



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith
Senior Pastor

Gold for the King of Kings

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" -Matthew 2:1-6

During Advent we are taking a closer look at what the Wise Men's gifts tell us about who Jesus is and how he intends to save us from our sins. On Sunday we will talk about the way the gift of gold points to Jesus being the King of Kings. When the Wise Men came to Jerusalem seeking the child who had been born king of the Jews, it threatened King Herod and the powerful elites. Jesus would be a different kind of King, one who would shepherd the people and rule with justice and righteousness. I hope you will invite someone you know to worship with us in person or online at 8:30 or 10:50 as we continue *The First Christmas Gifts* sermon series.

Many people in our church have asked me about the meaning of the symbols on our Chrismon tree in the sanctuary. The word *Chrismon* is a combination of *Christ* and *monogram*. Chrismons are traditionally white and gold. White symbolizes that Jesus was pure and perfect. Gold symbolizes His Majesty and Glory.

The Fish is one of the oldest Christian symbols. The letters, from the Greek word for fish (ichthus), stand for Jesus (I), Christ (X), God (Q), Son (Y), Savior (S).

Alpha and Omega are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Used together, they symbolize that Jesus is the beginning and end of all things.

The Chi-Rho looks like a 'P' with an 'X' on top of it. These are the first two letters of the Greek word 'Christos' which means Christ.

A Five Pointed Star represents the five wounds of Jesus on the cross.

The Star of Bethlehem symbolizes Epiphany and the visit of the Wise Men.

The Crown symbolizes that Jesus is King and the ruler over heaven and the earth.

The Open Bible represents the Scriptures and reminds us that Jesus is the Word.

The Dove symbolizes peace and the Holy Spirit. It is shown pointing down to represent the Holy Spirit that appeared as a Dove when Jesus was baptized.

The Lamp symbolizes that Jesus is the Light of the World.

The Babe in a Manger represents Jesus as a baby at Christmas.

The Lamb symbolizes Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away our sins.

The Bell rings out the Good News that Jesus Christ is born.

The Fleur-de-lis represents the Virgin Mary and Joseph.

The Triangle with a Circle symbolizes the unity and oneness of the Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

If we look with eyes of faith we will see Jesus at work in our lives. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, December 5

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
All Church Sunday School at 9:45

Monday, December 6

Women's Alcoholics Anonymous Group at 5:30 p.m.
Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 7

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 8

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.
Co-Dependents Anonymous-6:30

Sunday, December 12

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Christmas Pageant at 9:45 a.m.
Girl Scouts at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 14

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 19

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
All Church Sunday School at 9:45

Wednesday, December 23 through Friday, December 31

The Learning Center Closed

Friday, December 24

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

Sunday, December 26

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

facebook.com/nicholshillsumc



Chancel Flowers

December 5: The chancel flowers are given in memory of Reid Robison by his family.

December 12: The chancel flowers are given by Peggy Crawford in memory of John Crawford.

Mission Candle

December 5: The mission candle is available.

December 12: The mission candle is available.

Acolytes

December 5: Scarlett Hoffman, Gabriel Ireland, Avery Smith, and Charlotte Smith

December 12: Henrietta Dockendorf, Gabriel Ireland, Regan Miller, and Lucy Ann Sylvester

Tithes and Offerings

Your gifts and tithes make a Christian difference and help us share the ministry of Jesus Christ with people in our church and in our community.

Checks may be mailed to
1212 Bedford Drive,
Nichols Hills, OK 73116.

To make an online donation,
visit www.nicholshillsumc.org.

To set up an electronic funds transfer
contact the Church Office.

Thank you for your generosity
and faithfulness.



We would love for you to join us for in person worship on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50.

We also are streaming online. You can view our worship services on Facebook every Sunday morning at 8:30 and 10:50. Our Facebook page is facebook.com/nicholshillsumc. Don't have a Facebook account? No worries. You can view our livestream without having an account. You can also view the worship service throughout the week. If you do have a Facebook account, we encourage you to send us a message and let us know you are participating.

We also post the Sermon Notes and the Prayer and Study Guide on Facebook as well as our website, www.nicholshillsumc.org. We look forward to worshipping with you in-person or online!



The First Christmas Gifts

Wise Men from the East travelled over a thousand miles to give the first Christmas gifts to the newborn King in Bethlehem. But what do these gifts tell us about this King and who he will become?

This Advent, join us in person or online for worship as we talk about The First Christmas Gifts, sing your favorite Christmas carols, and offer hope and encouragement.

December 5	<i>Gold for the King of Kings</i>
December 12	<i>Frankincense for the Priest of All Priests</i>
December 19	<i>Myrrh to Honor Thy Sacrifice</i>
December 24	<i>Unto Us a Child Is Born</i>
December 26	<i>The Christmas Gift</i>

Online Worship: facebook.com/nicholshillsumc

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
Friday, December 24 at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.
Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.



Grace



Cristian



Madochee



Moses



Brenda



Kelly



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.

- **Compassion International Children** - Give \$45 to sponsor one of our six children for one month.
- **Christmas Food Baskets** - Give \$150 or any part of this amount to help families from John Marshall High School and Nichols Hills Elementary School.
- **Angel Tree** - Give any amount or purchase scarves, gloves, beanies, women's boots, or men's athletic shoes for the John Marshall High School Bear Cave Clothing Closet.

Person to be honored or remembered: _____

Your name: _____

Relationship of the person to you: _____

I would like to donate to (circle one): **Compassion International, Christmas Food Baskets, or Angel Tree**

Amount of Gift: _____



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director
teachers did.

Tidbits from The Learning Center

The sweet smell of pumpkin pies were wafted throughout The Learning Center as the children prepared their own pies last week. It is a wonderful experience to give them the opportunity to see the transformation of all the ingredients into a delicious pie. Most of the children liked the pie, and they all enjoyed measuring out ingredients, stirring the contents, and pouring into unbaked pie shells. They learned new vocabulary words too. We hope you enjoyed your pies as much as the children and

-Denise





✓ **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
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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End of Year Giving

2021 Donation Deadlines

As the end of the year approaches, we wanted to share some information with you about end of year giving. If you have questions, please contact Louise Glass, our Financial Secretary, in the church office. Thanks for your generosity.

Mail: Mailed donations must have a postmark date no later than December 31st on the envelope to qualify as a 2021 donation.

Electronic: On-line donations made via the church website must be entered on or before December 31st to qualify as a 2021 donation.

Church Office: Donations delivered to the church office must be received by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 30th.

Baptisms

We were blessed to have two baptisms in the last two Sundays. We welcomed March Katherine Jubilee Lippoldt on Sunday, November 21 and Paskle Davis Lawrence on Sunday, November 28.



Lecye, March, Dutch, and Allen Lippoldt.



David, Paskel, and Annie Lawrence.

Children's Ministry



Claire Fraley,
Director of
Children and
Youth Ministry

I want to introduce our newest Nursery Attendant, Sarah Salem. Sarah has worked with young children for 3 years and has a 3-year-old son, Bryson. Sarah is passionate about leading children in unique, interactive arts and crafts, and her heart for children is evident. We are thrilled to have her join our Nichols Hills U.M.C. family. Stop by the nursery on Sundays to welcome Sarah to our church. Sarah recently shared with me, "I'm so excited to be a part of each child's life and yours! I am already enjoying being with all the children and the connections I have made with them."

Christmas is approaching, and we can't wait to teach your children about the joys of our Savior being born! We have crafts and stories planned each week to help your child understand the importance of Christmas. Mark your calendars for our Christmas Pageant "New Star" in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. on December 12th! The children can't wait to perform!

Blessings,
Claire



All You Can



Gain All You Can



Save All You Can



Give All You Can



Put God First

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 2022: \$ _____

_____ 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 _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Birthdays

12/06 Jackie Hall
12/06 Nancy Rowntree
12/07 Charlotte Brown
12/08 Maddy Eales
12/09 Phil Withrow
12/10 Denise Buthion
12/11 Kelsey Lyle
12/12 Katie McNeill
12/14 Stephen Heine
12/15 Tom McLain
12/16 Gary Vaughn
12/18 Kay Musser
12/20 Mark McLain
12/21 Libby Blankenship
12/22 Jean Ann Robison
12/25 Carol Kilpatrick
12/29 Lida Elkins
12/29 Casey Harrah
12/29 Taylor McLain
12/30 Abe Malone
12/31 Don Wilson

Are you or your family members not on our birthday list? Call the church office at 405-842-1486 to let us know your birthdays.

Cares and Concerns

Town Village

Bette Harris

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

Iris Senior Living

Lynn Greene

At Home

Roger Etling, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller



Christmas Carols

Join our Adult Sunday School classes at 9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall as our Chancel Choir leads us in singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols. We will discuss what these carols teach us about the real meaning of Christmas and 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 12 at 9:45 a.m.

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
1212 Bedford Drive
Oklahoma City, Ok. 73116

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit Number 1226
Oklahoma City, OK



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

The Brew Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as our Chancel Choir leads us in singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols. We will discuss what these carols teach us about the real meaning of Christmas and how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us hope. For more information about "The Brew" contact Tim Baker (405) 209-5467.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as our Chancel Choir leads us in singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols. We will discuss what these carols teach us about the real meaning of Christmas and how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us hope. Leaders: Dennis and Delores Bradford.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as our Chancel Choir leads us in singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols. We will discuss what these carols teach us about the real meaning of Christmas and how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us hope. Leader: Tom Fraley

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as our Chancel Choir leads us in singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols. We will discuss what these carols teach us about the real meaning of Christmas and how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us hope.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us in the Fellowship Hall as our Chancel Choir leads us in singing some of your favorite Christmas Carols. We will discuss what these carols teach us about the real meaning of Christmas and how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us hope.

First 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. Leader: Claire Fraley

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. Leader: Claire Fraley

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Delaney Sheffield, Director of Communications

Claire Fraley, Director of Children's Ministries

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Brandon Price, Custodian

Jeremy Gossett, Audio Visual Team Leader

John Naeher III, Audio Visual Tech

Dustin Davis, Sunday Host and Audio Visual Tech

Patricia Harris, Nursery Attendant

Sarah Salem, Nursery Attendant

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
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