



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

### Songs of Joy

You will say in that day: I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, and you comforted me. <sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. <sup>3</sup>With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. <sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. <sup>5</sup>Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. <sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. -*Isaiah 12:1-6*

When we sing something happens. We move from knowing with our heads to knowing with our hearts, and it gives us peace and helps us experience joy in the midst of adversity. There's something about singing that's really important. The Bible is filled with songs. The biggest book in the Bible is *The Book of Psalms*. What I love about Christmas is that this is a season when we sing. You have all of our Christmas carols memorized. You turn on the secular radio stations, and they're singing our songs. Almost all of these songs are songs of joy for deliverance yet to come. So, when we sing them we begin to find joy.

The word *Angel* means *messenger*. Anyone can be a messenger. You know people who are in a season where there is darkness. You know someone who has lost a loved one this year. You know someone who is just in a funk. These people need to know that there is Joy. They need to sing. People who don't go to church on Christmas Eve have dinner on Christmas Eve. They go to bed excited about what Santa is going to bring on Christmas morning. They wake up. They open their stockings and presents. They have turkey, and that's it. That's Christmas. They never get to sing, and they never know the Joy of Christmas.

The only way those people are going to get to sing this Christmas is if you invite them. All you have to do is tell them, "Would you come to church with me on Christmas Eve? We're going to sing Christmas Carols and tell the story from the Gospel of Luke. At the end of the service it's really cool. Everyone gets a candle, and we sing Silent Night." You know what, because you asked them, they would probably say, "Yes." I hope you will prayerfully consider inviting someone you know to experience the Joy of Christmas by coming with you to one of our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:00 or 5:30 p.m.

I am excited about the opportunities we will have in the coming weeks to experience the joy of Christmas as a congregation. On Sunday, December 18, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a Birthday Party for Jesus. We are inviting you to bring hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, and desserts. We will enjoy Christmas treats and sing Christmas carols, and the children will enjoy fun crafts.

This year Christmas day is on a Sunday. We will have one worship service that day at 10:50 a.m. After you open presents that morning, I hope you will join us for a memorable worship service.

Laley Braucher has served as our Ministry Intern during the fall semester. I have appreciated Laley's work with our Children's Ministry, our Youth Ministry, and our College Ministry. This Sunday will be Laley's final day as a member of our staff. We want wish her well in her future endeavors.

Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Trevor

### Ministry Calendar

#### Sunday, December 11

Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Worship at 10:50 a.m.  
Youth Christmas Party at 5:00

#### Wednesday, December 14

T.L.C. Christmas Program at 10:30

#### Sunday, December 18

Worship at 8:30 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Children Sing at 10:50 Service  
Jesus' Birthday Party at 4:00 p.m.

#### 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 and The Learning  
Center Closed



#### Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486  
(405)843-1835 Fax  
[www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://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 **December 25 and all of 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 11.

The coffee host is Jeff Cloud.

The chancel flowers are given in honor of David and Ann Brown's 65th wedding anniversary on November 18 by all who love them.

The mission candle is lit by Jackie Hall in remembrance of her sister, DJ Wise.

## 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

## 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 invite you to bring hors d'oeuvres, appetizers, and desserts. 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!

## Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones

Christmas is a time to remember our loved ones who have passed away and to honor our loved ones who have made a difference in our lives. This year, the Altar Guild has purchased our Christmas poinsettias, but we are giving you the opportunity to help in our **Advent Conspiracy** by giving to either the John Marshall Neighborhood Market or to Compassion International. If you would like to honor someone in this way, please **circle** one of the following: I would like to give to the **John Marshall Neighborhood Market** or to **Compassion International**. Please fill out the form and return to the church office.

Person to be remembered: \_\_\_\_\_

Person to be honored: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the person to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

## Report from John Marshall High School



Rev. Matt Patrick

I've been serving at our new ministry at John Marshall High School, and I wanted to give you a report about the great work that is being done.

A little over a month ago, we began serving the most vulnerable students by giving them food to take home over the weekend. We have had dozens of students come to receive food, and we are starting to build good relationships with them and with the school. I'm so proud to see this ministry taking off, and I'm proud of our laity who have put in hard work to make all of it possible!

I hope that you will consider how you can help this ministry out by donating food or by inquiring how you can volunteer over at the school. Thank you to all who have helped make this possible!

- Matt



**NICHOLS HILLS**  
united methodist church

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

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

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

# This Christmas Could Be Different.



**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.

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.

**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?*

## The Advent Conspiracy Sunday School Class

The Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, and The Brew Class are coming together for a 4-week study that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. on Sunday. 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.





# 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.***

## Chicago Mission Trip

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 have an opportunity coming up this Spring for you to travel to Chicago to accomplish that mission with us. Over Spring Break, we are planning a mission trip to serve for one week at the United Church of Rogers Park in northern Chicago. 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. If you are interested in coming, please review the following information and plan on joining Matt Patrick for an info meeting on Sunday, December 11th at 12:15 p.m.

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

*Where?* We will be staying and serving at the United Methodist Church of Rogers Park in Northeastern Chicago, which at one point in the last decade was the most ethnically diverse zip code in the United States. There is a great need in this neighborhood and we will partner with the local Methodist Church.

*Cost?* The cost is \$350. A \$150 deposit is due on Wednesday, January 15th, 2017 and final payment is due on Monday, March 6th.

*How will we get there?* We will be taking a van or two and driving to Chicago. It is about a 12 hour drive.

*What will we do?* We will serve together to help run the after school kids program, do building maintenance and help get the community garden ready for Spring planting.

*What fun things will we do?* We will get plenty of time to see Chicago. We will have options to go to the Willis Tower, (formerly the Sears Tower) The Navy Pier, and many other options.

*What is our purpose?* Our purpose is to share the love of Jesus Christ in meaningful ways that make a Christian difference to the people of the Rogers Park.

*Why should I go on this trip?* God calls us to minister to "the least of these who are members of my family." This is an opportunity for you to serve God and others and to make a Christian difference in the world and in your own life.

*Why am I needed on this trip?* We need a diverse group of persons. If you have carpentry skills, you are needed. If you can are willing to learn how to fix things, you are needed. If you are willing to help God's people, you are needed. If you can handle money, you are needed. If you love God and want to share God's love with others, you are needed. We will teach you what you need to know.

*How Can I sign up?* Read and sign the Mission Policy Agreement and fill out all necessary forms that will be provided upon your request. Be sure to turn your money in on time.

*Questions?* Contact Rev. Matt Patrick at 918-978-9102 or mpatrick9376@gmail.com

## Children's Ministry

We have a new memory verse for the month of December! John 1:4 says, "The word gave life to everything that was created, and His life brought light to everyone." If the children are able to memorize the verse and tell one of our teachers during church this month, they will receive a prize from the treasure box!

Our children will be singing Christmas carols on Sunday, December 18th during the 10:50 service! Please bring your children to Sunday school so they are able to practice with Michael Wylder before they perform! We love having our children be a part of the service, and we would love for you and your family to enjoy this experience!

On December 18th we are having a Birthday Party for Jesus starting at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to bring a present that will be donated to John Marshall and your favorite Christmas treat!

I am so excited to spend the holidays with the people of Nichols Hills U.M.C., and I am constantly counting my blessings for the people who attend this wonderful church! See you all on Sunday! Have a great week!

-Madison



Madison Chilless

## 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](http://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.



## RDS Unite App

We are excited to announce a new app from RDS called Unite that allows you to have access to our church directory, make contributions, change your personal information, change your directory photo, and view your personal contribution history all from your phone!

This app is available for Apple, Android, and Microsoft. It is free for download from the app store on your phone. To find it, search for "RDS Unite.", download and install it. Then open it and click "Register." Enter the church code 10081, then your email address, then enter a password of your choice and click "Register." If you have any questions, feel free to contact Delaney in the Church Office at 405-842-1486.

## Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion

This week we are pleased to introduce you to TaQuoyah Mitchell. She is our newest employee who floats among the classrooms and gives breaks. She also can serve as a substitute teacher when needed. TaQuoyah has worked in the early learning field for nine years, and has a child development associate certificate. She began at The Learning Center on November 28. Currently she is working on her Bachelor of Science degree on-line in the human resources field of study. We are

pleased to have her join The Learning Center and Nichols Hills United Methodist Church families. Welcome TaQuoyah!

-Denise



TaQuoyah Mitchell

## Art Auction

A beautiful Nick Berry painting has been generously donated to the church to be auctioned. The benefits from this auction will be used to help support our ministries of the John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Compassion International. The painting is an 8 X 10 oil on canvas with custom frame, depicting a statue of Jesus Christ. It is titled, *HE Walks With Us*. This painting would normally sell for \$1,300.



The painting will be set up in the Narthex for viewing, along with bid sheets on the welcome desk. If you would like to make a bid, fill out the bid sheet and place it in the basket on the welcome desk.

## Birthdays

|       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| 12/09 | Larkin Warner       |
|       | Phil Withrow        |
| 12/10 | Denise Buthion      |
| 12/11 | Kelsey Lyle         |
| 12/12 | Joe McClendon       |
|       | Katie McNeill       |
| 12/14 | Stephen Heine       |
| 12/15 | Tom McLain          |
| 12/16 | Liz McNeill         |
| 12/18 | Stephanie Derricott |
|       | Casey Hill, III     |
|       | Kay Musser          |
| 12/20 | Mark McLain         |
| 12/21 | Libby Blankenship   |
| 12/22 | Jean Ann Robison    |
| 12/25 | Carol Solomon       |
| 12/29 | Lida Elkins         |
|       | Taylor McLain       |
| 12/30 | Abe Malone          |
| 12/31 | Don Wilson          |

**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

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

**The Brew Class:** *Meets in the Room 131* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. 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 in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. Leader: Hank Bradley.

**Reveille Class:** *Meets in the Library* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

**Open Circle Class:** *Meets in the Archives Room* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as we study *The Advent Conspiracy*. 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

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**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

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

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