

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

God's Will For Your Life

¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed. -Psalm 139:15-16

Is the story of your life already written, or is it a work in progress? In Psalm 139:15-16 it may sound like God wrote the plan for your life like a manuscript for a play. If that is how we read this verse, then it sounds like God has written out every detail of our lives in advance. However, there are some problems with this view. First, if everything happens according to God's predetermined plan then God is ultimately responsible for all of the violence, cruelty, and injustice in the world. This is impossible if God is in fact merciful, loving, and just.

Second, if every event in your life was predetermined by God then life would have no purpose. That would be a life without free will to choose to do or not do what God asks us to do.

This leads to a third problem. Why does God punish us if we do the wrong thing or reward us if we do the right thing if we are merely doing what God has predetermined we would do? Where is the justice in God punishing us for something God forced us to do? Most United Methodists don't subscribe to this view of God's control over our lives.

So, if God has not predetermined everything in our lives, then what is another way for us to understand how God's will works in our lives? What if discerning God's will is less about trying to discover a predetermined plan that God has already written and more about growing closer to God through a relationship with Jesus Christ?

All through the Bible you see evidence of the truth that life is about relationships. More specifically, God created us to live in a right relationship with God, with each other, and with all of creation. Our relationship with God is similar to the relationship between a parent and a child. God is our Heavenly Father... our Heavenly Parent. God has hopes and dreams for us. God wants to bless us, and God has the wisdom to guide us and help us receive the blessings and achieve the hopes and dreams God has for us.

God is offering us a future with hope. Does God have a plan for our lives? Absolutely! Does God have hopes and dreams for us? Yes! Does God want to bless us as we move into God's future? Completely! What if God does not force us to live out a script that has already been written but instead invites us to collaborate or partner with God in writing the story of our lives?

I hope you will worship with us on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 as we explore together God's will for your life. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, September 10

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, September 11

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.
Alcoholics Anonymous at 5:30
Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 12

CJAMM Banquet at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 13

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.
Purpose Driven Life at 6:00 p.m.
Love to Stay at 6:00 p.m.
Seamless at 6:00 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 14

College Group at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 15

Neighborhood Market at 10:15

Saturday, September 16

Saturday of Service
at John Marshall, 9:00 to Noon

Sunday, September 17

Worship at 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Worship at 10:50 a.m.

Monday, September 18

S.P.R.C. Meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486
(405)843-1835 Fax
www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
(405)842-5325



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

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

Newsletter Folders Needed

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in the Conference Room.

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 outside the office.

Serving In Ministry

on Sunday, September 10

The coffee host is Sharon Ives.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Louis Fraley Graham Fraley.

Serving In Ministry

on Sunday, September 17

The coffee hosts are Ann Garrett, Jereme Cloud, and Janice Pitney.

The mission candle is lit in honor of Jerry and Bill Jennings.

The chancel flowers are given in memory of Dr. and Mrs. Allen Greer by Fred and Janet Streich.

The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Reagan Miller and Avery Smith.

Chancel Flower Delivery

We are in need of people to deliver the chancel flowers to homebound members. If this opportunity is for you, please sign-up outside of the 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.

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Anne Holbrook, Janet Jones, Marty Smith, and Kathy Walker.

Birthdays

09/10 Frances Rosier
09/10 Jack Story
09/11 Donna Blakley
09/11 Julie Fischer
09/12 Audrey Harrah
09/14 George Craig
09/14 A'Shonda Garrett
09/14 Robert Vick

Why?

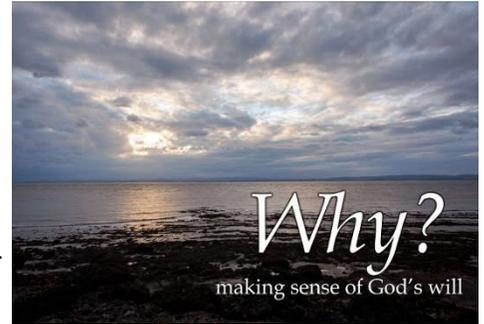
*Why does God allow suffering?
Why do bad things happen to good people?
Why should I trust God when nothing seems to make sense?*

We all wrestle with these questions. When we go through tough times it's natural to wonder how or if God's will is at work in our world. Even people who are deeply committed to their faith struggle to answer these perplexing questions.

Join us as we seek to answer these difficult questions through both ancient scriptures and new ideas.

September 10 *Why Is God's Will So Elusive?*

September 17 *More Than Conquerors*



Tausha Davison-Beverly,
Director of
Children
and Family
Ministry

Children's Ministry

Our Sunday school and Children's Church ministry is growing by leaps and bounds. We have two classes for Sunday school. Creation Station for ages is for children who are 6 weeks through first grade and the other class is geared for children in second through fifth grade.

In Creation Station our young minds are introduced to Bible stories, songs, and teachings through a hands on approach to learning. Mrs. Lecye Lippoldt leads our elementary age Bible

scholars each week with the assistance of Ms. Marita Barker. This class, which started in August, has taken off with a blast! They are learning awesome Bible stories, memory verses, as well as practical life lessons from our Deep Blue Curriculum.

In Children's Church, we dig a little deeper into our Sunday School lessons through small groups, games, crafts, songs, sign language, and prayers. We also reach out to the children we sponsor through Compassion International. Our children send encouraging pictures, letters, and small crafts to these children who live in impoverished areas of the world. We have received letters back from the children, along with pictures. The letters and photos are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway.

We would love to see these areas continue to grow - feeding our young minds with basic Biblical principles for life and how to respond and treat others. Our prayer is that they will share these great teachings from the Bible with someone, so that they too may have a relationship with God.

Sincerely,
Tausha Davison-Beverly



Five Ways To Help The Victims of Hurricane Harvey

Visit our website, www.nicholshillsumc.org, and click the opening slide that says "Hurricane Harvey - 5 Ways You Can Help." This slide takes you to an article published by the Oklahoma United Methodist Disaster Response Team that lists five ways you can help.



Saturday of Service at John Marshall High School

Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

Join us on Saturday, September 16 from 9:00 a.m. until noon at John Marshall High School (12201 Portland Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73120) to help in the Neighborhood Market and the Bear Cave Clothing Closet. We will be sorting clothes, stocking shelves, and painting. All ages are welcome!

If you are interested in serving, please sign up in the Narthex or call the Church office at 405-842-1486.



Love to Stay



Hey everyone!
This week on Wednesday, September 6th, we began a 6-week class



called *Love to Stay*. It is a class that will focus on relationships, marriage, and how we can best love each other for lasting relational success. It is based on a book by Adam Hamilton called *Love to Stay*. In our rapidly changing world, there is a lot of cultural force that tells us one message about marriage and relationship that is either not true or incredibly misleading.

During this study, we will discuss what it means to live in Christian relationships. I hope that you will join me for this class on Wednesday nights from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. I think it will be great!

Blessings,
Matt



Tidbits from The Learning Center

We are so grateful for the support and encouragement of our church family for TLC. It is a critical time to love our neighbors, and we model that every day. Some people may not understand the value of quality care for young children. We believe this article points out some key aspects for everyone to consider.

Denise Buthion, Director
“It is time to care about the education of other people’s children. Other people’s children are or will be our neighbors. Other people’s children – from almost anywhere in the United States and beyond – could end up as our coworkers. Other people’s children are tomorrow’s potential voters. How, what, and with whom they learn impacts us all...” wrote Arthur H. Camins in a recent *Huffington Post* article.

“In school – either by intention or by omission – children learn to make sense of the world around them. They learn how to treat other children and adults and how to regard others in the wider community. They learn whether or not they can participate in shaping their lives and that of others. They may or may not learn how to live, collaborate and respect all the different people whom they will inevitably encounter in their lives. We can’t avoid it. What other people’s children learn affects each of us.”

Source: “Why We Should Care About The Education Of Other People’s Children,” by Arthur H. Camins, *Huffington Post*, June 14, 2017

Blessings,
Denise

Birthdays (continued)

09/15 Gracie Sanders
09/16 Geoffrey Stafford
09/16 William Stafford
09/17 Kerry Maye
09/17 Sally Stringer
09/19 Jess Harris, Jr.

If your birthday isn’t included in our list, please contact the church office (405-842-1486) to be added.

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Joanne Crosby and Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Joanna Garnett

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

Autumn Leaves

Katie Alexander

At Home

Roger Edling, Ann Flesher,
Jess and Bette Harris, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller, and Maxine Permenter

Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

Visit the church website at www.nicholshillsumc.org, to make an online donation. Then click on the blue *Make A Donation* button.

Then follow the online instructions.



We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have questions, contact the church.

John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Clothing Closet

We are in need of:

- Individual Bags of Snacks such as Cheez-its, Goldfish, etc.
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Cheese Sandwich Crackers
- Fruit Snacks (Rollups or Gummy)
- Nature Valley Granola Bars
- **Jeans/Shirts** - Boys/Girls Sizes 12-20 (we have some small middle school students)
- **Men’s Jeans** - All Sizes
- **Men’s Shirts** - Dress, Polo’s and Casual) - Size Small
- **Coats** - All Sizes
- **Women’s Casual Tops** - All Sizes
- **Accessories** - Ties and Jewelry

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: *Meets in the Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join "The Brew" as we gather for fellowship and for an Andy Stanley study called *What Makes You Happy*. For more information about "The Brew" contact Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Join us on September 10 as Michael Clayton speaks on Prosecuting Terrorism - Part 2. On September 17, Cheryl Hudak will present on "My Life Faith Journey." We would love for you to come! Leader: Bruce Day.

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* - Our Open Circle Class is mid-way through a series of lessons about the Book of Revelation, the gospel written by the apostle John in the 90s A.D. We are utilizing a lesson-plan for studying Revelation called the "Bible-Study Fellowship." A member of our class, Joie Dickey, completed the 29 lesson-plans several years ago. Joie loaned them to us to help our teacher and class to better understand and appreciate the Book of Revelation. Join us in the Archives Room. Teacher: John Marshall.

The Bible Class: *Meets in the Conference Room.* - Please join the Bible Class on September 10 as we study "Circumcision; to live with hope and faith in God's assurances." Reference text is Genesis 17. On September 17 we will study "Sabbath Observance; to value God's Call to rest and renew our relationships with God and one another." Reference texts are Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 31:12-18; Isaiah 56:1-8.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.
Leaders: Rev. Matt Patrick and Matt Eales.

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

Rev. Matt Patrick, Student Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Tausha Davison-Beverly, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Delaney Sheffield, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Antone Godding, Organist

Kathy Smith, Treasurer

Louise Glass, Financial Secretary

Denise Buthion, Director of The Learning Center

Michael Hall, Maintenance/Custodian

Alfred Walker, Sunday Host

Randall Blair, Sunday Host

Jessica Mayberry, Nursery Attendant

Ashley Edwards, Nursery Attendant

Marita Barkus, Nursery Attendant