

# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith  
Senior Pastor

### Jesus and the Possessed Man

<sup>22</sup> One day he got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side of the lake." <sup>26</sup> Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time, he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"— <sup>29</sup> for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) -Luke 8:22, 26-29

One day, Jesus casually said, "Let us go across to the other side. The disciples were not happy about this, but they went. The "other side" of the lake was the region of Decapolis, the "ten cities." This was enemy territory. The people there were pagans. The Decapolis is where the seven nations of Canaan settled. It was filled with pagan temples featuring exaltations of violence or greed or sexual expression that was everything that Israel was not. Moreover, the pig, the most unclean animal in Israel, was regarded as sacred and used in worship on the other side. For Jews, the other side was the place where Satan lived. It was dark, evil, oppressive, and demonic. No one would go to the other side, especially a rabbi.

In the Old Testament, God promised to drive "the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites" out of the Promised Land. God had taken the land of the seven nations of Canaan and given it to Israel. Decapolis was also a center of Roman power. It housed a legion of six thousand Roman soldiers. The symbol of a Roman legion was a boar's head. Jesus wants to go to the other side.

What was Jesus doing? Didn't he know that the kingdom is for our side? It's almost as if he didn't know that this is the other side. It's almost as if he thought it's his side. It's almost as if he thought every side belonged to him. It's almost as if he thought that all the peoples of the earth were now going to be blessed through him—even the seven nations of Canaan.

I hope you will invite someone you know to worship with us at 8:30 or 10:50 on Sunday as we conclude our **Jesus and You** sermon series by focusing on how Jesus healed a possessed man in a foreign land. Together, we'll hear the way Jesus leads us to cross boundaries and take Jesus' hope and healing to the other side.

I invite you to begin Lent by attending our **Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 p.m. on February 22**. This service will include a Time of Prayer for our church. On **Girl Scout Sunday, February 26**, our Girl Scouts lead us in worship and will have their delicious cookies for sale. Our Lenten sermon series, **The Hard Road**, will focus on the way Jesus invites us to pick up our cross and follow him as he leads us on the hard road to the cross.

Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Dr. Trevor Smith

### Ministry Calendar

#### Sunday, February 19

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Girl Scouts at 1:30 p.m.  
Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

#### Monday, February 20

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

#### Tuesday, February 21

Reading Buddies at 1:30 p.m.

#### Ash Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00  
Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.  
Co-dependents Anonymous - 6:30

#### Thursday, February 23

Reading Buddies at 1:30 p.m.

#### Friday, February 24

John Marshall Neighborhood Market at 11:00 a.m.

#### Sunday, February 26

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Youth Group at 5:30 p.m.

#### Monday, February 27

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

#### Wednesday, March 1

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

#### Sunday, March 5

Worship Services - 8:30 and 10:50  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Girl Scouts at 1:30 p.m.  
Youth Group at 5:00 p.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405) 842-1486

(405) 842-5325 T.L.C.

facebook.com/nicholshillsumc



### Chancel Flowers

February 19: The chancel flowers are available.

February 26: The chancel flowers are available.

### Mission Candle

February 19: The mission candle is available.

February 26: The mission candle is available.

### Tithes and Offerings

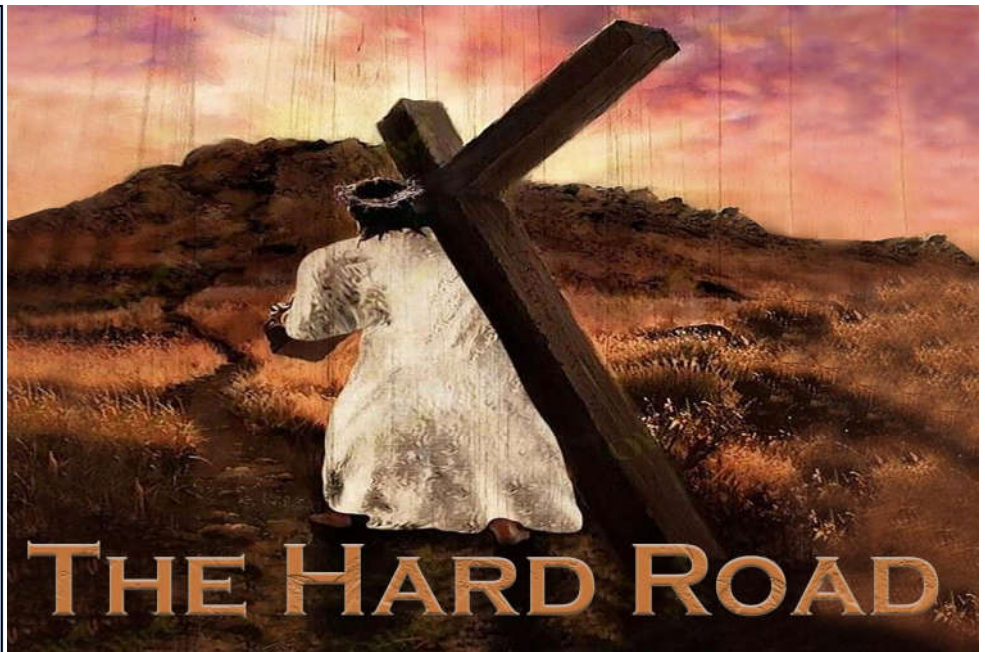
Your gifts and tithes make a Christian difference and help us share the ministry of Jesus Christ with people in our church and in our community.

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  
contact the Church Office.

Thank you for your generosity  
and faithfulness.



## The Hard Road

Jesus said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Then, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. Along the way, he visited his friends, taught his disciples to pray, warned people to live in God's ways, and overcame his enemies.

Join us this Lent as we turn to Luke's Gospel to journey with Jesus to the cross and learn to follow him as we walk on **The Hard Road**.

<b>February 22</b>	<i>U-turn</i>
<b>February 26</b>	<i>He Must Go to Jerusalem</i>
<b>March 5</b>	<i>Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing</i>
<b>March 12</b>	<i>Pray Like This</i>
<b>March 19</b>	<i>Warning Signs</i>
<b>March 26</b>	<i>The Enemies Jesus Made</i>
<b>April 2</b>	<i>Journey to the Cross</i>
<b>April 6</b>	<i>Food for the Journey</i>
<b>April 9</b>	<i>Walking and Talking with Jesus</i>

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

*Worship With Us*  
IN-PERSON & ONLINE

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://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](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org). We look  
forward to worshipping with you  
in-person or online!

## Children's Ministry

In February, our Children's Ministry  
has begun a new series of lessons called,  
*Curious: Questions about God and Jesus*. In their  
Sunday school class, they have been answering  
the question, "Who is Jesus?" They have  
learned that Jesus is the Son of God and our  
Savior. They also asked the question, "Does  
Jesus understand us?" Then, they studied the  
story of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness  
and learned that Jesus understands us and is  
able to heal our hearts. For Valentine's Day,  
they made a craft with hearts and band aides  
to illustrate this lesson.



If you would like to help with Children's Sunday School or Children's Church, contact Allyson Smith or call the church office. We always have fun and grow together.



## Youth Ministry

It has been said of Jesus in Luke's Gospel that Jesus is either on the way to a meal, at a meal, or leaving a meal. After Jesus was raised from the dead, Luke points out that Jesus was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. You see, table fellowship is an important part of living out our lives of faith. We always eat together when our Youth Group meets. On Sunday, February 12, we invited the families in our Youth Group to eat together at Hideaway Pizza. We had a great time eating and visiting with each other. Our Youth Group meets on Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Blessings,  
Trevor Smith



## Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Join us for our Ash Wednesday worship service on February 22 at 6:00 p.m. as we begin the season of Lent and join together in praying for our church. It will be a meaningful evening that will touch your heart. Childcare will be available.

## Welcome!

On Sunday, February 12, Cardin and Karlie Hart joined the church. We are so happy to welcome them into the life of the church. Cardin and Karlie have been serving as Youth Sponsors for our Youth Group. Cardin is a medical student and will begin his residency at OU this year. Karlie works in marketing for restaurants. We are glad to have Cardin and Karlie in our church family.



## Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion  
T.L.C. Director

Recently I celebrated a milestone that I was not expecting. On January 27, 1986, I became a childcare director in a "for profit program". This meant it was all about the business and then the children. I learned a great deal in that school, and I have carried those lessons with me for the last 37 years. It is a blessing to continue serving children, families and our Church. I am grateful to continue working at T.L.C. Thank you for having me here.

-Denise

## Birthdays

02/16 Trent Saunders  
02/16 Laura Tirrell  
02/19 Gloria Crownover  
02/20 Turner Davis  
02/21 Becky Buchanan  
02/21 Doug Franklin  
02/21 Kathy Smith  
02/24 Larry Johnson  
02/24 Kaleigh Slack  
02/24 Jean Warner  
02/25 Suzanne Hamman  
02/26 Avery Niemann  
02/27 David Cole  
02/27 Ryan McLain  
02/27 Joy Richardson  
02/28 Ken Howell  
03/01 Grace Buxton  
03/01 Lindsey Henderson  
03/01 Robert Margo  
03/02 Graham Fraley  
03/04 Nolan Coyle  
03/04 Nan McGowen  
03/05 Jordan Cardenas  
03/05 Tom Fraley  
03/06 Harvey Harmon  
03/06 Kaley Were  
03/09 Karen Raupe-Hanstein  
03/10 Kati Miller  
03/11 G. T. Blankenship  
03/11 Lauren Heflin  
03/13 Christi Coyle  
03/15 Lydia Hunt  
03/15 Gordon Ryan  
03/16 Kathryn Guerra  
03/16 Stuart McLain  
03/16 Ruth Simmons

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.



## Reading Buddies

We are so excited to start Reading Buddies at Nichols Hills Elementary School. We need your help. You can sign up for either Tuesday or Thursday afternoon from 1:30-2:00 or 2:00-2:30. If you would like more information on Reading Buddies, please contact Alison Calhoon or Dudley Hyde.

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.

**Seekers Class:** Meets in the Archive Room - Join us as we begin a study called *The Alpha Course* which focuses on the basics of our faith.  
Teacher: Kyler Kanady

**The Brew Class:** *Meets in Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join "The Brew" as we gather for fellowship and a study on Women in the Bible.  
For more information about "The Brew" contact Tim Baker (405) 209-5467.

**KIVA Class:** *Meets in the Parlor* - Join us as we learn from speakers on various topics. Leaders: Dennis and Delores Bradford.

**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.

**Youth Class:** *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.  
Teacher: True Wallace.

**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.  
Teacher: Allyson Smith

**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.

**Dr. Trevor Smith**, Senior Pastor  
**Michael Wylder**, Director of Church Music  
**Delaney Sheffield**, Director of Communications  
**Dr. Antone Godding**, Organist  
**Kathy Smith**, Treasurer  
**Becky Sellers**, Financial Secretary

**Denise Buthion**, Director of The Learning Center  
**Caleb McNeely**, 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

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405-842-1486 • 405.843.1835 Fax • [www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org)  
The Learning Center - 405-842-5325