



Wilshire
BAPTIST CHURCH

February 4, 2024

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Preparing for worship

In looking over this morning's service, I was immediately struck by the words our Youth Choir will be singing in the Call To Worship: "In the midst of pain, I choose love ... in the midst of war, I choose peace ... when my world falls down, I will rise." These words are in one way a sobering reminder about the painful realities of life and at the same time a poignant testimony of resilience in the face of struggle.

The passage from Isaiah today ends with an often quoted verse of Scripture, "but those who wait for YHWH find a renewed power: they soar on eagles' wings, they run and don't get weary, they walk and never tire." Isaiah 40 proclaims God's promise of a new future, but it falls on the ears of a weary people, returning from exile to a land in ruin. Where will they find the strength to choose love? To choose peace? To rise? Isaiah reminds them that the answer is in the waiting

arms of the "everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth."

We welcome to our service today Yusuph Emmanuel, the CEO and Founder of Twelve21 Global, the organization that is receiving our world hunger offering this year. His life and work, which you can read more about in the *Tapestry*, is another testimony of the faithfulness of God in the face of struggle. Of how God meets us in our greatest need. By choosing love and peace they are helping others to rise.

Perhaps you too find yourself weary today. Our prayer is that in this next hour you will be reminded that the Holy One in Isaiah is also here with you. May each of us find here the strength to choose love, choose peace and to rise in the week ahead.

Our God is indeed worthy of worship. Thanks be!

—Katie Murray



4316 Abrams Road | Dallas, Texas 75214 | 214-452-3100 | wilshirebc.org

Building a Community of Faith Shaped by the Spirit of Jesus Christ

Partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Member, Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists

On the cover: *Grasshopper*, Peter Koenig, 1993, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library.

February 4, 2024
11:00 a.m.
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Chiming of the Hour

The people of Wilshire gather this morning to worship God. In order for this service to be focused upon that purpose, please silence all electronic devices.

Welcome to Worshipers

Heather Mustain

Prelude

O Rest in the Lord
Ralph Manuel, piano

Mendelssohn/arr. Sanborn

Call to Worship

I Choose Love
Youth Choir
Kamilya Akhmetova, pianist

Mark A. Miller

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

+Congregational Song

Worthy of Worship
No. 7

JUDSON

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures — Isaiah 40:21-31

Damien Mitchell

Did you not know? Have you not heard? Was it not told to you from the beginning? Have you not understood since the earth was founded? YHWH sits above the vaulted roof of the world, and its inhabitants look like grasshoppers! God stretches out the skies like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent for mortals to live under! God reduces the privileged to nothing and throws the rulers of the earth into chaos. No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root on earth, than God blows on them and they wither, and a storm wind sweeps them away like

+All congregants who are able are invited to stand.
Hearing devices are available in the Narthex and South Atrium.

chaff. “To whom can you liken me? Who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes and ask yourself who made these stars, if not the One who drills them like an army, calling each by name? Because God is so great in strength, so mighty in power, not a single one is missing. How can you say, tribe of Leah and Rachel and Jacob, “My destiny is hidden from YHWH, my rights are ignored by my God?” Do you not know? Have you not heard? YHWH is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. This God does not faint or grow weary; with a depth of understanding that is unsearchable. God give strength to the weary, and empowers the powerless. Young women may grow tired and weary, young men may stumble and fall, but those who wait for YHWH find a renewed power: they soar on eagles’ wings, they run and don’t get weary, they walk and never tire.

Prayers of the People

Yusuph Emmanuel

Choral Offertory

Morsel and Sip
Sanctuary Choir

Ralph Manuel
Text: R.G. Huff

Morsel and sip. Bread and cup.
This your body, this your blood
Broken and poured out, lifted up in
Morsel and sip. Bread and cup.

You command us. We comply.
With thanksgiving, selves deny.

Morsel and sip. Bread and cup.
This your table. This your plan.
We are re-membered, joined again by
Morsel and sip. Bread and cup.

Yours the suff’ring. Yours the pain.
Yours the loss. Ours the gain.

Shared with all this loaf and grail —
Strong and lovely, weak and frail.
Each who comes to taste and see
Joins the ageless mystery of
Morsel and sip. Bread and cup.

+Epistle Reading — 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Sara Tinsley

Not that I do boast about preaching the Gospel; I am under compulsion and have no choice. I am ruined if I do not preach the Gospel! If I do it willingly, I have my reward; if unwillingly, I am nonetheless entrusted with a charge. What then is my reward? It is simply this: that when preaching, I offer

the Gospel free of charge and do not assert the authority the Gospel gives me. Although I am not bound to anyone, I put myself into the service of all so as to win over as many as possible. To the Jews I became even more Jewish, to win over the Jewish people; even though I am not subject to the Law, I made myself subject to the Law, to win those who are subject to the Law. To those who have no law, I was free of the Law, too — though not free from God’s Law, being subject to the Law of Christ — to win those who have no law. To the weak I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might save at least some of them. In fact, I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of having a share in its blessings.

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

“All Things or One Thing”

Darren DeMent

We pause in silence to reflect and to be attentive to the Spirit of God.

Celebration of the Lord’s Supper

Darren DeMent

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.

**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.**

Passing of the Bread

Jesus Paid It All

arr. Edwin T. Childs

Passing of the Cup

Adagio from Concerto in D Minor, BWV 974

A. Marcello/J.S. Bach

Passing of the Peace

May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.



1. God of beau-ty, truth, and good-ness, Lord of wis-dom yet un-known,
2. Stand for truth and cry for jus-tice, share with those who don't be-long,
3. Run with faith and live with hon-or, bear-ing wit-ness in his call,
4. Make a joy-ful cel-e-bra-tion. God in Christ has con-quer-ed death!



grant us strength to match the vi-sion as we come be-fore your throne.
and re-mem-ber as you serve them, sing for those who have no song.
as dis-ci-ples, build the fu-ture, un-til Christ is Lord of all.
If you real-ly are a wit-ness, sing un-til you have no breath.



Sing a joy-ful al-le-lu-ia, prais-ing God in all you do,



and re-mem-ber as you wit-ness, God is sing-ing o-ver you!

Sharing of Decisions

Darren DeMent

Benediction

Darren DeMent

Postlude

Improvisation on themes of the day

Jeff Brummel

Candy McComb, music director

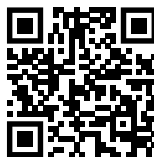
The flowers today are given in loving memory of
Joseph Michael Furney by Nancy, William and Jonathan Furney.

Meet today's worship leaders

Yusuph Emmanuel is the founder and CEO of Twelve21 Global, the beneficiary of today's Souper Bowl of Caring. Working primarily in Tanzania, Twelve21 aims to engage, equip and empower the vulnerable to fulfill God's purpose for their lives and communities. Learn more about Twelve21's work on page 10.

Damien Mitchell and his wife, Keri, are parents to Elliana, a ninth grader at Woodrow Wilson High School, and Everly, a fourth grader at Eduardo Mata Montessori School. The family joined Wilshire in December along with Damien's father, Hank Mitchell. Damien attends Avodah Class at Wilshire and works as a pediatrician at Forest Lane Pediatrics.

Sara Tinsley is married to Price, and they are parents to Gillian, a senior at Garland High School, and Anabelle, an eighth grader at Brandenburg Middle School. Sara's other family members at Wilshire include her brother, Rob Campos, and her in-laws, Peggy and Sam Tinsley. Sara sings in Sanctuary Choir, serves on the Preschool Education Committee and teaches preschoolers in Sunday School and on Wednesday nights. She is a Pre-K teacher in Garland Independent School District.



Connect with Wilshire. Scan the QR code using your smartphone camera to make a financial contribution, fill out our online guest card or submit a prayer request. You may also use the response card or offering envelope found in the pew rack. These items can be placed in the offering plate or in one of the secure offering boxes located near the Sanctuary exits.

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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 without phone extensions do not have Wilshire email addresses.

Communications

- Mark McKenzie, Communications Director (3169)

Congregational Care

- Barbara Clayton, Pastoral Care Assistant (3125)
- Linda Garner, Parish Nurse (3151)
- Carolyn Murray, Coordinator of Congregational Life (3170)
- Heather Mustain, Associate Pastor (3110)

Early Childhood Learning Center

- Kelly Akins, ECLC Assistant Director and Curriculum Specialist (3139)
- Carole McClung, ECLC Administrative Assistant (3115)
- Ramona Randle, ECLC Director (3140)

Finance

- Lori Gooden, Director of Finance (3131)

Food Services

- Luke Munion, Food Service Staff
- Haley Robinson, Food Service Director (3117)
- Gillian Tinsley, Food Service Staff
- Elias Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Leyvi Vasquez, Food Service Staff
- Wilfredo Velasquez-Cruz, Food Service Staff

Hospitality and Facilities

- Maricela Escutia, Facilities Supervisor
- Holly Irvin, Director of Hospitality (3150)
- Daniel Latin, Facilities
- Leticia Medina, Facilities
- Kevin Sierra, Facilities
- Leticia Vega, Facilities
- Glenda Williams, Receptionist (3165)

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), *starting Feb. 12*

Operations and Technology

- Rene Altamirano, Maintenance Technician
- Merik Gillett, Operations Director (3146)
- Eric Mirochna, IT Manager (3136)

Pathways to Ministry

- Charlie Fuller, Pathways to Ministry Director and Coach in Residence (3123)
- George Mason, Pathways to Ministry Alumni Director and Senior Pastor Emeritus (3133)

Senior Pastor

- Debby Burton, Executive Assistant (3132)
- Geri McKenzie, Executive Director of Administration (3159)
- Timothy Peoples, Senior Pastor (3132)

Spiritual Formation

- Darren DeMent, Associate Pastor (3102)
- Julie Girards, Minister to Children (3104)
- Chelsea Hopkins, Spiritual Formation Coordinator (3130)
- Staci Langley, Childcare Coordinator
- Katie Murray, Minister to Senior Adults (3129)
- Barbara Peterson, Librarian (3114)

Tapestry



News & Announcements
February 4, 2024



Today after worship in Community Hall

Head down to Community Hall after worship for our annual Souper Bowl of Caring, benefiting the Phil Strickland Hunger Offering. We'll serve soup and all the fixings, and we encourage you to donate an amount equal to what you would spend at a nice restaurant for lunch. No reservation needed. Cash, check and credit cards accepted.

The beneficiary for this year's event is **Twelve21 Global's Farm School Project**. Through this work, Twelve21 aims to establish a sustainable food source to benefit their two schools in Tanzania and the communities they serve for years to come. A \$9,000 gift has been made to Twelve 21 from Missions Plus funds, and we'd love to send \$6,000 from Souper Bowl of Caring to bring our total support to \$15,000.

Read more about Twelve21 Global and the Farm School Project on the next page.

Congratulations to

Rachel and Sam Murphy on the birth of their son, Roger Jon "RJ," Jan. 29. Big sister is Sophia.

New member

Ben Gibson

Ariel Merivil starts Feb. 12



Ariel Merivil has arrived in Dallas and will start soon as Wilshire's minister of music. His first day in the office will be Monday, Feb. 12, and his first Sunday will be Feb. 18. Charlie Fuller wrapped up his duties as interim minister of music on Jan. 28 and will take

a few weeks off before returning in March as director of Pathways to Ministry and coach in residence.

Timothy to speak at Baylor event

Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples will speak at a conference on racism in the church presented by Baylor University's Truett Seminary. Timothy's session, a panel discussion titled "Black Pastors in White Spaces," will take place Friday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. The Feb. 15-17 conference, hosted by Wilshire friend Greg Garrett, will be viewable online. To see the full schedule and register, visit truettseminary.baylor.edu and see the Events & Resources section.



Sundays: Worship at 11 a.m. Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Our service livestreams at youtube.com/wilshirebaptist and at wilshirebc.org/worship/livestream. Keep up with Wilshire by subscribing to our YouTube channel and following us on Facebook and Instagram.

Planting the seed to meet the need



twelve21
GLOBAL

BY YUSUPH EMMANUEL

The outlook is bleak for far too many people in the remote villages of Tanzania. There is no hope for a different life, let alone a better life, and dreaming about the future seems foolish when every day is a fight for survival.

The severe drought that hit East Africa last year has significantly impacted harvests and resulted in a steep increase in the prices of cereals and other staple foods. This has become a significant challenge for impoverished households in Bukabwa and Kome Island communities, who may depend on a single daily meal for survival.

Twelve21 Global currently operates two schools in these communities with 404 active students. However, these poor harvests and growing food costs have left our students and their communities vulnerable.

The saying goes, “It takes a village to raise a child,” but creating a farm that can provide a school and community with their primary food source and potentially lead to long-term sustainability requires additional effort. Small-scale

farming is a common practice in the villages of Bukabwa and Kome Island. Still, many struggle to achieve sustainable harvests due to a lack of access to quality farming inputs and technology, water scarcity, unpredictable rainfall and the emergence of crop diseases.

Twelve21 Global aims to establish a sustainable food source that can benefit our two schools and the communities we serve for years to come. We hope to pass on this knowledge to future generations by adopting better agricultural practices. This project will:

- Reduce the monthly cost of purchasing food for our schools.
- Create job opportunities for families of the children in our schools.
- Generate sustainable income for the ministry through the sale of excess produce.
- Educate parents on modern agricultural practices, empowering them to establish a long-term sustainable practice.

Yusuph Emmanuel is the Founder and CEO of Twelve21 Global. Learn more at twelve21global.org.

A note from Charlie Fuller

My dear, wonderful, and new-to-me Wilshire family:

It all began with a phone call.

Your gifted, loving and simply wonderful pastor, Timothy, asked if I'd be willing to come to Dallas and talk about helping with a music interim. I'm so glad I said, "Yes."

It would take a dozen issues of the *Tapestry* to properly thank you for all we've experienced together these last nine months. You've been loving and gracious beyond measure! Your staff and music staff in particular have been a great source of support and encouragement. I've learned much from all of them and the rest of the church during these days. I think you know you have a wonderful staff. I'm grateful to have shared these days of ministry with them and look forward to resuming that shared work soon.

Sanctuary Choir has both loved me well and responded so beautifully to my leadership in ways beyond description. They rallied and adapted and adjusted to new leadership in thoughtful, faithful and loving ways. They are also a Wilshire treasure!

God is busy in this Wilshire community doing the gospel things that we can only partially explain in human language. One of the many ways I see that is in how you are adjusting to the expected struggle that comes with change. You've experienced the retirement of your pastor and music minister after long, beautiful and effective seasons of ministry. Even as you grieve a beautiful season fading into the past, I see you as a church embracing the exciting new future right in front of you. Thanks be to God!

In the weeks, months, and years to come, we'll experience more of the presence of God's Spirit through the work and ministry of Ariel Merivil. There are great days ahead for our shared community, and much of that will be seen and heard through our music ministry. We are in such great hands with the coming of Ariel!

As the Apostle Paul said, "I thank my God for every remembrance of you." My wife Cindy and I will see you soon as we come to Dallas and I begin my new role as Director of Pathways to Ministry and Coach in Residence.

—Charlie Fuller



**Sign up for meal packing on
new date: Monday, Feb. 19**



Join us on Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 19, as we partner with Rise Against Hunger to pack healthy meals for those in need. The event (postponed from Jan. 15) will be held from 10 a.m. to noon in Community Hall. Our goal is to pack 15,120 meals, which is doable with Rise Against Hunger's fun assembly line method. This project is for everyone, with opportunities to serve while seated or standing. Children are a great help. Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/meal-packing or via the QR code.

- If you signed up for Jan. 15 and plan to come Feb. 19, there's no need to sign up again.
- If you signed up for Jan. 15 but can't make it on Feb. 19, please let Abbey Adcox know.



Doing the work of Lent

Every year when Lent comes around, it is important to be reminded that Lent requires something of us. Lent is not passive. Lent does not simply happen to us; we have to make the conscious decision to engage ... to engage in the work of Lent. This year we invite you to discover what it means to do the work of lent. We'll explore the spiritual practice of fasting and examine how our lifelong spiritual journeys inform the way we engage in the world around us.

Sunday worship

Starting Feb. 18, Timothy's Lenten messages will focus on the spiritual practice of fasting. Often we think of fasting only as giving up food, or we see it as something other Christians do. Fasting is an intentional letting go to make space to hear sacred whispers or accept holy interruptions.

Wednesday Bible Study

On Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Community Hall, starting Feb. 21, Timothy will lead "talk-back" sessions that expand on his Sunday messages.

Spiritual formation book study

We will also engage our Lent theme through the new book *Hard and Holy Work: A Lenten Journey through the Book of Exodus* by Mary Alice Birdwhistell and Tyler Mayfield, which explores how Moses' spiritual awakening at the burning bush informed his involvement in the hard and holy

work of liberation — and what that can mean for us. The book is available to purchase from major book retailers. We encourage everyone to read along and participate with us.

■ **Discussion group.** On Sundays from 9 to 9:45 a.m., Darren DeMent and Katie Murray will lead a discussion group on the book in Room 1205-G. Starts Feb. 18.

■ **Sunday School.** Several classes, including Youth, will study the book during Lent.

■ **Family study guide.** Julie Girards is creating a guide for parents to use with children.

Mark your calendar

■ Lent begins on Feb. 14, Ash Wednesday. The first Sunday in Lent is Feb. 18.

■ Road to Resurrection interactive experience, Palm Sunday, March 24.

■ Maundy Thursday service, March 28, time TBD.

■ Easter Sunday, March 31. Sunrise service, T&P Hill at White Rock Lake, time TBD.

Ash Wednesday services at noon and 6 p.m. on Feb. 14



We will offer two services on **Feb. 14**. Both are open to anyone and will include the imposition of ashes.

■ The first service will take place in Community Hall in conjunction with Lunch & Learn. Lunch will begin at

11:30 a.m. as usual, and the Ash Wednesday service will take the place of Bible Study, starting at noon and ending by 12:45. Lunch costs \$10 each; no reservation needed.

■ A second Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary in lieu of our usual 6 p.m. offerings. Children are encouraged to attend; childcare will be available for preschoolers. Koinonia Café will be offered at 5 p.m. as usual.

ECLC now enrolling for fall

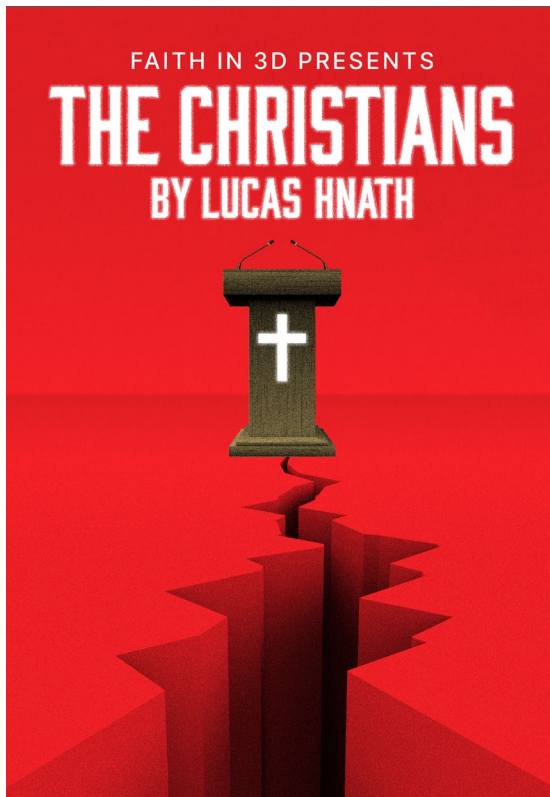
Wilshire's Early Childhood Learning Center is enrolling for the 2024–2025 school year. ECLC is a licensed early care program offering a comprehensive approach to education for infants to Pre-K. Learn more at wilshirebc.org/eclc.

Volunteer opportunity at WRCH

Wilshire will staff mission partner White Rock Center of Hope's drive-thru food distribution on Saturday, Feb. 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 8:45. Ideal for those 14 and up; if you have younger kids, contact Abbey Adcox (aadcox@wilshirebc.org). Sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/wrch-food.

Time with Tim on Feb. 18

Time with Tim, an informal chance for guests and new members to meet and visit with Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples, will be held Feb. 18 at 9:45 a.m. in Timothy's office. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).



Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m.

Wilshire's Faith in 3D initiative will present *The Christians*, a dramatic play by Lucas Hnath, on Thursday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Nancy Poynter is directing the cast of five Wilshire actors, and Ralph Manuel is leading a 25-voice choir. *The Christians*, which explores the aftermath of a controversial sermon delivered by a megachurch pastor, has been called "a gripping and introspective examination of faith, belief and the consequences of theological shifts within a congregation" (*Oklahoma Gazette*).

■ **Childcare** will be offered by reservation for the Feb. 17 show only. Register by Feb. 11 here: wilshirebc.org/events/faith-in-3d-2024.



Artist to speak Feb. 7

The Feb. 7 Lunch & Learn will feature Dallas artist Vikki Martin speaking about *Conversations*, an exhibit of her work on display in Wilshire's South Lobby.

Lunch & Learn meets weekly in Community Hall at 11:30 a.m. for lunch (\$10 each) and minister-led Bible Study. No RSVP needed. Contact: Barbara Clayton (bclayton@wilshirebc.org)



Conversations

Art by Vikki J. Martin
South Lobby | Ends Feb. 28

wilshirebc.org/events/conversations

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE

FEB. 7

Koinonia Café | 5–6 p.m. | **Community Hall** | Buffet-style dinner for the whole family. Pricing at wilshirebc.org/events/wnl. **Feb. 7:** Philly cheesesteak sandwich, wedge fries, caramelized carrots, soup, salad, carrot cake, red velvet cookies, jello. **Kids:** Ham and cheese sandwich, fries.

Music, Missions & More | 6–7 p.m. | **Age 3–Pre-K** | Preschool choir, plus fun activities focused on God's love.

KidConnect | 6–7 p.m. | **K-Grade 6** | A rotation of art, music and more to help kids learn how to love God and others.

Bible Study: The Work of Christmas Begins | **Final Week** | 6–7 p.m. | **Community Hall** | In his poem "The Work of Christmas," Howard Thurman reminds us the work of Christmas doesn't happen during Advent in our waiting and preparation, but after all the pomp and circumstance. When things seem to have calmed down and become quiet is when we need to get out the hammers, saws and drills to make noise and create an atmosphere of justice. Join Senior Pastor Timothy Peoples as we discuss how we can contribute to the work.

Watershed | 6:30–7:30 p.m. | **Grades 7–12** | Bible study and music in the Youth Center.

Sanctuary Choir | 7 p.m. | **Choral Hall** | No audition. New singers welcome.

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

Children's class open houses

Children's Sunday School classes are hosting open houses from 9:30 to 10 a.m. in the coming weeks. Parents are invited to meet their child's teachers and other families while enjoying coffee and treats. Remaining dates:

- Kindergarten: Feb. 4, Room 2226
- Second Grade: Feb. 11, Room 2224
- Third & Fourth Grade: Feb. 18, Room 2225

Let's play mahjong!

Join Women of Wilshire for mahjong the first Friday each month at 10 a.m. and the second Wednesday each month at 6 p.m. Please sign up at wilshirebc.org/events/mahjong.

WOW book clubs

■ **Tuesday Evening Book Club** meets Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor to discuss *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. Contact: Debby Burton (dburton@wilshirebc.org).

■ **Brown Bag Book Club** meets March 7 at noon in Room 1205-L to discuss Kate Morton's *The Secret Keeper*. Contact: Carolyn Murray (cmurray@wilshirebc.org).

Serve others on a Care Team

Wilshire's Care Teams ministry is holding an information session for potential volunteers on Sunday, March 10, at noon. Lunch will be provided but registration is required by March 3. Care Teams help those who have needs due to an accident, illness or other crisis. Examples include providing food or transportation, helping with pets, household chores or repairs, or sitting with a loved one to give respite to a caregiver. Lawyers and financial experts are needed to give pro bono advice to senior adults or others. Register for the information session at wilshirebc.org/events/care-teams-info. Contact: Linda Garner (lgarner@wilshirebc.org)

This Week

Sunday, Feb. 4

- Art Exhibit, South Lobby, through February
- WSM Book Club, Youth Center, 8:30 a.m.
- Kindergarten Open House, 2226, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.
- Worship, Sanctuary, 11 a.m.
- Souper Bowl of Caring, Community Hall, noon
- Children's Choir Snack Lunch, 2221, noon
- Wilshire Bells, Handbell Room, 12:15 p.m.
- Children's Choirs, 12:30 p.m.
- Carillon Ringers, Handbell Room, 2:15 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 5

- Faith in 3D Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 6:45 p.m.
- Wilshire Winds, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 6

- Stephen Ministry Supervision/CE, 1205-G & 1205-L, 6:30 p.m.
- Faith in 3D Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 7

- New Song, Choral Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Ukulele Rehearsal, Choral Hall, 11 a.m.
- Lunch & Learn, Community Hall, 11:30 a.m.
- Koinonia Café, Community Hall, 5 p.m.
- Bible Study, Community Hall, 6 p.m.
- Preschool Music, Missions & More, 6 p.m.
- KidConnect, 6 p.m.
- MOPS Steering, 3105, 6 p.m.
- WSM Watershed, Youth Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Sanctuary Choir, Choral Hall, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 8

- Stewpot Meal Service, 11:15 a.m.
- Knit Unto Others, Parlor, 1:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 9

- Friday Friends, 3301, 10 a.m.
- WOW Retreat, Prothro Center, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 10

- WOW Retreat, Prothro Center

Scott Spreier

Hometown: Jetmore, Kansas

Present City: Dallas

Education: University of Kansas

Profession: Consultant and writer

Tell us about your family.

Jeanne and I have been married 38 years. Our three wonderful kids (Mary Lu, who works for the American Heart Association and is still active at Wilshire; Wilson, an Air Force captain and father of three; and Joel, an engineer in the space industry) all grew up at Wilshire.

How about your work or volunteer life?

I've had two great careers, one as a journalist and the other as an executive coach/consultant. These days I'm trying to retire. I continue to write and volunteer. I'm an ambassador with Giffords Gun Owners for Safety, which focuses on reducing firearm fatalities through education and reasonable legislation. I also mentor newly released felons through the Prison Entrepreneurship Program.

Any favorite hobbies?

Tennis, bird-hunting, fishing, reading, traveling.

What are your favorite places to travel?

The last new place I discover. I'm fortunate to have had a career that allowed me to explore the world — from Tokyo to Berlin, Spain to South Africa. That said, I find wandering in the Rockies or across the Great Plains best for repairing one's soul.

What brought you to Wilshire and when?

Wilshire was recommended by a Jewish friend almost 30 years ago. We found it welcoming, kid-friendly, and spiritually fulfilling, and have never looked back.



Where are you engaged at Wilshire?

We're long-time Epiphany Class members. I occasionally teach Sunday School and try to stay involved in mission and advocacy work.

What has surprised you most about Wilshire?

How it has evolved spiritually and culturally. Also, the miracles Darren has worked in the "basement," transforming generations of kids, including ours, into spiritual, giving, thinking adults.

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

Given I'm in life's "fourth quarter," I believe God expects me to start letting go of the material stuff and focus on giving back, be it through the church, volunteering or my writing.

Tell us about your faith journey.

It's been circuitous, at times dark and treacherous. I was born a Baptist, grew up Presbyterian, became a Catholic, then Presbyterian, then full-circle back to Baptist, where finally I feel at home and at peace. For all the gory details, read my recent novel, *Resurrecting St. John the Baptist*.

What's something interesting most people would not know about you?

I've been baptized three times: sprinkled, splashed, immersed — a "holy hat trick" of sorts, although I've always believed the first took and others were mere denominational initiation rites.

What adjectives best describe you?

I'll let others be the judge of that ...