

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Good Friday

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. -Matthew 27:27-31

The journey to Easter Sunday leads us to the cross on Good Friday. Most of us would rather pass by the cross with our eyes averted. And yet, if we dare to look at Jesus on the cross we begin to see the depth of God's love for us.

What Jesus did on the cross was his greatest sermon. Jesus is trying to reach you. God is saying something to you on the cross. God is trying to move you. For Paul, it is about atonement, but it is also about justification, reconciliation, and redemption. For John, it's a description of God's great love for us, but it is also an example of Jesus' servant hood. It is a picture of the Passover Lamb who takes away the sins of the earth. It is all of these things.

At its heart, the cross is God's answer to fixing the broken relationship between us and God. It is the way God brings redemption to our lives. It is a sign of God's desire to make us right with God, and it is God's action on our behalf.

When we look at the cross we remember, "God loves me." Jesus paid a price for my salvation. Jesus paid a price to show me the depth of my sin and the grace of God. Jesus gave his life for me, and I will never be the same.

On **Passion Sunday, March 20**, I hope you will join us for worship as we conclude our sermon series on **The Final Week** by remembering Jesus' trial and crucifixion and by talking about the meaning of the cross for our lives today.

I also want to invite you to make plans to participate in our Holy Week and Easter Services. Join us on **Maundy Thursday, March 24** for our **Maundy Thursday Service** at **6:30 p.m.** The service will conclude with Holy Communion and the *stripping of the sanctuary* as Jesus is taken into custody by the Roman soldiers.

On **Good Friday, March 25**, we will remember our Lord's passion and death on the cross in our **Tenebrae Service of Darkness** at **6:30 p.m.** Let me know if you would like to be one of the readers for this service. These will be meaningful services.

Easter Sunday will begin at **8:30 a.m.** with our **Early Worship Service** followed by **Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., a Family Breakfast at 9:45 a.m., an Easter Egg Hunt for our children at 10:15 a.m., and our Late Worship Service at 10:50 a.m.** It will be a joyous day you will not want to miss.

I hope you have been thinking about the people you know who are not actively part of a local church. I would invite you to pray for these people and to find an opportunity to invite them to come one of our Easter Worship Services. Most people are more open to an invitation to come to church at this time of the year. I pray that you will take advantage of this opportunity to make a Christian difference by inviting someone you know to come to our Holy Week and Easter Services with you.

I am looking forward to seeing you this Sunday. Have a great week, and may the Holy Spirit work through you as you share your faith with the people you know.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, March 20

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

Wednesday, March 23

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Financial Peace University at 5:30

Maundy Thursday, March 24

Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30

Good Friday, March 25

Tenebrae Service at 6:30 p.m.
The Learning Center Closed

Easter Sunday, March 27

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Family Breakfast at 9:45 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, March 29

John Marshall High School
Dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 30

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.
The Power of a Whisper at 5:30
Financial Peace University at 5:30

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

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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 **April 3, 10, 17, 24 and all of May.** 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: Mary Ann Carmichael, Carla Hill, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, and Ellie Roberts.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

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

Town Village

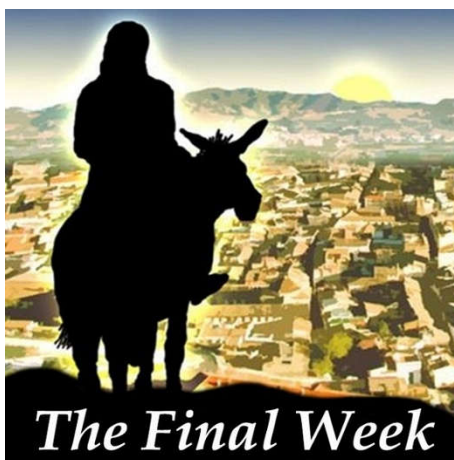
Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Barney and Virginia Brown
Anita Dahlgren

At Home

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



The Final Week

This Lent join us on a remarkable journey retracing the events of the last six days of Jesus' life. Each week Pastor Trevor Smith will take us to Jerusalem, helping us recall the words Jesus spoke and the things that Jesus did leading up to his crucifixion.

Bring a friend and join us for worship on Sundays at 8:30 or 10:50 as we deepen our understanding and grow in our faith, traveling through ***The Final Week***.

March 20 Good Friday



Rev. Matt Patrick

The Power of a Whisper

On the Wednesday after Easter, March 30th, I will be starting a new class for *Nichols Thrills* called *The Power of a Whisper*, which is based on a book by Bill Hybels. Bill is the Senior Pastor of Willow Creek Community Church outside of Chicago, Illinois. He founded the church and has led it to its many successes over the last 30 years.

The study will focus on how we can hear God's voice in a world full of other voices that are trying to get our attention. We will focus on some discernment techniques and discover what God is calling us to do together.

Have you wondered if there is something more? Have you yearned to discover God's call on your life? Do you wonder if God is still speaking to us today? Join me for this 4-week study at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30th.

Blessings,
Matt

Children's Ministry

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left, and could say 'I used everything You gave me.'"

When it comes to talents, everyone is given something by God that is unique and special to them. For some people their talent might be singing, running fast, or writing. There is an unlimited number of things our talent could be. Our talent is God's gift to us, but what we do with it is our gift back to God. 1 Peter 4:10 says, "Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well." I pray that no matter what our talent may be that throughout this week and our lives we can use our talents to glorify God.

I will see you on Sunday.

-Madison



Madison Chilless



Last Chance to Donate Toilet Paper for Skyline

Toilet paper is the greatest need that Skyline Urban Ministry has right now, and so Nichols Hills U.M.C. is collecting toilet paper to donate to them. The last day to donate will be this Sunday, March 20. Thank you for helping Skyline to "impact lives, empower those in need, and address the roots of poverty in Oklahoma."

Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt

The Children's Ministry Committee is working towards enriching our children's Easter experience. We are planning to have a wonderful Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt. The brunch will be church wide and will also be open to our community. We would like it to be so memorable that you will want to invite your out of town guests and family to attend. To do this we need your help with any of the following:



1. Sign up to attend the brunch.
2. Sign up to bring pastries, fruit, breakfast casserole, or anything you think would be special for Easter.
3. Donate bags of candy for the Easter Egg Hunt.
4. Donate Easter decorations.

Remember how hard it is to get Easter Brunch reservations? This will be a fabulous alternative!

John Marshall High School Dinner

John Marshall Sports Dinner - Tuesday, March 29th at 6:30



We are excited to announce that our guest speaker for the John Marshall Sports Dinner will be Brent Price, former OU and NBA Basketball Player. He will be speaking about 3 Ps – Purpose, Passion and Persistence in whatever you do.

We have a few special additions to this year's event: a sports trivia game at the table for an icebreaker, a slideshow of the sports showing during dinner, the coaches will say a few words about their sports and have their players stand, and a five minute highlight video of Brent Price's career to introduce our speaker. We have extended invitations to over 200 students and coaches. This should be a fun and inspirational evening for our John Marshall guests as well as our volunteers.

Volunteers – We will be at the table in the Narthex on Sunday, March 20th, after first service through the end of 2nd service with more information about volunteering. If you have already signed up, please stop by to pick up formation about your job for that evening. If you would like to volunteer, come by to learn how you can help.

Tidbits from The Learning Center

This week we are closed for Spring Break. When we return on March 21 we will begin our enrollment for the summer session. Interest has been at an all time high for spots in our coveted program. Infants through school-age children are wanting to secure spots in TLC. Our enrollment fee is \$75 for the first child and comes with a tee shirt. There are group size limits for each classroom. Once we let our currently enrolled families re-enroll we can open enrollment to the community for the spaces that are available.

We've planned some fun and exciting things for this summer program which begins on June 8. We will have snow cone days, animal visits, moon bounce days, field trips, and splash days. The schedule will continue to have music, Chapel, and Amazing Athletes. Plus we will bring in a new resident artist to demonstrate creative experiences with the children aged one-year old and up. It's amazing how fast the summer session goes. Tell your friends, neighbors, and family members to check out the program at The Learning Center. We have many wonderful things to offer children, and we hope to share that with as many people as we can. See you on March 21.

-Denise Buthion

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.

Serving In Ministry March 20

The coffee hosts are Joe and Jan Womack.

The flowers are given by Ellie Roberts in memory of Dr. Gary G. Roberts.

The mission candle is lit by the Care Committee in memory of Aubrey McClendon.

Birthdays

03/19	Mary Ann Carmichael
03/20	Kneely Buxton Caleb Magness
03/21	Becky Sims
03/22	Stephanie Henry
03/24	Dick Graves Helen Sullivan Russell Walker
03/27	Buzz McDaniel
03/28	Tom Flesher, Jr. Layton Hill, IV Drake Parsons Charlette Perryman Bruce Rosier Dick Webber
03/29	Ann Brown Judith Flesher
03/31	Preston Parsons

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



**The
Learning
Center
splash days.**

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 is studying Adam Hamilton's book, *Love to Stay*. Teachers: Tim and Christie Baker.
Tim (405) 209-5467 and Christie (405) 922-5154

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Travis Pickens will give the 2nd part of his talk on C.S. Lewis. Leaders: Buzz McDaniel and Linda Rosser McDaniel.

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 what the Bible has to teach us through hymns and scriptures. Teacher: John Marshall.

Roundtable Class: *Meets in Room 124* - We read about Jesus' prediction that the disciples will falter in their faithfulness to him in Mark 14:26-31 and 66-72. Jesus said to Peter, "I assure you that on this very night before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times." Just as they stumbled in their faithfulness, so do we. In the south end of the ancient City of David there is a church named "Gallicantu," which in Latin means cock's-crow. The church was built in 457 A.D. and was rebuilt by Crusaders in 1102 to commemorate this event. 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. Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

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.
Children's Director: Madison Chilless.

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

Kathy Smith, Bookkeeper/Treasurer
Louise Glass, Financial Secretary
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center
Alfred Walker, Sunday Host
Randall Blair, Sunday Host

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