



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

August 23, 2026

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Preparing for worship

One aspect of coming to Wilshire is the sense that folks who attend seem very intentional about being present. There is an atmosphere of seeking — members come not out of habit but attend for a purpose, however individual that might be.

Many are here today because we seek a new or revised perspective on some aspect of our lives. Some of us need comfort and reassurance that life is survivable because of issues beyond our control. Others seek affirmation that we are traveling a spiritual path that moves us forward toward God's goals for our lives. Others are looking for answers to questions that may not have answers. We may be searching for life goals bigger than our personal perspectives and want to join others who have expressed similar concerns, questions and spiritual dilemmas. And where better to find what we need to move forward than in a Sanctuary of worship that welcomes all seekers?

Today's Scriptures offer guidelines for entering God's presence for worship and leaving with a sense of renewal. Isaiah calls us to look to the folks who helped us be where we are today. Do we hear echoes of parents, former teachers,

friends? Are Wilshire voices enabling us to rethink our spiritual journey to include more than we had previously considered possible? Psalm 124 challenges us to consider where we would be if the Lord had not been on our side in the hard times. While we have felt the Lord's presence in the painful moments, the Scripture also offers implications that once we are through the difficult episodes, the Lord provides us opportunities for new starts and do-overs where we can choose God-centered decisions.

As we engage various aspects of worship today — music, Scripture, prayer, thoughtful exegesis of Scripture — we will find multiple opportunities to be drawn into God's presence and purpose for each of us. Each element of the service can recentre us on God's priorities. In this hour of worship and sanctuary, the doors can open wider to understanding ourselves and one another and the world in which we live. We can find new roadways into God's presence. We may even leave with a sense of being rebirthed to face life with deeper understanding and courage in the coming week.

—Terry Wade



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: *Exodus Midwives: Shiphrah and Puah*, Joy Banks, linocut print.

August 23, 2026
11:00 a.m.
Thirteenth 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

Ariel Merivil

Prelude

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, BWV 650

Johann Sebastian Bach

+Call to Worship

Monica Mullins

One: Come, people of God, and worship the Lord, our faithful guide.

All: Lord, guide us and lead us in your ways.

One: When the journey is difficult, God gives us strength; when we are weary, God sustains us.

All: Lord, guide us and lead us in your ways.

One: Like pilgrims on a journey, we trust that God will provide for us and never leave us.

All: Lord, guide us and lead us in your ways.

One: Guide us, O great Jehovah!

All: We lift our songs of praise to you.

+Congregational Song

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
No. 33

CWM RHONDDA

+Passing of the Peace

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

+Response in Song

God Welcomes All

THEMBA AMEN

1-2 God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

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

If it had not been the LORD who was on our side
— let Israel now say —
if it had not been the LORD who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
then the flood would have swept us away;
the torrent would have gone over us;
then over us would have gone
the raging waters.

Blessed be the LORD,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.
We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.

Missions Moment

Andy Stoker

Offertory

Always With Me
Mike Korson and Nathan Mertens,
alto saxophone

Youmi Kimura/arr. Yanagawa

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Exodus 1:6–2:10

Jordann McMahan, Monica Mullins,
Timothy Peoples, Jennifer Wagner

Now Joseph and all his brothers and all that generation died, but the Israelites were exceedingly fruitful; they multiplied greatly, increased in numbers and became so numerous that the land was filled with them. Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt.

“Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah,

“When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.”

The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them,

“Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.”

So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.”

...

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. His sister stood at a distance to see what would happen to him.

Then Pharaoh’s daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. “This is one of the Hebrew babies,” she said.

Then his sister asked Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?”

“Yes, go,” she answered. So the girl went and got the baby’s mother. Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you.” So the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh’s daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, “I drew him out of the water.”

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	<i>With Water Freely Flowing</i> No. 450	MERLE’S TUNE
Message	“Ushering in Life”	Timothy Peoples
Anthem	<i>Far Away</i> Mike Korson and Nathan Mertens, alto saxophone	Takatsugu Muramatsu

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

Today's flowers are given in memory of Sheila Henning
by the Dalhausser and Henning families.



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.

Meet today's worship leaders

Saxophonist **Mike Korson** holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Texas Christian University and a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas. He serves on the Music Industry Studies faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington, where he teaches courses in recording techniques, technology and music for video games and film. Mike also works as a marching band arranger and show designer for bands throughout Texas. The son of Wilshire members Mike and Teri Korson, Mike lives in Arlington with his wife, Hannah Weller.

Richard Luttrell joined Wilshire in 2014 and is married to Sally. Richard is a deacon, a member of Epiphany Class and serves on the Building and Grounds Committee, the Hospitality and Funeral ministry teams and the Lay Support Team for Pastoral Resident Bryce Shelton.

Nathan Mertens is assistant professor of saxophone at the University of Colorado Boulder. An active soloist and chamber musician, he has performed in Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Bolivia, the United Kingdom and throughout the United States. Nathan has commissioned and premiered more than 40 works, presenting them internationally at the World Saxophone Congress, the North American Saxophone Alliance Conference and other venues worldwide. His debut album of saxophone chamber music will be released this fall. Nathan earned degrees from the University of Texas at Austin and Hastings College.

Monica Mullins joined Wilshire in 2015. She is a deacon, plays in Carillon Ringers, sings in Sanctuary Choir and has participated in several Faith in 3D productions. She serves on the Pathways to Ministry Committee and the lay support team for Pastoral Resident Amanda Hines. Monica has also participated in Wilshire's mission trips to Puerto Rico. She works as the senior manager of recruitment at Dallas College Richland Campus.

Andy Stoker is director of advocacy at Faith-Works, a Wilshire partner agency formerly known as Fellowship Southwest. A longtime United Methodist minister, Andy served most recently as Senior Pastor at Central United Methodist Church in Albuquerque. He previously served churches in Texas, including nine years as senior minister at First United Methodist Church in Dallas. Andy is a graduate of Perkins School of Theology at SMU and holds a PhD in Family Studies from Texas Woman's University. He and his wife, Megan, have two adult children, Alex and Wesley.

Jennifer Wagner joined Wilshire in 2001 and is a member of Avodah Class. She is married to Ed, and their kids are Noah, 20, Haydn, 18, and Elly, 16. Jennifer is an artist and designer and sings in Sanctuary Choir.

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

- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Music and Worship

- J'Von Brown, Children's Choir Coordinator (3124)
- 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)
- 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

- James Dolph, Pastoral Resident (3152)
- Amanda Hines, Pastoral Resident (3154)
- George Mason, Senior Pastor Emeritus and Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director (3133)
- Jordann McMahan, Pastoral Resident (3155)
- Bryce Shelton, 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



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

News & Announcements
August 23, 2026

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE Starts Sept. 11

New this fall, Friday Night Live is an evening built around connection, fun and making time for what matters.

Marriage Connections

6:30–9 p.m. | Marriage Connections begins in James Gallery with a brief presentation with ideas and insights couples can put to work in their relationship. Then the evening is yours. Go to dinner, grab coffee, run errands — or find a quiet place to talk. Open to married, partnered and dating couples with or without kids.

■ Children can attend free Preschool or Kids Night Out. Register by Sunday, Sept. 6.

Kids Night Out

6:30–9 p.m. | All kindergartners through fifth graders are invited to the church for a fun evening with friends. Free with registration by Sunday, Sept. 6.

Preschool Night Out

6:30–9 p.m. | Fun activities and play time for preschoolers from birth to pre-K. Free with registration by Sunday, Sept. 6.

Register at wilshirebc.org/events/fnl

Other Friday Night Live dates: Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Jan. 15, Feb. 12, April 9



Sundays: Chapel Worship, 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.

Condolences to

Lydia and James Perry on the death of Lydia's mother, **Martha Newfield**, Aug. 19. Grandchildren are **Emily Perry** and **Drew Perry**.



Youth and Children's Choirs start rehearsals today

■ **Youth Choir** (grades 6–12) will resume rehearsals Sunday, Aug. 23, at 12:30 p.m. in Choral Hall after a provided lunch.

■ **Children's Choirs** (grades 1–5), will resume weekly rehearsals Sunday, Aug. 23, from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. after a provided lunch.

CenterPeace conference help

Wilshire is among the sponsors for the 2026 CenterPeace conference, set for Oct. 15–17 at First United Methodist Church in Dallas, and volunteers are needed to help in a variety of ways. Founded by Wilshire member Sally Gary, CenterPeace is a fully affirming, Christ-centered ministry that cultivates spiritual community for LGBTQ+ people. If you can serve during the conference, contact Heather Mustain (hmustain@wilshirebc.org).

Adventurers A.I. talk is open to all

On Sunday, Oct. 4, Wilshire member Teri Walker will offer a Tech Talk on A.I. (artificial intelligence) over lunch in Community Hall. Teri will equip us to confidently navigate this quickly evolving phenomenon. This Adventurers-hosted event is open to anyone. Registration is not required, but it's the best way to make sure you get lunch. Visit wilshirebc.org/events/ai.



Children's choir coordinator named

J'VON BROWN has been named Wilshire's Children's Choir Coordinator. He will start in the part-time position right away, leading as children's choirs begin rehearsals today.

J'Von brings a decade of professional performance experience, primarily in opera, and a deep passion for music education and youth development. He currently serves as fine arts coordinator and music director at UME Preparatory Academy in Dallas, where he oversees music and choral programs across six campuses.

J'Von recently completed a performance diploma in vocal performance at SMU. He holds a Master of Music from the same program, where he was awarded a Meadows School of the Arts Scholarship. His performance resume includes work with Palm Beach Opera and as vocal director for Hued Songs in Miami, and his teaching and mentoring experience spans classrooms, choirs and community arts groups throughout South Florida.

Minister of Music Ariel Merivil said, "J'Von is known for his warmth with young singers, his gift for curriculum development and his belief that music can be a place of belonging and growth for every child. We're excited to see what this year holds for our young musicians under his leadership."

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

Vespers on Aug. 26

Family Dinner

5 p.m. | Community Hall | New name, same great buffet dinner with kid-friendly options. Cash/check/credit accepted. See prices at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Aug. 26 menu:** Beef and broccoli, fried rice, steamed vegetables, hot and sour soup, salad with ginger dressing, pineapple cake.

Preschool Music & More

6 p.m. | Age 3–Pre-K | Preschool choir plus activities and lessons focused on God’s love.

KidConnect

6 p.m. | K–Grade 5 | A rotation of activities to help kids learn how to love God and others with every part of themselves. Includes choir for kindergartners.

Watershed

6:30 p.m. | Grades 6–12 | Wilshire Student Ministry’s midweek gathering in the Youth Center.

Sanctuary Choir

7 p.m. | Choral Hall | New singers are always 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 our pastoral residents for an intimate service of worship centered on the theme of belonging. Vespers will include prayer, music, Scripture, Communion and a homily by Jordann McMahan.

Coming in September

Sept. 2, 9 and 16 | Praying With Our Feet: The Gospel and the March on Selma. | “I felt like my feet were praying,” Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel wrote after marching from Selma to Montgomery with other civil rights leaders in 1965. Our three-week study will explore the lives and work of those leaders, considering how the pursuit of justice is also a pursuit of the good news, the gospel. We’ll reflect on what it means to embody our faith, seek justice and allow our lives to become a prayer in action.



Midday on Abrams starts Sept. 2

Starting Sept. 2, Wilshire will offer Midday on Abrams, a new monthly event with lunch, fellowship and informative guest speakers on a variety of topics. Midday on Abrams will be offered the first Wednesday every month. Lunch (\$10 ea.) will start at 11:30 a.m., and the program will run from noon to about 12:45 p.m. Join us Sept. 2 as we welcome our new pastoral residents, James Dolph and Bryce Shelton, along with new Pathways to Ministry Director Annette Owen.

New Song choir resumes Sept. 2



Are you passionate about singing or do you simply love making music with others? New Song Community Choir invites you to join them when weekly rehearsals

resume Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 9:45 a.m. in Choral Hall. No audition or musical experience required. Directed by Sarah Stafford, New Song is a group of senior adults that performs sacred and secular music regularly in the community. Members come from Wilshire and many other churches and denominations. The first rehearsal on Sept. 2 will begin with treats in the Parlor at 9 a.m. Learn more at newsongchoir.org.

Piano gifted to Wilshire

BY JEFF BRUMMEL

YOU MAY HAVE NOTICED a different sound in worship starting last Sunday, as Wilshire was recently gifted a mint-condition Bösendorfer grand piano from member Marilyn Bick.

Imported from Vienna, Austria, the Bösendorfer boasts the so-called “Viennese sound” in which the music of the late Romantics such as Brahms, Liszt, and Rachmaninoff would sound at home. Upon playing the instrument, which is on par with Bechstein and Steinway, I immediately noticed the well-designed action and the upper register that sublimely soars with richness and depth in tone.

Wilshire already has two very fine Bechstein pianos imported from Hamburg, Germany, that have been helping us in worship since 1984. The larger of the two Bechsteins was in the Sanctuary, and the smaller one was in McIver Chapel. Both of these pianos, gifted by Wilshire members Oscar and Jimmie Pool and Frank Wilson, have served us well for generations, but after years of beautiful music, the larger Bechstein needs a factory rebuild.

After receiving the generous gift of the Bösendorfer, we decided to move many of our grand pianos around the building, allowing us to postpone the rebuilds a little while longer. Another piano in need of a rebuild is the Yamaha grand gifted by Wilshire member Bert Heed in 1966 when the Sanctuary was built.

The Wilshire music ministry is deeply grateful for these cherished gifts that help us to experience beauty in worship. May our worship and lives be beautifully and musically blessed.

Wilshire Winds starts Sept. 12



Wilshire Winds will kick off the fall with a Saturday morning workshop on Sept. 12. The group will then rehearse on select Monday nights through Dec.

7. Wilshire Winds is open to woodwind, brass and percussion players of all ages and skill levels. The church may have an instrument you can use. Contact: Shana Gaines (sgaines@wilshirebc.org)

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)

Ways to serve with our 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.

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.



WOW Book Clubs

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** | Thursday, Sept. 3 | Noon | 1205-L | *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org)

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** | Sept. 8 | 6:30 p.m. | 1205-G | *The King of Diamonds* by Rena Pederson. Contact: Debby Burton (debbyb0929@gmail.com)

Preschool Playdate on Sept. 12

Preschoolers and their families are invited to a science-themed playdate on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The event will be held in the Multipurpose Room at Wilshire. Contact: Kelly Akins (kakins@wilshirebc.org)

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 or by calling 214-526-4525.

Next blood drive is Sept. 20



Carter Blood Care will hold a blood drive at Wilshire on Sunday, Sept. 20, 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.

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®



Contemplative Worship

**WEEKLY AT 9 A.M.
MCIVER CHAPEL**



Childcare available for preschoolers

Rob Thomas

Hometown and Present City: Dallas

Education: Metropolitan State College of Denver

Profession: Partner, Executive Search at Frederick Fox

Tell us about your family.

I'm married to Elizabeth Marshall, and we have a 10-year-old son, Trey.

How about your work or volunteer life?

Professionally, I help companies secure their most valuable asset: people. I also support recruiters in building better, more sovereign careers within our unique model.

Any favorite hobbies?

I am considering tennis. I love watching and supporting rugby. My favorite places to travel are Rosemary Beach and Colorado for skiing.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

Elizabeth brought me during our courtship. We were married here in 2010.

Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

Avodah Class. I attend both the 9 and 11 a.m. services and helped with the MLK Day Rise Against Hunger event.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

Its move away from Baptist conventions. I'm not a standard anything, much less a standard Baptist. I never understood excluding women or LGBTQ+ individuals when we're all God's people and commanded to love others as ourselves.



What do you think God is up to in your life?

I think God is gently but firmly dismantling parts of my life built more on security and external validation than on truth and calling. I'm in a season of transition,

pruning and deep internal re-orientation. Old professional identities are loosening, and I feel invited into a more authentic, sovereign and purpose-driven way of living and working. It's a season of uncertainty and surrender, but also one of growing clarity.

Tell us about your faith journey.

As a kid, church was occasional and faith mostly fear-based. In my twenties, I explored Mormonism, then Scientology. In Scientology I had a direct experience of God or Source that permanently changed me. I left after six years, knowing God was real even if I hadn't found the right spiritual home. George Mason was the first pastor who felt real to me, not like a performer. Through Wilshire and Avodah, I found a community where real people asked real questions and wrestled honestly with faith. I realized I didn't have to become a "church version" of myself. I could show up as I am.

What adjectives best describe you?

Joyful, energetic, spontaneous, principled, charismatic, independent and built to do things my own way.

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, Aug. 23

- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Youth Choir Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir Lunch, 2223, noon
- Missions & Advocacy Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Personnel Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Library Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Building, Interior and Grounds Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Adventurers Comm., Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 26

- Family Dinner, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- KidConnect, Children's Classrooms, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music and More, 6 p.m.
- Vespers, McIver Chapel, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 27

- Knit Unto Others, 1205-G, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 28

- Service at Vickery Meadow Mobile Pantry, 8:45 a.m.
- Friday Friends, 3103, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Aug. 30

- Worship Service, McIver Chapel, 9 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship Service, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Children's Choir Lunch, 2223, noon
- Youth Choir Lunch, Youth Center, noon
- Children's Choir, 12:30 p.m.
- Youth Choir, Choral Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.