

# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

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." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. -Matthew 1:18-21, 24-25

On Sunday we focused on Mary of Nazareth and the angel's announcement to her when she learned that she was going to have a child. This Sunday we will turn our attention to the story of Joseph and his hometown of Bethlehem. You probably know that there are two Christmas stories in the Bible. There's one in Matthew and one in Luke. These stories are very similar in some ways and very different in other ways. We often merge them together, but sometimes we merge them too quickly. Luke's story focuses on Mary, and his story begins in Nazareth. Matthew's story focuses on Joseph, and his story begins in Bethlehem.

God chose Joseph, a humble and simple man, to be Jesus' earthly father. He is never mentioned again in the New Testament, and that must have been okay with Joseph. He doesn't even get any lines. Mary gets lines. Joseph doesn't get any lines in the story. There are no prayers that people pray day in and day out. "Hail Joseph, full of grace, the Lord is with thee..." It doesn't happen for Joseph. Joseph doesn't get recognition. He is the patron saint of those who serve God quietly without anyone ever noticing. Sometimes we get discouraged when people don't notice the good things we do. Do you know what Joseph teaches us? He had the most important job any male has had on the face of this planet, and he did it without recognition, without anyone praising him, without any lines in the New Testament. He did it because it was the right thing to do and because his Father asked him to. Part of what we learn from Joseph is to humbly serve God without needing to be recognized, maybe even to go out of our way to make sure when we do it we're not being recognized.

I hope you will invite someone you know to join us for worship on Sunday morning at 8:30 or 10:50 as we learn from Joseph and continue our sermon series, *The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem*.

I also want to invite you to participate in our church-wide Sunday school gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45. We will begin by hearing about how our children are building relationships with the six impoverished children we are sponsoring through Compassion International. Then, at 10:00 a.m. we will have the pleasure of cheering on our children as they perform their Christmas Play. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Dr. Trevor Smith

### Ministry Calendar

#### Sunday, December 10

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.  
Preparing for Christmas Sunday  
School Gathering in Fellowship  
Hall at 9:45 a.m.  
Children's Christmas Play in the  
Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.  
Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

#### Monday, December 11

John Marshall Bear Cave Clothing  
Closet Open from 9:00 to 1:00  
Women's Alcoholics Anonymous  
Meeting at 5:30 p.m.  
Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

#### Wednesday, December 13

T.L.C. Christmas Program at 10:00  
John Marshall Market at 10:00 a.m.

#### Sunday, December 17

Preparing for Christmas Sunday  
School Gathering in Fellowship  
Hall at 9:45 a.m.

Confirmation at 12:15 p.m.

Girl Scouts at 2:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, December 24

4th Sunday of Advent Services  
at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.  
Candlelight Christmas Eve  
Services at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.

#### Monday, December 25

Church Office Closed

#### Monday, December 25 to

#### Monday, January 1, 2018

The Learning Center Closed

### Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

[www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://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 every other week.

### 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, December 10

The coffee host is Lindsay Ocker. The mission candle is lit by Cindy Withrow in honor of Phil Withrow. The altar flowers are given by Turner and Cindy Davis in honor of our grandchildren. The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland. The acolytes for 10:50 are Avery Smith and Lucy Ann Vaughn.

### Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 17

The coffee host is Kashina Bush. The altar flowers are given by Bill Bowden in honor of Andy Bowden. The acolyte for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland. The acolytes for 10:50 are Reagan Miller and Charlotte 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 in the Narthex.

### 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, Carol Magness, and Marty Smith.

### Birthdays

12/09 Larkin Warner  
12/09 Phil Withrow  
12/10 Denise Buthion  
12/11 Kelsey Lyle  
12/12 Joe McClendon  
12/12 Katie McNeill

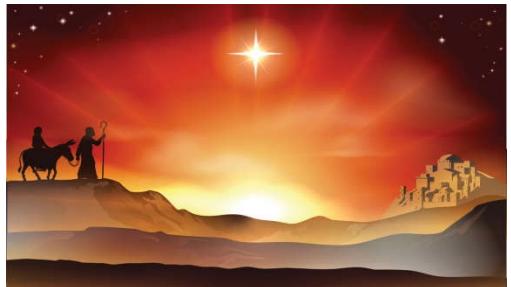
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## The Journey Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Join *The Journey* at Nichols Hills

*United Methodist Church* as we light the Advent candles, sing favorite carols, prepare our hearts for Christmas, and walk the road to Bethlehem to experience the Christmas story like never before.

Bring a friend and worship with us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.



**December 10** *Joseph of Bethlehem*

**December 17** *Mary's Visit to Elizabeth*

**December 24** *From Nazareth to Bethlehem*

**Christmas Eve** *The Manger*

**December 31** *What Child is This?*

**Christmas Drama - Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.**

## Candlelight Christmas Eve

This **Christmas Eve**, connect to the Christmas story like never before.

Journey to the **manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas. It's a chance to hear beautiful Christmas music and old familiar carols with family, friends, and neighbors.

Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes alive through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight. We will conclude our service with 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**

**Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

*Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.*

## Children's Ministry

We are in an exciting time in our Children's Ministry! The children are remembering how God's work is not only in what they see every day but also in places they read about on the other side of the globe. The lesson is that God's love is for all who want to receive him. Our children and the children we sponsor through Compassion International know of God's love. I feel honored that every month, we as a church family, give support to this organization. In return, the youngest members of our church family are a blessing of encouragement to children across the globe in God's name.



Tausha  
Davison-Beverly,  
Director of  
Children  
and Family  
Ministry

Our upcoming Christmas Pageant will be on December 10. To make it convenient for all families to attend, it will be held during our normal Sunday School hour in the Fellowship Hall. We would encourage everyone to attend and support our youngest members of our congregation. Mrs. Lecye Lippoldt, who is the Sunday School teacher for our elementary school age children, will direct this year's Christmas Pageant. Please invite families and friends to attend. It will be a delightful and inspirational experience for all.

Blessings,  
Tausha Davison-Beverly



## Confirmation Update

Our confirmation students have completed about half of their course which has focused on the Old Testament. We have enjoyed diving into the biblical stories about Abraham, Moses, and the prophets in order to see what God was doing in those times and how those stories might speak to us today.

As we go into the New Year, we will begin studying the New Testament and the life of Jesus. I hope that you will join me in praying for these students as they continue their journey of faith in the second half of our confirmation class. It is incredibly important for our church to continue training up young disciples who can participate in our church today and carry it into the future.

Blessings,  
Matt

## Angel Tree

The angel tree in the Narthex is full of angel ornaments like the one on the right. Listed on these ornaments are items needed to help the John Marshall Neighborhood Market, John Marshall High School, North Highland Elementary School, and financial amounts needed to sponsor our Compassion International children. We invite you to take an angel and bring the requested items back to the church to place under the angel tree. Thank you for your generosity!



## NHUMC Singers in OCU's Christmas Vespers

The majority of the singers in the NHUMC chancel choir will participate in OCU's annual Christmas Vespers on Friday, December 8 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 9 at 4:00 p.m. The event will take place at OKC's First Presbyterian Church (1001 NW 25<sup>th</sup> Street) and will feature the Ad Astra Women's Chorus, the Chamber Choir, the University Singers, and the University Chorale, accompanied by organ and a large orchestra. Conductors Randi Von Ellefson and Tony Gonzalez will lead the groups in a wide variety of seasonal music. Tickets are available at 405.208.5227.

## Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,  
Director

With the arrival of December we are busy as ever. We scheduled Family Conferences last week so that families could meet with their child's teacher for a review of accomplishments for the fall session. Each child has a portfolio which includes observations of developmental milestones, work samples, plus photographs of activities that a child has participated in. This is always such a wonderful experience to hear from families how they see their child growing and learning. Together we construct goals for the child to achieve in the next session. The staff receive a lot of great feedback too.

Our annual Christmas Music Program will be on December 13 in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Refreshments will be served following the performance. Please join us as we celebrate the Christmas season.

Blessings,  
Denise

## Birthdays Continued

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	Taylor McLain
12/30	Abe Malone
12/31	Don Wilson

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 Etling, Ann Flesher,  
Jess and Bette Harris, Frances Lewis,  
and David Mueller

## Manage Your Giving Online And Use Our QR Code

Visit the church website at [www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org), to make an online donation. Then click on the blue *Make A Donation* button. Then follow the online instructions.



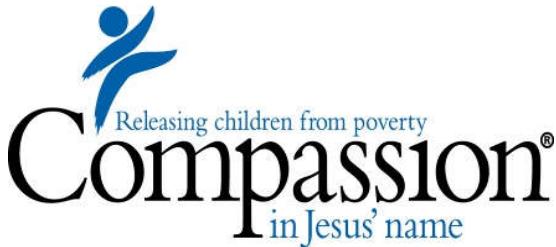
We also have a QR Code that you can scan with your cell phone to donate. If you have questions, contact the church.

## 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
- New Socks
- Front Zip Hoodies
- Monetary donation for underwear
- New or gently worn shoes  
Boys/Men's: 9-12  
Girls/Women's: 8-10

# Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones



Grace



Cristian



Madochee



Moses



Brenda



Kelly



**NICHOLS HILLS**  
united methodist church

## Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones

Christmas is a time to remember our loved ones who have passed away and to honor our loved ones who have made a difference in our lives. This year, the Altar Guild has purchased our Christmas poinsettias, but we are giving you the opportunity to honor or remember a loved one this Advent by giving in one of three ways:

- Give \$45 to sponsor one of our Compassion International children for one month.
- Give any amount to support the John Marshall Neighborhood Market.
- Give \$150 or any part of this amount to help purchase food baskets for families of John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School students.

Gifts in any amount are appreciated.

If you would like to honor or remember someone in this way, please fill out the form below.

Person to be honored or remembered: \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship of the person to you: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to donate to (circle one):

**Compassion International, John Marshall Neighborhood Market, or Food Baskets**

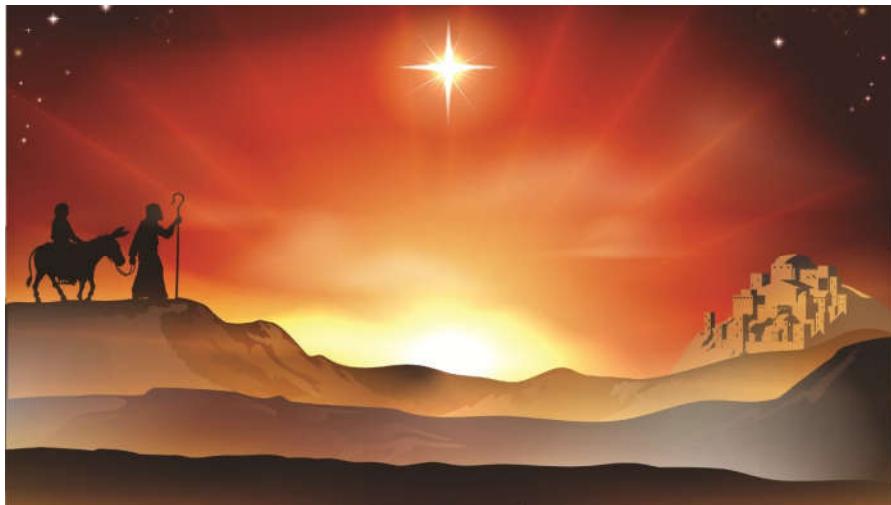
Amount of Gift: \_\_\_\_\_

# The Journey

## Walking the Road to Bethlehem

Join *The Journey* at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church as we light the Advent candles, sing carols, prepare our hearts for Christmas, and walk the road to Bethlehem to experience the Christmas story like never before.

Bring a friend and worship with us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.



December 3	<i>Mary of Nazareth</i>
December 10	<i>Joseph of Bethlehem</i>
December 17	<i>Mary's Visit to Elizabeth</i>
December 24	<i>From Nazareth to Bethlehem</i>
Christmas Eve	<i>The Manger</i>
December 31	<i>What Child is This?</i>

*Childcare available on Sunday mornings.*

Christmas Drama — Sunday, December 10 at 10:00 a.m.

## PREPARING FOR CHRISTMAS



## Preparing for Christmas

Join the Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, The Bible Class, and The Brew Class for a 4-week study beginning on Sunday, December 3 at 9:45 that will help you Prepare for Christmas. Our senior pastor, Trevor Smith, will highlight some of the ways our church is changing lives in our community and around the world as we hear how we are blessing students at John Marshall High School and North Highland Elementary School as well as how our children connect with impoverished children around the world through Compassion International. Our children will also perform their Christmas Drama for us on December 10 at 10:00 a.m. Sign up in the Church Office.

## Candlelight Christmas Eve

This Christmas Eve, connect to the Christmas story like never before.

Journey to the manger to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas. It's a chance to hear beautiful Christmas music and old familiar carols with family, friends, and neighbors.

Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes alive through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight. We will conclude our service with 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**

**Sunday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.**

*Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.*

*Christmas Eve*  
**CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICES**

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

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church  
1212 Bedford Drive / Nichols Hills, OK 73116  
405-842-1486 / nicholshillsumc.org

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

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



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

**The Brew Class:** Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. For more information about "The Brew" please contact: Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

**Reveille Class:** Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

**Open Circle Class:** Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Teacher: John Marshall.

**The Bible Class:** Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*.

**Youth Class:** Join us in the Fellowship Hall for our study *Preparing for Christmas*. Leader: Rev. Matt Patrick.

**KIVA Class:** Meets in the Parlor - Join us as O.C.U. professor, John Starkey, teaches our class. Leader: Bruce Day.

**Second Graders through Fifth Graders:** We invite you to come and see our Christmas Play in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. Teacher: Lecye Lippoldt.

**Children's Class:** Meets in the Children's Area. - We invite you to come and see our Christmas Play in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00. 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

**Brandon Price**, Custodian

**Alfred Walker**, Sunday Host

**Tyral Hayes**, Sunday Host

**Jessica Mayberry**, Nursery Attendant

**Ashley Edwards**, Nursery Attendant

**Marita Barkus**, Nursery Attendant