

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Mary and Joseph's Story

⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. -*Luke 2:6-7*

Christmas Eve is almost here, and I hope you are planning to join us for one of our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 5:00 or 7:00 p.m. on Thursday. I will be sharing a message about how Jesus was born in Bethlehem that will help you consider the true meaning of Christmas, and we will sing some of your favorite Christmas

carols. Of course, we'll conclude our services by passing the light and singing *Silent Night*.

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.

Merry Christmas!
Trevor

The 12 Days of Christmas

In the church we get to celebrate Christmas for twelve days, and Christmas day is just the beginning of the celebration. With that in mind, here's an explanation of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning and a hidden meaning known only to members of the Catholic Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.

The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ on the cross.

The two turtledoves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for the theological virtues: faith, hope, and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, which are the first five books of the Old Testament called the Pentateuch by Christians.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, and Mercy. The grace of the swan is the reminder of the grace of God in bestowing gifts and the social graces these embody.

The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples spreading the Gospel.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Ministry Calendar

Thursday, December 24

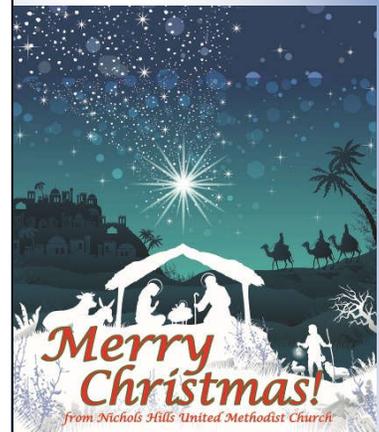
Family Friendly Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 5:00
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 25

Merry Christmas! Church Offices and The Learning Center Closed.

Sunday, December 27

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
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.

Greeters provide a welcoming smile to people walking in the door for our Sunday worship services. They encourage newcomers and visitors to get involved in a Sunday School Class, direct people to the restrooms or to the children's nursery area as necessary.

You can sign up to serve for 20 minutes on Sunday morning at one of three time slots: 8:15 to 8:35, 9:30 to 9:50, or 10:35 to 10:55. If this seems like 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 **all of January**. To serve, sign-up on the bulletin board outside the office.

Altar Guild

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Becky Buchanan, Mary Ann Carmichael, Carol Magness, Ellie Roberts, Marty Smith, Sally Stringer, Kathy Walker, and Jean Warner

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Bill and Katie Alexander,
Maxine Asch, Joanne Crosby,
and Bonnie Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

At Home

Roger Etling, Ann and Tom Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris,
Beth & Dale Jordan, Frances Lewis,
Joye McLain David Mueller,
Maxine Permenter, and Gene Wheeler

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. This may just be one of the easiest ways for you to serve in our church and make a Christian difference.

Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

December 24, 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 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!

Thursday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. (family-friendly) and 7:00 p.m.

Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.



Matt Patrick

Another Christmas Story

I am looking forward to seeing you all during our Christmas Eve Services this Thursday. I hope that you will return on Sunday, December 27th when I will be telling a bonus Christmas story that is sometimes overlooked during the Advent season. In John 1, we get an excellent scene about how Jesus has been eternally present with God from the beginning of time. John writes about how Jesus is the "light that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it."

Sometimes, it can feel like we live in difficult and dark times, and these are the moments when we must remember to look at the light. How can you bring Christ's light into the darkness of our world? Come explore that answer with me this Sunday as we continue to celebrate the birth of Christ.



Lauren Matthes

I Trust in God's Plan

Some things happen in our lives that we can never explain. But I trust in God, and I trust His plan. Romans 8:28 tells us, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." I have been encouraged by my doctors to pull back on my activity for a few months. My bruised spinal cord doesn't respond well to singing and dancing with fabulous children. Imagine that! And it's not in my nature to give anything less than 100%. Our family has discussed it, prayed about it and come to the conclusion that it is best if I resign as the Director of

Children and Family Ministry and allow myself time to just heal and be held by God. I will be praying for all of you and your Children and Family Ministry. I trust God has a plan and it's good!
-Lauren

Christmas Stories

Our *Christmas Stories* sermon series continues on Christmas Eve. This Thursday we'll share familiar carols, scriptures, and messages that offer encouragement and hope as we truly seek to worship Christ.

December 24 *Mary and Joseph's Story*

December 27 *Another Christmas Story*

January 3 *Epiphanies*



Christmas Remembrances

Sue and Gordon Ryan in honor of their grandson, Ryan Sandfort
Bill and Pam Shdeed in honor of Bette and Jim MacKellar's 50th wedding anniversary
Larkin and Jean Warner in honor their sister-in-law, Judy Hultgren
Jane Harlow in memory of her husband, James G. Harlow, Jr.
Beverly Pirtle in memory of her husband, Bill Pirtle
Lew and Jennifer McGinnis in memory of their parents, Stewart "Mack" McGinnis, Mary McGinnis, and Royal Price
Jean and Dick Webber in memory of their brother and their friend, Bob Webber and Mason McLain
Robert and Helen Sullivan in honor of their children and grandchildren and in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.P. MacKellar and Dr. and Mrs. Elijah S. Sullivan
Ed and Sally Stringer in memory of their parents, Sarah Ann and Bob Morrison, and Ed and Trudy Stringer
Mary Ann Carmichael in memory of her parents and sister, Jim and Mary Carmichael and Jody Carmichael
Sue Goodman in memory of her husband, John Goodman
Dr. and Mrs. Ronald Elkins in honor of their son, Jeffrey Connor Elkins
George Malone in memory of his wife, Sandra Malone
Alan and Rosemarie Chase in memory of their friend, Vivian Gross
Lecye Lippoldt in memory of her Oma-Grandma, Lecye Schuh
Ann Garrett in memory of her spouse, Bill Garrett
Joe McClendon in honor of his 90 year old sister (11/29), Mary Fletcher
Lou Kerr in memory of her husband, Robert S. Kerr, Jr.
Bette and Jim MacKellar in memory of their parents, Ruth and Bruce Burke, and Roselle and Pete MacKellar
Bette and Jim MacKellar in memory of their dear friend, John Goodman
In memory of grandmother Nell Wetmore Bracken
Pam and Bill Shdeed in memory of their great friends, John Goodman, Jeannette Sias and Gary Roberts
Pam and Bill Shdeed in honor of their great friends, Sue Goodman, Dick Sias, and Ellie Roberts
Ellie Roberts in memory of Dr. Gary G. Roberts

A Special Thank You

Thank you to all who helped decorate our church! It looks beautiful, and you did an amazing job! We want to thank Sally Stringer, Becky Buchanan, Margaret Wells, Carol Magness, Kathy Walker, Jan Womack, Ellie Roberts, Jean Warner, Charlie Brown, Joe Womack, Michael Hall, Matt Patrick, Trevor Smith, and J.B. Sims.

Tidbits from The Learning Center

We are currently on Christmas break resting up for the next exciting spring session. The spring session begins on Monday, January 4. We have over 90 children signed up for T.L.C. It is always a treat to welcome new families to our school and church family. Last week we invited our families to see *Christmas Sing*. Even the infants participated in the music program. They arrived in their decorated buggy and wore reindeer headbands. Thanks Ms. Mary and Ms. Maggie for making their entrance into Fellowship Hall so delightful. How precious they looked! Some children were thrilled to be on stage and others not so much. The families were happy with the outcome. Refreshments were served following the performance. What a terrific turnout we had! Thank you all for another wonderful year. May you have a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

Serving In Ministry

December 27

The poinsettias are given by the Altar Guild in honor of the church staff.

Job Openings

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church is currently seeking to fill the following positions:

Director of Children's Ministry to lead a dynamic children's ministry. Part-time.

Nursery Attendant to minister to small children. Sundays and Wednesdays. Part-time.

Childcare Teacher for The Learning Center to minister to small children. 35 hours weekly.

For more information, please contact Dr. Trevor Smith at 405-842-1486, or visit our website at www.nicholshillsumc.org. Send resumes to revtrevor@gmail.com or 1212 Bedford Drive, Nichols Hills, OK 73116.

Birthdays

12/25	Carol Solomon
12/29	Lida Elkins
	Joye McLain
	Taylor McLain
12/30	Abe Malone
12/31	Don Wilson
01/01	Lisa Franklin
	Lauren Harrah
01/03	Michael Dean
01/06	Sayde Saunders
01/07	Sherron Evans
01/10	Ian Jones
01/12	Garrett Fraley
01/13	Pam Eales
	Joan Payne
01/14	Maddy Davis
01/15	Kathy Griffin
	Graham Murray
	JoAnn Oakley
	Pama Palmer
01/18	Cynthia Meyerson
01/19	Sue Ann Hyde
01/22	Katie Alexander
01/24	Mary Crownover
	Barbara Dean
	Lou Kerr
	Mason Martin
	Marjorie Polk
01/25	Fletcher Hill
01/28	Ken Blakley
	Morgan Hunt
	Stuart Hunt
	Rosemary Scalpone
01/30	Nick Berry
01/31	Tausha Smith

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

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

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Room 131* - The Brew will talk about The Holy Land Today and how that impacts the way we understand the Christmas story. Teachers: Tim and Christie Baker. Tim (405) 209-5467 and Christie (405) 922-5154

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - We will have a Roundtable discussion. Leaders: Allen and Sherron Evans.

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* - Join us as we learn about the Bible through songs and scriptures. Teacher: John Marshall.

Roundtable Class: *Meets in Room 124* - This Sunday the Roundtable Class is studying Matthew 23:2-12 and Mark 12:38-44. These scriptures discuss the practice of giving from gratitude, faith and compassion. "But the one who is greatest among you will be your servant." Join us to hear our teacher, Dr. Jerry Perryman, help us more fully understand these scriptures. Teacher: Dr. Jerry Perryman.

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

Children's Class: *Meets in the Children's Area.* - Join us for a child-friendly lesson, snacks, and crafts as we learn about the Christmas Story together.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Bookkeeper/Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Alfred Walker, Sunday Host

Randall Blair, Sunday Host

405-842-1486 • 405.843.1835 Fax • www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center (T.L.C.): 405-842-5325