



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

July 5, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

Have you ever read Langston Hughes’s poem “Let America Be America Again”? The opening stanzas read:

*Let America be America again.
Let it be the dream it used to be.
Let it be the pioneer on the plain
Seeking a home where he himself is free.
(America never was America to me.)*

*Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed—
Let it be that great strong land of love
Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
That any man be crushed by one above.
(It never was America to me.)*

*O, let my land be a land where Liberty
Is crowned with no false patriotic wreath,
But opportunity is real, and life is free,
Equality is in the air we breathe.*

In this poem, Hughes wrestles with the gap between America’s ideals and its reality. He longs for a nation marked by freedom, equality, opportunity and justice, while honestly acknowledging that these promises have not been experienced equally by all people. Speaking

from the perspectives of those who have been marginalized and excluded, Hughes challenges systems of oppression and inequality that prevent society from living up to its highest aspirations.

Yet the poem is not ultimately one of despair. It is a poem of hope. Hughes believes that the dream of a just and equitable society is still worth pursuing. He calls people to continue working toward a world where freedom, justice and opportunity are truly available to everyone.

As Christians, we recognize that this world is not our ultimate home. Our citizenship is in God’s kingdom. Yet we are called to embody the values of that kingdom here and now. We do not worship America — or any nation — but we are called to pursue justice, love mercy, seek peace and uphold the dignity of every person. For us, the question is not simply, “What is the American dream?” but rather, “What is God’s dream for the world?”

As we gather for worship today, may our hearts be opened to God’s vision of a world shaped by love, justice, freedom and hope for all people.

—Timothy Peoples



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: *Despair*, Edvard Munch, oil on canvas, 1894.

July 5, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Sixth 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

Michael Shepard

Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Jeff Brummel, organ; Bill Jernberg, piano

arr. Harold DeCou

+Congregational Song

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
No. 281
Stanzas 1-3

BEECHER

+Call to Worship

Felix Guthrie

One: People of God, we gather on this morning, trusting in the
One whose mercies are new every morning.

All: Great is your faithfulness, O God!

One: Out of the depths we cry, and from the heights we sing; you hear us and draw us near.

All: With you is steadfast love and the fullness of redemption.

One: When hope feels thin and need feels heavy, Christ meets us with healing and grace.

All: Touch us again, Jesus — make us whole.

One: When abundance overflows, the Spirit opens our hearts and our hands to share.

All: Fill us, Holy Spirit — make us generous and brave.

One: Word of Life, speak; Breath of God, move; Love Eternal, gather and send us.

All: Open our eyes, our ears and our lives to you.

One: Come, let us worship the Lord — Maker of heaven and earth,
whose power is made perfect in weakness.

All: We will praise your name; we will trust your promise; we will follow your call.

+Response in Song

BEECHER

**Finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.**

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

Youth Camp Reflections

Scripture Reading — Psalm 13

Elliana Mitchell

How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”;
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the LORD
because the LORD has dealt bountifully with me.

Prayers of the People

Abbey Adcox

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.**

Offertory

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
See hymn no. 472 for text
Ralph Manuel, piano

arr. Ralph Manuel

+Epistle Reading — Romans 7:15–25a

Jordann McMahan

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no lon-

ger I who do it but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

For the Word of God in Scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
And for the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God!

Message "Wretched Sin" Timothy Peoples

Celebration of the Lord's Supper Georgia McKee

All followers of Christ are invited to partake of the Lord's Supper, whether you are a Wilshire member or not. The bread used this morning is gluten free.

Passing of the Bread *Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me* arr. Jeffrey Brummel

Passing of the Cup *Elevation* George Walker

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

+Congregational Song *This Is My Song* FINLANDIA
No. 697

Sharing of Decisions Timothy Peoples

Benediction Timothy Peoples

Postlude Improvisations on themes from the day Jeff Brummel

The flowers are given in honor of Paula and Jason Woodbury's wedding anniversary today by Carole Jean Abernathy, Garrett, Kathryn and Ku.

Meet today's worship leaders

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 recently completed an internship here as part of her studies at SMU's Perkins School of Theology, where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.

Felix Guthrie is a rising sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin, where he studies education. He is currently serving a summer internship here in children's ministry. Felix grew up at Wilshire and is a 2025 graduate of DISD's School for the Talented and Gifted. His mother is Emily Muscarella, and his two siblings are Joseph and Judith.

Bill Jernberg joined Wilshire in 1972 and met his wife, Janice, here. Their daughter, Anne Jernberg Scalfaro, and son, Brad Jernberg, are both alumni of Wilshire's residency program. Bill is a deacon, serves on the Building, Interior and Grounds Committee, sings in Sanctuary Choir and is the accompanist for Nova and Young Musicians. He taught First Grade Sunday School for many years and is a longtime substitute organist. Bill is retired from a 44-year career as an emergency physician.

Ralph Manuel and his wife, Donna, joined Wilshire in 2018. They are members of Cord of Three Class, and Ralph sings in Sanctuary Choir. A composer, former minister of music and missionary, Ralph serves as handbell coordinator at Wilshire and directs Carillon Ringers.

Georgia McKee was a pastoral resident at Wilshire from 2024 until earlier this year, when she became associate pastor at Glencoe Union Church near Chicago. Georgia, who is married to Sophia, is a graduate of Wake Forest University School of Divinity, a co-founder of Christian Athlete Circles and served as Wilshire's Youth Camp pastor this week.

Elliana Mitchell is a rising senior at Woodrow Wilson High School, where she sings in the school choir. She is active in Wilshire's student ministry and sings in Youth Choir and Shekinah. Elliana and her family — parents Keri and Damien Mitchell, younger sister Everly Mitchell and grandfather Hank Mitchell — joined Wilshire in 2023.

Michael Shepard joined Wilshire in 2016 and is married to Molly. Their two daughters are Olivia, age 3, and Caitlin, who is 1. Michael is a member of Ithaka Class and teaches 11th and 12th graders in Sunday School. He serves on the Risk Management Committee and was a Youth Camp volunteer this week. Michael works as an electrical engineer for STMicroelectronics.



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
July 5, 2026

Condolences to

Linda and Dwight Roan on the death of Linda's sister, Sandra Sealy, June 21.



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.

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.



Darren's 30th anniversary

Associate Pastor Darren DeMent will be honored on Sunday, Aug. 2, for his 30th anniversary of ministry at Wilshire. Worship that day will include a time of recognition for Darren, and everyone is invited back at 5 p.m. for a musical celebration in the Sanctuary. Darren started as a student ministry intern in 1996, was named minister to students in 1999 and became associate pastor in 2020.

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.



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.



Arts camp performance Friday

This week's Listen to Your Art! creative arts camp for children will culminate Friday at 6:30 p.m. with a performance of *The Rock Slinger and His Greatest Hit*, a musical about David and Goliath. The show isn't just for parents. All are invited.

■ Cooking Camp and Kindergarten and Pre-school Camp are also happening this week. All camps are full or near capacity.

McComb recognition next Sunday



Friday night's Listen to Your Art! performance will be the final Wilshire production for Children's Choir Coordinator Candy McComb, who announced in May that she will retire from the role this summer.

Candy, who has held the part-time position since 2018, will be recognized during worship next Sunday, July 12, and will wrap up her time on staff in the next few weeks.

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.

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, or call 214-452-3176.

stephen
MINISTRY®

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)

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.

Women of Wilshire

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | July 14 | 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *Street Lawyer* by John Grisham. Contact: Debby Burton (debbyb0929@gmail.com)

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, Aug. 6 | Noon | 1205-L | *The God of the Woods* by Liz Moore. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

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.

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 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.

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, July 5

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

Monday, July 6

- Preschool & Kindergarten Camp, 9 a.m.
- Cooking Camp, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Listen to Your Art! Camp, 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 7

- Preschool & Kindergarten Camp, 9 a.m.
- Cooking Camp, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Listen to Your Art! Camp, 12:30 p.m.
- Stephen Ministry CE/Supervision, 1205-G & 1205-L, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8

- Preschool & Kindergarten Camp, 9 a.m.
- Cooking Camp, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Listen to Your Art! Camp, 12:30 p.m.
- WSM Study-n-Swim, Shepard Home, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 9

- Preschool & Kindergarten Camp, 9 a.m.
- Cooking Camp, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Listen to Your Art! Camp, 12:30 p.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 PM

Friday, July 10

- Preschool & Kindergarten Camp, 9 a.m.
- Cooking Camp, Community Hall, 9 a.m.
- Listen to Your Art! Camp, 12:30 p.m.
- Listen to Your Art! Performance, Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, July 11

- Nova Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday, July 12

- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Personnel Committee, 1205 L, noon

John Gillis

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

I grew up in East Texas. After attending the University of Texas and finishing law school, I moved to Dallas. My first visit to Wilshire resulted from the efforts of R. G. Bagwell, a classmate at First Baptist Church, Kilgore, and his roommate, Max Post. I joined Wilshire in June 1966. Bruce McIver was pastor. I am still here after 60 years along with “my new best 60-year friend,” Max.

What was the building like back then?

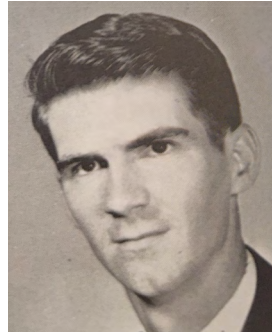
We worshipped in what is now the chapel — but backwards from today! The entrance was on the street side, and the pulpit stood on the east end of the room. I still have to stop and regain my bearings each time I enter McIver Chapel.

Why have you stayed so long?

Technically, I took a 23-year “detour.” After meeting Carolyn in 1968, I followed her to Lovers Lane United Methodist Church for their single adults class and “Adams and Eves” class for young marrieds. Wilshire called us back in 1991, and it has felt like home ever since. Wilshire is a little like Texas barbecue; once it gets in your system, you keep coming back for more.

What ministries or staff members have impacted your life?

George Mason has had the greatest transformative impact. His spiritual and physical guardianship was never more evident than during our problem trip to Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Timothy Peoples also made a lasting impression begin-



ning with his time here as a resident. We loved Jeff Brummel’s Branson retreat for seniors, Mark Wingfield’s Adventurers trips, Laurie Taylor’s grief group after Carolyn’s passing and serving with Friday Friends. One of my greatest joys is singing with Sarah Stafford’s New Song choir, proof that even after decades at Wilshire, there are still new songs to sing, don’tcha know?

What things are different, and what has stayed the same?

When Carolyn and I married in 1972, married couples attended separate Sunday School classes. After a general assembly of a song and a prayer, men and women went to their respective classes for Bible study. Carolyn and I preferred coed classes as we enjoyed in Compass Class. Another meaningful difference involved Carolyn’s Methodist background. Wilshire welcomed her without requiring re-baptism, which meant a great deal to both of us. What has remained the same is the spirit of grace, friendship and thoughtful faith that first drew me here in 1966. That spirit is alive and well today. Exhale.