



**Wilshire**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

**June 28, 2026**  
*Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

# Preparing for worship

Sometimes a gesture is so subtle it slips by unnoticed. Handing someone a cup of cold water. No ceremony, no fanfare. Only water and the gentle seeing of someone's thirst.

Jesus points to this moment as the heart of the gospel. A simple act of welcome reveals what truly matters.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends his disciples into places where welcome is uncertain. Before they go, he pauses to name even the smallest act: a cup of cold water given to one of these little ones. The invitation is to notice what unfolds in the ordinary.

Barbara Brown Taylor writes that we live in “a world lit up with holiness.” She says the sacred is not something that appears only now and then but is already threaded through everything: bread and water, a hand on a shoulder, or the face of someone who has traveled far and is thirsty. She is not describing rare experiences for mystics but your Tuesday morning, your crowded waiting room, your neighbor's front porch. The holy is already present in the places

you go and the people you know.

But seeing does not come naturally to us. It is something we practice, and practice requires showing up. She reminds us that paying attention is a spiritual practice. Worship is not only something we offer to God. It also shapes us, helping us notice what we might otherwise miss. Worship trains our eyes to see and welcome.

We gather this morning to return our attention to what matters most. Together, we practice seeing in ways that make welcome possible. We remember that the sacred is not waiting for something dramatic.

This is why we are here. Not to escape the ordinary, but to learn to see it as holy. For the living of these days, we need eyes that notice and hearts that respond. May we be given wisdom to recognize the holy in the ordinary. May we find the courage to act on what we see.

A cup of cold water is no small thing.

It never was.

—Abbey Adcox



**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:** *Abraham and Isaac*, Alissa Kim Tjen, 2016. Used by permission. [alissakimtjen.com](http://alissakimtjen.com).

**June 28, 2026**  
11:00 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

**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**

Trey Wilson

**Prelude**

*Voluntary in F Major*

William Hine

**+Congregational Song**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*  
No. 285  
Stanzas 1-3

CWM RHONDDA

**+Call to Worship**

Mu Lar Hso

One: God of grace and God of glory,

**All: We gather this day to seek your guidance and your strength.**

One: In a world where falsehoods and misinformation spread faster than truth,

**All: Grant us the wisdom to know the difference.**

One: In a world where self interest often crowds out love of neighbor,

**All: Grant us the courage to live differently.**

One: In a world where fears and doubts hold so many back,

**All: May our hope and faith help us move forward.**

One: God of grace and glory,

**All: Equip us now for the living of these days.**

**+Response in Song**

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

CWM RHONDDA

**Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces  
In the fight to set all free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not man nor thee!  
That we fail not man nor thee!**

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

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple — truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

**Offertory**

*If You Will Only Let God Guide You*  
See hymn no. 76 for text

arr. Robert J. Powell

**+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Genesis 22:1-14**

Laurie Diffie

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you.” Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, “Father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them walked on together. When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The LORD will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided.”

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**

“What Is Going On Here?”

Timothy Peoples

**Anthem**

*Near to the Heart of God*  
Sanctuary Choir  
Jeff Brummel, director

Ralph Manuel

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart of God,  
A place where sin cannot molest, near to the heart of God.

There is a place of of comfort sweet, near to the heart of God,  
A place where we our Savior meet, near to the heart of God.

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, sent from the heart of God,  
Hold us who wait before thee near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release, near to the heart of God,  
A place where all is joy and peace, near to the heart of God.

**Prayers of the People**

Heather Mustain

**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**

*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
No. 295

NETTLETON

**Sharing of Decisions**

Timothy Peoples

**Benediction**

Timothy Peoples

**Postlude**

Improvisations on themes from the day

Jeff Brummel

Ralph Manuel, congregational song leader

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of  
Mary Lynne Bright by her son, John Bright.

# Meet today's worship leaders

**Laurie Diffee** grew up at Wilshire. She sings in Sanctuary Choir and Nova, plays in Carillon Ringers and is a Faith in 3D participant. Laurie also serves as chair of the Adventurers Committee, volunteers in the church office on Sundays and is vice chair of deacons this year. Her father, Neal Sanders, is also a Wilshire member. Laurie works as an IT engineer at GuideStone.

**Mu Lar Hso** began attending Wilshire at age 12 with Joannah DeMent and became an active participant in the youth group. Mu Lar officially joined the church in 2025. In 2023, she served as a summer children's intern at Wilshire and became part of Leigh Ann and Kile Brown's family. Her younger brother, Eh Kaw Soe, is now active in Wilshire's youth group. Mu Lar is a rising senior at the University of Texas at Arlington, where she is majoring in early education.

**Evelyn Wilson** grew up at Wilshire and is serving here this summer as an intern in spiritual formation ministries. A 2024 graduate of Lake Highlands High School, she is now a rising junior at the University of Texas at Austin, where she is a social work major. Evelyn's parents are Megan and Trey Wilson, and her two brothers are Davis and Cameron.

**Trey Wilson** joined Wilshire in 2003. He is married to Megan Wilson, and their three kids are Davis, 23, Evelyn, 20, and Cameron, 11. Trey is a deacon, a longtime teacher in youth Sunday School and is teaching a Sunday School class for college students this summer. He is a partner at the law firm Thompson Coe.



**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, submit a prayer request or join Wilshire as a member. 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)
- Charlie Fuller, Coach in Residence (3123)
- 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 McCrae, Director of Finance (3131)

## Food Services

- Diego Arreguin, Steward
- Heather Bruhn, Sous Chef
- Haley Garcia, Food Service Director (3117)
- Tiffany Roberts, 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

- Amanda Hines, Pastoral Resident (3154)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Jordann McMahan, Pastoral Resident (3155)

## 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

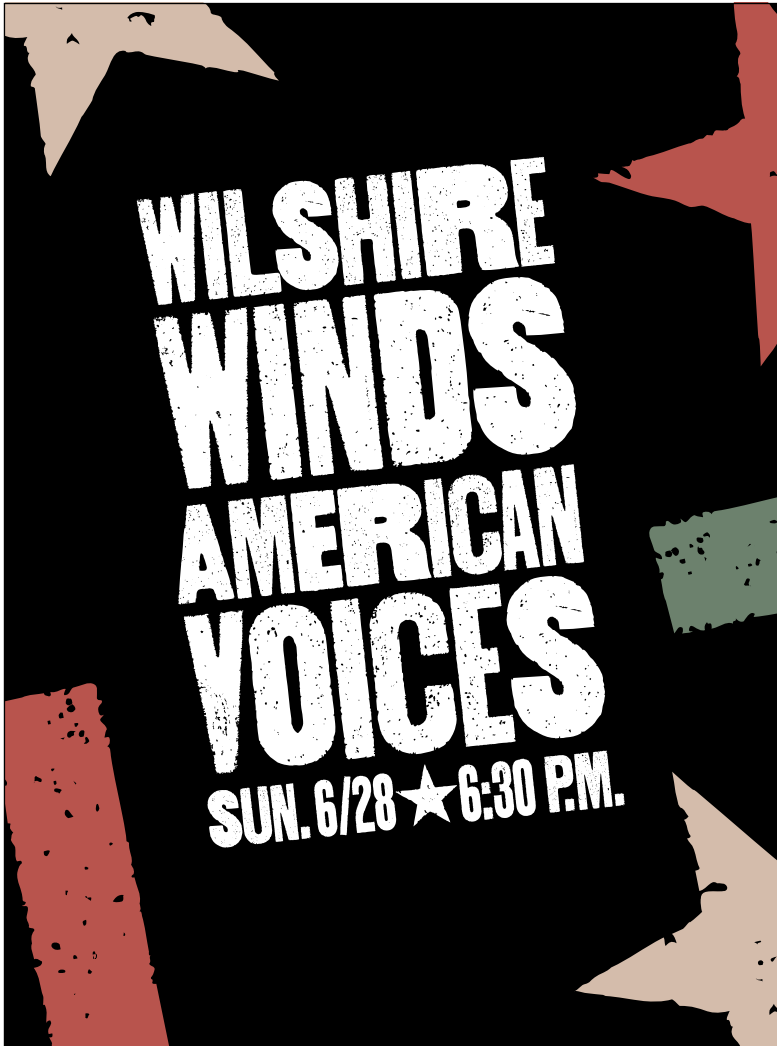


News & Announcements  
June 28, 2026

## Winds concert tonight

WILSHIRE WINDS will present a concert this evening at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. *American Voices* will explore the foundational promise of America through music reflecting the diverse journeys and struggles of its people. Along with a march and a patriotic medley, selections will include familiar tunes like “Shenandoah,” “Just a Closer Walk With Thee” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing,” known as the Black National Anthem. Shana Gaines directs the group of woodwind, brass and percussion players.

- A reception will be held in James Gallery after the program.
- The concert will be live-streamed on our YouTube channel.



**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 member**  
**Rhonda Robinson**

**Congratulations to**  
**Amanda and Chris Hines** on the birth of their son, Griffin Ken, June 22.



**Youth Camp this week**

Wilshire's youth and adult sponsors will depart tomorrow for a week of camp at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas. Pastoral residency alum Georgia McKee, now associate minister at Glencoe Union Church near Chicago, will serve as camp pastor. Keep our group of about 80 students and leaders in your prayers.

**Summer college class**

A summer Sunday School class for college students will meet through Aug. 9 in Room 2202. Trey Wilson is teaching. All college students are welcome, whether they're around all summer or can only pop in a few times.

**Serve with our mission partners**



To see how you can serve alongside other Wilshire members with one of our mission or advocacy partners, scan the QR code or visit [wilshirebc.org/serve](http://wilshirebc.org/serve).



**Passport Kids has space**

There are still a few spots available for completed third through fifth graders to register for Passport Kids preteen camp, set for Sunday, July 19, through Wednesday, July 22. The group will travel by chartered bus to Lake Brownwood Christian Retreat for high-energy worship, interactive Bible study, recreation and missions led by camp staff and Wilshire chaperones. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/preteen-camp](http://wilshirebc.org/events/preteen-camp).

**Save the dates for fall starts**

- Aug. 16 will be Promotion Sunday, when preschoolers, children and youth move to a new class. That same day, worship will include Blessing of the Backpacks.
- Aug. 16 is also the day the 9 a.m. service in McIver Chapel will resume.
- Wednesday evening activities will resume on Aug. 19. More details to come.

**Counseling on-site at Wilshire**

The Center for Integrative Counseling and Psychology provides therapy and psychological assessments for kids, teens and adults. The Center has offices across the Dallas area, including at Wilshire. They take insurance and offer a wide variety of services. Schedule an appointment at [thecentercounseling.org](http://thecentercounseling.org) or by calling 214-526-4525.

# Love of neighbor is a democratic ideal

BY TIMOTHY PEOPLES

RECENTLY I WAS DOING RESEARCH for a sermon on Ephesians 3. The church in Ephesus was begun by Priscilla and Aquila, alongside Paul. These tentmakers and missionaries embodied faithful service. They cared for their community, living into the prophetic calling to be repairers of the breach and restorers of the path. Because of their witness, the *ecclesia* became a powerful voice not just for itself, but for everyone in the community: Jew and Gentile, enslaved and free, all siblings in Christ.

Ephesians is written to remind the ancient congregation of the important work of care; to remind us of what was built in the past and what we are called to continue building into the future.

Today, the *ecclesia* might be questionable, at best, to many. Is the church really being who it said it will be? Is it really living out the call to care for all with no exceptions?

*Ecclesia* doesn't simply mean "church" the way we've reduced it. Many scholars note *ecclesia* refers to a democratic assembly — a gathering of full citizens who come together to decide matters of rights, justice and communal well-being. If this is true, then church is not only about worshiping God, but also about the well-being and dignity of our neighbors.

That means we have work to do. When we neglect justice, mercy and humility, we have not just missed the mark, we've abandoned the covenant itself.

So how do the ideas of *ecclesia* and democratic life intersect? The work of the church as a called assembly is grounded in beliefs that call us to uphold the full dignity and rights of all people. To love our neighbor fully means we move beyond self-centeredness and take on the identity of Christ, an identity rooted in service rather than self-interest.

Too often, we fall into the mindset if some-

thing does not affect us personally, we have no responsibility for it. But the life of Christ challenges that assumption at its core.

It was Abraham Joshua Heschel who wrote, "Any god who is mine but not yours, any god concerned with me but not with you, is an idol." In America, we have seen churches and individuals carve out and whittle away at a god who keeps in mind one group, one culture, one identity. This golden idol, after all, is shiny enough to reflect the image of the politically powerful.

It should be no surprise, then, that this god, this idol, bears the reflection of racial, religious, gender and ethnic supremacy — a homogeneous god, draped in the American flag. But worshipping this idol is not worshipping God.

When we lean into these immoral acts and try to preserve the notion that Jesus died and rose for only some and not all, we have found our way into a sinful state of being. Paul Tillich explained sins should not simply be understood as immoral actions. Instead, sin describes a universal condition of being. To help clarify this idea, Tillich used the word "estrangement" or "separation." To be estranged means to be cut off from where one truly belongs at the deepest level.

In Tillich's view, estrangement is like living in exile, disconnected, displaced and far from home. Tillich describes this condition as having three dimensions: Separation from ourselves, separation from other people, and separation from God.

If the church is truly to function as a kind of democratic assembly, we must resist that estrangement. We must turn again toward connection with God and with one another. This is not a time for disconnection or indifference, which would abandon the very purpose of the church. Rather, now is the time for care and concern.

Democracy is built on a set of closely connected principles: Popular sovereignty, political equality, and majority rule/minority rights.

Popular sovereignty is the idea that political power is legitimate only when it comes from the consent of the governed. Political equality guarantees every individual has an equal right to take part in the democratic process, regardless of background or social standing. Majority rule balances with minority rights to ensure while decisions reflect the will of the majority, the rights and voices of those in the minority still are protected.

The protection of all rights and voices is essential to the life of faith. Even when someone is in the “minority,” their dignity does not diminish because they bear the fullness of being human. In the language of the church, they bear the *Imago Dei*, the image of God, and are worthy of love, justice and respect.

Yet in today’s heightened political climate, hatred too often drowns out that truth.

Not long ago, a pastor publicly prayed for the death of a political leader. In a striking response, the leader replied, “You may pray for my death, pastor, but I still love you.” In that moment, grace appeared where we might least expect it.

It raises a difficult question: How has the church — the *ecclesia* — become so misguided that the church is often known more for hate than for love? Scripture confronts us plainly: How can we claim to love a God we do not see if we hate our sibling whom we see every day?

If the church is to be the *ecclesia*, a true assembly of God’s people, then it must become a place where love is not optional but essential; where justice is not secondary but central; and where every person is treated as a reflection of the living God, whose beauty is diverse and expansive.

■ *This article originally appeared in Baptist News Global ([baptistnews.com](http://baptistnews.com)) as part of a series on Christianity and democracy that is leading toward the July 4 celebration of America’s 250th birthday. It is reprinted here with permission.*

# Wired for Wonder

Helping Children Grow in Faith, Connection and Wholeness



**Saturday, Aug. 8**

Parent Session 6–9 p.m.

**Sunday, Aug. 9**

Teacher Training  
Noon–2:30 p.m.

*Wired for Wonder: Helping Children Grow in Faith, Connection and Wholeness* will be the theme when Wilshire welcomes Harrison Litzell on Aug. 8 and 9. A children’s ministry expert, Litzell helps churches engage with issues of inclusion, childhood spirituality and neurodiversity through Mercer University’s Baugh Center for Baptist Leadership. On Saturday, Aug. 8, Litzell will meet with parents from 6 to 9 p.m. at the home of Gail and Steve Brookshire. Heavy hors d’oeuvres, drinks and dessert will be served. On Sunday, Aug. 9, Litzell will offer a teacher training from noon to 2:30 p.m. with lunch provided. Childcare will be available for both events. Register at [wilshirebc.org/events/litzell](http://wilshirebc.org/events/litzell).

# 75th anniversary weekend





## 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.

## 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](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))



## Women of Wilshire

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, July 2 |

Noon | 1205-L | *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Contact: Carolyn Murray

([cmurray@wilshirebc.org](mailto:cmurray@wilshirebc.org))

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | July 14

| 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. Contact: Debby Burton

([debbyb0929@gmail.com](mailto:debbyb0929@gmail.com))



# Someone to talk with.

If you are facing a life challenge and would like to have a spiritual friend to walk alongside you for a season of healing, perhaps you would benefit from a Stephen Minister.

Stephen Ministry pairs trained lay people with individuals in need of Christian companionship during times of life crisis. Wilshire has trained Stephen Ministers available.

To learn more about receiving confidential care from a Stephen Minister, please reach out using our dedicated email address, [stephenministry@wilshirebc.org](mailto:stephenministry@wilshirebc.org), or call 214-452-3176.

stephen  
MINISTRY.

## VBS kids connected and collected

Around 80 preschoolers and children attended Wilshire's Vacation Bible School, themed "KidsConnect," held June 15 through 18. Kids and their families collected school supplies and food pantry items for our longtime mission partner the Wilkinson Center.



# 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 McCrae'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, June 28**

- Drop-In Choir Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Passport Kids Meeting, 2220, noon
- Wilshire Winds Concert, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m., Reception Follows in James Gallery

## **Monday, June 29**

- WSM Youth Camp, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock

## **Tuesday, June 30**

- WSM Youth Camp, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock

## **Wednesday, July 1**

- WSM Youth Camp, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock

## **Thursday, July 2**

- WSM Youth Camp, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock
- WOW Brown Bag Book Club, 1205-L, noon
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

## **Friday, July 3**

- WSM Youth Camp, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock
- Building Closed; Staff Holiday

## **Saturday, July 4**

- WSM Youth Camp, Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock

## **Sunday, July 5**

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.

# Shannon Holley Nadalini

## What brought you to Wilshire and when?

I was born into the Wilshire family in 1971, and the church helped shape my earliest understanding of faith and community. My sister, Megan Wilson, and I were baptized on the same day by Bruce McIver. In 1992, Jimmy and I married at Wilshire with George Mason officiating. The Navy then took us to San Diego, where we became active members of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. Later, while stationed in Livorno, Italy, we joined St. James Episcopal Church in Florence. When we moved to Austin, we found a church home at St. David's Episcopal Church. Each congregation enriched our faith journey in unique ways, but Wilshire always held a special place in our hearts. In 2001, we returned to Dallas and Wilshire, where we raised our four sons and continued building a life rooted in faith and in the Wilshire community.

## What are some favorite memories?

Some of my most cherished memories of this church are woven through the milestones of family, friendship, faith and service. The church has been the backdrop for defining moments in our lives — from our wedding and the baptisms of each of our sons to watching them grow through the children and youth ministries. Four generations of our family have sat in these pews, beginning with my grandparents, whose faith helped shape our own. Serving as a deacon, participating in music ministry and teaching children and adults have deepened my sense of belonging. Certainly, recent favorite and defining moments include George Mason performing the wedding ceremonies for two of our sons. These memories tell the story of a church that has not simply been a place we attended but a community that has helped shape who we are.



## What's one thing you'd like newer members to know about Wilshire's history?

I want newer members to know that Wilshire's history is not just a story of longevity; it's a story of love and courage. Across generations, this church has chosen to strengthen the circle of belonging by broadening it, often before it was easy or popular to do so. Wilshire has sought to lead with love rather than fear. I've witnessed a commitment to a culture of expanding minds and hearts, one of Wilshire's greatest gifts and most enduring legacies.

## Why have you stayed so long?

Wilshire continues to reflect my belief in the wideness of God's mercy and love. Time and again, our church has chosen to lead with grace rather than fear, embracing a more inclusive understanding of who belongs at God's table. Whether affirming women as deacons, broadening baptismal policies or welcoming all people into the life and full membership of the church, we have sought to follow Christ's example of radical hospitality. We're not a perfect community, but we strive to be one that recognizes the dignity and worth of every person, trusting that God's love is always greater, fuller and more comprehensive than our own.