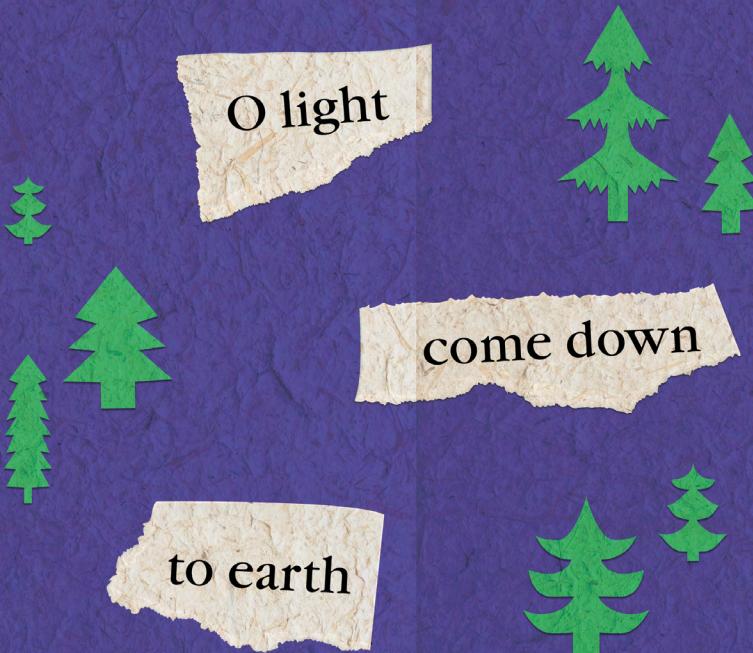


O light

come down

to earth



December 7, 2025 | Second Sunday of Advent

Wilshire Baptist Church

# Preparing for worship

Today is the Advent Sunday when we celebrate peace. What an elusive concept! All around us there are wars, conflict, ICE detentions and a host of other distractions. Our world is anything but peaceful. Yet in all this chaos, we are called to find and practice peace. So where do we look?

The Scripture reading in Psalms tell us that God's Spirit is always with us, pursuing and leading us. The darkness is always light, and the night is as bright as the day. What a comfort that is to me. No matter how far away God seems, God is always there with us. It is because I have walked away that God feels distant, not that God has left me. This is a peace that is heavenly rather than a worldly peace.

We can have a peace within us even though the world is going crazy. I have felt this peace a few times in my life. When I was deciding on where to go for college, I walked onto the campus of OBU and immediately felt a sense of peace. I knew that was God's peace telling me I had found my place. When I accepted this position as minister to preschoolers and started Godly Play, there was a profound peace, and I knew without a doubt that this was what I was

supposed to be doing with my life right now.

How can we share that peace with others? You must start with finding the peace within you before it can be shared. Practice breathing deeply and pray for yourself and others to find the peace that you seek. Write a letter to someone that you feel demonstrates peace and thank them for their work. Share the peace with your neighbors and friends. No act is too small to promote peace.

Here at Wilshire, we've started providing fidget boxes for those dealing with sensory issues as one way of promoting peace. There are boxes located at the north entrance next to the children's folders, and a box in the Narthex. Take what you need for use during the service. Please be sure to return the fidgets after the service so we can share them with others later.

This week, as we go out from this place, may we show peace to those we meet. May we give comfort and peace to our families that are near and far away. For those we know who are sick or grieving, may we share our light, hope and peace. Amen.

—Kelly Akins



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  
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.*

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**On the cover:** Advent art by Wilshire member Abi Hrbacek.

**Sunday, December 7, 2025**

11:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

**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**

Julie Girards

**Prelude**

*Pastorale from the “Christmas” Concerto*

Corelli/Gower

**Preparing for the Nativity**

Betty Sue Bunch, Bobby Bunch, Charlie Bunch, Michael Terry

**Baptism** — Cari Vincent

Timothy Peoples

**+Processional Song**

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*  
No. 79

VENI EMMANUEL

**Lighting the Candle of Peace**

Lee, Emilee, Michael and Lucy Terry

**+A Moment of Peace**

One: Because of violence, inequity, racism, and all forms of evil, our world suffers from distress.

All: Because of God's love, tenderness, and mercy, God came to dwell among us to comfort us and bring peace.

One: This second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace as we reflect on and light the candle of hope.

All: Peace which passes understanding. Peace which soothes all distress and calms our anxieties.

One: Listen, prepare your hearts, for the Christ child is coming near.

All: We will listen to what the Lord is saying, for he is speaking peace to those who turn their hearts to him.

One: May the light from this candle overwhelm the world.

All: May the light from this candle say to all that God's peace is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

One: Indeed, God's peace is at hand! Let us call out:

All: O Light come down to earth, be praised!

---

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

+Response in Song

*Prepare the Way, O Zion*

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near! \_\_\_\_

Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear. \_\_\_\_

Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.

O blest is Christ who came\_\_\_\_ in God's most ho - ly name. \_\_\_\_

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 11:1-10

Rick Hibbs

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

**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.

**Offertory**

*Lead, Kindly Light*  
Sanctuary Choir

Howard Goodall

Lead, Kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,  
Lead thou me on;  
The night is dark, and I am far from home,  
Lead thou me on.  
Keep thou my feet;  
I do not ask to see the distant scene;  
one step enough for me.  
I was not ever thus, nor prayed that  
Thou shouldst lead me on;  
I loved to choose and see my path; but now  
Lead thou me on.  
I loved the garish day, and, spite of fears, pride ruled my will;  
Remember not past years.

So long thy power hath blessed me, sure it still  
Will lead me on.  
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till  
The night is gone;  
And with the morn those angel faces smile,  
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and night wraps itself around me,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;  
the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

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 “Bridging Peace” Timothy Peoples

## Celebration of the Lord's Supper

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

**Passing of the Cup**      *E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come*      arr. Paul Manz

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

## Sharing of Decisions

**Benediction** Timothy Peoples

## Postlude Improvisation on themes of the day Jeff Brummel

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Abbey Adcox** and her husband, Chris, joined Wilshire in 1999 and are parents to three young adults, Carter, Camryn and Collin. Abbey attends Seekers Class, serves as a deacon and is co-coordinator of Women of Wilshire. She serves on Wilshire's staff as missions and advocacy coordinator and is serving an internship here as part of her studies at SMU's Perkins School of Theology, where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.

**Rick Hibbs** and his wife, Susan, joined Wilshire in 2007. They have two sons, Wesley and John. Rick is a deacon, director of Concordia Class and serves on the Pathways to Ministry Committee. Professionally, he is director of licensing for MCR Hotels.

**Amanda Hines** joined Wilshire in August when she began a two-year term as a pastoral resident. A clarinet player since middle school, she was a high school drum major in Alabama and continued playing at Mississippi State University, where she was part of the marching band and wind ensemble and minored in music. Amanda earned a Master of Divinity degree from Baylor University's Truett Theological Seminary.

**Micki Lacker** joined Wilshire in 1993. She serves as a leader in Stephen Ministry and is part of the teaching team in Cord of Three Class. Micki is a retired nurse practitioner who enjoys being a grandmother and traveling with her husband.

**Emilee and Lee Terry** are the parents of **Michael**, a third grader, and **Lucy**, who is 3. Emilee and Lee attend Labyrinth Class, and Lee serves on the Building, Interior and Grounds Committee and teaches First Grade Sunday School. Lee's parents are Wilshire members Lu and Steve Terry.



**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)
- 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)

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

---

## **In memory of:**

Maxey Abernathy by Carole Jean Abernathy  
Maxey Abernathy by Paula, Jason, Garrett, Kathryn  
Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku  
Charles F. Ackerman by Betty Ackerman  
Paul Alloway by Jane Alloway  
Paul Alloway by Paula Alloway  
Paul Alloway by Sue Alloway  
Zane Thomas Anderson by Amy, Cory, Bryn  
and Whit Anderson  
Sharon Austin by Linda and Mike Imhoof  
Jeffrey Basden by Jenyce Gush  
Mimi Basden by Jenyce Gush  
C. Allen Bashour by Kathryn and Chase Thompson  
James Beasley by Vickie Conn  
Maxine Bradford by Cindy and David Coleman  
Preston Bright by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Ezekiel and Cherry Brown by Dorrell Brown  
Mac Buchanan by Diane Buchanan  
Avonne Bullock by Allison, Chad, Forrest, Peyton  
and Carson Brown  
Avonne Bullock by Stan Bullock  
Bobby J. Bunch by Deanna, Jeff, David and  
Brian Bunch  
Robert Burns by Melissa Burns  
Melanie Canant by Melissa Burns  
Byebye Coleman by Cindy and David Coleman  
Diane Thedford Collins by Bryan Rollins and  
Robert Rollins  
Uncle Spencer Cordell by the Cordell family

Daddy, a.k.a. Paw-Paw, by the Barker family  
Leon DeMent, Jr. by Joannah, Darren, Virginia and  
Elias DeMent  
Annalee Murphy Duncan by David Duncan  
Margaret Duncan by David Duncan  
Lori Wallace Dusek by Jim Wallace  
Emery Evans by the Evans family  
Jesse Evans by the Evans family  
Charlie and Joy Fenner by Debbie and Marc LaChey  
Sue Fisette by Dorrell Brown  
Sue Fisette by Robert Fisette, Sheri Brooks and  
Jennifer Kitto  
Emma Nell Freedman by Melissa Burns  
George Gagliardi by Lyn and Ross Prater  
Peaches and Sandy Hallman by Dawn and  
Steven Hallman  
Sasha Nicole Hallman by Dawn and Steven Hallman  
Mack Hampton by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Miriam Henry by Tina and Bill Johnson  
Dollie Hill by Donna Gregory  
Jill Gush Hrncir by Jenyce Gush  
Alister James Hyder by Carole and Jerry Duval  
Lindsay Nicole Hyder by Carole and Jerry Duval  
Johnny Johnson by Linda and Mike Imhoof  
Cathy Jones by Lucinda Jones  
Joanna Ching-Ping Wong Jones by Bill Jones  
and family  
Julian Kampforschulte by Paula, Jason, Garrett,  
Kathryn Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku  
Perry Kite by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton

Warren Kitts by the Sloan family  
Fayrinne Lester by Deborah Suderman  
Virgil T. Lester by Deborah Suderman  
Doris and Dick Luttrell by Sally and Richard Luttrell  
Earl Martin by Judi Smalling  
Ivan Martinez's family by Linda and Ivan Martinez  
Linda Martinez's parents by Linda and Ivan Martinez  
Jonathan McGregor by Labyrinth Sunday School Class  
Glen and Mary Evelyn McLaughlin by Suzy McLaughlin  
Spencer Cole Mihm by Ann Marie, Mark and Jackson Mihm  
Marilyn Williamson Moore by Angie Moore  
Michael Ray Moore by Angie Moore  
Sheila Duncan Moore by David Duncan  
Shelia and Gene Moore by Carole Jean Abernathy  
Sheila and Gene Moore by the Moore family  
Kit Murphy by Melissa Burns  
Bradley Thomas Newsom by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson  
C. Thomas Newsom by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson  
Douglas Newsom by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson  
Dot and Asa A. Newsom, Jr. by Amy, Cory, Bryn and Whit Anderson  
Bill O'Brien by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class  
Gary Cruz Perales by Gina Waterman  
Jesús Perales by Gina Waterman  
Pauline Plunkett by Vickie Conn  
David L. Prater by Lyn and Ross Prater  
Marian Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins

Stephen Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins  
Wells Rollins by Bryan Rollins and Robert Rollins  
John M. Shaw by Dawn and Steven Hallman  
Jim Spell by Pam Spell  
Ellen and Louis Sturdivant by Tracy Sturdivant  
Joyce and Bob Sturdivant by Tracy Sturdivant  
Doris "Meme" Swift by Deanna and Chuck Swift  
Donna Martin Thompson by Kathryn and Chase Thompson  
Donna Twomey by Barbara and Don Floyd  
Marjory, Norma, Charles and Julian Sr. by the Vigil family  
Judith and Forrest Wallace by Jim Wallace  
Louise and Otto Wallace by Jim Wallace  
Patricia Ann Wallace by Jim Wallace  
Evelyn and Richard Wallis by Sondra Wallis  
David Walters by Kristi, Ethan, Chris and Sam Walters  
Charlie and LuFan Watson by Charlene and Bob Law  
Jim White by B.E.S.T. Sunday School Class  
Jenna Worthen by Jenyce Gush

## **In honor of:**

Carole Jean Abernathy by the Moore family  
Carole Jean Abernathy by Paula, Jason, Garrett, Kathryn Woodbury and Sher Moo Ku  
Kelly Akins by the Little Women of Wilshire  
Claudia and Joe Barner by Janice and Bill Jernberg  
Mary Lynne Bright by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Nicolette Brindle by Angela Brindle  
Monna Brown by Barbara and Don Floyd  
Jeff Brummel by Katherine Pottkotter

Debby Burton by Carol Cabaniss  
Debby Burton by Barbara and Don Floyd  
Mary Carver by Cord of Three Sunday School Class  
Children's Choir leadership by Candy McComb  
Susan Clark by Mig and John Coates  
Mig and John Coates by Jeri Baker  
Dale Cohen by Barbara and Don Floyd  
Compass Sunday School Class by Jenyce Gush  
Discovery Sunday School Class by Dorrell Brown  
Diana Early and Andrea Watkins by Mary and Paul Early  
Cindy and Charlie Estee by Suzy McLaughlin  
Davanel Fitzgerald by Gina Waterman  
Linda Garner by Jeri Baker  
Steven Hallman by Candy McComb and Vic Henry  
Ann Hampton by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Amanda Hines by Monica Mullins  
Janice and Bill Jernberg by the Pendery family  
Thelma Kite by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Charlene and Bob Law by Dorrell Brown  
Charlene Law by Alison and Mark Wingfield  
Courtney, Gabe, Nicholas, Jordan and Brooklyn Leal by Suzy McLaughlin  
Valerie Lott by the Little Women of Wilshire  
Valerie Lott by Suzy McLaughlin  
Margie Lynn by Jeri Baker  
Linda Martinez's family in Wisconsin by Linda and Ivan Martinez  
Candy McComb by Alison Wingfield  
Wilma McMurray by Pam Stiles  
Skye and Nick McQuillan by Dawn and Steven Hallman  
Ariel Merivil by Monica Mullins  
Mom, a.k.a. Granma, by the Barker family  
Griffin Moore by Nicki and Geoff Moore  
Meredith, Matt and Parker Mosley by Barbara and Don Floyd  
Music ministry team by Candy McComb  
Odyssey Sunday School Class by Candy McComb and Vic Henry  
One Starry Night planning team and volunteers by LeAnn and Jeff Hampton  
Max Post by Linda and Mike Imhoof  
Pre-K Choir (Songbirds) by Alison Wingfield  
Preschool Choir leadership by Candy McComb  
The Sefzik family by the Moore family  
Dorothy Shaw by Dawn and Steven Hallman  
Barrett Shaw by the Sloan family  
Betty Skelton by Jeri Baker  
Laura and Dennis Smith by Sondra Wallis  
Sarah and Allan Stafford by Jeri Baker  
Linda and Jerry Willman by Tina and Bill Johnson  
Wilshire food services staff, Haley Garcia, Luke Munion and Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, by Lyn and Ross Prater  
Wilshire facilities staff, Maricela Escutia, Daniel Latin, Leticia Medina, Kevin Sierra and Leticia Vega, by Lyn and Ross Prater  
Wilshire friends by Dorrell Brown  
Wilshire operations and technology staff, Rene Altamirano, Bryant Greer and Jim Tapley, by Lyn and Ross Prater  
Wilshire staff by Sally and Richard Luttrell  
Wilshire staff by Suzy McLaughlin  
The Woodbury family by the Moore family

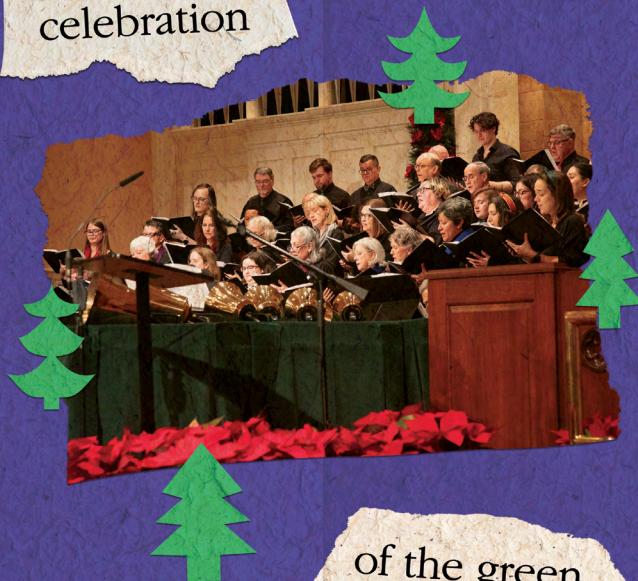
# Tapestry



Wilshire  
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements  
December 7, 2025

celebration



of the green

**Dec. 7 | 6:30 p.m. | Sanctuary**

Childcare provided for preschoolers

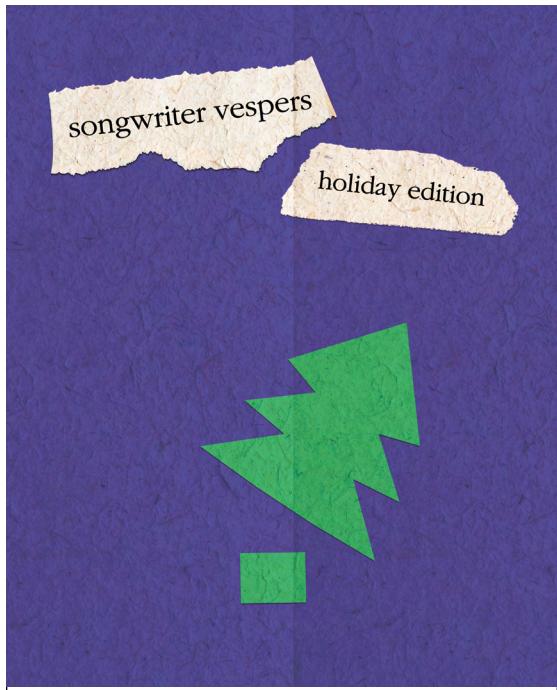
## Music Ministry presents annual favorite tonight

Wilshire's choral and instrumental music groups will perform in the beauty of the decorated Sanctuary at this evening's Celebration of the Green. Participating groups are Sanctuary Choir, Nova, Youth Choir, Children's Choir, Wilshire Winds and Carillon Ringers. The 6:30 p.m. event will also feature congregational singing, Scripture readings and recitations of poetry by Jan Richardson, Gerard Manley Hopkins and others.

- A reception with cookies and cider will follow in James Gallery.
- Childcare for preschoolers will be provided.
- Celebration of the Green will be livestreamed on our YouTube channel.



**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](https://youtube.com/wilshirebaptist). Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.



## Songwriter Vespers: Holiday Edition next week

Associate Pastor Darren DeMent and other musicians will explore the full range of holiday emotions through songs by Joni Mitchell, Tom Waits, Lyle Lovett and others in a "Holiday Edition" of Songwriter Vespers on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 4:30 p.m. in Choral Hall.

Unlike past Songwriter Vespers services, which focused on the work of a single songwriter, this one will be more thematic.

Darren said, "We'll focus on some aspects of the season that often get overlooked or avoided — loneliness, heartache, regret. The idea that Jesus came to live in the midst of human struggle and hardship can give us a fresh perspective on the incarnation."

Part worship service and part coffeehouse concert, this won't be your typical church Christmas program.

## New members

Abigail Gaines

Cari Vincent and Tim Adams

## Condolences to

Chris Davis and Dean Davis on the death of their mother, **Ricci Davis**, Nov. 28.

## Register by today for Dec. 12 Parents Night Out

On Friday, Dec. 12, Wilshire will offer free childcare (infants-grade 5) from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. while parents attend adult Sunday School Christmas parties or simply get some shopping done. Space is limited. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/pno-121225](http://wilshirebc.org/events/pno-121225) by Dec. 7.

## Wilshire Welcome meets Dec. 14

Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session to help guests and new members learn about the church, will meet Sunday, Dec. 14, at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room near McIver Chapel. No RSVP needed; to learn more, contact Carolyn Murray at [cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

## Lunch & Learn is Dec. 17



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 Jordann

McMahan will teach Dec. 17. No RSVP needed; pay at the door.

## Life Line Screenings here Dec. 18

Life Line Screenings will screen for stroke and cardiovascular disease risks at Wilshire on Thursday, Dec. 18. For \$129, Life Line will screen for carotid artery disease, atrial fibrillation, peripheral artery disease and abdominal aortic aneurysm. To make an appointment, call 800-324-9458 and use code HABC001 or visit [llsa.social/habc](http://llsa.social/habc).

## Sunday School series

Darren DeMent and Katie Murray are leading a Sunday School series 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.

## Nativity scene kids

Elementary school kids are building the Sanctuary Nativity scene week by week by carrying elements to the chancel at the start of worship. There are a few slots available. Sign up at [wilshirebc.org/nativity](http://wilshirebc.org/nativity).

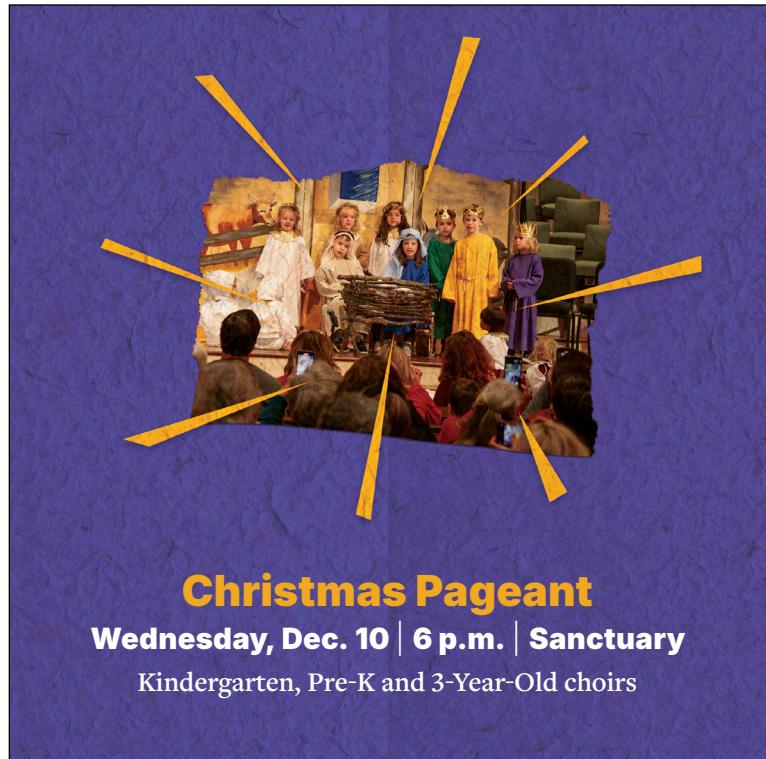
## Giving Tree

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. Purchased items may be placed on a table outside the church office.

■ We also have a **Virtual Giving Tree**. Find the link at [wilshirebc.org/giving-tree](http://wilshirebc.org/giving-tree).

## Advent art show

Light is the common theme of the 16 works by artist Sandra Bowden on display through Jan. 4 in the South Lobby. Each piece in *Illuminations* is embellished with gold leafing, an adornment characteristic of many medieval texts. Visit whenever the building is open.



**Christmas Pageant**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 10 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary**  
Kindergarten, Pre-K and 3-Year-Old choirs

## 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. Ornaments and markers are provided at the tree.

## Library Nativity sets

Stop by the Library during the holiday season to enjoy a display of Nativity sets from around the world.

## Christmas Eve

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

- **4 p.m.** | Family service
- **11 p.m.** | Liturgical service

## Youth Choir alums wanted for 11 p.m. Christmas Eve

Wilshire Youth Choir alumni of all ages are invited to sing with the current group for the 11 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Come to Choral Hall at 10 for cider and treats followed by a rehearsal from 10:15 to 10:45. The group will sing one anthem and exit the loft early in the service.



# One Starry Night awaits

**G**RAB THE KIDS, gather the grandchildren — the whole family if you can! — and come to Wilshire on Friday, Dec. 19, for One Starry Night, an interactive Bethlehem experience with something for everyone.

Your first stop will be the census table, where, just like Mary and Joseph, you'll register and receive a passport and some coins. From there, you'll enter the village, where you'll find a tented market bustling with hands-on activities: baking, carpentry, painting, herbs and spices, pottery, weaving, music and dancing. You'll enjoy interacting with craftsmen and vendors while roving musicians fill the air with sounds of the season.

While in the village, sample first-century delicacies at Bethlehem Inn, pet the sheep at the shepherds' pen and search the sky for the Christmas star at Stargazer Hill. But you better be on your toes when the tax collectors and beggars come around — and at Herod's Palace where the king and his scribe hold court.

Before you leave the village, you'll want to visit the Memory Making area, where you can

dress up like the villagers for a group photo to remember the night. And of course, all roads lead to the stable, where you'll find the Holy Family waiting quietly and reverently for your visit.

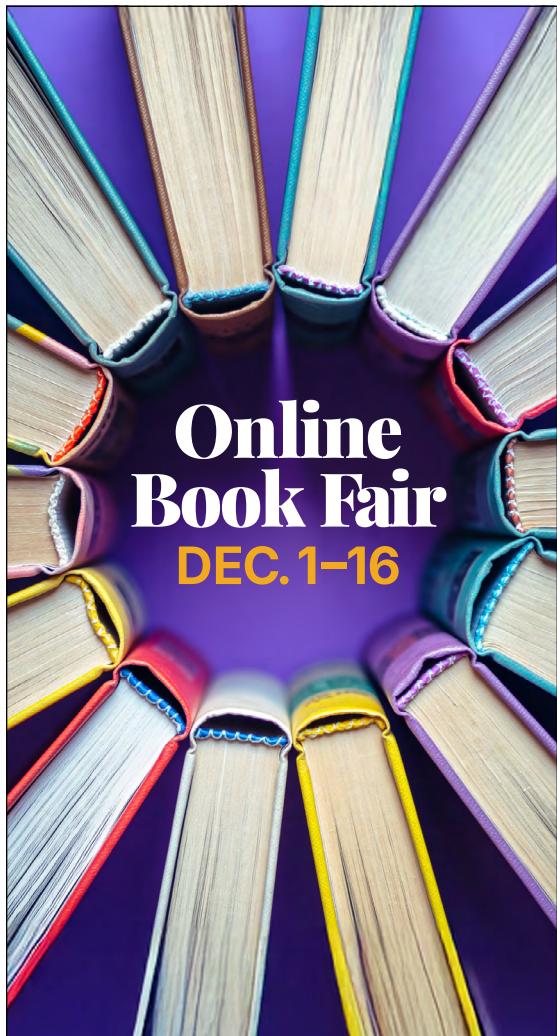
One Starry Night opens at 6:30 p.m. and closes at 8:30 p.m. It's all free and is Wilshire's holiday gift to the community.

## Volunteers still needed

It takes a village to create a village, and Bethlehem still has some needs:

- Herbs for grinding.
- Pizza stones for the bakery booth.
- Volunteers to greet guests and help in booths.
- Playdough makers for the pottery booth.
- Volunteers to help set up the week before and clean up right after the event.

If you can help, contact LeAnn Hampton at [KiteL@tx.rr.com](mailto:KiteL@tx.rr.com). There will be a brief meeting for all volunteers in McIver Chapel at noon on Sunday, Dec. 14.



## Benefiting the Wilshire Library

Get some of your 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. More than 212,000 titles are available, from baby books to young adult. Scan QR code or visit [wilshirebc.org/events/book-fair](http://wilshirebc.org/events/book-fair) to start browsing.



### Koinonia Café

**5 p.m. | Community Hall** | Buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Prices at [wilshirebc.org/events/wnl](http://wilshirebc.org/events/wnl). **Dec. 10:** Sausage and gnocchi, roasted vegetables, garlic bread, tomato basil soup, tiramisu, chocolate chip cookies, jello.

### Christmas Pageant

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

### 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.

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



## Women of Wilshire

■ **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](mailto:dburton@wilshirebc.org))

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, Jan. 8 | Noon | 1205-L | *We All Live Here* by Jojo Moyes. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

■ **WOW Takes a Hike: Holiday Edition** | Saturday, Dec. 13 | 8:30 a.m. | NorthPark Center | Meet at the fountain near Dillard's. We'll take a lap or two around the mall and then enjoy breakfast at Mendocino Farms. | Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

■ **WOW's 2026 retreat** will be held Feb. 20–22 at the Prothro Retreat Center at Lake Texoma. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/wow-retreat-2026](http://wilshirebc.org/events/wow-retreat-2026).

## Men's Book Club

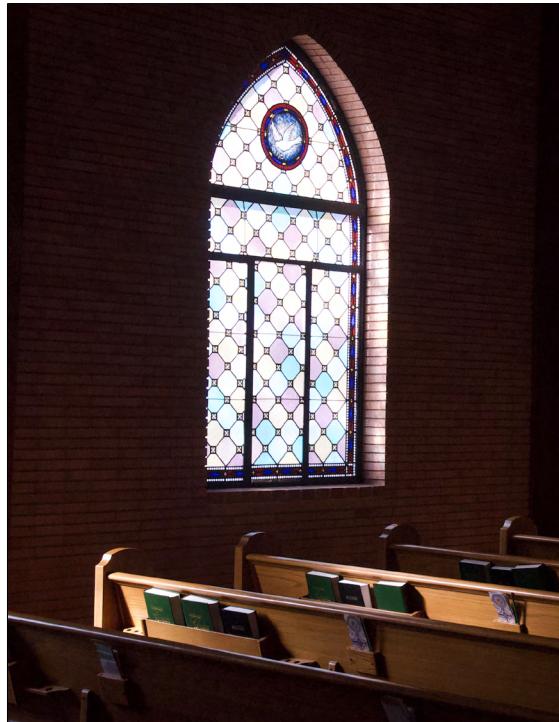
The Men's Book Club will meet Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel García Márquez. Contact: Scott Spreier ([s\(ws\)spreier@gmail.com](mailto:s(ws)spreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net))

## Monthly service opportunities

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

■ Wilshire volunteers serve as food pantry assistants at the **Wilkinson Center** the third Tuesday afternoon each month. Contact: Cindy Estee ([cesteedallas@aol.com](mailto:cesteedallas@aol.com))

■ Wilshire volunteers serve lunch at the **Stewpot** the second Thursday every month. Contact: David Cossum ([dc@cossum.com](mailto:dc@cossum.com))



## 9 a.m. Worship

**Weekly | McIver Chapel**

“This new service will provide a sacred space where we can step away from the busyness and noise of daily life to slow down, be still and cultivate a deeper connection with God.”

—Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples



Childcare available for preschoolers

# Meredith Miller

Author, speaker, expert on  
faith formation in children



**Meredith Miller**

is a pastor and parent who helps grownups, and the kids they love, engage with faith in ways that are life-giving, fun and a fit for their real lives.

## Sunday, Jan. 11

**9:45 a.m.:** Adult Sunday School, McIver Chapel

**Noon:** Lunch Talk with Q&A,  
Community Hall

**REGISTER FOR LUNCH**  
[wilshirebc.org/events/  
meredith-miller](http://wilshirebc.org/events/meredith-miller)



## Columbarium prices to rise Jan. 1

Since its 2010 dedication, Wilshire's Columbarium has become the resting place for many Wilshire members and their loved ones. Over the years, we have kept prices steady, but with rising maintenance costs and the need to hire a new engraver, we are raising the price of niches and remembrance markers. Prices will change as follows: a single niche, now \$1,500, will cost \$1,750; a double niche, now \$3,000, will cost \$3,500; a remembrance marker, now \$500, will cost \$750. New prices will take effect Jan. 1. Act soon to purchase a niche or marker at the current price. Contact: Chelsea Hopkins ([chopkins@wilshirebc.org](mailto:chopkins@wilshirebc.org))

## Coaching with Charlie Fuller

Wilshire offers a variety of caring ministries, including Stephen Ministry and Care Teams. You can also find the Grief and Loss Center of North Texas and the Center for Integrative Counseling and Psychology under our roof. Along with these resources, Coach in Residence Charlie Fuller is available for free coaching conversations with Wilshire members or friends of Wilshire. Curious about coaching? Coaching is for people who want to:

- become more confident and self-reliant
- establish and follow through on goals
- enhance their relationships
- better handle conflict
- gain better professional satisfaction
- become more fulfilled in their personal life
- think more effectively
- improve their time management
- achieve better work-life balance
- boost their job performance
- increase their effectiveness

You can learn more about coaching at Charlie's website, [charliefuller.com](http://charliefuller.com). Contact Charlie at [cfuller@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cfuller@wilshirebc.org).

# This Week

## Sunday, Dec. 7

- Art Exhibit: *Illuminations*, South Lobby, through Jan. 4
- Worship, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Advent Sunday School Series, McIver Chapel, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- One Starry Night Costume Fittings, 1375, noon
- Celebration of the Green, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m. Reception follows in James Gallery

## Monday, Dec. 8

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

## Tuesday, Dec. 9

- New Song Christmas Luncheon, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- WOW Tuesday Evening Book Club, Parlor, 6:30 p.m.

## Wednesday, Dec. 10

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- One Starry Night Costume Fittings, 1375, 4 p.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Preschool Christmas Pageant, Sanctuary, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Cookies and Cocoa, James Gallery, 6:40 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Dec. 11

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

## Friday, Dec. 12

- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.
- Parents Night Out Childcare, 6:30 p.m.

## Saturday, Dec. 13

- WOW Let's Take a Hike: Holiday Edition, Northpark Center, 8:30 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](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/realm](http://wilshirebc.org/realm).

**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.

# End of year need: **\$1,021,124**

THIS SUNDAY is our Celebration of the Green, a time when we gather to listen, sing, and participate together in holy worship. As I think about this upcoming service, I'm reminded of the many moments of musical offering we have shared throughout the past year: our Children's Choir singing in worship and leading us in our Call to Worship through sung meditations; our Youth Choir traveling on tour, not only singing but learning and serving throughout the city of Chicago; and Nova, Sanctuary Choir, Wilshire Winds, Carillon Ringers and so many others lending their gifts, time and love to the life of our church.

Music is one of God's oldest gifts to God's people. A language that existed before words were written, a form of praise that rises from the heart even when the mind struggles to express itself.

Music in the church is not a decoration in worship. It is a ministry. One that shapes our faith, forms our community and reaches the heart. Through music, we learn the stories of God. Through music, we teach our children the truth of grace. Through music, we carry one another through sorrow and lift our shared joy toward heaven.

Good stewardship invites us to ask: **What are we doing**

Watch this space each week as we decorate the tree to show our progress closing the gap between our 2025 budget and actual giving.

**\$1,123,684 ▶**  
needed to make budget

**\$800,000 ▶**  
needed to cover estimated expenses

**\$102,560  
GIVEN**

**with this gift?** Are we nurturing it? Supporting it? Participating in it?

The ministry of music does not happen by accident. It is sustained through the time, talent and treasure that God has entrusted to us. It thrives because volunteers rehearse, musicians offer their skill, choirs commit their voices, and a congregation chooses to sing — even on the days when singing feels hard.

When we support the music ministry of the church, we are investing in far more than notes and harmonies. We are investing in spiritual formation. We are

investing in welcome — because sacred music often reaches those on the margins. And we are investing in the future, ensuring that generations yet to come will know the sound of the Gospel sung with love and conviction.

We do face a significant challenge as we approach the end of the year and work to fully fund our budget. But if we meet this challenge together, there is also great celebration ahead. Let us give generously, faithfully and joyfully, trusting that God will use our gifts to continue the good work already unfolding among us. —*Tim*