

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Emmanuel: God With Us

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

-Matthew 1:18-23

Jesus was called Emmanuel because he is God with us. Jesus' name helps us know that God is not against us. God is for us. God is with us. Jesus doesn't stay far away. He doesn't look on from a safe distance. He comes right into the middle of our lives. He comes into the dangerous places in our world. He comes into our pain. He experiences our struggles. When you feel all alone, you can know that our God is a God who comes to us and seeks us out. Our Lord is Emmanuel. Our God is with us.

It has been exciting to see the way God has been working through us to welcome new people into our church. In November we welcomed seven new people into our congregation. On November 10, Shay Williams joined our church, and her daughter, Zymaria was baptized. Shay and Zymaria attended our Block Party in August and were so blessed by the hospitality they experienced that they began attending worship and Sunday School in September. Karen Clark joined our church on Consecration Sunday, November 17. Karen began attending our church when she married Mel Clark two years ago, and she has really enjoyed serving in our John Marshall Neighborhood Market. Then, on November 24, Linda Hanson and Stacey Gladden joined the church in our 8:30 worship service, and Ava Zrenda joined the church in our 10:50 worship service. That morning we also baptized Ava's daughter, Clara. Ava's grandmother, Barbara Monks joined our church last year. Collins Peck invited Stacey to worship with us, and he is looking forward to serving in ministry at our Neighborhood Market. Linda has enjoyed making new friends in our church.

Do you know someone who is walking through a dark time and needs to know that God is with them? Who is going to tell them that God is with them if you don't? It makes all of the difference in the world to know that you are not alone and that God is with you. I hope you will invite someone you know to join us for worship on Sunday morning at 8:30 or 10:50 as we continue our sermon series, *What Child Is This?*

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, December 8

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

Congregational Care Ministers
Meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Monday, December 9

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, December 11

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

Sunday, December 15

Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.
Children's Christmas Pageant
at 9:45 a.m.
Girl Scouts at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 22

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

The coffee host is Kathy Walker.
The chancel flowers are available.
The mission candle is available.
The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.
The acolytes for 10:50 are
Charlotte Smith, Avery Smith,
And Saraiya Brooks.

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 15

The coffee hosts are Kati, Casey,
and Regan Miller.
The chancel flowers are given by
Turner and Cindy Davis in honor of
their grandchildren.
The mission candle is available.
The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.
The acolytes for 10:50 are
Louis Fraley, Semaj Malone,
and Ashiya Perkins.

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:
Anne Holbrook, Janet Jones,
Carol Magness, 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 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>

Candlelight Christmas Eve

This Christmas Eve, journey to the **manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas.

Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes to life through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight.

Experience our cherished tradition of passing the lighted candles as we sing ***Silent Night.***

It's a Christmas tradition you will not want to miss!



Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Service
Tuesday, December 24 at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.
Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.

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: _____

Children's Ministry



Tausha
Davison-Beverly

If you have a child who would like to participate in this year's Christmas pageant, "The Lost Sheep", written and directed by our one and only Mrs. Lecye Lippoldt, please contact our church office for more information. Practices for this year's play will be on Sundays during Sunday School, 10:50 worship service, and after 10:50 worship services. The Christmas pageant will be on Sunday, December 15th at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing you and your family in attendance.



Blessings,
Tausha

Winter Camp



Dr. Charles Neff,
Associate Pastor

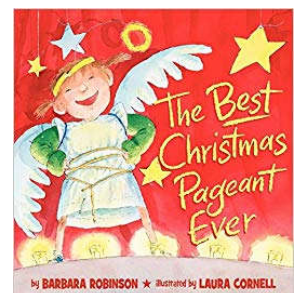
All youth grades 6-12 are invited to register for Spark Winter Camp, January 17-20 at Canyon Camp and Retreat Center near Hinton. The camp welcomes around 200 junior high and senior high youth from across the Heartland and Crossroads Districts. The weekend follows a pattern very similar to Spark Summer 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.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever

What if the hope of Christmas really is for everyone? Join our Youth and Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather 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.





Welcome, Linda Hanson!

We are excited to welcome Linda Hanson to our church family! We hope you enjoy reading about one of our newest members!

Linda moved from Houston where she attended St. Luke's United Methodist Church. She has one daughter and one granddaughter. She fell in love with Nichols Hills U.M.C. because of the sweet people and the pastor, Dr. Trevor Smith. She said that the members are so very welcoming.

Linda joined the church on November 24. We are excited that she is part of our Nichols Hills United Methodist Church family!



✓ **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

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4201 N CLASSEN BOULEVARD, OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73118
WWW.OKUMF.ORG • 800-259-6863 • 405-525-6863

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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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.

_____ I would like information on how to include Nichols Hills UMC in my will and estate plans.

Name _____

Thank you to all who have turned in their Estimate of Giving Cards. So far, 53 families have pledged a total of \$461,889.

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director

The holiday spirit is definitely with us in The Learning Center. Our children's annual Munchkin Music Christmas Program will be held in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, December 11 at 10:30. Each class will sing their Christmas song and play their rhythm instruments for our families' delight. The Christmas Program will last about thirty minutes with refreshments following the performance. We are thrilled to host each parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, and friend to our ministry. Great memories are made every year with the Cubs (infants) riding in their bye-bye buggy and the other classes getting on the stage. Music is such an important part of each child's development. Research has shown that there are multiple benefits from music on children's brains. Music helps to develop the capacity to work faster and more efficiently, the ability to tap into multiple skill sets, and encourages creativity as well as enhancing linguistic neural connections between language and music that prime neural networks for learning. Plus, it is just plain fun! Everyone is invited to attend the Munchkin Music Christmas Program. Merry Christmas everyone!

Blessings.

Denise



Birthdays

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
12/20 Mark McLain
12/21 Libby Blankenship
12/22 Jean Ann Robison
12/25 Carol Solomon
12/29 Lida Elkins
12/29 Casey Harrah
12/29 Taylor McLain
12/30 Abe Malone
12/31 Don Wilson

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:

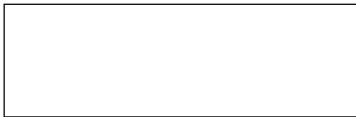
- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes - *prefer the 4-pack*
- 8 oz. Body Lotions
- 10 oz. Laundry Detergent - *Tide or Gain*

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
- Sample size perfume or cologne

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: *The Fellowship Hall* – Join our Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather to take a closer look at the 1983 classic movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. 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 our Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather to take a closer look at the 1983 classic movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Leader: Lance Benham.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* – Join our Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather to take a closer look at the 1983 classic movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather to take a closer look at the 1983 classic movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather to take a closer look at the 1983 classic movie, *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. 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