

O light



come down

to earth

December 14, 2025 | Third Sunday of Advent  
Wilshire Baptist Church

# Preparing for worship

Before Sunday School each week, our elementary students begin their time by gathering and singing songs together. A fan favorite of mine is “I’ve Got Peace Like a River.” The upbeat verses cycle through “peace like a river” and “love like an ocean” and end on “I’ve got joy like a fountain.” I love this image of joy — as something that cannot be contained, as something that bubbles up from within. And today, we turn our collective Advent attention to joy.

Perhaps in this season, joy does not feel like it is bubbling up, bursting through our very selves like a fountain. Perhaps it does not feel uncontrollable. Rather, maybe joy in this season feels like a seed, a sliver, a bit of light peeking around a shadow.

As we prepare ourselves for worship this morning, turn your attention to joy, whether it feels like it’s bubbling up within you or if it is something that is harder to grasp. Take a moment and reflect on these questions: What is the most potent memory of joy that you have?

Where do you feel joy in your body? What does joy feel like for you?

Advent is the time of waiting for the coming of the Christ child and in that there is a deep joy. And let us not approach this joy as a cheap one, as tied only to the lights and decorations and presents but rather the joy of presence. A joy that we are met right where we are. That the presence of the Word made flesh meets us in times when we feel lonely, tired or unsettled, for whatever reason, or for no reason at all. This joy we celebrate is about the ways God comes alongside us in everything — in our sorrow, in our hope, in our fight, in our longing, in our regret, in our delight, in our togetherness, in our solitude, in all of it.

This morning, whether your joy is as abundant as a puddle in the parking lot or a geyser of delight, let this time of collective music, prayer and worship point you to the surprising and accompanying joy of God.

—Maggie Morey



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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 14, 2025**

11:00 a.m.

Third 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**

Maggie Morey

**Prelude**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
Wilshire Winds  
Shana Gaines, director

arr. James Swearingen

**Preparing for the Nativity**

Nicolette Brindle, Vivian Donovan, Abigail Gaines,  
Hamilton Lee, Margaret Stegner

**Baptism — Mu Lar Hso**

Darren DeMent

**+Processional Song**

*Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*  
No. 102

ANTIOCH

**Lighting the Candle of Joy**

Sarah and Katie Fuller and Rhona Phillips

**+A Moment of Joy**

One: O Lord, you bring order from chaos, and shape light out of darkness.

**All: The Creator delights, and all of creation sings of Your glory.**

One: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy as we reflect on and light  
the candles of hope and peace

**All: May the light from this candle be a sign of the intricacies of joy.**

One: In our sorrow and mourning, we long for your companion of joy.

**All: In the uncertain and unknown, we await the Incarnation.**

One: In the now and not yet, may joy find us in unexpected ways as we call out together:

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

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+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.\_\_\_

**Children's Moment**

Kelly Akins

**Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 35:1-10**

Gladys Kolenovsky

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.  
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!  
Here is your God.  
The LORD will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.  
The LORD will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;  
then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;  
the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Offertory**

*The Wexford Carol*  
Wilshire Winds

arr. Rob Romeyn

**+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Genesis 1:1–5, 14–19**

Vic Henry

When God began to create the heavens and the earth, the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness God called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. ... And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

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**

*Love Came Down at Christmas*  
No. 147

GARTAN

**Message**

“Tohu Va-Vohu”

Timothy Peoples

**Anthem**

*The Inn at the End of the World*  
Sanctuary Choir

Heather Sorenson

There is heard a hymn when the panes are dim, and never before, never again,  
When the nights are strong with a darkness long, and the dark is alive with rain.  
And our hope lies dead where the leaves lie red, for the flame of the sun is flown.  
And our hearts lie cold where the leaves are gold, then a child comes forth alone.  
And at night we win to the ancient inn, where the child in the frost is furled.  
And we follow the feet where all souls meet at the inn at the end of the world.

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus.

There's room in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Then all earth, rejoice, matching heaven's voice, when the dark and the cold are cured.

And we follow the feet where all souls meet at the inn at the end of the world.

**Prayers of the People**

Darren DeMent

**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**

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*  
No. 122

IN DULCI JUBILO

**Sharing of Decisions**

Timothy Peoples

**Benediction**

Timothy Peoples

**Postlude**

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Sarah and Katie Fuller** were married last month in McIver Chapel. Sarah joined Wilshire in February with her daughter, **Rhona Phillips**, who is in sixth grade. Katie and Sarah attend Odyssey Class. Sarah, whose parents are Charlie and Cindy Fuller, sings in Sanctuary Choir and serves on the Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines. Rhona is active in Wilshire Student Ministry and plays percussion in school band.

**Vic Henry** and his wife, Candy McComb, joined Wilshire in 2017. Vic is a deacon, and he and Candy direct and teach the Odyssey Sunday School Class. They have two adult sons, Lee and Taylor. Vic is a trial attorney with Henry Oddo Austin & Fletcher.

**Gladys Kolenovsky** joined Wilshire in 1982. She is a deacon, teaches in Cord of Three Class, volunteers for children's Cooking Camp, serves on the Funeral Ministry Team and an emerging Immigration Advocacy Team and led the recent Deacon Bylaws Workgroup. Gladys retired after 44 years at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital, where she directed the dyslexia department and their Legacy Scholarship Program. She and Bobby celebrated their 50th anniversary this year.



**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)



# Tapestry



Wilshire  
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements  
December 14, 2025

songwriter vespers

holiday edition



## Songwriter Vespers today at 4:30 p.m.

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 special Songwriter Vespers today at 4:30 p.m. in Choral Hall.

While past Songwriter Vespers services focused on the work of a single artist, this one will be more thematic. Part worship service and part coffeehouse concert, it won't be your typical church Christmas program. Coffee and treats will be served.

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."



**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.

## New members

Lori and Chris Hockett

## Wednesday nights on break

Wednesday Night Live dinner and faith formation programming will resume Jan. 7 after a break for the holidays. Sanctuary Choir will rehearse on Dec. 17.

## Lunch & Learn is Dec. 17



All are invited the first and third Wednesdays every month at 11:30 a.m. for a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study. On Dec. 17, Lunch & Learn will meet in James Gallery

due to One Starry Night prep, and Pastoral Resident Jordann McMahan will teach.

## Life Line Screenings here Dec. 18

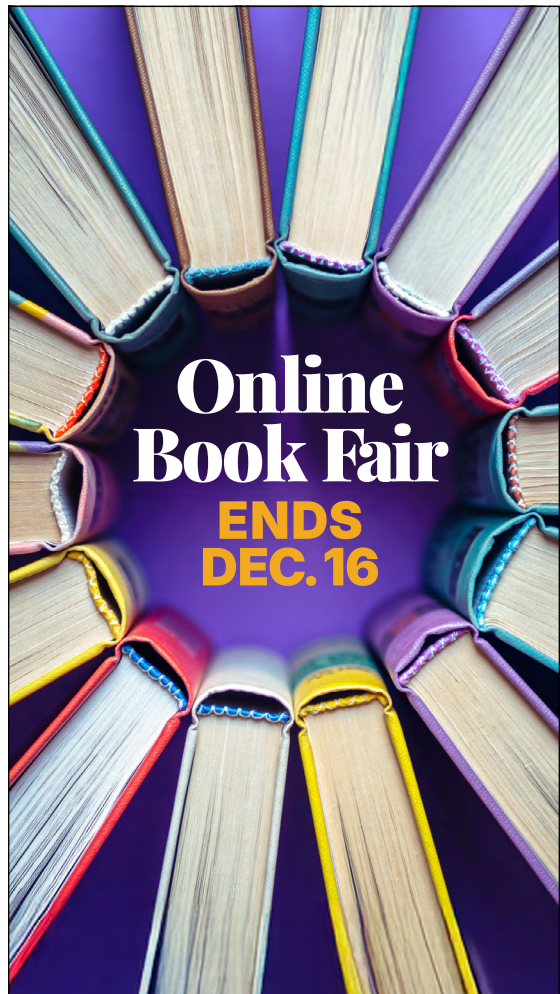
Life Line Screenings will screen for stroke and cardiovascular disease risks at Wilshire on Thursday, Dec. 18. For \$129, Life Line will screen for carotid artery disease, atrial fibrillation, peripheral artery disease and abdominal aortic aneurysm. To make an appointment, call 800-324-9458 and use code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

## Women of Wilshire

■ **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))

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Jan. 13 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini. Contact: Debby Burton ([dburton@wilshirebc.org](mailto:dburton@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](https://wilshirebc.org/events/wow-retreat-2026).



## Shop by Tuesday to support 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, which ends Tuesday, Dec. 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](https://wilshirebc.org/events/book-fair) to start browsing.

# One Starry Night is almost here!

**Y**OU CAN SEE IT IN THE SKY, you can feel it in the air — everything is about to change in Bethlehem, and you don't want to miss it! See the Christmas story come to life at Wilshire on Friday, Dec. 19, at One Starry Night, an interactive Bethlehem experience with something for everyone.

You'll enter at the census table and continue into the tented village bustling with hands-on activities: baking, carpentry, painting, herbs and spices, pottery, weaving, music and dancing. While roving musicians fill the air with sounds of the season, you'll 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.

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.

## Help build the village

One Starry Night is less than a week away, and there still are plenty of ways to get involved: tents to raise and decorate, materials to move into place and other preparation to bring the village to life.

If you'd like to help build the village, you can come at any of these times:

■ Tuesday, Dec. 16: 1–8 p.m.

■ Wednesday, Dec. 17: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. and 6–8 p.m.

■ Thursday, Dec. 18: 9 a.m.–4 p.m. and 6–8 p.m. (This may change if we make great progress on Wednesday and Thursday morning.)

■ Friday, Dec. 19: 9 a.m. until the end of the event. (Starting time for work may change if



everything is almost ready.)

We'll also need volunteers to help with clean-up after the event beginning at 9:15 p.m.

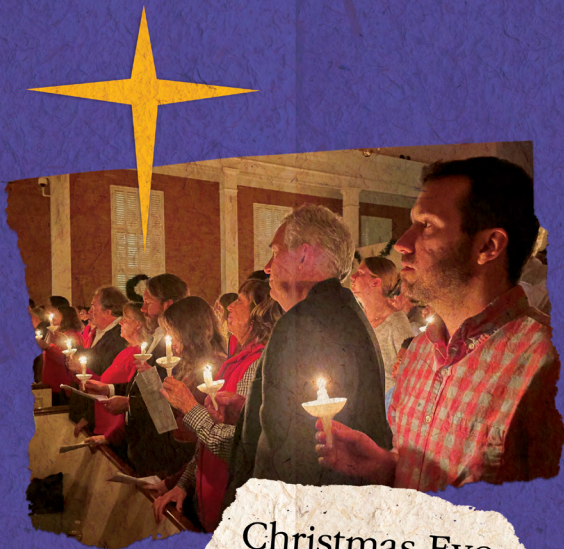
If you have any questions about how or when you can help, contact LeAnn Kite Hampton at [KiteL@tx.rr.com](mailto:KiteL@tx.rr.com).

## Volunteer meeting today

If you have volunteered to work with the booths and activities during the event, there is a short volunteer meeting in McIver Chapel after the 11 a.m. service. If you haven't volunteered yet but have been considering it, come to the meeting, and we'll help you find a place.

There are info sheets around the church to help spread the word about One Starry Night. Feel free to take some and share with friends and neighbors.





## Christmas Eve

### Christmas Eve

**Wednesday, Dec. 24**

■ **4 p.m.** | Family-friendly service suitable for all ages.

■ **11 p.m.** | Liturgical service with Lord's Supper.

### 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.

### Giving Tree update

Wilshire's Giving Tree effort is complete, with all tags taken and fulfilled. Thanks to your participation, we collected 135 gifts, 104 of which will go to children of families helped by our own Rental and Utility Assistance Program. Gateway of Grace clients will receive 18 gifts, and 13 gift cards were given toward Wilshire's benevolence ministry.

### Nativity scene kids

Elementary school kids are building the Sanctuary Nativity scene by carrying elements to the chancel during worship. A few slots remain. Sign up at [wilshirebc.org/nativity](http://wilshirebc.org/nativity).

### 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.

### 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.

### Advent art show

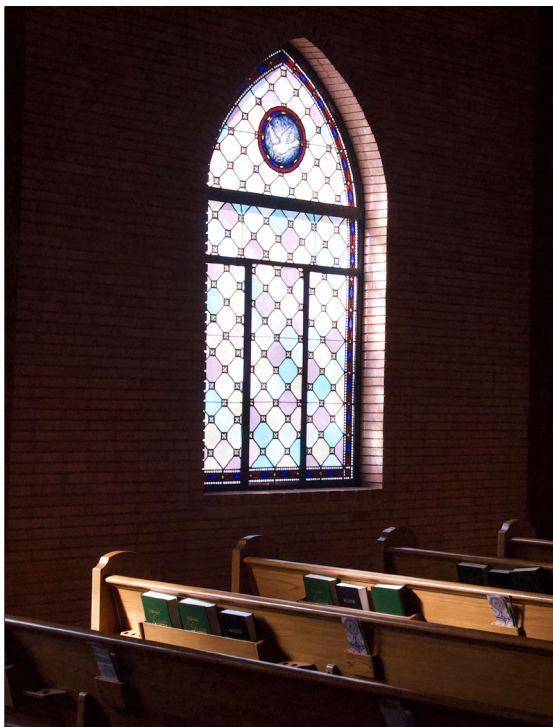


Light is the common theme of the 16 works by artist Sandra Bowden on

display through Jan. 4 in the South Lobby. Each piece in *Il-luminations* is embellished with gold leafing, an adornment characteristic of many medieval texts. Visit whenever the building is open.

### Library Nativity sets

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



## 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

**No 9 a.m. service Dec. 28**



Childcare available for preschoolers

## 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 ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@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))

## 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))

## Subscribe to sermon podcast

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

# 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)



## 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](http://wilshirebc.org/75).

# *This Week*

## **Sunday, Dec. 14**

- Art Exhibit: *Illuminations*, South Lobby, through Jan. 4
- Worship, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, Pastor's Office, 9:45 a.m.
- Advent Sunday School Series, McIver Chapel, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- One Starry Night Volunteer Meeting, McIver Chapel, noon
- Personnel Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- One Starry Night Costume Fittings, Parlor, 12:45 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.
- Songwriter Vespers, Choral Hall, 4:30 p.m.

## **Tuesday, Dec. 16**

- Wilkinson Center Pantry Assistants, noon
- One Starry Night Setup, Community Hall, 1 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

## **Wednesday, Dec. 17**

- One Starry Night Setup, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, James Gallery, 11:30 a.m.
- One Starry Night Costume Fittings, Parlor, 4 p.m.
- One Starry Night Setup, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, Dec. 18**

- One Starry Night Setup, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.
- One Starry Night Setup, Community Hall, 6 p.m.

## **Friday, Dec. 19**

- Vickery Meadow Mobile Pantry Service, 8:35 a.m.
- One Starry Night Setup, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- One Starry Night, Community Hall, 6:30 p.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.*

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**ONLINE.** Set up a recurring or one-time gift charged to your debit or credit card or as an ACH from your checking account. Get started at [wilshirebc.org/give](http://wilshirebc.org/give).

**REALM CONNECT APP.** Easily make gifts and see past giving on your mobile device. Available at your device's app store. Find download links at [wilshirebc.org/realms](http://wilshirebc.org/realms).

**AUTOMATIC BANK PAY.** Visit your bank's website and set up Wilshire as a payee. The bank will send the church a check.

**MAIL.** Send to Finance Director 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.**

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At Wilshire, we use a one-fund approach to giving called the Unified Budget. Your gifts support the basic mission, ministry and operations of the church. Once the Unified Budget is fulfilled, gifts overflow into visionary aspects of our mission.

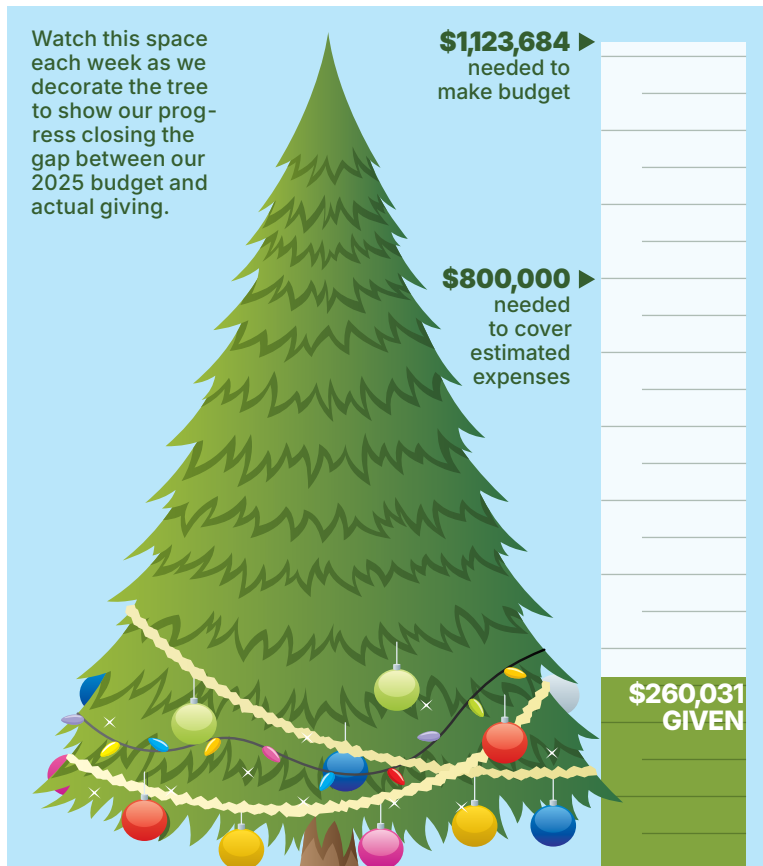


# End of year need: \$863,653

IT IS OUR TRADITION on the first Sunday of the month to participate in the Lord's Supper. After we partake and celebrate, we share signs of peace with one another. There is something about this simple, sacred moment of shaking hands and seeking community with one another.

We take the time to share something the world does not normally know how to understand: peace. A peace that surpasses all understanding and together leads us into the glorious light. We pass peace into each other's hands, to be held for the times and moments when we forget peace is even possible. The passing of peace is a time to lift the spirits of those who are down or just sit with them on their journey. It seems somewhat like a Baptist potluck; we eat together, and everyone brings a bit of something — peace — to the party and shares it in their own way. It is the start of community with someone you do not know or even the continuation of long-tenured friendships.

There is also something about being generous with what is sparse in the world. It is like this magic power, or rather some heavenly power, shared between us. You may not realize it, but generosity is even in the sharing of what is needed emotionally



and mentally: It's in the peace, love, joy, hope, harmony and grace we offer each other. If we want to be the cause of gratitude and generosity, we must reinforce the impact generosity plays in our congregation and beyond.

We as Wilshire have chosen to announce, seek, receive and bear witness to the kingdom of God in such unique and holy ways. It is through the people being completely open to discerning where the Spirit is moving, grabbing hold of it and moving with it. Wilshire's mission continues to be "to become a bold witness

to the way of Christ in our time" and "to build a community of faith shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ." We will continue to embody both statements, which call us outside of our comfort zones and even these walls.

By giving, we are sharing what we have to accomplish our God-given mission — individually and collectively — in our congregation. Christian stewards, we align our lives and ministries with God's intentions for God's world. Consider how you can give to sustain and continue the work we are doing together.

—Tim