



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

July 19, 2026
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

As you prepare for worship this morning, I want you to do something that may seem a bit odd at first. I'd like you to think about the end of the service, specifically the benediction.

It is likely that most of us think of the benediction as a conclusion, and liturgically speaking, that makes some sense. In the flow of a service, the benediction does serve as the final moment of worship — a parting blessing as people prepare to leave. But this morning I want you to think about the benediction differently.

At Youth Camp a couple of weeks back, our youth took on this task of expanding how they think about a benediction. At its root, benediction simply means a good word. In a world that seems to focus so much on what is going wrong or what is broken, we challenged them to look for goodness. We reminded them that goodness was the original word spoken over creation, and brokenness is not the starting point; it is a distortion of what was first made good.

We also asked them to reimagine a benediction not just as a conclusion, but rather a beginning — a good word that sends us out to live differently, to see differently and to carry that

goodness with us into whatever comes next.

So, this morning I invite you into the same reimagining.

First, listen for a good word in today's service that you can carry with you into your week. Maybe it's a line from one of the hymns we will sing. Maybe it's a word spoken in a prayer. Maybe it will be a line from Charlie's sermon, or maybe it will simply be a greeting you receive from a fellow worshiper.

Whatever the word is or wherever it comes from, I invite you to take that word with you as you leave and let it encourage you as you move through your week.

Second, I want you to hear today's benediction differently. Rather than hearing it simply as an ending to our service, hear it more like a commissioning. Hear it as your instructions for the week ahead as you move from this form of worship into whatever comes next. Hear it as a needed reminder of how we are called to live in this world that needs to be reminded of God's goodness.

—Darren DeMent



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: *Jacob and the Angel*, Odilon Redon, oil on board, c. 1907.

July 19, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Eighth 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

Katie Murray

Prelude

Tuba Tune in D Major, Op. 15

C.S. Lang

+Congregational Song

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
No. 58
Stanzas 1–3

ST. DENIO

+Call to Worship

Cindy Estee

One: People of God, come and worship the One who knows us completely
and loves us faithfully.

All: You have searched us, O God, and you know us.

One: Teach us your way, O Lord, and lead us in your truth, that our hearts
may be undivided in our love for you.

All: For you are merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

One: Whether we come with joy or sorrow, confidence or uncertainty,
God's faithful love welcomes us and God's grace goes before us.

All: We give thanks to you with our whole hearts and will glorify your name forever.

One: Come, let us open our hearts to the God who knows us, teaches us
and faithfully walks with us.

All: We come to worship the living God. Amen.

+Response in Song

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

**Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

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

Teach me your way, O LORD,
 that I may walk in your truth;
 give me an undivided heart to revere your name.
 I give thanks to you, O LORD my God, with my whole heart,
 and I will glorify your name forever.
 For great is your steadfast love toward me;
 you have delivered my soul from the depths of Sheol.
 O God, the insolent rise up against me;
 a band of ruffians seeks my life,
 and they do not set you before them.
 But you, O Lord, are a God merciful and gracious,
 slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.
 Turn to me and be gracious to me;
 give your strength to your servant;
 save the child of your maidservant.
 Show me a sign of your favor,
 so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
 because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.

Offertory

Ever Joyful

Ralph Manuel

Ariel Merivil, Ralph Manuel and Jeff Brummel

+Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Genesis 32:22–31

D.R. Rockwell

In the course of the night, Jacob arose, took the entire caravan, and crossed the ford of the Yab-bok River. After Jacob had crossed with all his possessions, he returned to the camp, and he was completely alone. And there, someone wrestled with Jacob until the first light of dawn. Seeing that Jacob could not be overpowered, the other struck Jacob at the socket of the hip, and the hip was dislocated as they wrestled. Then Jacob's contender said, "Let me go, for day is breaking." Jacob answered, "I will not let you go until you bless me." "What is your name?" the other asked. "Jacob," he answered. The other said, "Your name will no longer be called 'Jacob,' or 'Heel-Grabber,' but 'Israel' — 'Overcomer of God' — because you have wrestled with both God and mortals, and you have prevailed." Then Jacob asked "Now tell me your name, I beg you." The other said, "Why do you ask me my name?" — and blessed Jacob there. Jacob named the place Peniel — "Face of God" — "because I have seen God face to face, yet my life was spared." At sunrise, Jacob left Peniel, limping along from the injured hip.

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

When We Are Living

SOMOS DEL SEÑOR

No. 265

Stanza 1: solo in Spanish

Stanzas 2-4: all in English

Please join in singing the Spanish stanza as invited.

Message

“Struggle Is a Sign of Life”

Charlie Fuller

Anthem

Grace

arr. Mark Hayes

Summer Drop-In Choir

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound;
That saved a wretch, a wretch like me;
I once was lost, but now am found;
I once was lost, but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already safely come;
This grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And surely grace will lead me home,
I shall go home.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And that same grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour when I first believed!

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the glorious sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than since the day we first begun.

Prayers of the People

Darren DeMent

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

Go Forth for God

GENEVA 124

No. 517

Stanza 1: choir

Stanzas 2-3: all

Sharing of Decisions

Charlie Fuller

Benediction

Charlie Fuller

Postlude

Improvisations on themes from the day

Jeff Brummel

Meet today's worship leaders

Cindy Estee joined Wilshire in 2023 with her husband, Charlie. They teach preschoolers in Sunday School, serve on the Lord's Supper Ministry Team and volunteer at the Wilkinson Center and the Stewpot. Cindy is a deacon, a Stephen Minister and a volunteer for Wilshire's rent and utility assistance program. A retired attorney, she has two adult children and three grandchildren.

Charlie Fuller recently retired from his role as director of Wilshire's Pathways to Ministry program and still serves as coach-in-residence, offering personal coaching services free of charge to Wilshire members. A longtime educator, college administrator and pastor, Charlie was Wilshire's interim minister of music before becoming Pathways director. He and his wife, Cindy, are members of Epiphany Class. Their daughter Sarah, daughter-in-law Katie, and granddaughter Rhona also attend Wilshire.

D.R. Rockwell joined Wilshire in 2024 and is a member of the Odyssey Sunday School Class and the Missions and Christian Advocacy Committee. He works as the managing partner of Trinity Forest Partners and serves as a commissioner on the City Of Dallas Commission on Disabilities.

Carol Tommey has been a Wilshire member since 1982. Her two adult children, who grew up at Wilshire, are Blake, who lives in Brooklyn, New York, with his wife Lesley-Ann and their son, Otis; and Claire, who lives in Dallas with her husband, Cody, and their daughter, Olive. Carol is a member of Cord of Three Class and served many years as a Youth Choir sponsor. She is retired from a 39-year career as a public school teacher.



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)
- 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



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements
July 19, 2026

Congratulations to

Kyle and Haley Garcia on the birth of their son, Grayson, July 6. Haley is Wilshire's Food Service Director.

75th anniversary booklet

Many of the 75th anniversary features that ran in *Tapestry* have been compiled into a keepsake booklet. You can pick up a copy in the office and other locations around the building.

Save the dates for fall kickoff

■ **Aug. 16** will be Promotion Sunday, when preschoolers, children and youth move to a new class. That same day, worship will include the Blessing of the Backpacks, and a church-wide lunch will be served in Community Hall.

■ **Aug. 16** is also the day the 9 a.m. service in McIver Chapel will resume.

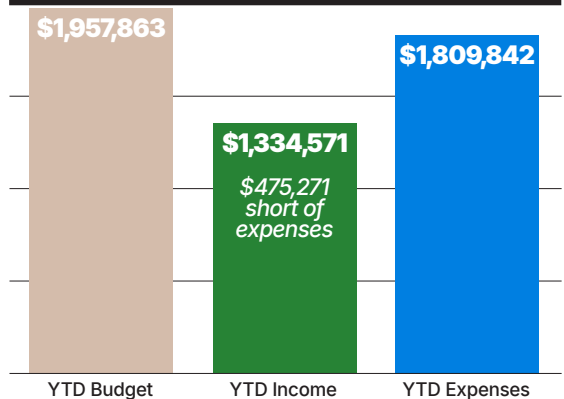
■ Wednesday evening activities will resume on **Aug. 19**. More details to come.

Blood Drive next Sunday



Carter Blood Care will hold a blood drive at Wilshire on Sunday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walk-ins are welcome; appointments are recommended. Scan the QR code or visit wilshirebc.org/events/blood-drive.

Unified Budget Update



Pathways Endowment YTD gifts.....\$8,872
Pathways Endowment June balance.....\$11,611,463

Drop-In Choir today, next week



Ever wanted to sing with Sanctuary Choir? Here's your chance. Join us for Summer Drop-In Choir on July 19 or July 26. Arrive at Choral Hall by 9 a.m. for a 45-minute rehearsal, then sing in worship that same morning. No robes, no sign-up, no experience needed. Just show up and sing. Bring a friend! Our anthems will be:

■ **July 19:** "Grace" by Mark Hayes

■ **July 26:** "The Majesty and Glory of Your Name" by Tom Fettke



Sundays: Chapel Worship (currently on break), 9 a.m. Sanctuary Worship, 11 a.m. Sunday School, 9:45 a.m. 11 a.m. worship livestreams at youtube.com/wilshirebaptist. Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Adcox leaving staff for FaithWorks role

Missions and Advocacy Coordinator Abbey Adcox will depart the Wilshire staff for a position at FaithWorks, a longtime Wilshire partner agency. She will fully transition to her new job by Aug. 16.



Formerly known as Fellowship Southwest, FaithWorks helps churches and individuals engage with issues like immigration, Native issues, racial justice and hunger. As program manager, Abbey will coordinate border experiences, Advocacy Day in Austin, the Compassion and Justice Conference and other efforts.

A Wilshire member since 1999, Abbey joined the staff in 2016 and held various roles before settling into her current position in 2020.

“Wilshire is where my faith has been nurtured, my call to ministry took shape and where I have had the privilege of serving alongside remarkable staff and members who are dear friends,” Abbey said. “I’m especially grateful for Heather Mustain’s mentorship and friendship, and for the trust, encouragement and opportunities to grow that I’ve been given while serving this congregation I love.”

Abbey recently completed an academic-year internship at Wilshire as part of her studies at SMU’s Perkins School of Theology. She expects to complete her Master of Divinity degree from Perkins next May.

“I’m excited for this new opportunity with FaithWorks and will carry with me all that Wilshire has taught me,” she said. “Chris and I look forward to continuing to worship and serve alongside our Wilshire family.”

SONGS — FROM THE — BASEMENT



SUN | AUG 2 | 5 PM

Singalong event to mark Darren’s 30th anniversary

Associate Pastor Darren DeMent will be honored on Sunday, Aug. 2, for his 30th anniversary of ministry at Wilshire.

Worship will include a time of recognition for Darren, and everyone is invited back at 5 p.m. for a musical celebration in the Sanctuary. Themed “Songs From the Basement,” the singalong event will feature Darren and others leading songs beloved by generations of Wilshire youth. This body of Wilshire Student Ministry songs has become familiar to the wider church through their use in worship in recent years.

Darren started as a student ministry intern in 1996, was named minister to students in 1999 and became associate pastor in 2020. With this year’s milestone anniversary, Darren joins George Mason, Bill James and Bruce McIver on the list of ministers to serve at least 30 years at Wilshire.

Wilshire seeks music educator

Wilshire is looking for a children's choir coordinator to help shape the next generation of musicians and worshipers in our community. This part-time position is an ideal fit for a current or former music educator who is looking for a church home that welcomes all people and takes both music and formation seriously. Learn more at wilshirebc.org/employment.

Connect across generations

Being an intergenerational church is one of Wilshire's greatest strengths, and one of the best ways to live that out is by serving in Sunday School with our children or preschoolers. You'll build relationships with kids, get to know their families and play an important role in nurturing the faith of the next generation. Contact Minister to Children Julie Girards or Minister to Preschoolers Kelly Akins to learn more.

Men's Book Club

Tuesday, Aug. 18 | 7 p.m. | Parlor | *Superbloom: How Technologies of Connection Tear Us Apart* by Nicholas Carr. Contact: Scott Spreier (swspreier@gmail.com) or Mike Meripolski (meripolski@att.net)

WOW does dinner ... and lunch

All Women of Wilshire are invited to meet up for a meal on one or both of these dates:

■ Tuesday, July 21, 6:30 p.m., Olivella's Pizza, Hillside Village (6465 E. Mockingbird Ln.)

■ Thursday, July 23, 11:45 a.m., Taco Joint (6434 E. Mockingbird Ln.)

WOW Book Clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Aug. 11 | 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman. 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)

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.

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 19

- Passport Kids! Preteen Camp Departure, North Parking Lot, 8:15 a.m.
- Drop-In Choir Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Wilshire Welcome, Prayer Room, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Adventurers Committee, Community Hall, noon
- Finance Committee, Community Hall, noon

Monday, July 20

- Passport Kids! Preteen Camp, Brownwood

Tuesday, July 21

- Passport Kids! Preteen Camp, Brownwood
- Stephen Ministry Supervision, Zoom, 6 p.m.
- WOW Dinner, Olivella's Pizza, Hillside Village (6465 E. Mockingbird Ln.), 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

- Passport Kids! Preteen Camp, Brownwood
- WSM Study-n-Swim, Sheaffer Home, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 23

- WOW Lunch, Taco Joint (6434 E. Mockingbird Ln.), 11:45 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, July 24

- Service at Vickery Meadow Youth Development Foundation (including WSM Summer Missions), 8:45 a.m.

Charles Yarbrough

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

Judy and I came in August 1975, when we moved from Shawnee, Oklahoma, for me to attend law school at SMU. We visited a lot of churches before finding out Wilshire was close to our apartment. There were some boys playing football on the south lawn, and we thought it looked like a good place. When we visited the next Sunday, we sat in front of Fred and Clairene Herold, who were very friendly and invited us back. We left for five years while I pursued various jobs in Amarillo and Houston, but came back on George Mason's first Sunday.

Who was pastor when you joined?

When we joined the first time, Bruce McIver was the pastor. George Mason was beginning his pastorate when we joined on his first Sunday night.

What was the building like?

When we joined in 1975, the building was a two-story education building and the current Sanctuary with the Chapel in its original configuration — with the pulpit at the back of the current Chapel and the entrance where the pulpit is now.

What are some favorite memories or defining moments?

One was the first capital campaign when I ran from the choir room before church to find Judy to change our pledge to a very challenging amount. It was more than we had ever given and



changed our giving ever since. The second is a mission trip to Cairo, Egypt. That trip changed our involvement in missions and led to four more mission trips.

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

Probably the focus on missions and Wilshire's openness to everyone.

What things are different and what has stayed the same?

The building and the people have changed over the years but the openness to everyone has stayed the same.

Why have you stayed so long?

We have stayed because of the love of the congregation for us and because it has always been a place where we could love everyone.