.



One Starry Night

Friday, Dec. 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Bring the whole family and invite friends and neighbors to our free interactive Bethlehem Experience on Friday, Dec. 19, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Community Hall will be transformed into the village of Bethlehem, with shops, tradespeople, food and storytelling about the whispered birth of a special baby. This event is especially suited for families with children, but will be fun for all ages.

■ Volunteers are needed.

Learn more at wilshirebc.org/osn-volunteer or contact LeAnn Hampton at kittel@tx.rr.com.

Tree of Hope and Remembrance

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

Online Book Fair to benefit Library

Get some Christmas shopping done and help the Wilshire Library at the same time by shopping the Library's online book fair from Dec. 1 to 16. The Library will receive 25% of all sales. Watch for instructions on accessing the book fair as Dec. 1 gets closer.

Library Nativity sets

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



Advent art show: Illuminations

Light is the common theme of 16 mixed media works by artist Sandra Bowden that will be on display from Nov. 23 through Jan. 4 in the South Lobby. Each piece in *Illuminations* is embellished with gold leafing, an element of adornment which characterized many medieval texts, and many of the pieces contain sections of Hebrew text. The exhibit will be accessible whenever the building is open.

Men's Book Club

Nov. 18 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Book and Dagger* by Elyse Graham. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

Monthly service opportunities

■ A Wilshire group will serve Nov. 21 and Dec. 19 at the **Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation Mobile Food Pantry**. Contact: Charlie Estee (cesteedallas@gmail.com)

■ Cindy Estee coordinates volunteers to serve as food pantry assistants at the **Wilkinson Center** the third Tuesday afternoon each month. Contact Cindy at cesteedallas@aol.com.

■ Wilshire volunteers serve lunch at the **Stewpot** the second Thursday every month. Contact David Cossum at dc@cossum.com.

Youth Fall Retreat

Wilshire Student Ministry's Fall Retreat will be held Saturday, Nov. 22, to Sunday, Nov. 23, at Camp Copass in Denton. A \$125 fee covers transportation, lodging, meals and a T-shirt. Register at wilshirebc.org/events/fall-retreat.

Stephen Minister training begins in January

Stephen Ministry is a Christian caregiving ministry in which trained lay people provide confidential, one-on-one support to those facing challenges such as grief, illness, divorce, job loss or family stress. Stephen Ministers are trained in listening, prayer and compassionate care and typically meet weekly with one care receiver at a time. The ministry expands our church's ability to offer support beyond what our ministerial staff can provide.

■ To inquire about receiving care, email stephenministry@wilshirebc.org or call our dedicated phone number, 214-452-3176.

■ A new Stephen Minister training class begins in January. To learn more or apply, contact Linda Garner at 214-452-3151 or visit wilshirebc.org/stephen-ministry.



FICTION

■ *Apostle's Cove*, William Kent Krueger

■ *My Beloved*, Jan Karon

■ *Black Wolf*, Louise Penny

■ *Sharp Force*, Patricia Cornwell

■ *The Tin Men*, Nelson DeMille

■ *Twice: A Novel*, Mitch Albom

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIR

■ *Awake: A Memoir*, Jen Hatmaker

■ *Book of Lives: A Memoir of Sorts*, Margaret Atwood

■ *Poems and Prayers*, Matthew McConaughey

■ *Writing Creativity and Soul*, Sue Monk Kidd

NONFICTION

■ *The Anti-Greed Gospel*, Malcolm Foley

■ *Fight Oligarchy*, Bernie Sanders

■ *Heart of a Stranger: An Unlikely Rabbi's Story of Faith, Identity and Belonging*, Angela Buchdahl

■ *Listening to the Law: Reflections on the Court and Constitution*, Amy Corey Barrett

■ *Living Resistance: An Indigenous Vision for Wholeness Everyday*, Kaitlyn Curtice

■ *Separation of Church and Hate*, John Fugelsang

■ *Strong Ground: The Lessons of Daring Leadership*, Brené Brown

Search 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.

Someone to talk with.

If you are 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 individuals in need of Christian companionship during times of life crisis. Wilshire has trained Stephen Ministers available.

To learn more about receiving confidential care from a Stephen Minister, please reach out using our dedicated email address, stephenministry@wilshirebc.org, or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY®



Save the dates

Saturday, June 13, 2026

4:45–7:30 p.m. | The church will be open for you to come, see and gather.

6 p.m. | Reflections and remembrances in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, June 14, 2026

11 a.m. | 75-Minute Worship Celebration.



To get involved: Scan code or visit wilshirebc.org/75.

This Week

Sunday, Nov. 16

- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Kindergarten Sunday School Open House, 2226, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Time with Tim, Pastor's Office, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Finance Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Missions & Advocacy Committee, Community Hall, noon
- One Starry Night Steering Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Personnel Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Deacon Nominating Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2223, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.
- Fireside Chats, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 17

- Exercise Class, 1350, 10 a.m.
- Deacons Meeting, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- Men's Book Club, Parlor, 7 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Blood Drive, Parking Lot, 10 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Let's Organize!, Parlor, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music & Missions, 6 p.m.
- Committee on Committees, 1205-G, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 20

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

Friday, Nov. 21

- Vickery Meadow Mobile Food Pantry Service, 8:35 a.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22

- WSM Fall Retreat, Camp Copass, 8 a.m.

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/realml.

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 Shaffon Alexander's attention at Wilshire.

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

DONATE STOCKS. Contact Shaffon 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.

Pedro Oliveira

Hometown: São Paulo, Brazil

Present City: Dallas

Education: B.S., Computer Sciences, São Paulo Univ.; B.A., Journalism, Portland State Univ.

Profession: I'm a print and film director. If you ever saw a shiny automobile and felt like you needed it (although you didn't), there's a chance it was my fault.

Tell us about your family.

I live in Lake Highlands with my loving partner, Paul Skelton, who is obsessed with plants and dad jokes. I was raised in countryside Brazil by a widowed mother. I have two sisters and am an uncle to Gabriele and Hillary.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I travel extensively, so volunteering is lacking. However, I've started producing one-minute videos to help young adults learn political literacy.

Any favorite hobbies?

I love storytelling, so my work blends into my hobbies. I often wake up at night to write scripts I dreamed about. I am an amateur jogger. I learned to cook during the pandemic and now enjoy feeding friends — mostly Wilshire folks brave enough to be early taste testers.

Favorite places to travel?

The Redwoods in Northern California and the Pacific Northwest always slow down my heart.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

I grew up in a controlling (read bigoted) evangelical doctrine. My grandfather is a pastor, and that fear-based environment pushed me away from organized religion. When Paul and I met, he invited me to Wilshire, promising: "They do



things differently there." He was right. I walked in reluctantly and stayed.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

Though sporadically, I confess, Paul and I attend Discovery Class.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

The honesty and vulnerability. So many bright people willing to admit, "I don't know." Also, in an increasingly individualistic world, seeing genuine kindness and community gives me hope.

What is God up to in your life right now?

Being a failed atheist who had to capitulate that the universe is too complex to be random, I feel the closest to God amongst their creations (nature). Frankly, I have more questions than answers and pray for wisdom to recognize truth when it finds me.

Tell us about your faith journey.

My early faith was rooted in fear and shame, so I walked away. Through Paul, I found Wilshire, where I could explore faith without fearing being flawed. I am rebuilding slowly, with curiosity instead of dread, letting my spirituality breathe again.

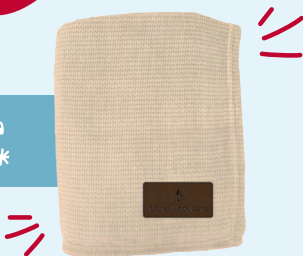
What's something most people don't know about you?

I lived in Saudi Arabia for six months while directing a tourism campaign. That experience reshaped my worldview in ways words can't do justice.



BLOOD Drive

Receive a
blanket.*



Officer J.T. from Waxahachie, TX
Blood Recipient

Wednesday, November 19, 2025
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Schedule an
appointment



CarterBloodCare.org
800-366-2834 | Text CBCDonate to 999-777

*While supplies last. Appreciation gifts may be substituted for a different gift.

Wilshire Baptist Church
Carter BloodCare Bus
4316 Abrams
Dallas, TX 75214

Linda Garner, PhD, RN
lgarner@wilshirebc.org