



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**March 15, 2026**  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

# Preparing for worship

Lent is a time of waiting, but it is also a time of preparation. We must get ready. Seeds are growing, and plants are peeking out from underground. Are you listening? Can you hear God speaking in the stillness and the quiet? I wonder what God is trying to tell us in this season.

In one of today's Scripture readings, the Lord tells Samuel to go to Jesse the Bethlehemite to find a new king. Samuel was listening and obeyed the Lord. He went and invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice to sanctify themselves. Seven of Jesse's sons presented themselves to Samuel, but the Lord rejected all of them. Even though they were handsome, tall and youthful, the Lord looked at their heart.

I wonder what God sees when looking at my heart. Does God see kindness or anger, forgiveness or bitterness, generosity or selfishness?

Waiting is hard. It seems we are always waiting for something or someone — for Christmas, for Easter, vacation, a new job, summer, a promotion. I always get impatient when I need to wait for someone. What about you? It's easy to forget to slow down and be patient. We must learn to wait on God's timing.

Samuel asked Jesse if there was another son after the Lord had rejected the others. When Jesse replied that the youngest son was tending

the sheep, Samuel asked Jesse to bring him into the house. The Lord told Samuel this was the one who should be anointed as king. Samuel waited on God's timing because he knew that what God had planned was better than anything he could imagine or create.

When I started as Wilshire's minister to preschoolers, I knew we needed to create a safe space for our neurodivergent children. As we remodeled the preschool area, I knew where to put the space, but it just did not come together like I wanted it to.

Someone suggested I find a young person looking for an Eagle Scout project. Fast forward one year, and that suggestion has come to fruition. We're beginning work on a sensory room, a place where children can go to calm down, get their bodies regulated and deescalate behaviors.

I had to wait on God's timing to put the right people in the right place at the right time. The waiting was hard and sometimes frustrating, but God has given me more than I ever asked for. It is wonderful when things come together in God's timing.

Lord, help us to be patient in the waiting. Help us make room in our hearts for your timing and blessings. Amen.

—Kelly Akins



**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:** *Breaking*, Judith Tutin, 2011, diptych at St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, County Wexford, Ireland. Used by permission. [judithtutinart.com](http://judithtutinart.com)

March 15, 2026  
11:00 a.m.  
Fourth Sunday in Lent

**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**

Carolyn Murray

**Prelude**

*Tierce en Taille*

Jean-Adam Guilain

**Baptism** — Owen Reavis

Timothy Peoples

**+Congregational Song**

*He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought*  
No. 68

HE LEADETH ME

**+Call to Worship**

Margie Lynn

One: When the night feels long and the shadows stretch wide,  
when grief and fear whisper that the darkness will win —

**All: We remember the light that cannot be extinguished.**

One: The light of Christ that walks into wounded places.

**All: The light of Love that refuses to be extinguished.**

One: The light that calls us beyond despair into possibility.  
In every act of justice, the light flickers.

**All: In every gesture of mercy, the light grows.**

One: In every courageous truth spoken in love, the dawn begins.

**All: A dawn to which we turn in hope.**

One: We bring our doubts and our dreams.  
We bring our weariness and our longing.  
We bring our small flames, trusting they are enough.  
A hopeful light that no darkness can overcome.

**All: May the light within and around us  
guide our worship,  
ignite our hearts,  
and send us forth to brighten the world.**

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

**He leadeth me, he leadeth me,  
By his own hand he leadeth me,  
His faithful follower I would be,  
For by his hand he leadeth me.**

**Epistle Reading** — Ephesians 5:8-14

Jen Lovejoy

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. Therefore, test everything to see what's pleasing to the Lord, and don't participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. It's embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. Everything that is revealed by the light is light. Therefore, it says, *Wake up, sleeper! Get up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*

**Offertory***We Walk by Faith*

arr. Raymond H. Haan

**+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures** — 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Mike McCullough

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and

brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

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**

*Precious Lord, Take My Hand*  
No. 400

PRECIOUS LORD

**Message**

“How’s Your Heart?”

Timothy Peoples

**Anthem**

*Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land*  
Sanctuary Choir

Glenn Edward Burleigh

Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.  
Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.

I would not be a sinner. I’ll tell you the reason why:  
I’m afraid my Lord might call my name, and I wouldn’t be ready to die.

I would not be a back slider. I’ll tell you the reason why:  
I’m afraid my Lord might call my name, and I wouldn’t be ready to die.

He is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm.

Has he ever made a way, when you didn’t have a dime?  
Has he ever stepped in just right on time?  
Has he ever picked you up when you were down?  
Has he ever placed your feet on solid ground?

Then you know he is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land.  
Then you know he is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in a time of storm.

**Prayers of the People**

Katie Murray

**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**

*Lead Me, Guide Me*  
No. 403

LEAD ME, GUIDE ME

**Sharing of Decisions**

Timothy Peoples

**Benediction**

Timothy Peoples

**Postlude**

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

Today's flower dedications:

In memory of Bill Sholar by Gail, Steve, Andy, Jessica and Callum Brookshire.

In memory of Sarah and Ray Campbell and in honor of their grandson Owen Reavis  
and all others navigating life with neurological injury and disease.

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Jen Lovejoy** joined Wilshire in 2023 with her two sons, Charles, a fifth grader, and William, a third grader. Jen attends Odyssey Class, serves on the Children's Education Committee and the Hospitality Team and volunteers for Vacation Bible School and creative arts camp. She is a teacher at The Winston School.

**Margie Lynn** joined Wilshire in 2020. She directs Discovery Class, teaches KidConnect, volunteers with Vacation Bible School, serves on the Funeral Ministry Team and is part of Wilshire's group that serves at the Stewpot. Margie is retired from a 40-year career in tax prep and accounting. She has one daughter, Lauren, and is a cousin to Wilshire member Matt Mosley.

**Mike McCullough** and his wife, Terry, became members of Wilshire in November 2024. Mike serves as a deacon, and he and Terry are members of Journey Class. They are parents to three adult children: Mac, 29, Cyrus, 27, and Maggie, 24. Mike is an attorney who maintains a full-time mediation practice.

**Carolyn Murray** grew up at Wilshire. Her parents are Bob and Charlene Law. Carolyn is mother to an adult son, Mason, who lives in Australia, and Lucy Kate, a junior at Santa Clara University. As Wilshire's coordinator of congregational life, Carolyn works to welcome guests and engage members in the life of the church. She directs Journey Class and serves as staff liaison to MomCo and the Committee on Committees.



**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)
- 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)
- 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



News & Announcements  
March 15, 2026



## Family Lenten Experience Palm Sunday, March 29

Join us in traveling the path of Jesus during his last week on earth in this interactive event. We'll create and wave palm branches, taste the Passover meal, visit the Garden of Gethsemane and join in other engaging experiences by visiting five stations in small groups.

This event in Community Hall is open to everyone from 9 to 9:30 a.m. with one group starting at 9 and another group at 9:15. Sign up for a time via the QR code or [wilshirebc.org/events/road-to-resurrection](http://wilshirebc.org/events/road-to-resurrection).

Older preschoolers through 5th graders will participate during Sunday School.



**Sign up to enter  
at 9 or 9:15 a.m.**

*Older preschoolers and K-5  
classes will visit during  
Sunday School.*

## New member

Owen Reavis

## No Wednesday events this week

■ **Wednesday Night Live** will not be held March 18 due to Spring Break. Sanctuary Choir will rehearse. Koinonia Café and faith formation programs will resume March 25.

■ **Lunch & Learn** will next meet on April 1. Generally held the first and third Wednesdays every month, Lunch & Learn features a buffet lunch (\$10) followed by Bible study.

## Order Easter lilies by March 29

You are invited to provide Easter lilies for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of family members or friends. Dedications will be listed in the worship folder on Easter. Each plant costs \$20. Order in the office or at [wilshirebc.org/easter-lilies](http://wilshirebc.org/easter-lilies) by March 29.

## Team serving in Puerto Rico

A Wilshire group traveled Friday to San Juan, Puerto Rico, to spend a week serving with First Baptist Rio Piedras. Their work will involve engaging with local college and community ministries and preparing the church building for the installation of a new pastor. This is Wilshire's fourth straight annual trip to Puerto Rico. Team members are Dorrell Brown, Steven Hallman, Jordann McMahan, Nick McQuillan, Heather Mustain and Ross Prater.



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

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS



**Friday, April 10 | 6:30–8 p.m.** | Get ready for our 75th anniversary with this fun evening of Wilshire trivia in Community Hall (formerly called the Fellowship Hall, don'tcha know). Associate Pastor Darren DeMent will be our emcee, and all skill levels are welcome.

■ Childcare will be available. Sign up at [wilshirebc.org/events/trivia-and-tacos](http://wilshirebc.org/events/trivia-and-tacos).

### 75 Minutes of Service

**Saturday, April 25 | 8:30–10:30 a.m.** | Save the date and join us for an hour or two of beautifying our campus as we look forward to our 75th anniversary weekend. There will be coffee and donuts, of course! Project coordinators are needed. Visit [wilshirebc.org/75](http://wilshirebc.org/75) to find the SignUpGenius link.

## Sign up for March 18 Blood Drive



Carter BloodCare will hold a blood drive at Wilshire from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18. There is a critical need for several blood types, including A+, A-, O+, O- and B-. To make an appointment, visit [wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive](http://wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive) or scan the QR code.

## Life Line Screenings March 18

Life Line Screenings will screen for stroke and cardiovascular disease risks at Wilshire on Wednesday, March 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 [lsa.social/habc](http://lsa.social/habc).

## Not too late to support Youth Choir

There's still time to bid on remaining items and sign-and-go events from the recent Spaghetti Lunch and Silent Auction. Stop by the South Atrium to place your bids. Proceeds benefit the Youth Choir's summer trip to Kansas City.

■ **Art auction:** You can also support Youth Choir tour by bidding on artwork donated by Wilshire member Larry Harrington, currently on display in the South Lobby. Bidding on the art will be open through April 5.

## Hines baby shower on March 28

The Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines invites you to a baby shower to celebrate Amanda, her husband, Chris, and the upcoming birth of their son. Please join us on Saturday, March 28, from 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Parlor for a come-and-go time of fellowship with snacks and Houndstooth Coffee. Amanda and Chris are registered at [my.babylist.com/hines\\_baby](http://my.babylist.com/hines_baby).

# Speaker named for June 14 anniversary worship service

**REV. KELLY BROWN DOUGLAS** will preach at Wilshire's 75th-anniversary worship service on Sunday, June 14.



Douglas is canon theologian at Washington National Cathedral and is currently a visiting professor at Harvard Divinity School. Her academic work has focused on womanist theology, racial justice issues and sexuality and the Black church, and her current research involves expanding the moral imagination in fostering a more just future.

Douglas's book *Resurrection Hope: A Future Where Black Lives Matter* won the 2023 Grawemeyer Award for religion writing.

From 2017 to 2023, Douglas was dean of the Episcopal Divinity School and professor of theology at Union Seminary in New York.

## Pulpit guests to reflect on 75th

The preachers who will cover for Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples during his sabbatical are all friends of Wilshire and have been invited to reflect on our 75th anniversary.

■ **April 26:** Rabbi David Stern, senior rabbi, Temple Emanu-El, Dallas

■ **May 3:** Pam Durso, president, Central Seminary, Overland Park, Kansas

■ **May 10:** Meredith Stone, executive director, Baptist Women in Ministry

■ **May 17:** Greg Garrett, professor of literature and culture, Baylor University

■ **May 24:** George Mason, senior pastor emeritus at Wilshire



## Wilshire's 75th Anniversary Weekend

### Saturday, June 13

#### Homecoming Celebration

■ **4:45-7:30 p.m.** | Catch up with friends, explore the building and browse history displays at featured stops, with reflections and remembrances in the Sanctuary at 6.

■ **7-10 p.m.** | Extended fellowship at Times Ten Cellars. 6324 Prospect Ave.

### Sunday, June 14

#### Worship Celebration

■ **11 a.m.** | Our 75-minute service in the Sanctuary will include a message by Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas.



To see how you can be involved in our big celebration, scan the QR code or visit [wilshirebc.org/75](http://wilshirebc.org/75) for the link to our SignUpGenius.

# ROOTED

## Remembering Who and Whose You Are

LENT 2026 / WILSHIRE BAPTIST CHURCH

**T**HESE DAYS, it's easy to feel unsure about things we once knew or felt confident about. Uncertainty shapes our days, leaving us to question our relationships, our faith, and even our sense of self. We may feel adrift, searching for steady ground.

In moments like these, it is good to become rooted again in truths that do not waver — to remember the steady presence that carries us when everything feels unsettled. In that remembering, we find our footing and our rest. We are held, and we are not alone.

[wilshirebc.org/lent](http://wilshirebc.org/lent)

### Lenten book focus

All are invited to read along as we study *An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story* by Rachel Billups. Many Sunday School classes are using the book, but it is also appropriate for individual study. The book is available at Amazon and other sellers.

### Lenten playlist

Our eclectic Lenten playlist is available on the digital music service Spotify. For the best experience, listen to the playlist in order. Visit [wilshirebc.org/lent](http://wilshirebc.org/lent) to find the link or search for “Rooted - Wilshire Lent 2026.”

### Good Friday Tenebrae Service

**April 3 | 7 p.m. | Sanctuary** | At the heart of Holy Week lies Good Friday, a day we set apart to stop, remember and be present to what Christ bore for our sake. We invite you to observe it with us through the ancient service of



Tenebrae, in which candles are extinguished gradually as we keep watch together through the gathering darkness and the silence of the tomb. Sanctuary Choir will present excerpts from Fauré's *Requiem* woven throughout the service with anthems and hymns. Joining the choir as soloist will be **Lwazi Dlamini**, baritone with the Dallas Opera, whose voice has graced stages across South Africa and the United States. Come, keep watch and pray.

■ Preschool childcare will be offered; sign up at [wilshirebc.org/events/good-friday-service](http://wilshirebc.org/events/good-friday-service).

### Easter Sunday | April 5

■ Sunrise Service, White Rock Lake, 6:45 a.m.

■ Columbarium Service, 9:45 a.m.

■ Sanctuary Worship, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

(Our 9 a.m. McIver Chapel service will not meet on Easter Sunday.)

## Wilshire seeks summer interns

Wilshire invites college students to apply for 2026 summer internships in these areas: children's ministry, preschool ministry and children's music. Contact Charlie Fuller, director of Pathways to Ministry, for application instructions.

## Adventurers to DMA

The Adventurers will explore the Dallas Museum of Art and enjoy lunch at the museum's café on Thursday, March 26. We'll enter at 11 a.m. Admission is free for the DMA's standard exhibits. Lunch and tickets to special exhibits are up to you. Adventurers is a fellowship group for anyone 60 and above. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/dma](http://wilshirebc.org/events/dma).

## Marriage Connections is April 10

Marriage Connections will be held Friday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. Free childcare (infant-grade 5) will be provided while parents enjoy a short program and then have the rest of the night to themselves. Registration is required for childcare and closes April 5. Visit [wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections](http://wilshirebc.org/events/marriage-connections).

■ The same childcare is available to single, adoptive and foster parents. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/pno](http://wilshirebc.org/events/pno) by April 5.

## Men's Book Club

Tuesday, March. 17 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *The Challenge of Acts* by N.T. Wright. Contact: Scott Spreier ([swspreier@gmail.com](mailto:swspreier@gmail.com)) or Mike Meripolski ([meripolski@att.net](mailto:meripolski@att.net))

## Women of Wilshire book clubs

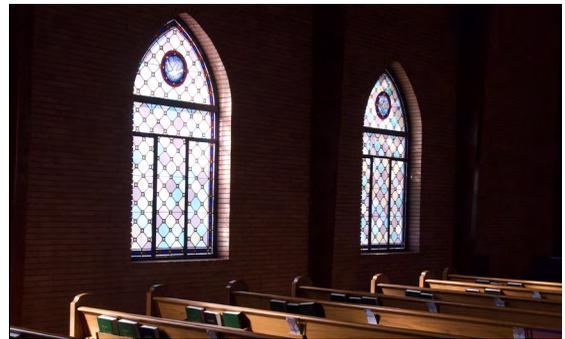
■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, April 12 | Noon | 1205-L | *Welcome to Murder Week* by Karen Dukess. Contact: Carolyn Murray ([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | April 14 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* by Muriel Barbery. Contact: Debby Burton ([debbyb0929@gmail.com](mailto:debbyb0929@gmail.com))



2026  
**Summer**  
CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

Camps are starting to fill up! Find all the details and registration links at [WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS](http://WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS)



## Contemplative Worship

9 a.m. Weekly | Mclver Chapel



Childcare available for preschoolers

# benedictio: a good word



**WSM  
Youth Camp**  
June 29–July 4  
Ferncliff Camp  
Little Rock

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

Crosby Cole, 8th grade

**W**E OFTEN THINK of a benediction as the final moment of a worship service — a blessing as we depart. But the term comes from the Latin *benedictio*, meaning “a good word.” At its core, a benediction is about speaking goodness over what comes next.

In Genesis, a steady refrain echoes through the creation story: “and it was good.” Those words ground us in the 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.

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 we simply need to hear that good word again.

At camp this summer, 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 and see differently and to carry that goodness with us into whatever comes next?

## **Camp Pastor**

We are excited that **Georgia McKee** will be our camp pastor this year. Georgia is no stranger to Wilshire; she recently completed her pastoral residency with us and now serves as Associate Pastor at Glencoe Union Church near Chicago. Georgia is married to Sophia, and they have two dogs, Goose and Dolly.



**Registration:**  
[wilshirebc.org/  
events/youth-  
camp-2026](http://wilshirebc.org/events/youth-camp-2026)

# Sandra Watson

**Name:** Sandra Watson

**Hometown:** St. Louis and Little Rock

**Profession:** Real Estate Agent

## **Tell us about your family.**

My husband of 62 years, Dewey Watson, and I are blessed with three children, terrific in-laws, and six grandchildren who are my heart. They make my life rich.

## **How about your work or volunteer life?**

Over the years, I've had the privilege of teaching parenting classes in Arkansas prisons, leading art classes at the juvenile detention center, and serving at a local food pantry.

## **Any favorite hobbies?**

Mahjong Monday is my favorite day of the week. I love to read and enjoy being part of a book club. I'm currently reading a fun book I'd recommend: *Storied & Scandalous St. Louis: A History of Breweries, Baseball, Prejudice, and Protest*.

## **What are your favorite places to travel?**

My favorite place to travel is the state of Washington, where our youngest son, his wonderful wife and two incredible grandchildren live. Their household is one crazy adventure after another. The town of North Bend is surrounded by majestic mountains and towering trees, and the scenery feels like God's cathedral.

## **What brought you to Wilshire and when?**

Our oldest son and sweet daughter-in-law recommended Wilshire. From the beginning,



we felt welcomed and included in a church family where love for God, one another and our neighbors is foundational.

## **Where are you engaged at Wilshire?**

We are members of the Compass Class and New Song Community Choir, and we volunteer with Friday Friends.

## **What do you think God is up to in your life right now?**

I'm not completely sure, but I know I'm in a season of transition. While I haven't yet found my specific ministry, I trust that God is preparing to open the right door.

## **Tell us about your faith journey.**

Like many young people, I began my faith journey at Vacation Bible School at age 12. At 17, I attended a Youth for Christ conference in Chicago, where I heard Billy Graham speak. His words ignited a spark in my heart and helped me begin a personal relationship with God as my father.

## **What is something interesting about you most people would not know?**

How interesting can an 81 year-old woman be? Probably not much — but I keep showing up anyway.

# 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.

# *This Week*

## **Sunday, March 15**

- Puerto Rico Mission Trip, through March 20
- Worship, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

## **Tuesday, March 17**

- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6 p.m.

## **Wednesday, March 18**

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Blood Drive, North Parking Lot, 10 a.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

## **Thursday, March 19**

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

## **Sunday, March 22**

- Worship, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2223, noon
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Adventurers Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Education Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Library Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Missions & Advocacy Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Personnel Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Risk Management Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

## **Monday, March 23**

- Deacons Meeting, Community Hall, 6:30 p.m.