

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Thanksgiving at Zacchaeus' House

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him.

-Luke 19:1-6

As Thanksgiving approaches I'm sure many of us will be focused on preparing and eating lots and lots of delicious food. In the midst of all of this food, it is tempting for us to forget the heart of this celebration which is to offer our thanks to God. So, let me ask you, how do you say, "Thanks," to God? What do you do to express your gratitude and thanks to the God who blesses you every day of your life?

Thomas Merton said, "To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything. Every breath we draw is a gift of His love. Every moment of our existence is a gift of His grace. Gratitude takes nothing for granted, it is never unresponsive. The grateful person knows that God is good, not by hearsay but by personal experience." What would Thanksgiving dinner be like if Jesus came to your house? On Sunday we will prepare our hearts for Thanksgiving and continue our **Blessed** sermon series by discussing why Jesus chose to eat his Thanksgiving dinner with the rich, little tax collector who wanted to see Jesus. Together we'll discover the way thanksgiving and gratitude can change our hearts as we share our blessings with the people in our lives.

We had a wonderful Consecration Sunday and a great Harvest Dinner. Thank you to each of you who give so generously to support God's ministry through our church. So far, we have received 47 pledges totaling \$442,702. If you would still like to fill out an Estimate of Giving Card, we have included one on page 3. I want to thank Lindsay Ocker for catering a delicious Harvest Dinner for us. I am certainly glad to be part of such a generous church.

On December 1 we will begin our Advent sermon series in which we will answer the question, "What child is this?" Each Sunday we'll let the Christmas story tell us who this child is. At Christmas, even people who do not attend church are looking for something more. People are more open at this time to an invitation to attend a worship service or other church events. I hope you will share the good news of Christmas with your friends, family members, classmates, co-workers, and neighbors who do not have a church home by inviting them to join us for worship during Advent and to come with you to our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** on **Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 or 5:30 p.m.** Together, we will make a special Christmas memory.

I also want to invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 on December 1 as we begin our all-church Sunday School Class called ***The Best Christmas Pageant Ever***. Each week we watch part of the 1983 classic movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* and talk about how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us hope.

Then, on **Sunday, December 15** we will have the joy of watching our **Children's Christmas Play** at 9:45 a.m. I am looking forward to celebrating Advent and Christmas with you. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Dr. Trevor Smith

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, November 24

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Hanging of the Greens at 2:00 p.m.
Help decorate the sanctuary.

Monday, November 25

Bear Cave Clothing Closet at 11:00
Women's A.A. Meeting at 5:30
Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27

through Friday, November 29
Church Offices and The Learning Center Closed for Thanksgiving

Sunday, December 1

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
All Church Sunday School -
The Best Christmas Pageant Ever
at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, December 11

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

Sunday, December 15

Children's Christmas Pageant
at 9:45 a.m.

Monday, December 23 -

Wednesday, January 1
The Learning Center Closed

Tuesday, December 24

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

Wednesday, December 25

Church Offices and
The Learning Center Closed

Wednesday, January 1

Church Offices Closed

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

(405) 842-5325



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

Are you enthusiastic about our church? If so, this is an opportunity you might enjoy. Please see Rev. Charles Neff for more details.

Coffee Hosts

Coffee hosts provide 4-5 dozen cookies. At the close of the 10:50 Service, the host(s) stand by the cookie table in the Narthex and greet people. To serve, sign-up in the Narthex.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, November 24

The coffee hosts are
Jim and Becky Buchanan.

The chancel flowers are given by
Ken Reitz in honor of
Alfred Walker Sr.'s birthday.

The mission candle is available.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are
Graham Fraley, Saraiya Brooks,
and Scarlett Hoffman.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 1

The coffee hosts are the Smith family.

The chancel flowers are available.

The mission candle is available.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are
Regan Miller, Collier Vaughn, and
Scarlett Hoffman.

Chancel Flower Delivery

We are in need of people to deliver the chancel flowers to homebound members. If this opportunity is for you, please call the church 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.

Altar Guild this month are:

Alison Calhoon, Mary Ann Carmichael, Mary Crownover, Anne Holbrook, Janet Jones, Carol Magness, Beverly Perri, Marty Smith, Kathy Walker, and Alfred Walker.



What Child Is This?

What child is this who is born in Bethlehem?

His parents called him Jesus, but the shepherds, wise men, prophets, and angels called him by other names: Christ the King, Emmanuel, Light of the World, Son of God, Savior, and Prince of Peace.

Join us each Sunday during Advent as we sing your favorite Christmas carols and help you answer the question: **What Child Is This?**

December 1	<i>Christ the King</i>
December 8	<i>God with Us</i>
December 15	<i>Light of the World</i>
December 22	<i>Son of God</i>
December 24	<i>Savior</i>
December 29	<i>Prince of Peace</i>



Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 24 at 2:00 p.m.

Help us decorate the church for Advent at
2:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 24.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

What if the hope of Christmas really is for everyone? Beginning on Sunday, December 1 at 9:45, join our Youth and Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather for four Sundays to take a closer look at the 1983 classic movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Each week, we'll watch part of the movie and talk about how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us hope.

Our **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be part of our time together on Sunday, December 15 at 9:45 a.m.





Nichols Hills United Methodist Church *Estimate of Giving Card*

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in Christ and my commitment to Christ's church, I plan to **Take One Step Up** in my giving.

_____ **Step Up Beyond Tithing**

My desire is to do more than the Biblical standard.

_____ **Step Up To Tithing**

I will give one tenth of my income to God's work.

_____ **Step Up Toward Tithing**

I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.

My Commitment to the General Fund is

\$ _____ **Weekly for 52 weeks**

\$ _____ **Monthly for 12 months**

\$ _____ **Quarterly**

\$ _____ **Annually**

My Total Commitment for 2020: \$ _____

_____ This represents an increase over last year.

_____ I would like to learn about electronic giving.

Children's Ministry



Tausha
Davison-Beverly

The Children's Ministry has been practicing for this year's Christmas Pageant. The play is based on the birth of Jesus told from the perspective of the animals. We will be rehearsing during the Sunday School hour each week. Practices will continue through Sunday, December 8th and our performance will be on Sunday, December 15th at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. If you have a child who would like to participate in the Christmas Pageant, please bring him or her to the Elementary Sunday School classroom. If you have any questions or need a schedule of upcoming dates in the Children's Ministry, please give me a call at 405-894-1486.

Our Cub Scout Pack is currently collecting food for families needing assistance during the holiday season. If you would like to donate a non-perishable food item, please leave them on the table by my office or in the church office.

Blessings,
Tausha

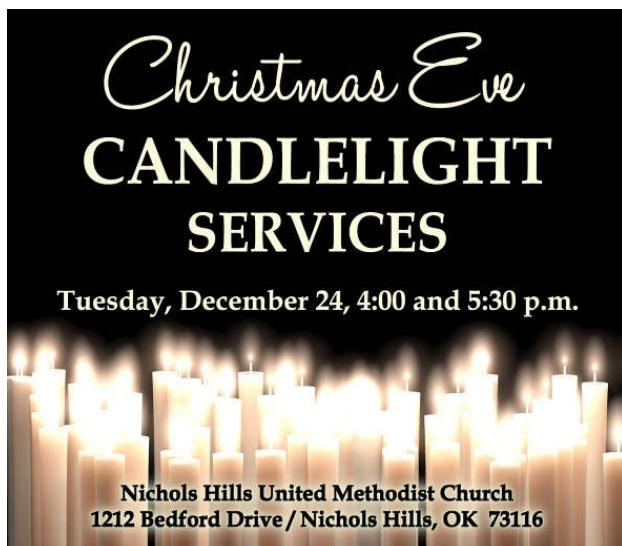
Winter Camp



Dr. Charles Neff,
Associate Pastor

All youth grades 6-12 are invited to register for Spark Winter Camp, January 17-20 at Canyon Camp and Retreat Center near Hinton. The camp welcomes around 200 junior high and senior high youth from across the Heartland and Crossroads Districts. The weekend follows a pattern very similar to Spark Summer Camp, with worship, small groups, recreation time, and free time. The camp also features special winter activities like a bonfire with hot chocolate.

The cost is \$150 per camper, but Nichols Hills U.M.C. will pay half, making the cost just \$75 per person (scholarships will also be available for those families who may be short of funds). To register, go to www.okcamps.campbrainregistration.com. If you haven't signed up for camp before, you will be directed to create a login. Once logged in, follow the links to 2020 Winter Retreats and select "Camp Spark Winter Retreat." You'll need to complete several forms. Then when it comes to the payment screen, select "Paying through my church." Then be sure to let Pastor Charles know so that he can send payment and arrange transportation.





✓ **IRA Charitable Rollover**

Congress made permanent the law that allows people age 70½ or older who own an IRA to make cash gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is the best tax-wise way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and will qualify for your required minimum distribution.

✓ **Outright Gift of an Asset**

If you wish to make a gift to support your church this year, but are concerned about preserving your cash resources, consider a gift of an appreciated asset. A gift of securities, business interests or real estate can provide you with significant income and capital gains tax savings, often exceeding the benefits of a cash gift.

✓ **Donor Advised Fund (DAF)**

If you are looking for an end-of-year deduction but want more time to make thoughtful giving decisions, consider a donor advised fund (DAF). The Foundation can use your tax deductible gift to establish a DAF in your name. You can make grants from your DAF now and in the future to support the work of your church or chosen ministry.

✓ **Zero-Tax Gift and Sale**

If you are planning to sell an asset like securities, real estate or a business, before you sell, consider a "zero-tax" charitable gift and sale. By making a gift of part of the asset before the sale, you can use a tax-saving charitable deduction to significantly lower or eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale.



Helping You Invest in Lasting Good

THE OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION
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This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.

PLANNED GIVING

Ending the Year Well



Get a head start on your year-end tax planning.

Consider these worthwhile strategies before the year's end.

Selling securities, real estate or a business this year?

Consider planning strategies to avoid capital gains tax

Age 70½ or older?

Check on your IRA required minimum distribution

Own an IRA and/or 401(k)?

Maximize your deductible contributions

Expect to be in a higher tax bracket?

Talk to your tax advisor for solutions to manage taxes

Expect to be in a lower tax bracket or can control income?

Shift income to this year

Have investment losers?

Sell to offset winners and lower your capital gains tax

Extra medical expenses?

Establish a health savings account (HSA)

Have state taxes, property taxes, medical bills?

Accelerate deductible expenses

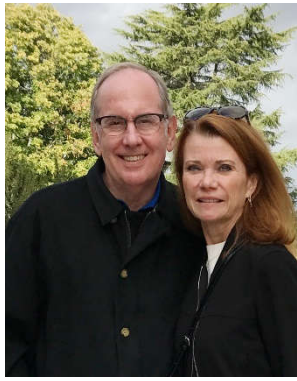
May We Help?

If you would like further information, please contact us. We can help you create a plan that meets your needs and goals.

The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.

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Welcome, Karen Clark!

We are excited to welcome Karen Clark to our church family! We hope you enjoy reading about our newest member!

“Moving from Houston to Oklahoma City in 2015 was a time of many changes for me. One of my biggest priorities was to find a church home. I visited Nichols Hills Methodist with my husband, Mel, a couple of years ago. Everyone I met has been genuinely warm and welcoming, and the choir is Awesome!! Mel and I attend the Kiva class and look forward to seeing class members and hearing our great speakers. The ministry

at John Marshall High School was pulling at my heart, so on Fridays I have been volunteering with “our group”! Serving the kids with the support of church friends is fun and has truly been a huge blessing to me! I can feel the love of Christ all around in this church family. I now have a church to call Home.”

Karen joined the church on November 17, 2019 and Mel joined in May of 2016. We are excited that they are part of our Nichols Hills United Methodist Church family!

Christmas Blessings

At Christmas we all want to give a gift that will bless children who may not experience the joy of Christmas. During Advent you can give a gift to one of our missional ministries that will bless children in our city and around the world.

- Give \$45 to sponsor one of our Compassion International children for one month.
- Give any amount to support our John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Bear Cave Clothing Closet.
- Give \$150 or any part of this amount to help purchase food baskets or provide for emergency needs for families of John Marshall High School and Nichols Hills Elementary School students.

Person to be honored or remembered: _____

Your name: _____

Relationship of the person to you: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director

We are so pleased to welcome Ms. Krystle back as one of our teachers. Krystle previously worked with the Zebras' class for three years. We are glad to have her back.

This week we are hosting Family-Teacher conferences. Each child's family signs up for a meeting with the teacher. This special time is set aside for the teacher to share the growth and development that we see at school for each child. The teacher shares this information with photos, work samples, and anecdotal records. Families share their goals for each child and we plan to meet again each spring. High quality programs work together with families to support children's development. It takes a village to raise a child.

Blessings.
Denise



Birthdays

11/21 Win Holbrook
 11/21 Angie Sanger
 11/28 Rich McLain
 11/28 Alfred Walker
 11/29 Michael Hall
 11/29 Traci Miller
 11/30 Mark Sullivan
 11/30 Perry Tirrell
 12/01 Sarah Butler
 12/01 Elizabeth Prosser
 12/01 Alesha Rogers
 12/03 Tony Dyke
 12/04 Ronald McLeod
 12/06 Jackie Hall
 12/06 Nancy Rowntree
 12/07 Charlotte Brown
 12/07 Reid Robison
 12/08 Maddy Eales
 12/09 Larkin Warner
 12/09 Phil Withrow
 12/10 Denise Buthion
 12/11 Kelsey Lyle
 12/12 Joe McClendon
 12/12 Katie McNeill
 12/14 John Crawford
 12/14 Stephen Heine
 12/15 Tom McLain
 12/16 Gary Vaughn
 12/18 Stephanie Derricott
 12/18 Casey Hill, III
 12/18 Kay Musser

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Jess and Bette Harris

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

StoneCreek

Ray and Lynn Greene

At Home

Roger Etling, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller

John Marshall Ministry

The best prices for the neighborhood market items are generally found at the Dollar Tree.

Neighborhood Market needs:

- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes - prefer the 4-pack
- 8 oz. Body Lotions
- 10 oz. Laundry Detergent - Tide or Gain

Bear Cave Clothing Closet needs:

- NEW Men's white t-shirts M-XXL
- Men's and Women's Shoes
- Costume Jewelry
- Purses
- Men's Belts
- Athletic Socks
- Coats and Jackets

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
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Oklahoma City, Ok. 73116

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

The Brew Class: *Meets in Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join "The Brew" as we gather for fellowship and a meaningful study on the Book of Acts. For more information about "The Brew" contact Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us as we hear about a personal testimony from an Oklahoma First Lady. Leader: Lance Benham.

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 gather for fellowship and a meaningful study. Our Circle is always Open.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.
Associate Pastor: Dr. Charles Neff

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.
Teacher: Lecye Lippoldt.

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: Tausha Davison-Beverly.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Dr. Charles Neff, Associate Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Tausha Davison-Beverly, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Delaney Sheffield, Director of Communications

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Brandon Price, Custodian

Alfred Walker, Sunday Host

Randall Blair, Sunday Host and A/V Tech

Meghan Settle, Audio Visual Team Leader

Dustin Davis, A/V Tech

Edith Guzman, Nursery Attendant

Aubryanna Jones, Nursery Attendant