

benedictio: a good word



June 29-July 4, 2026



We often think of a benediction as the final moment of a worship service—a parting blessing as we prepare to leave. But the word comes from the Latin *benedictio*, meaning “a good word.” At its core, a benediction is about speaking goodness over what comes next.

In Genesis 1, a steady refrain echoes through the creation story: “and it was good.” Those words ground us in the simple, powerful truth that goodness lies at the heart of everything God made.

And yet, so much of our attention today settles on what is wrong—what is broken, corrupted, or evil. Why does that feel like the louder story?

Perhaps we need to be reminded that goodness is the original word spoken over creation. Brokenness is not the starting point; it is a distortion of what was first made good. Maybe, more than anything, we simply need to hear that good word again.

This summer at camp, we want to reimagine the benediction. What if it’s not just a conclusion, but a beginning—a good word that sends us out to live differently, to see differently, and to carry that goodness with us into whatever comes next?



FAQ

How much does a week of camp cost?

The cost of camp this year is \$525. This covers meals, lodging, activities, transportation, and a fantastic t-shirt.

Is there a sign-up deadline?

Yes. We would love to have everyone signed up and paid in full by June 24. However, don't feel like you need to wait that long to register. The earlier you sign up the easier it is for us to make our plans, so help us out and sign up sooner rather than later.

How does the lodging work?

Youth will stay in cabins that are assigned by grade, so they will be staying with people that are their own age.

How are you getting to Ferncliff?

As is our usual custom we will be traveling by buses. It should take about 6 hours to get there from Dallas.

Are scholarships available?

Yes. We never want money concerns to keep any youth from attending youth camp. If you would like more information about scholarships please contact Darren (ddement@wilshirebc.org).

Are guests welcome?

Absolutely! Guests are always welcomed to any of our events. Youth Camp would be a great way to introduce someone new to the WSM.

Camp is a time when everyone in WSM can let go of the stress and busyness of normal life to completely focus on being together. Spending significant, intentional time with this group of people that I love is so special and so important to my relationships and my growth as a person—not to mention that it's a ton of fun. I've made so many lifelong memories at camps throughout the years!

**-Miriam McClung,
12th grade**





What does a day of camp look like?

- 7:15 a.m. - wake up/sunshine show/
cabin cleanup
- 8:00 a.m. - breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. - morning prayers
- 9:45 a.m. - family group bible study
- 11:00 a.m. - morning worship
- 12:00 p.m. - lunch
- 1:00 p.m. - free time
- 5:00 p.m. - clean up/shower/etc.
- 6:00 p.m. - dinner
- 7:00 p.m. - worship
- 9:00 p.m. - evening event (games, talent
show, dance, etc.)
- 11:15 p.m. - evening vespers
- 11:30 p.m. - in cabins/lights out

Camp Pastor



We are excited that Georgia McKee will join us as our camp pastor this summer. Georgia is certainly no stranger to Wilshire as she recently

completed her pastoral residency with us. She is now serving as the Associate Pastor at Glencoe Union Church in Chicago. Georgia is married to Sophia and they have 2 dogs, Goose and Dolly!

Ferncliff...our home away from home

Ferncliff has been hosting WSM Youth Camp since 2021, and we couldn't be more excited to return. Over the years, we've built a great partnership and created countless meaningful memories together. They continually look for ways to enhance our experience and make each event unique—including the opening of a brand-new dining hall this summer. We're looking forward to another unforgettable year.

Camp is such a phenomenal experience that everyone in the Wilshire Student Ministry should have a chance to enjoy.

- Crosby Cole 8th grade

WSM YOUTH CAMP

How do I sign up?

At Wilshire we have completely moved to online registration for special events. All you need to do is go to www.wilshirebc.org/events and search Youth Camp 2026 to register and pay with a credit card. You have the option of paying in full when you register or you can make a partial payment. If you choose to pay in installments, you will simply need to log back into the registration page to pay the remainder of your balance. All participants need to be paid in full by June 24.



"I love being surrounded by the youth! Sitting in a cabin together all close and laughing and giggling about our day brings me so much joy.

- Ananda Henry, 10th grade