



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

The Light Shines in the Darkness

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. —*John 1:1-5, 14*

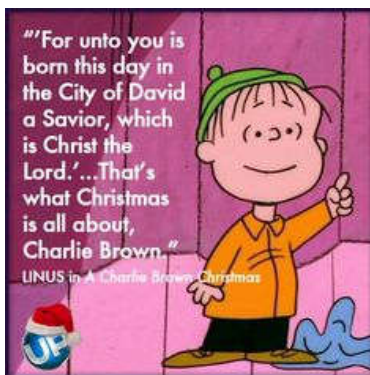
Christmas Eve is almost here, and I hope you are planning to join us for one of our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 or 5:30 p.m. on Saturday. One of the things I look forward to every Christmas is *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. I particularly love the scene where an exasperated Charlie Brown blurts out, "I guess I really don't know what Christmas is all about. Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" Linus replies, "Sure Charlie Brown. I can tell you what Christmas is all about." Then he tells Charlie Brown the Christmas Story in *Luke's Gospel*.

I usually preach from *Luke's Gospel* on Christmas Eve, and it tells the traditional story about shepherds and angels and the baby Jesus in the manger. However, on Christmas Eve, as we ponder the real meaning of Christmas, we are going to turn to the Christmas story in *John's Gospel* and focus on the meaning as he understood it. We will also sing some of your favorite Christmas carols and conclude our services by passing the light and singing *Silent Night*. As part of our *Advent Conspiracy* this year, we are going to give away our entire Christmas Eve Offering to benefit young people at John Marshall High School and children around the world through Compassion International. I want to thank each of you who have given generously to children in our community and around the world so that they would experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas.

On Sunday, December 25 we will only have one worship service at 10:50 a.m. Dress will be casual, and you can wear your favorite Christmas sweater. We will not have Sunday school. On Sunday, January 1, we will return to our normal Sunday schedule with Worship services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

I want to thank you for the generous way so many of you have committed to support our church's ministry in the coming year. As of today, the people in our church have committed \$668,714 to empower our church's ministry in 2017. This is \$34,094 more than was committed in the previous year and represents a 5.3% increase. If you would like to make a charitable donation that will count towards your 2016 taxes, the Church Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 27 through Friday, December 30. Thank you so much for your generosity.

It has been wonderful to see how God has blessed us this year, and I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you. May God continue to bless you and your family as we gather to worship at the manger.



Ministry Calendar

Saturday, December 24

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

Christmas Sunday, December 25

Christmas Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, December 26

Church Offices Closed

Women's A. A. Group, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 27 to

Friday, December 30

Church Office Open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 28

No Newsletter This Week

Sunday, January 1

Worship at 8:30 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, January 2

Church Offices Closed

The Learning Center Closed

Wednesday, January 4

Newsletter Folding at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, January 9

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Women's A. A. Group, 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 10

Church Council and Staff Parish

Relations Committee at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 11

Nichols Thrills begins at 5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

Closed Monday, December 26

to Monday January 2.

Spring Semester Begins

on Tuesday, January 3

(405)842-5325



Merry Christmas!
Trevor

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 **January**. 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, Sharon Ives, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, Karen McLain, Marty Smith, Kathy Walker and Jean Warner.

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, December 25.

The coffee host is the Cinda Lafferty. The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. Gary Roberts' Christmas Eve birthday from Ellie Roberts and family. Glory to God as we celebrate Jesus' birth!

The mission candle is lit by Marty Smith in loving memory of Mary Elizabeth and Owen Thomas Jennings.

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, Dale Jordan,
Frances Lewis, David Mueller,
and Maxine Permenter

The Advent Conspiracy

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, gifts.

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.

December 24 *The Light Shines in the Darkness*

December 25 *What Child Is This?*

Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

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



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.

Organ prelude 15 minutes before each service.

Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.

Birthday Party for Jesus

Thank you to all who helped make this event a big success! Below are some sweet photos of the live nativity that we thought you would enjoy!



Don't Forget

For your charitable gifts to count towards your 2016 taxes they must be postmarked Saturday, December 31! The Church Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 27 through Friday, December 30. Merry Christmas!



Christmas Day Service

Hey everyone! We are only a few days away from Christmas, and there is an opportunity I wanted to make sure you knew about. Every few years, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. This year, we will have Christmas Eve services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. on Saturday evening, and then we will have one service at 10:50 a.m. on Sunday.



Rev. Matt Patrick

I hope that after all of the packages are opened and the dust has settled from an exciting Christmas morning, you will come and worship with us. Dress will be casual, and you can wear your favorite Christmas sweater. We will be taking a closer look at the Christmas story and celebrating that our Lord Jesus has come. Christmas is almost here! Will you let it change you?

- Matt

Children's Ministry

I hope you all are ready for Christmas! On Saturday, December 24th, we will have our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. We will have childcare available at both services, and we would love to worship with you all!

On Sunday, December 25th, we will have the 10:50 a.m. Service only. There will not be an 8:30 a.m. Service or Sunday school but childcare will be available on Christmas day!

We will have fun Christmas crafts for the children to do during the services on the 24th and 25th.

I am so excited to spend Christmas with such a wonderful congregation at such a beautiful church! Hope to see you all on Saturday and Sunday!

-Madison



Madison Chilless

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion

We had a marvelous turnout for our third annual Christmas Music Program. It was standing room only in the Fellowship Hall. Our music teacher, Andrea Deeds, led the children in songs and lots of bell ringing. The program lasted for about thirty minutes. Parents, grandparents, nannies, friends of family, and neighbors came out to see the children perform. It was a delightful time. We hope that all church members who want to come to our events will always feel comfortable to attend. The Learning Center is grateful to be here. Enjoy the photos! Our fall session ends on December 23. Merry Christmas to everyone. See you on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

-Denise



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.



Birthdays

12/27	Julie Vaughn
12/29	Lida Elkins
	Taylor McLain
12/30	Abe Malone
12/31	Don Wilson
01/01	Lisa Franklin
	Lauren Harrah
01/03	Michael Dean
01/04	Graham Jones
	Anesha Smith
01/05	Bill Alexander
01/05	Lynn Greene
	Anne Holbrook
	Brenda McDaniel
	Morgan Smith
01/06	Sayde Saunders
01/07	Sherron Evans
01/12	Garrett Fraley
01/13	Pam Eales
01/13	Joan Payne

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

Chicago Mission Trip

**Saturday, March 11th to
Friday, March 17th**

At Nichols Hills United Methodist Church, we believe that it is important to not only build the kingdom of God within in our own community but to also pour into other communities around the world. We are planning a mission trip to serve at the United Church of Rogers Park in northern Chicago on Saturday, March 11th to Friday, March 17th. While there, we will serve at the church's after school program, prepare a community garden and help with assorted maintenance tasks around the church. The cost is \$350. A \$150 deposit is due on Wednesday, January 15th, 2017 and final payment is due on Monday, March 6th. For more information, please contact Matt Patrick at 918-978-9102 or mpatrick9376@gmail.com.

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

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We will not have Sunday School on Christmas Day but will resume on Sunday, January 1st.
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. 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* - Join us as we learn how we can make a Christian difference in the world. 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. 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. 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 Room 124.* Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other.
Director of Children's Ministry: Madison Chilless

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

New Sunday School Class, beginning on January 8! Join us as we study the Bible through the Adult Bible Study curriculum.
For more information, contact the Church Office at 405-842-1486.

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
Randall Blair, Sunday Host
Rachel Spear, Nursery Attendant
Shendra Stevens, Nursery Attendant