

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

The Lesson of the Loaves

⁴⁷ When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and Jesus was alone on the land. ⁴⁸ When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by. ⁴⁹ But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; ⁵⁰ for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." ⁵¹ Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased.

And they were utterly astounded, ⁵² for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened. -Mark 6:47-52

Why Jesus? He teaches you. When most of us think about Jesus' teaching ministry we think about the Sermon on the Mount or all of the parables that Jesus told, but Jesus' teaching ministry was expansive. Jesus is always teaching us, and he continuously taught the disciples through his actions and the way he handled situations. When he fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fish Jesus wanted the disciples to understand that to follow Jesus is to be led in difficult and challenging situations which will try our very best, but in the midst of those challenging situations God's grace is always there in Jesus Christ to give us the strength to overcome them. This was the lesson that Jesus knew the disciples needed to learn. He knew they needed to learn that lesson if they were going to hang in there and be faithful. It's a lesson we all need to learn as we seek to follow and serve in ministry with Jesus. I invite you to worship with us on Sunday at 8:30 or 10:50 a.m. as we learn the lesson of the loaves.

I am excited for Nichols Thrills to begin again on Wednesday, February 6 with a meal at 5:30. I will be teaching a 12-week study of Will Willimon's book, *Why Jesus?* Bishop Willimon was the Dean of the Chapel at Duke University when I was a divinity school student, and I believe his book will help you grow as a disciple of Jesus. I was inspired by the title of his book when I formed our current sermon series, but the content of the book covers different material than our *Why Jesus?* sermon series has covered. I look forward to learning and growing with you.

I am also excited that Rev. Michael Carpenter will be launching a new care ministry by offering our first Congregational Care Minister Training on Wednesday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m. I have witnessed the gifts so many of you have for care ministry, and I believe Jesus is calling many of you to consider serving as a Congregational Care Minister. In this training, you will learn how to pray with another person, how to visit persons who are homebound or in the hospital, and how to walk alongside a persons who are going through difficult times in life. You do not have to commit to serve as a Congregational Care Minister to be part of the training, but I hope you will be open to how God is calling you to serve in ministry. In these eight weeks, you will have the opportunity to read Kenneth Haugk's book, *Christian Caregiving - a Way of Life*. I hope you will join us for fellowship and learning on Wednesday evenings.

On February 10 we will celebrate **Scout Sunday** by having our Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts participate in leading worship. We will also conclude our *Why Jesus?* sermon series by answering the question: "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" I hope you will plan to worship with us that day. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Saturday, February 2

Pinewood Derby at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, February 3

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Monday, February 4

Care Meeting at 4:00 a.m.

Women's A.A. Meeting at 5:30

Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 6

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Why Jesus? Study begins at 5:30

Congregational Care Ministers Training begins at 5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 10

Worship at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Scout Sunday at 10:50 a.m.

Children's Ministry Meeting-12:15

Monday, February 11

Women's A.A. Meeting at 5:30

Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m.

Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 12

Endowment Committee at 5:30

Wednesday, February 13

Nichols Thrills Meal at 5:30 p.m.

Why Jesus? Study at 5:30 p.m.

Congregational Care Ministers Training at 5:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, February 24

Girl Scout Sunday at 10:50 a.m.

Tuesday, February 26

Church Council at 5:30 p.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

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, February 3

The coffee host is Carla Hill.

The chancel flowers are given by Jim and Becky Buchanan in honor of our minister and our church family.

The mission candle is available.

The acolytes for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

The acolytes for 10:50 are Jimmy Tirrell and Collier Vaughn .

Serving In Ministry on Sunday, February 10

The coffee host is Cara Fraley.

The chancel flowers are available.

The mission candle is available.

The acolytes for 8:30 is Gabriel Ireland.

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

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: Alison Calhoon, Cheryl Fraley, Anne Holbrook, and Marty Smith.

Birthdays

02/08 Steve Forster
02/09 Marty Smith
02/10 James MacKellar, Jr.
02/11 Ann Flesher
02/11 Lillian Straughn
02/11 Olivia Straughn
02/12 Lucas Butler
02/12 Carol Sue Manley
02/13 Gwen Griffin
02/13 Violet Robinson
02/13 Hannah Story

Why Jesus?

Why Jesus? Because in spite of the time and distance that separates his world from ours, he continues to invite men and women to claim the true meaning of their lives by giving themselves away in service to God and others. Jesus continues to fascinate and challenge us, in spite of all the attempts to domesticate his message and ignore his call to follow. In his radical teachings, his self-sacrificial death, and his liberating life beyond death, Jesus teaches and shows us the true meaning and purpose of our lives.

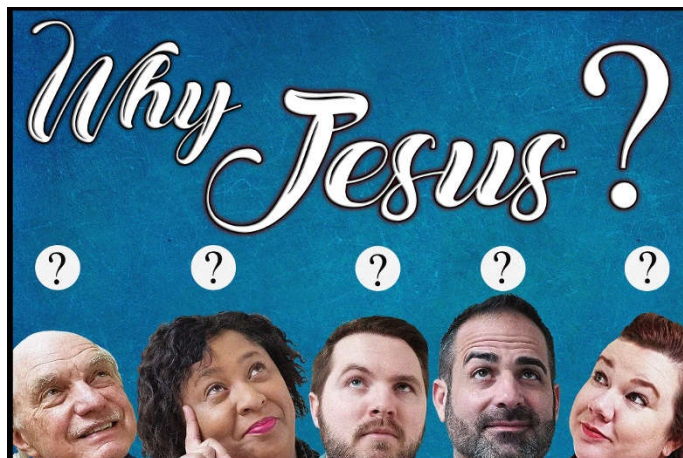
Join us for worship as we answer the question, *Why Jesus?*

February 3

He Teaches You

February 10

He Saves You



Tausha
Davison-Beverly

Children's Ministry

Exciting things are happening in our Children's Ministry! As we continue to grow, we are looking for additional volunteers to help on Sunday. If you would like to make a difference in our children's lives, we would love for you to join us. Please contact me in the church office at 405-+842-1486 for more information.

As we start a new year, I would like to thank all our volunteers, staff members, and our wonderful Children's Committee who all help make our Children's Ministry run so smoothly. Our next Children's Ministry meeting will be on Sunday, February 10th at 12:15 after our 10:50 worship service.

We invite you to take a stroll down the hallway to notice the beautiful artwork our children have created during Children's Church. The artwork is located between Creation Station and the Elementary Classroom. The canvas paintings are inspired by our very own Nick Berry. The children have been admiring his artwork in the Narthex and decided they wanted to create a piece of art as well. Their paintings are themed "Optic Art" and are based on the Fruits of the Spirit. Each one has a hidden cross in it. Thank you, Nick, for all of the love and support you show our children by inspiring them to think of different ways to uplift and reach people through artwork in our church.

Blessings,
Tausha





Nichols Thrills

Nichols Thrills will begin on Wednesday, February 6 with a Meal at 5:30 and two studies for adults.

Why Jesus? - Why does the mysterious teacher from Nazareth still call and compel us to follow him after 2,000 years? Join us for a 12-week study of Will Willimon's book *Why Jesus?* as we focus on Jesus' teachings, his self-sacrificial death, and his liberating life beyond death that will help you find the true meaning and purpose of your life. The price of the book is \$10. Leader: Dr. Trevor Smith

Congregational Care Minister Training - What is a Congregational Care Minister? Congregational Care Ministers are laypeople trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation to an assisted living center. If you have a heart for helping people through difficult times, join us as we learn to care for people in a distinctively Christian Way. In these 8 weeks, we will read Kenneth Haug's book, *Christian Caregiving - a Way of Life*. The price of the book is \$8. Leader: Rev. Michael Carpenter

We hope you will join us for one of these meaningful studies. Sign-up in the Narthex after worship or in the Church Office at 405-842-1486 during the week.

A promotional graphic for Nichols Thrills. At the top, it features the Nichols Hills United Methodist Church logo. Below that, the text "Nichols Thrills" is written in a large, bold, blue font with white outlines, set against a circular background with horizontal lines. Underneath, a blue banner contains the text "Fellowship Meal 5:30 p.m. Small Groups". At the bottom, the text "WHY JESUS?" is written in a bold, red font. To the right of this text is a logo for "Congregational Care Ministers" featuring two stylized figures holding hands with a red heart in the center, all within a white square frame.

Youth News



Rev. Michael
Carpenter

Our Youth Ministry is off to a great start in 2019! We just wrapped up a youth and parent meeting last Sunday, so if you couldn't attend, let me know so I can fill you in on the details. We talked about participating in a Youth Force this summer, which is a mission trip and church camp all rolled into one! More details will be coming soon.

We will have our next John Marshall Work Day on Saturday, February 16. Things are heating up at the Neighborhood Market, so we will be restocking shelves and organizing the supplies for the upcoming weeks. Everyone is more than welcome to join us; this will be a great chance for our youth to work together for a great purpose.

I want to give a shout out to our newly re-chartered Boy Scout Troop 55. They had their first official meeting three weeks ago and went on their first campout over the Martin Luther King Jr. weekend. They camped north of Wichita, Kansas, where the temperature peaked at a balmy 21 degrees. They were greeted that Sunday morning by a wind chill of -11 degrees! Kudos to our dedicated new Scouts for braving the cold!

And finally, another shout-out to our very own Meg Miller, whose Deer Creek J.V. Cheer squad got first place at the N.C.A. National Championship last weekend! The competition was fierce, but our youth can't be beat. Way to go, Meg!

Grace upon Grace,
Michael



Congregational Care Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to be in the inaugural class of our Congregational Care Minister training! If you haven't signed up yet, you still have a week before the training begins, as part of our upcoming Nichols Thrills study.

Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs), like another care program called Stephen Ministers, are the "After People." CCMs are the people who show up *after* the phone call that no one hopes to get, *after* the funeral when everyone has left, *after* the pink slip slides across your desk, *after* the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

If the thought of being an "After Person" moves you, I believe the Spirit is leading you to become a CCM. Please consider responding to the Spirit's nudge by signing up for the training in the Narthex or calling me at (405) 842-1486.

Congregational Care Ministers



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Save the Dates for Camp!

Sports Camp

Monday, June 10 - Friday, June 14

4 year olds through entering 6th graders

Children may participate in Basketball, Cheerleading, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, or Team 45 (which teaches the fundamentals of motion, rhythm, and balance development to 4 and 5 year-olds) all while experiencing God's love!

Sonshine Camp

Saturday, June 29 - Sunday, June 30

Entering 1st through 2nd grade at Canyon Camp

Early elementary campers enjoy a taste of hiking, swimming, crafts, and active learning in small groups under the caring and watchful eye of adult leaders.

All activities and creative worship in this overnight camp are geared for this younger age-level. After this fun camping experience, children will want to return to camp year after year.

Growin' In Grace Camp

Monday, July 15 - Wednesday, July 17

Entering 3rd through 5th grade at Canyon Camp

Older elementary campers have the opportunity to experience God's love in God's beautiful creation over this three day; two night camp. In addition to hiking, swimming, recreation, and crafts, campers participate in interactive small group learning and creative worship.

During these experiences, campers build relationships with new friends from other churches around the state that continue as they return to camp year after year. If you would like more information, please contact the church office at 405-842-1486.



Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director

Each year The Learning Center has a review of our emergency plans with the staff. At our monthly staff meeting we discuss where to evacuate the children, what items to include in tornado bags, what steps to take in the event of a gas leak. This review is to ensure that each staff member knows their responsibilities in case of an emergency. These plans are readily available in each classroom and up front on our Family Bulletin Board. We take our responsibility for health and safety to be of the utmost importance. Monthly fire drills and tornado drills are held without prior notice to the staff. Our children definitely know the alarms when they go off. We do our very best to be prepared for any possible emergencies, and we hope that we will never need to use them.

-Denise

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 Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join “The Brew” as we gather for fellowship and a meaningful study on the Gospel of Matthew. 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 us as Cheryl Hudak speaks to the class. Leader: Lance Benham.

Reville 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 focuses on the Lectionary approach with studies of scriptures from both the Old and New Testaments. Although we change our approach for “special Bible-study events,” the Lectionary approach is based on “The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner.” Class discussion and applying Christianity in today’s world are an important part of our lessons. Teacher: John Marshall.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for fun, fellowship, and a lesson that will bring you closer to God.
Associate Pastor: Rev. Michael Carpenter.

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 and celebrate Christmas. 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
Brandy Jones, Nursery Attendant
Ashley Huling, Nursery Attendant

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