



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

## Sing We Now of Christmas

*O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.*

Turn on the radio, and you're likely to hear some Christmas music. Turn on your television, and you're likely to hear some Christmas music on one of those Christmas specials. Head to the mall to buy some presents, and you're likely to hear some Christmas music. It seems that everywhere we go at this time of the year they're singing our songs. Almost everyone I know loves Christmas music, and during the season of Advent we are beginning a new sermon series called *Sing We Now of Christmas* in which we will sing some of your favorite Christmas carols and take a deeper look at the Christmas stories that inspired them.

We'll begin by singing and discussing *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* and hearing the first Christmas story Luke tells in his Gospel. You may already know that Luke tells two birth stories. On Sunday we'll talk about the way Zechariah responded when the angel of the Lord told him that God was about to answer his prayer that his wife, Elizabeth, would bear a son in her old age who would be named John. Then, on December 9, we'll sing and talk about *Joy to the World* and tell the story of how the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would bear the Son of God who would be named Jesus and how Mary journeyed to Ein Karem to visit Elizabeth. It is my hope that singing our favorite Christmas carols and hearing our Christmas stories will inspire you and offer you hope, joy, peace, and love as we prepare to worship our Lord at the Manger on Christmas Eve.

At Christmas, even people who do not attend church are looking for something more. People are more open at this time to an invitation to attend a worship service or other church events. I want to invite you to share the good news of Christmas with your friends, family members, classmates, co-workers, and neighbors who do not have a church home by inviting them to join us for worship during Advent and to come with you to our **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24 at 4:00 or 5:30 p.m.** Together, we will make a special Christmas memory.

I also want to invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 on Sunday morning as we begin our all-church Sunday School Class called ***The Real Story of Christmas***. Pastor Michael and I will help us examine how some of our most beloved Christmas traditions began and why we still do them today. We'll also take a look at some of our favorite Christmas movies as we explore **The Real Story of Christmas**. Together, we'll have some fun as we grow closer to God and each other.

Then, on **Sunday, December 16** we will have the joy of watching our **Children's Christmas Play** at 9:45 a.m.

We had a wonderful Consecration Sunday and a great Harvest Dinner. Thank you to each of you who give so generously to support God's ministry through our church. So far, we have received 62 pledges totaling \$496,702. If you would still like to fill out an Estimate of Giving Card, we have included one on page 6. I am certainly glad to be part of such a generous church. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Dr. Trevor Smith

## Ministry Calendar

### Sunday, December 2

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50  
The Real Story of Christmas  
All Church Sunday School at 9:45

### Monday, December 3

Care Committee at 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, December 9

Youth Christmas Party at 12:15

### Wednesday, December 12

T.L.C. Christmas Program at 10:00

### Sunday, December 16

Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50  
Children's Christmas Pageant at  
9:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

### Monday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services  
at 4:00 and 5:30 p.m.  
Women's A.A. Meeting at 5:30

### Monday, December 24 - Tuesday, January 1

The Learning Center Closed



### Welcome Dustin!

Dustin Davis joined Nichols Hills U.M.C. on November 18. We are happy to have Dustin in our Nichols Hills United Methodist Church family!

### Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

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

### The Learning Center

(405)842-5325



## Ministry Opportunities

### Hospitality Greeters

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

### 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 in the Narthex.

### Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 2

The coffee host is Kathy Walker.

The chancel flowers are available.

The acolytes for 8:30 are Gabriel Ireland and Kate Maloney.

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

### Serving In Ministry on Sunday, December 9

The coffee hosts are Adam and Kenna Clapp.

The mission candle is available.

The chancel flowers are given by Ken Reitz in honor of Alfred Walker, my dear friend.

The acolytes for 8:30 are Gabriel Ireland and Kate Maloney.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Charlotte 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 call the church office.

### Altar Guild

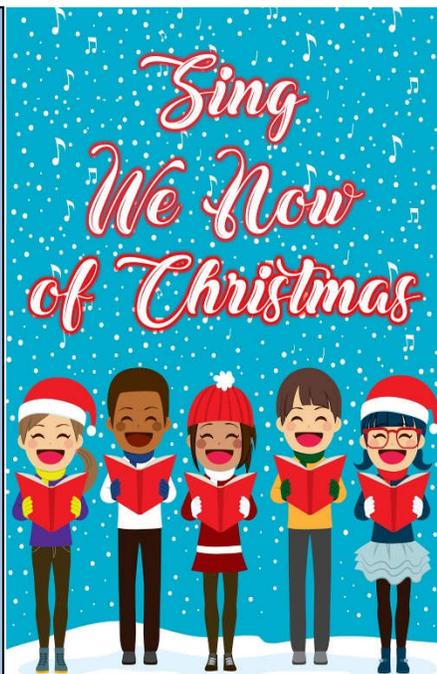
The sacrament of communion is a meaningful and important part of our weekly worship. If you are interested in helping prepare the table, please contact Carol Magness at 405-640-4429 or Janet Jones at 405-627-1566.

Serving in Altar Guild this month are: Carla Hill, Anne Holbrook, and Janet Jones.

### Birthdays

12/01	Sarah Butler
12/01	Elizabeth Prosser
12/01	Alesha Rogers
12/03	Tony Dyke
12/04	Ronald McLeod
12/06	Jackie Hall
12/06	Nancy Rowntree
12/07	Charlotte Brown
12/07	Reid Robison

*Continued on the next page.*



## Sing We Now of Christmas

Everywhere we go we hear Christmas songs—on the radio, on commercials, and at the mall. There's just something about Christmas that makes the whole world sing.

Join us each Sunday during Advent as we sing your favorite Christmas carols and take a closer look at the Christmas stories that inspired them.

Each Sunday we'll share familiar carols, scriptures, and messages that offer encouragement and hope. Bring a friend and worship with us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m.

**December 2** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**December 9** *Joy to the World*

**December 16** *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**December 23** *Away in a Manger*

**December 24** *Silent Night*

*Childcare available on Sunday mornings.*

**Christmas Pageant — Sunday, December 16 at 9:45 a.m.**

## End of Year Giving

### 2018 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 December 31<sup>st</sup> postmark date on the envelope to qualify as a 2018 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 2018 donation.

**Church Office:** Donations delivered to the church office must be received by 4:30 p.m. on December 31<sup>st</sup>.

## The Real Story of Christmas

Join the Open Circle Class, the Reveille Class, the Kiva Class, and The Brew for a four-week study beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way.

During these four weeks, our pastors, Dr. Trevor Smith and Rev. Michael Carpenter, will help us examine how some of our most beloved Christmas traditions began and why we still do them today. We'll also take a look at some of our favorite Christmas movies as we explore **The Real Story of Christmas**.

Our **Children's Christmas Pageant** will be part of our time together on Sunday, December 16 at 9:45 a.m.

Sign-up in the Narthex or 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**  
Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.  
*Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.*



## Youth News



Rev. Michael  
Carpenter

Advent is beginning this Sunday, and that means the Youth Christmas Party is right around the corner! On December 9, right after worship, the youth will gather downstairs in the youth room for an end-of-year celebration. We'll have lunch, play some festive games, and share what we're looking forward to most in the holiday season and new year. We'll wrap up around 2:30 p.m. If you have a friend you'd like to invite to church, or if you've missed out on some of our other activities this year, our Christmas Party will be the place to be!

For Sunday school this Advent season, the youth will join with the adult Sunday school classes for our all-church series, *The Real Story of Christmas*. It will be a great time to meet new people and share what makes Christmas special for each of us. Also, I want to give a shout-out to Gracie Buxton and her mom, Katherine, for their mission work in Costa Rica earlier this month! Through Youth with a Mission they built several homes for Nicaraguan refugees living in San Jose, Costa Rica. Way to put your faith in action!



## Hospitality Team

As Advent begins this Sunday, we prepare for the birth of our Savior, Emmanuel, "God with us." Through the Incarnation, God becoming human and dwelling with us, God's welcome of us is made plain. We, every one of us, are welcomed into God's life because of Jesus.

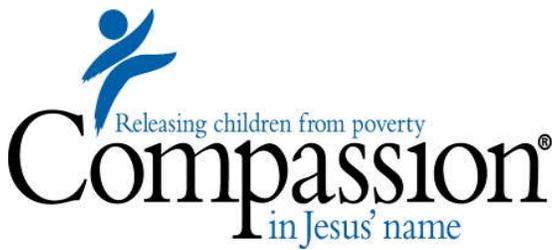
What makes the church so special this time of year is that we can share that welcome. The awe, the joy, and the hope that we experience looking into the manger are all meant to be shared. One of the great ways to share that welcome is by joining our church's Hospitality Team. As people are drawn to our church for the first time, we can share God's welcome with a warm handshake and a loving smile. If you feel drawn to share the joy of this Christmas season with others, please reach out to me to join our Hospitality Team. In 15 minutes on a Sunday morning, you can share the joy of God's welcome.

Grace upon Grace,  
Michael

## NHUMC Singers in OCU's *Christmas Vespers*

A majority of the singers in the NHUMC chancel choir will participate in OCU's annual *Christmas Vespers* on Friday, December 7 at 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m. The events 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, Chamber Choir, 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 or online at [okcu.edu/tickets](http://okcu.edu/tickets).

# Honoring and Remembering Our Loved Ones



Grace



Cristian



Madochee



Moses



Brenda



Kelly



## 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 our John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Bear Cave Clothing Closet.
- Give \$150 or any part of this amount to help purchase food baskets or provide for emergency needs 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 Missional Ministries, or Food Baskets**

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



### ✓ **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**  
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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.

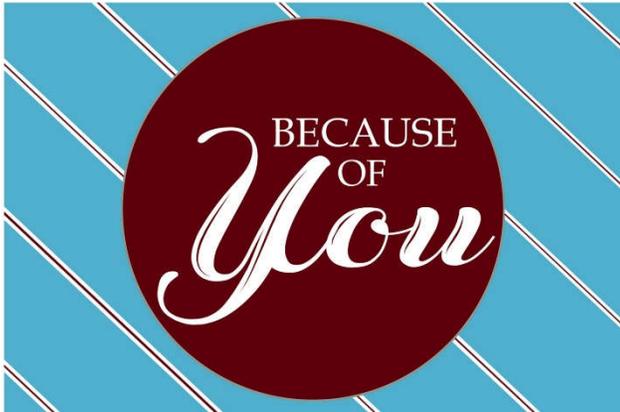
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# Harvest Dinner

We had a wonderful Consecration Sunday and a tasty Harvest Dinner. Thank you to everyone who helps support the ministries of our church! So far, we have received 62 pledges totaling \$496,702. Below are some photos from the Harvest Dinner as well as an Estimate of Giving Card for your convenience. Thanks for being such a generous church.



## 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 2019: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_



## Children's Ministry



The Children's Ministry has been hard at work rehearsing for our upcoming Christmas Pageant, *The Mice and The Miracle*. If you would like your child to participate, we would love for them to join us. This week we were blessed to have our wonderful Youth help us during our rehearsal.

We practice every Sunday during Sunday School from 9:45 until 10:45 a.m., just in time for the 10:50 worship service. We are still looking for someone to play the part of Mary and Joseph. Below are a few pictures from our last two rehearsals.

Blessings,  
Tausha



## Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,  
T.L.C. Director

This year for Thanksgiving our teachers wanted to prepare a feast for our children and their families. The families were asked to donate a can of soup, green beans, corn, rolls, pies, fruit, etc. Then the teachers prepared the food the evening before and the morning of the feast on November 20. I want to thank Lindsey Ocker, a member of our church, for donating and serving two turkeys and two hams. They were delicious. I also want to give a huge shout out of thanks to the contributors of our family feast. Several participants mentioned how nice it was to not have to bring a lunch that day. More importantly, the families were touched that the staff initiated this idea, planned it, cooked it, and set it up. These ladies are great cooks, too! The Learning Center is blessed many times over with loving and caring staff members.

During this period of thanks and gratitude we want to acknowledge how much we appreciate our church family for believing in T.L.C. Your support and encouragement enables us to provide the highest quality of care for our children.

-Denise



## Birthdays (Continued)

12/08	Maddy Eales
12/09	Larkin Warner
12/09	Phil Withrow
12/10	Denise Buthion
12/11	Kelsey Lyle
12/12	Joe McClendon
12/12	Katie McNeill
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

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

Jess and Bette Harris

#### The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

#### StoneCreek

Joanna Garnett and

Ray and Lynn Greene

#### At Home

Roger Etling, Ann Flesher,

Frances Lewis, and David Mueller

### John Marshall Neighborhood Market and Clothing Closet

*The best prices on the following items is generally found at the Dollar Tree.*

#### Neighborhood Market

##### We are in need of:

- Men's and Women's Deodorant
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes (*prefer the 4-pack at Dollar Tree that can be cut apart*)
- 8 oz. Body Lotions
- 10 oz. Laundry Detergent (*Tide or Gain*)

#### Bear Cave Clothing Closet

We are in need of help in the Clothing Closet. If interested, please contact Christie Baker at 405-922-5154.

##### Items needed are:

- Athletic Socks (*above ankle/footies*)
- Men's White T-Shirts (*all sizes*)
- Men's and Women's Jeans (*Small Sizes Please*)
- Sweat Shirt "Hoodies" or Crew Neck
- Men's and Women's Coats/Jackets
- Men's and Women's Sweatpants, Athletic Shirts, Jerseys, T-Shirts
- Men's and Women's Shoes (*Men's 7 - 12 and Women's 6 - 12*)

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:** *The Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. For more information about "The Brew" contact Tim Baker (405) 209-5467 or Christie Baker (405) 922-5154.

**KIVA Class:** *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Leader: Dudley Hyde.

**Reveille Class:** *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Teacher: Tom Fraley.

**Open Circle Class:** *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join our Adult Sunday School classes for a four-week study called *The Real Story of Christmas* beginning on Sunday, December 2 at 9:45 a.m. that will help you celebrate Christmas in a refreshingly new way. Teacher: John Marshall.

**Youth Class:** *Meets in the Fellowship Hall* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God. During December, we'll meet in the Fellowship Hall to participate in our all church Sunday school class, *The Real Story of Christmas*. Associate Pastor: Rev. Michael Carpenter.

**Elementary Class:** *Meets in Room 124.* Join us for a fun time with your friends as we grow closer to God and each other and prepare for our Christmas Pageant. 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 and prepare for our Christmas Pageant. Director of Children's Ministry: Tausha Davison-Beverly.

**Dr. Trevor Smith**, Senior Pastor

**Rev. Michael Carpenter**, Associate Pastor

**Michael Wylder**, Director of Church Music

**Tausha Davison-Beverly**, Director of Children and Family Ministry

**Delaney Sheffield**, Director of Communications

**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

**Randall Blair**, Sunday Host

**Jessica Mayberry**, Nursery Attendant

**Brandy Jones**, Nursery Attendant

**Ashley Huling**, Nursery Attendant