



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

April 26, 2026
Fourth Sunday of Easter

Preparing for worship

The evening before our president's threatened annihilation of Iran, I, like many, experienced a level of fear and anger I'd seldom felt before. It brought back my childhood Cold War fears of fiery nuclear annihilation on earth, then burning forevermore in hell.

Although my beliefs thankfully have matured since then, I still felt a deep sense of anxiety, revulsion — even guilt. How had we, a so-called “Christian” nation, let a crazy old biblically illiterate wannabe king and his equally mad Secretary of War start an immoral and unconscionable modern-day crusade, threatening to destroy a Muslim nation?

Overwhelmed, I put a leash on Shiner, and we went for an evening walk. As darkness fell, I sat down on a bench overlooking White Rock Creek. Too distracted to pray or listen for that “still, small voice,” I did what any good Wilshireite would do: I pulled out my iPhone. But instead of checking my messages, I opened Merlin, my bird identifier app.

Within seconds I found myself serenaded by a heavenly choir of winged creatures. Merlin explained that I was listening to cardinals, northern mockingbirds, Carolina wrens, tufted titmice, even an American barn owl, who hooted solemnly in a beautiful bass voice.

Within minutes my mood lifted. If my feath-

ered friends could joyfully sing as darkness fell, so could I. There was hope to be had and work to be done.

My faith had been restored. Not necessarily my faith in religion, which too often assumes a rule-bound, clannish, clubby culture, degrading and demonizing others.

No. It's my faith in our creator, a “he, she or they” — I don't care which — who loves us and cares for us, but who also, as today's Scripture points out, expects us to do our part, starting by loving our neighbors as ourselves.

As we worship today, let us release our anger and hate, our worry and sense of helplessness. Let us lean into the love of our faith community. Let us bathe in the beauty of the choir and listen carefully to the wise words of Rabbi Stern. Let us pray not only for healing and peace, but also for our world's leaders, including — hard as it may be — for our own.

Let us leave today with love in our hearts, confidence in our faith and renewed purpose in our lives. Then, as the sun sets, take a long walk with your dog and listen to the soul-restoring evensong of our feathered friends.

Go in peace and rest well, for tomorrow our heavy lifting begins anew.

—Scott Spreier



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: *Profit by the Blood*, Anna Strickland, digital painting inspired by Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18.

April 26, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Sarah Stafford

Prelude

To God Be the Glory
Carillon Ringers
Ralph Manuel, director

arr. Lloyd Larson

+Congregational Song

O Worship the King
No. 52
Stanzas 1–3

LYONS

+Call to Worship

Ariel Merivil

One: In a world filled with striking beauty and profound pain

All: We gather together as people with hope.

One: The scriptures assure us:

All: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases

One: The Lord's mercies never come to an end

All: They are new every morning

One: Let us worship the Lord as we proclaim

All: Great is your faithfulness!

—Inspired by Lamentations 3:21–23

+Response in Song

O Worship the King

LYONS

**Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail:
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.**

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

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;
 do not let me ever be put to shame;
 in your righteousness deliver me.
 Incline your ear to me;
 rescue me speedily.
 Be a rock of refuge for me,
 a strong fortress to save me.
 You are indeed my rock and my fortress;
 for your name's sake lead me
 and guide me;

take me out of the net that is hidden for me,
 for you are my refuge.
 Into your hand I commit my spirit;
 you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.
 ...
 My times are in your hand;
 deliver me from the hand of my
 enemies and persecutors.
 Let your face shine upon your servant;
 save me in your steadfast love.

Offertory

The Gift of Love
 Carillon Ringers

arr. Valerie W. Stephenson

+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Leviticus 19:1–18

Abbey Adcox

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. You shall each revere your mother and father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God. Do not turn to idols or make cast images for yourselves: I am the LORD your God. When you offer a sacrifice of well-being to the LORD, offer it in such a way that it is acceptable on your behalf. It shall be eaten on the same day you offer it or on the next day, and anything left over until the third day shall be consumed in fire. If any of it is eaten on the third day, it is an abomination; it will not be acceptable. All who eat it shall be subject to punishment, because they have profaned what is holy to the LORD, and any such person shall be cut off from the people. When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the LORD your God. You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the LORD. You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD. You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am 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!

Meet today's worship leaders

Betty Ackerman joined Wilshire in 2018. She is a member of the Adventurers Committee and Compass Class, which she serves as benevolence coordinator. Betty also sings in New Song Community Choir and participates with the interfaith group Daughters of Abraham. She retired in 2020 after a long career in education, first as a teacher and later as a consultant. Betty has one adult son.

Abbey Adcox and her husband, Chris, joined Wilshire in 1999 and are parents to three young adults, Carter, Camryn and Collin. Abbey attends Journey 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.

Sarah Stafford and her husband, Allan, joined Wilshire in 2005 and attend Compass Class. From 2005 to 2018, Sarah was Wilshire's associate minister of music, leading children's music, directing handbells and starting New Song, a senior adult choir. Sarah still directs New Song, which is now an independent community choir with singers from many churches and denominations. She and Allan have two adult children and five grandchildren.

Rabbi David Stern is senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El in Dallas. He joined Temple Emanu-El in 1989, serving as assistant and then associate rabbi before becoming senior rabbi in 1996. Rabbi Stern attended Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, receiving his rabbinical ordination in 1989, an M.A. in Jewish education in 1988 and an M.A. in Hebrew letters in 1986. He also holds a B.A. in English from Dartmouth College. From 2017 to 2019, Rabbi Stern served as president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. His commentaries have appeared in *HuffPost* and *Haaretz*, his poetry has been published in the *CCAR Journal* and he has contributed essays to four volumes on Jewish liturgy. Rabbi Stern is married to Rabbi Nancy Kasten, and they have three children. A longtime friend of Wilshire, Rabbi Stern preached here in 2014 on the occasion of George Mason's 25th anniversary as pastor.



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
April 26, 2026

Stern + Mason In Conversation



Dialogue over lunch today with Rabbi Stern and George Mason

Rabbi David Stern of Temple Emanu-El, today's guest preacher, will be featured in conversation with George Mason, Wilshire's senior pastor emeritus, over lunch in Community Hall. A longtime friend of Wilshire and George, Rabbi Stern preached here in 2014 during George's 25th anniversary celebration.

■ Lunch is free while supplies last. Priority will be given to those who registered in advance.



A CHORAL
AND HANDBELL
VESPERS

Sing and Ring Our Song of Praise



Today | 4:30 p.m. | Sanctuary

Vespers features Wilshire, Northridge Pres, LHUMC

Sing and Ring Our Song of Praise: A Choral and Handbell Vespers will be held today at 4:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Join us for an evening of music and community as the handbell and sanctuary choirs of Northridge Presbyterian, Lake Highlands United Methodist and Wilshire come together to offer praise in song and sound. The congregation will also be invited to raise their voices in a community hymn sing. This event will not be livestreamed.



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 member

Randy Kennedy

Timothy on sabbatical

Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples is on sabbatical through May 26. If you have emergency pastoral care needs during this time, contact Katie Murray (kmurray@wilshirebc.org). Timothy's assistant, Chelsea Hopkins (chopkins@wilshirebc.org), can help with any other matter.

Pam Durso preaches next Sunday



Pam Durso, president of Central Seminary in Overland Park, Kansas, will preach for the 11 a.m. service on May 3. Before joining Central in 2020, Durso spent 11 years as executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry. An expert on Baptist history, Durso is the author or editor of 10 books and has taught at Campbell University Divinity School and McAfee School of Theology. Other guest preachers during Timothy's sabbatical will be:

■ **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

Graduate info needed by May 10

Wilshire will recognize 2026 high school graduates in worship on May 17; their photos will be printed in the worship folder along with those of church members who received a bachelor's degree from June 2025 to May 2026. To be included, email Carole McClung (cmclung@wilshirebc.org) with the student's name, school name, future plans and a photo by May 10. For college grads, submit a photo plus the college name and degree or major.

Wilshire Library

73rd Anniversary Celebration & Dedication



Library event next Sunday, May 3

Wilshire's Library will mark its 73rd anniversary and dedicate its renovated space with an event on Sunday, May 3. "The Library opened two years after the church started, and it's very rare that a church library this old still exists and is as vibrant and utilized as ours," said Librarian Barbara Peterson. "We recently completed a major renovation with shelving donated by Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas. We thought it appropriate to celebrate on May 3 when Pam Durso, president of the seminary, is here to preach." After 11 a.m. worship, all are invited to James Gallery for cake and a brief dedication. The Library will be open during the event.

Save the date for church picnic

Wilshire in the Park, our annual churchwide picnic, will be held Sunday, May 17, from 5 to 7 p.m. at Flag Pole Hill. The church will provide fried chicken, rolls and drinks. The rest of the meal is potluck by last name: A-F, salad; G-M, dessert; N-S, fruit; T-Z, veggies. Volunteers are needed, and we could use a truck or two. Sign up to help at wilshirebc.org/events/picnic.

Sharing Sacred Spaces site visit



Wilshire is participating in a local interfaith cohort through the national organization Sharing Sacred Spaces. The mission of SSS is to overcome bias, misunderstanding and polarization

through immersive education and training that makes vivid our common humanity. Participating faith communities are invited to host the cohort and other guests for a meal and a discussion of the history and architecture of their sacred space. Wilshire will host on Tuesday, May 12, from 6 to 9 p.m. Cohort member David Giles said, "Please join me in welcoming and witnessing our Baptist Christian faith. I've learned so much visiting other sacred spaces and can't wait to share our space and a wonderful meal as we learn and love each other with God's perfect love."

■ Register to attend at sharingsacredspaces.org/events.

■ Associate Pastor Heather Mustain is looking for 10 volunteers to help with hospitality. Contact Heather at hmustain@wilshirebc.org.

Next Lunch & Learn is May 6

Everyone is invited to Community Hall the first and third Wednesdays every month at 11:30 a.m. for lunch (\$10) and Bible study. No registration or RSVP necessary.

Wilshire Welcome is May 17

Wilshire Welcome, a one-hour session to help guests and new members learn about the church, will next meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday, May 17, in the Prayer Room near McIver Chapel. No RSVP necessary. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Serve with our mission partners

To see ways you can serve alongside other Wilshire members with one of our mission or advocacy partners, visit wilshirebc.org/serve.

Shirt and hat sales

Our new 75th Anniversary T-shirts and baseball caps will be for sale this Sunday near the church office. Adult and youth shirts, \$15; toddler sizes, \$10; caps, \$20. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

Women of Wilshire book clubs

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, May 7 | Noon | 1205-L | *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | May 12 | 6:30 p.m. | Parlor | *American Gospel: God, the Founding Fathers, and the Making of a Nation* by Jon Meacham. Contact: Debby Burton (debbyb0929@gmail.com)

Men's Book Club

Tuesday, May 19 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith and Fractured a Nation* by Kristin Kobes Du Mez. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

Kitchen hiring for three roles

The Wilshire kitchen is seeking applicants for three roles. Find the full job descriptions at wilshirebc.org/employment and send resumes to Holly Irvin at hirvin@wilshirebc.org.

■ **Sous Chef (full-time)**: Second in command in the kitchen, the sous chef monitors ingredients for cooking, monitors inventories, ensures food quality and consistency and cleans and sanitizes food prep areas.

■ **Prep Cook (part-time)**: The prep cook prepares ingredients for cooking, monitors inventories, ensures food quality and consistency and cleans and sanitizes food prep areas.

■ **Steward (part-time)**: The steward cleans and organizes, monitors inventory of chemicals, ensures food setups are accurate, cleans and sanitizes food prep areas and assists with coffee preparation and event setups.



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 a time for reflections and remembrances in the Sanctuary at 6.

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

Sunday, June 14

Worship Celebration

■ **11 a.m.** | Our special 75-minute worship service in the Sanctuary will include a message by **Rev. Kelly Brown Douglas**, canon theologian at Washington National Cathedral and a visiting professor at Harvard Divinity School.

Your voice wanted!

- *What's something Wilshire has taught you to appreciate?*
- *Who have you known the longest at Wilshire?*
- *When was a time you felt loved at Wilshire?*

These are a few of the questions you may get asked by Darren DeMent or others who will be roaming the building looking for congregants to share their thoughts on video. It's all part of our 75th anniversary celebration, and the videos will be edited and shared on our social media platforms. There's no pressure to participate, but we'd love to capture as many of your thoughts as possible.

This Week in Wilshire History

April 24, 2006. Jeff Brummel began as Wilshire's organist.



April 30, 2023. Doug Haney, minister of music and associate pastor, retired after 19 years at Wilshire.



May 1, 1966. With 1,269 in attendance, Wilshire worshipped for the first time in its brand new Sanctuary.



May 1, 2022. George Mason preached his final sermon as Wilshire's senior pastor before retiring from the role in August.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE APRIL 29

Koinonia Café

5 p.m. | James Gallery | Buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit. Prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **April 29:** Tilapia Veracruz, mac and cheese, broccoli, potato and poblano soup, salad, flan, brownies, 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 welcome. No audition.

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



Resident-led Vespers

6 p.m. | McIver Chapel | Join the pastoral residents for the final vespers service before summer break as they explore the topic of Christlike sabbath. Jordann McMahan will preach and lead communion, and we will practice a sabbath examen. This space will allow us to turn our attention to rest, delight and everything in between as we approach a season that will be slower in some ways and busier in others.

May 6 is final WNL this spring

On May 6, the final Wednesday night of the school year, Koinonia Café will be followed at 6 p.m. by a year-end program for Children's Choirs, KidConnect and Preschool Music & Missions.

2026 Summer

CHILDREN & PRESCHOOL

VBS: #KIDSCONNECT

Mon.-Thu., June 15-18, 9 a.m.-noon.

Free. Space remains in K-5th grade classes. Preschool classes are full; preschoolers of VBS volunteers will be accommodated.

KINDERGARTEN & PRESCHOOL CAMP

Mon.-Fri., July 6-10, 9 a.m.-noon

Older preschool through completed Kindergarten. \$50.

LISTEN TO YOUR ART!

Mon.-Fri., July 6-10, 12:30-5 p.m.

Completed grades 1 through 5. \$125.

PASSPORTKIDS! PRETEEN CAMP

Sun.-Wed., July 19-22.

Overnight camp for completed grades 3 through 5. \$450. \$50 nonrefundable deposit guarantees a spot; Register by April 30 and save \$25. Full payment due June 30.

Cooking Camp and the full-day option for Cooking Camp and Listen to Your Art are sold out, and waitlists are closed.

Full details and registration at

WILSHIREBC.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS

Monthly service opportunities

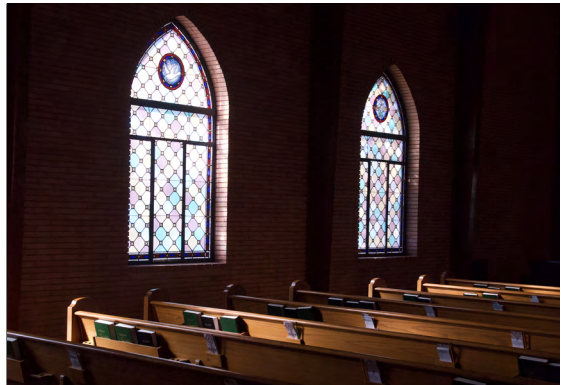
■ A Wilshire group serves the fourth Friday morning each month at the **Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation Mobile Food Pantry**. Contact: Charlie Estee (cesteedallas@gmail.com)

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

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

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.



Contemplative Worship

9 a.m. Weekly | Mclver Chapel



Childcare available for preschoolers

Yvette Medina

Hometown: Hebronville, Texas

Present City: Dallas

Education: B.S. Communications and Education, UT Austin

Profession: Senior Business Process Consultant, Bank Intelligent Automation at USAA

Tell us about your family.

I joined Wilshire in August 2025. I'm married to Yonic, my college sweetheart and a U.S. Marine, and we have two children: Carmen, a young adult, and Mateo, who is 2. Our family has moved often due to military life, which has shaped how we approach home, routines and community. I've learned to be adaptable, practical and intentional about building connection wherever we land. Parenting children at very different stages of life has given me perspective, humility and a deep appreciation for being present for growth in every season of life.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I serve as an inreach coordinator for Wilshire MomCo, supporting moms of preschoolers through prayer requests, meal train coordination and general care when someone needs extra support. MomCo is what first brought me to Wilshire, and it quickly became a meaningful entry point to the church. Outside of Wilshire, I'm involved with the Junior League of Dallas and the Lakewood Early Childhood PTA. Service has always been a practical way for me to learn a new city, meet people and give back.

What are your favorite places to travel?

Our family enjoys traveling, especially trips that



involve the outdoors like beaches and national parks. I enjoy running and have completed several half marathons. I also enjoy reading and CrossFit, both of which help me stay balanced and disciplined in the middle of a busy work and family schedule.

Tell us about your faith journey.

I grew up in the Catholic Church and served as an altar girl. Since marrying Yonic and moving frequently, we've attended a range of churches, including Southern Baptist, Four Square and Charismatic Christian congregations. Those experiences have broadened my understanding of faith and helped me focus less on labels and more on how faith shows up in daily life, relationships and service. I value faith that is lived out consistently and rooted in action.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

Wilshire has become a place where I feel connected and challenged to grow. Yonic and I attend the Ithaca Class, and I'm on the Missions and Christian Advocacy Committee. What stands out most to me is the consistency and generosity of the people here. I'm continuing to learn how to balance being a partner, parent, professional and servant while staying grounded in faith and showing up where I'm needed.

What adjectives best describe you?

Joyful, compassionate, organized, direct.

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.

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.

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.

This Week

Sunday, April 26

- WSM Spring Retreat, Camp Crucis
- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2223, noon
- Dialogue and Lunch with Rabbi David Stern and George Mason, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Choral and Handbell Vespers, Sanctuary, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, April 27

- Adventurers to Dallas Arboretum, 10 a.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29

- New Song, McIver Chapel, 9:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, James Gallery, 5 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- Vespers, McIver Chapel, 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, April 30

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

Sunday, May 3

- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School Leadership Appreciation Breakfast, James Gallery, 9 a.m.
- Preschool SS Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, 1304, 9:15 a.m.
- Children's SS Teacher Appreciation Breakfast, 2223, 9:15 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Youth Choir Snack Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Library Dedication & Celebration, James Gallery, noon
- Preschool Education Committee, 1205-G, noon
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Shekinah, Choral Hall, 1:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

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

WE 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](https://wilshirebc.org/events/youth-camp-2026)