



December 15, 2021

Volume 29, Issue 25

# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith  
Senior Pastor

### Myrrh to Honor Thy Sacrifice

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." -Matthew 2:13-15

It's just so hard to accept that the gospel has enemies, that good news has enemies, but Matthew says it is so. Herod is intimidated, and all Jerusalem troubled, faking, pretending to want to worship while issuing death warrants against the boy babies. The house-to-house search, and the butt of swords crashing in doors, and chariots on the streets, and lamps out early, and mothers clutching their babies behind cellar doors. "Shhh, shhh, shhh. Don't even breathe! It's a soldier!" It's hard to believe. It's hard to accept that good news has enemies. To read Matthew it's unavoidable. Why? Jesus Christ is born.

Joseph sitting up, bolting up in bed, "Mary, Mary, get ready; wrap the child." "What's the matter?" "We've got to go." "What do you mean?" "I had this dream. They're coming for the boy. Get ready. We've got to go." And off to Egypt to hide from his enemies among his enemies. What else was there to do? On Sunday morning, we will continue **The First Christmas Gifts** sermon series by focusing on the gift of myrrh to honor Jesus' sacrifice of dying on the cross to forgive us of our sins and eternal salvation.

On December 24, we will gather for our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Services** at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. Our message will focus on Matthew's Christmas story in Matthew 1:18-25 as we talk about the role that Joseph played in God's plan to send his Son to save us from our sins. We will also sing some of your favorite Christmas carols and conclude our services by passing the light and singing *Silent Night*. Our Christmas Eve offering will support our missional ministries to benefit children in need through Compassion International, John Marshall High School, and Nichols Hills Elementary School. I want to thank each of you who have given generously to support the children in our community and around the world so that they will experience the hope, joy, peace, and love of Christmas.

I also want to thank you for the generous way so many of you have committed to support Jesus' ministry through our church in the coming year. As of today, 58 families have committed \$488,120 to empower our church's ministry in 2022. We would be happy to receive any remaining Estimate of Giving Cards. If you would like to make a charitable donation that will count towards your 2021 taxes, the Church Office will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 28 through Thursday, December 30. I would also be happy to discuss potential planned gifts that could make a lasting impact through our church's ministry. Thank you so much for your generosity.

I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you. May God continue to bless you and your family as we gather to worship our Savior at the manger.

Merry Christmas!

Trevor

### Ministry Calendar

#### 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 22

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

#### Thursday, December 23

through Friday, December 31  
The Learning Center Closed

#### Friday, December 24

Church Office Open 11:00 - 4:00  
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.  
Sunday School at 10:50 a.m.

#### Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed

#### Tuesday, December 28 through

#### Thursday, December 30

Church Office Open 10:00 - 4:00

#### Friday, December 31

Church Office Closed

#### Sunday, January 2

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

#### Monday, January 3

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

#### Wednesday, January 5

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

#### Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

[www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org)

[facebook.com/nicholshillsumc](https://facebook.com/nicholshillsumc)



### Chancel Flowers

December 19: The chancel flowers are given in honor of Libby Blankenship's birthday by Pam and Bill Shdeed.

December 24: The chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. Gary Roberts.

December 26: The chancel flowers are given by Bette and Jim MacKellar in honor of their anniversary.

### Mission Candle

December 19: The mission candle is available.

December 24: The mission candle is available.

December 26: The mission candle is available

### Acolytes

December 19: Scarlett Hoffman, Gabriel Ireland, Avery Smith, and Charlotte Smith

December 24: Regan Miller, Gabriel Ireland, Avery Smith, Collier Vaughn, and Charlotte Smith

December 26: 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](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org).

To set up an electronic funds transfer



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](https://www.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.

## The First Christmas Gifts



## 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 19** *Myrrh to Honor Thy Sacrifice*

**December 24** *Unto Us a Child Is Born*

**December 26** *The Christmas Gift*

**January 2** *The Light of All People*

**Online Worship:** [facebook.com/nicholshillsumc](https://www.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!

### Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

Friday, December 24  
4:00 and 5:30 p.m.



**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: \_\_\_\_\_

## Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,  
T.L.C. Director

We are so excited to show you our new TLC jackets. We gave each teacher a monogrammed jacket to wear on those cold days as their Christmas present. We are grateful for the Learning Center and the reputation we've earned in our community. It warms our hearts to care for our most precious children. Thank you NHUMC for staying committed to TLC and paving the way for a better world. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you all on January 3.

-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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup>.



# Welcome Jim and Patti Butts

Jim and Patti Butts joined our church this past Sunday, December 12th. We are excited to welcome them to our Nichols Hills U.M.C. congregation.



## Congratulations

We are overjoyed to announce the arrival of Carla Hill's granddaughter, Margaret Aoife Hill. Proud parents are Carla's son and daughter-in-law, Layton and Megan Hill, of Denver, Colorado.



Claire Fraley,  
Director of  
Children and  
Youth Ministry

## Children's Ministry

Thank you to everyone who came to support our children as they performed their Christmas Pageant, "New Star." The children worked so hard and were excited to show everyone what they have been practicing. There were so many amazing volunteers that helped make this all possible. I want to give a big thank you to Christina Vaughn and Allyson Smith for their help in making this Christmas Pageant one

to remember. I also want to thank Libby Gober, Paulette Gordon, and Sheridan McMichael who taught and rehearsed the music with the children. I hope you all had as much fun watching as we did preparing for it! To celebrate our children's hard work, we had our Christmas Party this past Sunday during Children's Church and decorated some beautiful Christmas sugar cookies! It was a special day!

Blessings,  
Claire



## All You Can



### 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

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

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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 Naecher III**, Audio Visual Tech

**Dustin Davis**, Sunday Host and Audio Visual Tech

**Shoana Gann**, Nursery Attendant

**Patricia Harris**, Nursery Attendant

**Elizabeth Sanders**, Nursery Attendant