



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Marathon Sunday

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it. ²⁵ Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. ²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air; ²⁷ but I punish my body and enslave it, so that after proclaiming to others I myself should not be disqualified. —*I Corinthians 9:24-27*

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. —*Hebrews 12:1-2*

The people in the Apostle Paul's day loved sports. The Greeks invented the Olympics, and they loved track and field. Who could jump the farthest? Who could run the fastest?

Paul compared the Christian life to a race. *Do you not know that in a race the runners all compete, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win it.* There's only one thing to do in a race... run! It may seem simple, but it takes great focus and discipline to run a good race. Think about Carl Lewis, Usain Bolt, or any of the great sprinters of our time. When they take their mark in the blocks, there is a look of focus and determination on their faces. There is only one goal in a race... to get to the finish line first.

We have a different goal as Christians. Our goal or mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our mission is to tell others the Good News about Jesus Christ and invite people into a saving relationship with Jesus. That is why we work so hard to be in mission and ministry right here in Oklahoma City and throughout the world.

Wherever one of us goes, we take the Good News with us. Our love and ministry spreads out into our schools and workplaces. We take the Good News out into our community. We take it to senior citizens, youth, and children in our community. We share it with each other through Sunday School, Nichols Thrills, Youth Group, and Children's Ministry. Our Choir sings about it. This summer, we are going to share the Good News through Mission Madness and our mission trip to Henderson Settlement, Kentucky.

I Corinthians 9:24-27 is Paul's *Nike* commercial. "Just do it." Run to win the prize. Live to the fullest, and don't forget your mission. Give everything you have to share in the work of the Good News. It is a matter of life and death and resurrection. It is a matter of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

It has given me great joy to see the energy and excitement so many of you have shared with me about our plans to move our worship service outside this weekend for Marathon Sunday. What a wonderful opportunity we have to share the Good News with the runners and our community through beautiful music, words of encouragement, and friendly fellowship. I hope you will join us for worship at 8:30 or 10:50 and for a time of fellowship during our regular Sunday school hour at 9:45 a.m. Dress casually and bring a lawn chair. It will be a memorable Sunday you will not want to miss. Have a great week, and I will see you on Marathon Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, April 24

Marathon Sunday Worship at 8:30
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Marathon Sunday Worship, 12:00
Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26

Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 27

Finance Committee Meeting, 5:30

Thursday, April 28

Kasey Yeargain Concert at 7:30
Purchase tickets at the door or online at www.kaseyyeargain.org.

Sunday, May 1

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 12:00 p.m.
Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.
Best of Broadway at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 3

Church Council Meeting at 5:30

Sunday, May 8

Mother's Day - We will honor all of the women in our church in worship at 8:30 and 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

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Follow us on Twitter!*

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 **May 8, 22, and 29**. 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, Ellie Roberts, and Sally Stringer.

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



Marathon Sunday

April 24 is Marathon Sunday. This year, we are moving our worship services outside at their usual times at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. We will gather in the green space to the west of our parking lot. Michael Wylder has invited a Steel Drum Band to perform with our Chancel Choir and lead our music that day.

We will have a golf cart to assist anyone who may need a ride from the parking lot to the place we are gathering. There will be bounce houses, face painting, and other fun things for children.

During the Sunday school hour we will encourage the runners. We want everyone to know that our church loves to reach out to our community and encourage people. We are inviting people to bring a breakfast dish to share.

Plan to bring a lawn chair and to dress casually. Please let us know if you have a canopy tent we could use.

If you would like to assist in the preparations, please contact Trevor Smith at revtrevor@gmail.com or Matt Patrick at mpatrick@nicholshillsumc.org. Trevor and Matt can also be reached at the church at 405-842-1486.

The intersection of 63rd and Grand Avenue will be closed from 7:18 a.m. until noon. The intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue will be closed from 6:44 until 9:20 a.m. To view the entire map, visit www.nicholshillsumc.org and click on the *Nichols Hills United Methodist Church We Remember* slide. We hope you will invite someone you know to join us for a memorable Marathon Sunday.

Children's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who came to our Children's Ministry Team meeting last Sunday. We have so many exciting things to look forward to the rest of the year!

The children did an amazing job singing at the 10:50 service last Sunday! Our next performance will be on Mother's Day on Sunday, May 8th, and we would love to have you and your family be a part of it! We will learn our new song from Michael Wylder during Sunday school for the next three Sundays!

On April 24th, Marathon Sunday, we will have bounce houses and face painting for the children! This will be a casual Sunday so please have them wear something that they can jump in.

The children still have two weeks to memorize Psalm 150:6 for a chance to get in the treasure box! "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord."

Do you enjoy working with children? A nursery position at our church has become available. If interested, please contact Trevor Smith at 405-842-1486.

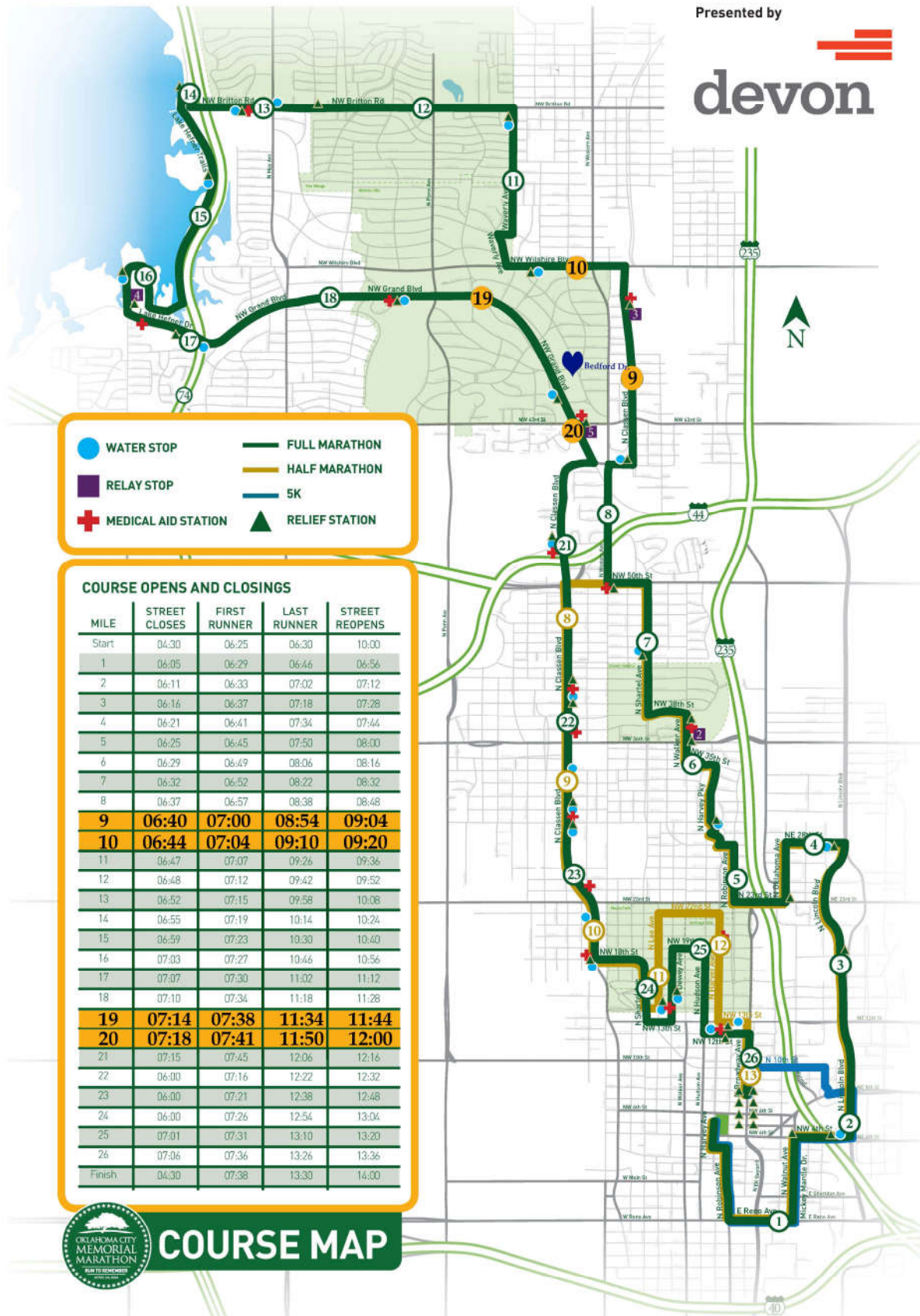


Madison Chilless

-Madison

OPEN/CLOSE TIMES MAP 2016

Presented by



COURSE MAP

Life-changing Relationships



It's all about relationships.

In this series of sermons, we'll explore what the Bible teaches us about the most important relationships in our lives. We'll consider how we can cultivate and maintain friendships, what it takes to raise children while loving our parents, what it means to love your neighbor in the workplace, and some keys to growing in a personal relationship with God.

Join us for this meaningful series on *Life-changing Relationships*.

- May 1** *The Most Important Relationship*
- May 8** *Children & Parents*
- May 15** *A Real Friend*
- May 22** *Workplace Relationships*
- May 29** *The Difference a Mentor Makes*

Are You Open For God?



Rev. Matt Patrick

If you are anything like me, you can sometimes be closed off to the whisper that God tries to give you. In my life, I have found that I generally know what God is calling me to do, but I choose not to listen because of difficult it may be to do what God is telling me to do. So, how do we open ourselves up to God? How do we become open? Unfortunately, there is no clear-cut and easy answer. The best answer is that opening up to God's guidance is a lifelong journey and is accomplished differently by each person. However, you can take that first step by making the conscious decision and effort to begin that journey. I look forward to where those decisions might lead our church.

- Matt



The Best of Broadway Music Ministry Fundraiser

Sunday, May 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The Music Ministry of Nichols Hills United Methodist Church presents *The Best of Broadway*, a musical review of Broadway's hit choruses and solos. This elegant evening of dinner, music, fellowship, and fun will raise funds for our music ministry and scholarship students.

You can sponsor a table, which includes 8 tickets for dinner, 8 tickets to *The Best of Broadway* show, and table name recognition, or you can purchase individual tickets.

Encore Table Sponsorships are \$1000.

Ovation Table Sponsorships are \$500.

Individual tickets are \$50 per person.

To reserve your seat, call the church office, 405-842-1486.

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion

Each month The Learning Center is required by DHS to have a fire drill and a tornado drill. One of our challenges is getting out of the classroom in less than two minutes. With infants not able to walk we use our evacuation cribs. We pile four babies into each one of the evacuation cribs and off to the big playground we go. The toddlers in one classroom, who are not yet walking well, were holding up the drill. Leave it to our wonderful maintenance man, Michael Hall, to save the day! There was a buggy with four flat tires that was just sitting around and not being used. He aired up the tires and found only one tire that needed a patch. Michael repaired the leak and we have a good as new buggy for the toddlers. Now the Panda Class can efficiently exit their classroom to safety. We are grateful for the support and assistance that our church family provides us. Thank you Michael Hall!

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

April 24

The mission candle is lit by GT and Libby Blankenship in honor of their twin great granddaughters.

Birthdays

- 04/22 Claire Fraley
- 04/26 Kery Mueller
- 04/29 Raevyn Allen
Marty Margo
- 04/30 Colin Anderson
- 05/1 Christie Baker
Alice Pippin
- 05/02 Kristen Robinson
- 05/03 Nathan Hilger
DeDe Maxwell
- 05/04 Myrla Pierson
- 05/06 Mary McLain
Rosemary Stafford
- 05/07 Jennifer McGinnis
- 05/08 Jacob Ellis
Kathleen Ellis
- 05/10 Norma Baker
- 05/13 Roger Etling
- 05/17 Rosemarie Chase
Rachel Huchton
- 05/18 Warren Henry
Charlotte Smith
- 05/20 Dudley Hyde
- 05/21 Jeff Cloud
- 05/23 Jerry Richardson
Trevor Smith
- 05/24 Michael Wylder
- 05/29 Rob Saunders

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



The Learning Center toddlers in their buggy.

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* - Join us as we encourage the Memorial Marathon runners. Leaders: Buzz 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 about the Bible through verses and songs. Teacher: John Marshall.

Roundtable Class: *Meets in Room 124* - Luke 15:11-24 describes the prodigal son who asked for his inheritance, then wasted it. His father welcomed him back even before he asked for forgiveness. His return angered his brother who had remained with the family, obedient in all things. It is the story of a broken family relationship, healed by the father's grace. Haven't we observed, and sometimes experienced, brokenness in our relationships with our extended family? Join our teacher, Dick Webber, in the Roundtable Class to gain a better understanding of how God heals our fractured relationships. 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
Madison Chilless, Director of Children's Ministry
Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant
Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Treasurer
Louise Glass, Financial Secretary
Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian
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