



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

January 4, 2026
Epiphany Sunday

Preparing for worship

Did you catch it? The turning of the year and the changing of the seasons, I mean.

Like many years, this changing of the calendar caught me off guard. In the midst of Advent preparations and holiday travels, 2026 snuck up on me. How did the changing of the year find you? Whether it found you frantic with trying to make the magic of the season happen, grieving the changes of this last year or shouting good riddance as the clock counted down, the new year that has been creeping ever closer is here.

And today, we complete the Nativity scene. The Magi have finally made it to the holy family, and another Christmas has come and gone. The last five weeks, we have seen the Nativity grow, have watched it move closer to the fullness of Christmas with the arrival of shepherds and sheep, Mary and Joseph and then eventually the baby Jesus. This morning, we are reminded that the birth of the Word made flesh is only the beginning. That this baby who caught the attention of Magi and a vengeful king grows into the teacher, healer and troublemaker we know.

Let worship this morning be a reminder that this is not only a new beginning. Let our time together be a reminder that the feel of a fresh start the new year brings is not meant to hold demands of the future but rather an invitation to the good news that is already being worked out in the world and our lives.

And this year, we continue the tradition of “star words,” words meant to be carried with us throughout the year not as a benchmark or an expectation, but as an invitation to attentiveness — an invitation to check in with yourself and with God as you move through the year.

Like the Magi who followed that bright star first to Herod, then to the child savior, we are called to attentiveness, to curiosity as we move through the days of our lives. What surprises await us this year? What will the good news look like in the days, weeks and months to come?

As you prepare yourself for worship, rest in the invitation to curiosity without judgment or expectation. The new year is here, and so are you.

—Maggie Morey



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ
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: *Untitled*, Gottfried Graf, woodcut, Smithsonian American Art Museum.

January 4, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Epiphany Sunday

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

Heather Mustain

Prelude

Impression on “We Three Kings”

arr. Alfred V. Fedak

Procession of the Magi

Claire Michie, Finn Michie, Kathryn Woodbury

+Congregational Song

Arise, Your Light Is Come

FESTAL SONG

No. 87

+Call to Worship

Collin Adcox

One: The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

All: **We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.**

One: The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

All: **The darkness that surrounds us is gone!**

One: Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

All: **Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others.**

+Response in Song

How Wide the Love of Christ

FESTAL SONG

**All praise to You, O Christ, for love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space with endless life and light!**

Gospel Reading — Matthew 2:1-12

Kevin Cabaniss

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and

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

scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Prayers of the People

Georgia McKee

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.

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 Bread

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

J.S. Bach

Katherine Pottkotter, organ; Jeff Brummel, piano

Passing of the Cup

God So Loved the World

Stainer/Smith and Hustad

Jeff Brummel, organ; Amy Pottkotter, piano

Offertory

Christmas Lullaby
Audrey Pottkotter
Amy Pottkotter, piano

Jason Robert Brown

I'll never have the power to control the land,
Or conquer half the world or claim the sun;
I'll never be the kind who simply waves her hand
And has a million people do the things I wish I'd done.

But in the eyes of heaven, my place is assured.
I carry with me heaven's grand design.
"Gloria! Gloria!" I will sing the name of the Lord,
And he will make me shine.

And I will be like Mother Mary with a blessing in my soul,
And I will give the world my eyes so they can see.
And I will be like Mother Mary with a blessing in my soul,
And the future of the world inside of me.

In the eyes of heaven, my place is assured.
I carry with me heaven's grand design.
"Gloria! Gloria!" I will sing the name of the Lord,
And he will make me shine.

And I will be like Mother Mary with the power in my veins
To believe in all the things I've yet to be!
And I will be like Mother Mary and I'll suffer any pains
For the future of the world,
For the future of the world,
Inside of me.

+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 60:1-6

Jordann McMahan

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and God's glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
 your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
 the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
 the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
 all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
 and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

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 “It’s Not What You Think It Is” Timothy Peoples

Epiphany Star Giving

+Congregational Song *See Our Lord in All His Glory* CWM RHONDDA
No. 161

Family Dedication — Molly and Michael Shepard with Caitlin June Timothy Peoples

We welcome into the life of the church Caitlin June Shepard, daughter of Molly and Michael Shepard. Present for today's dedication are big sister Olivia Shepard; grandparents Linda and Ed Francis, Angela Foster, John Shepard and Candy Shepard; aunts and uncles Kathleen Francis and Andrew Weatherly with Rowan, Rebecca Francis and Marco Gutierrez, Julie Francis and Brooks Kelly, and Andrew Shepard. Joining via livestream are aunt and uncle Courtney and David Camejo with Sorella.

Sharing of Decisions

Recognition of Debby Burton

Benediction Timothy Peoples

Postlude Improvisation on themes of the day Jeff Brummel

Improvisation on themes of the day

Shana Gaines, music director

You're invited to a reception after worship in James Gallery
honoring Debby Burton upon her retirement.

The flowers at today's reception are given in honor of Debby Burton and in celebration of her 28 years of faithful service to Wilshire.

Meet today's worship leaders

Collin Adcox grew up at Wilshire and is the son of Chris and Abbey Adcox and brother to Carter and Camryn. He is a sophomore accounting major at the University of Georgia in the Morehead Honors College. He is also active in the university's Atlas Business Society.

Kevin Cabaniss grew up at Wilshire and is married to Carol. They are parents to three young adults: Peyton, Tanner and Trace. Kevin is a deacon, teaches Fifth Grade Sunday School, will serve on the Risk Management Committee in 2026, sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova, plays in Carillon Ringers and is a Faith in 3D participant. He serves as the VP of Legal and Compliance at Airbus Helicopters, Inc.

Amy Pottkotter joined Wilshire in 2019 with her three kids, Joshua, Audrey and Katherine. Amy has served as pianist for Youth Choir and Shekinah and participated in multiple Faith in 3D productions at Wilshire. She is a professional vocal coach, soloist and accompanist.

Audrey Pottkotter is a junior at Oklahoma City University, where she studies musical theater and vocal performance. She was a music intern at Wilshire for the last two summers, and during the school year she is a choral scholar at Oklahoma City's Westminster Presbyterian Church. Audrey joined Wilshire with her family in 2019 and is a 2023 graduate of Lake Highlands High School.

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. A Wilshire member since 2019, Katherine is active in Wilshire Student Ministry, sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah and studies organ with Jeff Brummel.



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

- 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
Jan. 4, 2026

Gratitude for One Starry Night support

ONCE AGAIN, Wilshire became the village of Bethlehem for the evening of Dec. 19. It takes a village to create a village, and Wilshire, what a village you were! Approximately 160 volunteers were involved with preparation, setup, cleanup and supporting the event.

The Planning Committee is grateful for everyone who donated, planned, organized, made play dough, moved furniture, set up and decorated tents, assigned costumes, worked in booths, served as the Holy Family, told the Bible story of the birth of Jesus, prepared food, took photographs, helped children and their parents, promoted the event, demonstrated skills, provided medical support, danced, sang, played an instrument, acted, greeted indoors and outdoors, watched the animals, helped with the telescope, gave directions, cleaned up, prayed and encouraged.

About 240 individuals entered our doors and heard the message of God's love. We also created new friendships within our Wilshire village as people worked together on various tasks. An event of this magnitude requires countless hours of volunteer service, and we are grateful



for the outpouring of support.

The Planning Committee — Kelly Akins, Courtney Carter, Cindy Coleman, Elizabeth Ferguson, Julie Girards, Dawn Hallman, Steven Hallman, Jeff Hampton, LeAnn Hampton, Anna Hines, Candy McComb, Mary Skinner, Allan Stafford, Sarah Stafford, Christy Tabor and Terry Wade — began working several months ago and spent many hours managing all of the details involved in this special event. We are especially grateful for all Wilshire staff for their help and support. We are eager to see how God will use these efforts in the days ahead.

—LeAnn Hampton



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.

New members

Marcia and Percy Parrish, Jayda Parrish, Jasmine Parrish

Condolences to

■ **Ben and Kristi Reavis** on the death of Ben's step-father, Ray Campbell, Dec. 21. Grandchildren are **Emily and Owen Reavis**. ■ **Carole Jean Abernathy** on the death of her brother-in-law, Paul Abernathy, Dec. 26. Niece is **Paula Woodbury**.

Debby Burton honored today

Stop by James Gallery today after 11 a.m. worship to say a word of appreciation to longtime Wilshire staff member Debby Burton, who retired this week and will be recognized during the service. Debby worked 28 years at Wilshire, most of that time as executive assistant to the senior pastor, working with both George Mason and Timothy Peoples.

Lunch & Learn this Wednesday

The first Lunch & Learn of 2026 will be held this Wednesday, Jan. 7. All are invited to Community Hall the first and third Wednesdays every month at 11:30 a.m. for a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study.

Rental Assistance Program



Wilshire's Rental and Utility Assistance Program will soon open for 2026. If you're interested in serving as an intake volunteer, scan the QR code and complete our online form. Join us for orientation on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 6 p.m. in Room 1205-L.

Preschool Playdate on Jan. 10

Preschoolers and their families are invited to a playdate on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Cheeky Monkeys indoor playground (1152 N. Buckner Blvd.). \$16.99 per child.

Family Day of Service

Join us Monday, Jan. 19, MLK Day, as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack healthy meals from 10 a.m. to noon in Community Hall. All ages are welcome. There are opportunities to serve while seated and opportunities for preschoolers and elementary age children to serve. Help is needed with set-up and clean-up. Please register and complete a waiver at events.riseagainsthunger.org/wilshirebaptist2026.

Jan. 10 Advocacy event

Immigration, religious freedom and reproductive justice are some of the topics to be covered at Advocacy for Action, a Texas Impact workshop on Saturday, Jan. 10, at Northaven United Methodist Church. Visit northaven.org/events.

Wilshire Welcome meets Jan. 11

Wilshire Welcome, a session designed to help guests and new members learn about the church, meets Sunday, Jan. 11, at 9:45 a.m. in the Prayer Room near McIver Chapel. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Annual Church Conference

Make plans to attend our Annual Church Conference in Community Hall after 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, Jan. 18. We'll adopt a budget, elect deacons and committees and hear updates about the church. Lunch will be provided.

Adventurers movie on Jan. 20

The Wilshire Adventurers will watch a movie on Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 1 p.m. in Community Hall. This free event includes snacks and a screening of *The River of No Return*, starring Marilyn Monroe and Robert Mitchum. Adventurers is a fellowship group for anyone 60 and up.

Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Jan. 20 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Gabriel García Márquez. Contact: Scott Spreier (swwspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

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)



This Week

Sunday, Jan. 4

- Worship, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Reception for Debby Burton, James Gallery, noon

Monday, Jan. 5

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

Wednesday, Jan. 7

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

Thursday, Jan. 8

- WOW Brown Bag Book Club, 1205-G, noon
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 9

- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.
- Marriage Connections, James Gallery, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 10

- Preschool Playdate, Cheeky Monkeys, 9 a.m.
- Advocacy for Action workshop, Northaven United Methodist Church, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 11

- Worship, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School with Meredith Miller, McIver Chapel, 9:45 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, 1100-B, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Meredith Miller Lunch Talk, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2223, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE Resumes Jan. 7

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | Community Hall | Buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Jan. 7:** Chicken Parmesan, spaghetti, roasted vegetables, garlic bread, butternut squash soup, tiramisu, 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

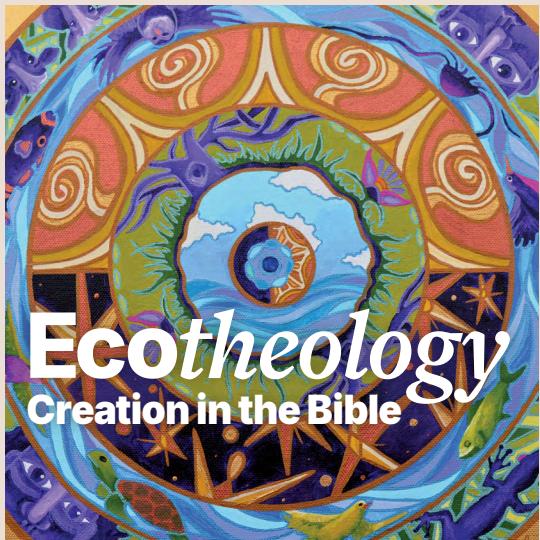
6 p.m. | K-Grade 5 | A rotation of activities to help kids learn how to love God and others.

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.



New Bible study series

6 p.m. | Community Hall | Genesis 1 and 2 are the only accounts of creation in the Bible, right? Well, maybe not. This winter, join Timothy and the residents for a study of creation accounts in Scripture from Genesis to John. This study will look at Scripture through the lens of ecotheology and consider what creation has to say about the Creator. Timothy will lead the first session on Jan. 7.

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