



November 16, 2016

Volume 24, Issue 91

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Thanksgiving Sunday

⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. —*Philippians 4:6-7*

As Thanksgiving approaches I'm sure many of us will be focused on preparing and eating lots and lots of delicious food. I'm planning on smoking two turkeys: one for each side of my family. In the midst of all of this food, it is tempting for us to forget the heart of this celebration which is to offer our thanks to God. So, let me ask you, how do you say, "Thanks," to God? What do you do to express your gratitude and thanks to the God who blesses you every day of your life?

Cultivating gratitude is critical to your personal prayer life. Thomas Merton said, "To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love. Every moment of our existence is a gift of His grace. Gratitude takes nothing for granted, it is never unresponsive. The grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by personal experience." On Sunday we will prepare your hearts for Thanksgiving by exploring the ways we can offer prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving to God.

We had a wonderful Consecration Sunday and Harvest Dinner. On behalf of our church, I want to thank each of you who generously made your commitment to give to God through our church. It is so encouraging to see how the Holy Spirit is helping so many people grow in generosity. If you were unable to worship with us on Consecration Sunday we will be mailing you an Estimate of Giving Card this week. I hope you will prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give in the coming year and return your estimate of giving card to the church office next week. I am so thankful for each of you and for all of the ways that the Holy Spirit is working through the people in our church to share the love of Jesus Christ and make a Christian difference in our community.

The Advent Conspiracy

Christmas can still change the world. This Advent I want to invite you to join us for ***The Advent Conspiracy*** in Sunday School and Worship. In these four weeks we will focus on the four Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. We will also examine four life-changing ideas: *Spend Less* - and free your resources for things that really matter. *Give More* - of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, and your heart. *Worship Fully* - because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus. *Love All* - the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, and the sick in ways that make a Christian difference. Then, on Christmas Eve, we will gather around the manger to worship the newborn King. ***The Advent Conspiracy*** will change your life and help you celebrate the real meaning of Christmas.

At Christmas, even people who do not attend church are looking for something more. People are more open at this time to an invitation to attend a worship service or other church events. I want to invite you to share the good news of Christmas with your friends, family members, classmates, co-workers, and neighbors who do not have a church home by inviting them to join us for ***The Advent Conspiracy*** on Sundays and to come with you to our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 or 5:30 p.m.** Together, we will make a special Christmas memory. I am looking forward to celebrating a wonderful Christmas with you all. Have a happy Thanksgiving.

Blessings

Dr. Trevor Smith

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, November 20

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.
Charge Conference at 2:00 p.m.
at Church of the Servant

Wednesday through Friday, November 23-25

Church Offices and The Learning Center closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, December 1

College and Young Adult Group at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 4

Youth Visit Epworth Villa at 12:15

Monday, December 5

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11

Youth Christmas Party

Sunday, December 18

Jesus' Birthday Party at 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25

Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

(405)842-5325



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

Do you like to smile and talk to people? Are you enthusiastic about our church? If so, please consider becoming one of the Sunday Morning Greeters. If this is an opportunity you would enjoy, please see Alfred Walker for more details.

Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts provide 8-9 dozen cookies. At the close of the 10:50 Service, the host(s) stand by the cookie table in the Narthex and greet people. We have openings for coffee hosts for **November 27, December 4 and 25.** To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Altar Guild

The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566.

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Carla Hill, Janet Jones, Cinda Lafferty, Carol Magness, Ellie Roberts, and Marty Smith.

Transportation Ministry

Would you like to bring joy to someone by bringing them to church? If you would like to join our transportation ministry contact the church at 405-842-1486.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, November 20.

The coffee host is Doug Franklin.

The mission candle is lit by the Care Committee in memory of John Alexander.

The chancel flowers are given in memory of Carole McClendon's birthday.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,
Bonnie Miller, and Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

Autumn Leaves

Bill and Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris,
Beth and Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller, and Maxine Permenter

Commit To The Church



This week in our young adult group, we will be discussing what it means to commit to the church. One of the prevailing myths in American spirituality and Christianity is that you can be a faithful follower of Christ without being a part of the church or attending church on a regular basis. This is a myth. It just simply isn't true. We must be connected to the body of Christ in some form of community in order to grow in our faith.

I believe a person can believe in Christ without the church, but it is hard to grow as a disciple without being part of a church. We need the accountability and support network that the church provides. When we commit to the church, we are committing to something way bigger than ourselves. Collectively, the church can accomplish the mission of the gospel far more effectively than we ever could individually. Not only do we as individuals need to be committed to the church, but the world is counting on it as well. What is your current commitment level? How else is God calling you to commit to the church?

-Matt

Children's Ministry

Our memory verse for the month of November is **1 Chronicles 29:13, "And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name!"** If your child is able to memorize the verse and tell a teacher, they will get a prize from the treasure box!

During Sunday school we will begin learning Christmas carols that we will sing in front of the congregation. We would love to have as many kids participate as possible so please be there for Sunday school so kids can start learning the songs!

If you're interested in giving your time by volunteering during Sunday school or Children's Church please email me at mchillless@uco.edu.

I hope I will see you all on Sunday! Enjoy the weather!

-Madison



Madison Chillless

Birthday Party for Jesus

What makes Christmas meaningful to you? Is it spending hours buying gifts that your family and friends really don't need, or is it something else? What could make this Christmas different?

Join us on **Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Children, adults, friends, and relatives, are all invited! It will be a wonderful time!

We will enjoy Christmas treats and sing Christmas carols, and the children will enjoy fun crafts.

To celebrate Jesus' birthday we invite you to bring a gift for our John Marshall Neighborhood Market to give high school students the necessities they need. Some examples are small to normal size containers of deodorant, body lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and large packages of granola bars, cereal bars, protein bars, bars of soap, and feminine hygiene products.

Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, have wonderful fellowship, eat yummy treats, help our neighbors in need, and make this Christmas different!





1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116
www.nicholshillsumc.org / 405-842-1486

This Christmas Could Be Different.

Spend Less



Give More



Worship Fully



Love All



 **Advent**
Conspiracy

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

Christmas is coming. Deck the halls, peace on earth, and all that stuff. Christmas is: family, love, home, joy, wonderful, cookies, fruitcake, sweaters, crowded malls, this year's i-Phone, 10 office parties, tacky ornaments, long return lines, credit cards, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts.

Take a step back. Breathe. Remember what Christmas is about. Right now, you stand in line to buy things others don't need, while others must stand in line because they can't afford the things they need. Right now you spend hours at Christmas parties you don't want to attend. What if you spent more time with your family... you know, the ones you love.

Let's be honest. More stuff doesn't make us happy. Maybe it is better to give than to receive. What if you bought one less gift this year and gave the money to someone in need? You could give children books so they can learn to read or give a community seeds so they can grow food. The money you spend on postage could feed a third world child for an entire year. There is so much good to do, but only you can do it. This Christmas could be different. Spend less. Give more. Worship Fully. Love all.

Join us for **The Advent Conspiracy** at *Nichols Hills United Methodist Church* on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we prepare to celebrate Christmas in a remarkable new way.

- November 27** *A Conspiracy of Hope*
- December 4** *The Way of Peace*
- December 11** *Songs of Joy*
- December 18** *Love Came Down at Christmas*
- December 24** *The Light Shines in the Darkness*
- December 25** *What Child Is This?*

Spend Less. Give More.

What makes Christmas meaningful to you? Is it spending hours buying gifts that your family and friends really don't need, or is it something else? What could make this Christmas different? At Nichols Hills United Methodist Church we believe giving to help those who are in need will help make this Christmas different. We invite you to consider buying one less Christmas gift and instead give a gift to help a person or child in need. Below are two ways you can make this Christmas meaningful.

John Marshall High School Neighborhood Market

Due to limited administrative staffing from budget cuts, we were asked to take on the responsibility of the school food pantry. We said, "Yes!" John Marshall is our public middle school and high school. Over 75% of the students at John Marshall are receiving free or reduced lunch. This is an amazing opportunity to fill a basic need of students in our community. We want to support these students to continue their education, but they can't be successful if they are hungry. We want these kids to know that members of their community care about them and their future. John Marshall is given an allotment of \$1,300 each month to order food from the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. Most of the food ordered is easy to prepare meals like beef stew, spaghetti and meatballs, and beans and franks in pop top containers. There are also fruit cups and cereal bowls. Sometimes personal hygiene items are available to order like bars of soap, deodorant, and toothpaste. Unfortunately, these items are very limited. Our church has an opportunity to supplement the pantry with much needed items.

You can help this ministry by talking to Stephanie Henry about how you can volunteer or by donating the following items: small to normal size containers of deodorant; body lotion; toothpaste; toothbrushes; and large packages of granola bars, cereal bars, protein bars, bars of soap, and feminine hygiene products.

Compassion International

For only \$38 per month you can help our church sponsor children who live in impoverished parts of the world. Your gift can help a child have the opportunity to learn and grow physically, mentally, and spiritually. It can also provide access to much-needed immunizations and medical care, as well as food and water to meet critical physical needs.

Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24, 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.



Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116
405-842-1486 / nicholshillsumc.org

This Christmas Eve, connect to the Christmas story like never before. Journey to **the manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas. It's a chance to hear beautiful Christmas music and old familiar carols with family, friends, and neighbors. Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes alive through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight. We will conclude our service with our cherished tradition of passing the lighted candles as we sing ***Silent Night***. It's a Christmas tradition you will not want to miss!

Saturday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion

Each year The Learning Center provides eye screenings for our children who are six months old and older. The organization, Vizavance (formerly named Prevent Blindness Oklahoma), sends a screener for this advanced vision screening. Our children are screened in their classroom with their teachers present.

Good vision is essential to children's learning. Often we can spot red flags and ask

families to follow up with their local optometrist or ophthalmologist for a more comprehensive eye exam. This preventive measure can alleviate permanent vision loss and other negative outcomes.

In the last two years we have referred eight children to have comprehensive eye exams. This is a contribution TLC makes to provide children with the best care possible for the whole child. Our screening will be on Thursday, November 17. Wish us well!

-Denise



The Advent Conspiracy Sunday School Class

Join the Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, and The Brew Class for a 4-week study beginning on Sunday, November 27 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. During these four weeks, Pastor Trevor Smith will help us examine four life-changing ideas:

Spend Less - and free your resources for things that really matter.

Give More - of your presence: your hands, your words, your time, and your heart.

Worship Fully - because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus.

Love All - the poor, the forgotten, the marginalized, and the sick in ways that make a Christian difference.

Sign up in the Church Office.



Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org. Click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.

We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have any questions, please contact Louise Glass at the church 405-842-1486.



Alfred Walker Assistance Fund

The Alfred and Rosella Walker Assistance Fund has helped 187 people in 2015 and 2016 with their utilities and rent. Rosella's birthday is on November 21. If you would like to honor her memory, donations can be made towards the fund so that others may continue to be helped.

Birthdays

11/17	Susan Morrison-Dyke
11/18	John Heflin
11/19	Frances Thompson
11/20	Frank Miskovsky, III
11/21	Win Holbrook
	Angie Sanger
11/27	Sondra Barker
11/28	Rich McLain
	Alfred Walker
11/29	Michael Hall
	Traci Miller
11/30	Geraldine Raupe
	Mark Sullivan
	Perry Tirrell
12/01	Sarah Butler
	Elizabeth Prosser
	Alesha Rogers
12/02	Matt Patrick
12/03	Tony Dyke
12/04	Maxine Asch
	Ronald McLeod

If your birthday isn't included in our list, please contact the church office (405-842-1486) to be added.

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73116

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit Number 1226
Oklahoma City, OK



Sunday School Classes - Sunday at 9:45 a.m.

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join "The Brew" for fellowship and discussion on topics that provide insight and support for staying on the pathway of a Christian lifestyle in today's world. This Sunday we will continue studying *Breaking Busy (or How to Find Peace & Purpose in a World of Crazy)* by Alli Worthington. The Brew will begin ***The Advent Conspiracy*** on November 27. For more information about "The Brew" please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Cynthia Meyerson will be reviewing a book the next 2 Sundays titled "Telling Tales about Jesus." This book is an introduction to the New Testament Gospel by Dr. Warren Carter, a Methodist Minister who teaches at Bright Theology Seminary. Leader: Hank Bradley.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Library* - Do you like to see how your faith impacts your everyday life? Join us for a discussion of how the Bible speaks to the current events in our lives. The Reveille Class will begin ***The Advent Conspiracy*** on November 27. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives Room* - The Open Circle Class primarily utilizes the Lectionary approach to studying scriptures, which excerpts scriptures from the Bible so that the full Bible is covered every two years. We also study hymns. The Open Circle Class will begin ***The Advent Conspiracy*** on November 27. Teacher: John Marshall.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.
Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

Second Graders through Fifth Graders: *Meets in the Children's Area.* Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other. Ministry Intern: Laley Braucher.

Children's Class: *Meets in the Children's Area.* - Join us for a child-friendly lesson, snacks, and crafts as we learn about the Bible together.
Director of Children's Ministry: Madison Chilless

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Madison Chilless, Director of Children's Ministry
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist
Kathy Smith, Treasurer
Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Laley Braucher, Ministry Intern
Rachel Spear, Nursery Attendant
Shendra Stevens, Nursery Attendant
Randall Blair, Sunday Host

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
405-842-1486 • 405.843.1835 Fax • www.nicholshillsumc.org
The Learning Center (T.L.C.): 405-842-5325