

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

This Is My Song

3. This is my song, O God of all the nations,
a prayer that peace transcends in every place;
and yet I pray for my beloved country—
the reassurance of continued grace:
Lord, help us find our one-ness in the Savior,
in spite of differences of age and race.

“This Is My Song” verse by Georgia Harkness

The love of his own country, coupled with the knowledge that peoples from around the world hold the same view of their own native land, was the impetus of Jean Sibelius, when he wrote the poem, “Finlandia” in 1899 and revised it in 1900 during the Russian rule over Finland. The inspiration came after Tsar Nicholas II, of Russia, tried to take over Finland. The poem served as a subtle form of protest. Censorship was one of the trademarks of Russia, so the poem was renamed and read aloud under several titles.

Over the years, the poem was adapted into the hymn “This Is My Song” and was also called “A Song for Peace.” Lloyd Stone wrote the first two stanzas in 1934, and in 1939 the first ordained woman of the Methodist church, Georgia Harkness, wrote three additional verses adding a religious note to the now favorite hymn of the Methodist church. During the brief time of peace between two world wars, it was a song of hope for all nations—“for lands afar and mine.” The poet acknowledges love for his own country, but balances that with the love that others feel around the world for their nations.

I have always loved this song for the way it expresses our love and gratitude for our country while acknowledging that as Christians Jesus calls us to love and pray for people in every nation around the world. We are proud to be Americans, but our identity as Christ-followers leads us to pray for peace for all people and to seek to be peacemakers who build the kingdom of God in all places.

Lloyd Stone’s two verses and one of Georgia Harkness’s verses are included in our version of “This Is My Song” in *The United Methodist Hymnal*. I was delighted to learn of the two additional verses that Harkness wrote, and we will sing all five verses of the song on Sunday as we continue our **Playlist** sermon series and celebrate Independence Day. The additional verse at the top of this article is particularly meaningful at this point in history. It calls us to pray for peace in all places and to pray for our country. The verse concludes: *Lord, help us find our one-ness in the Savior, in spite of differences of age and race.* As we watch fireworks and celebrate on July 4th, I would encourage you to pray that God will use us to unite people by finding one-ness in our Savior. As the Apostle Paul says in Galatians 3:28, ²⁸ *There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Due to the recent spike in Coronavirus cases in Oklahoma, our Church Council has voted to delay re-starting Sunday school until Sunday, July 19. So, on July 5 and July 12 we will offer worship services at 9:30 and 10:50 a.m., and on July 19 we will offer Sunday school at 9:45 and worship services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m. Have a happy and safe Independence Day, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, July 5

Worship at 9:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Online Worship at 9:30 and 10:50

Monday, July 6

Women’s A.A. Group at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 8

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 12

Worship at 9:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Online Worship at 9:30 and 10:50

Monday, July 13

Women’s A.A. Group at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 19

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

Monday, July 20

Women’s A.A. Group at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 26

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

Monday, July 20

Women’s A.A. Group at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

The Learning Center

Mon, Wed 9:00 - 2:30

Tues, Thurs 9:00 - 4:00

Friday 9:00 - 1:59

(405)842-5325



Ministry Opportunities

Hospitality Greeters

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

Chancel Flowers

July 5: The chancel flowers are given by Jane Harlow in celebration of her grandson Will Harlow's graduation from Vanderbilt University.

July 12: The chancel flowers are given by Jane Harlow in honor of her granddaughter Kristina Harlow's 24th birthday.

Mission Candle

June 21: Available

June 28: Available

Tithes and Offerings

Although we will not be meeting in person the next few Sundays we are continuing the ministry of Jesus Christ at our church and in our community, and your giving makes that possible. There are many ways to give beyond passing the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness. You can mail a check to Nichols Hills United Methodist Church at 1212 Bedford Drive, Nichols Hills, OK 73116 or you can give online through our website, www.nicholshillsumc.org.

Worship Online

Join us online for worship! You can view our livestream at 10:50 a.m. on Sundays on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/nicholshillsumc](https://www.facebook.com/nicholshillsumc). You can also view the worship service throughout the week. Please send us a message on Facebook to let us know you are participating. We will also post the Sermon Notes and the Prayer and Study Guide on Facebook as well as our website, www.nicholshillsumc.org.

Sports Camp

We regret to inform you that Sports Camp has been canceled for this year. We look forward to hosting Sports Camp in 2021!

Coming to *Terms* with Today's Problems...Through Music



Michael Wylder,
Director of
Church Music

For months the overwhelming feeling of separation has been present in our daily lives. Obscure terms such as social distancing and quarantine have become a mainstay in our vocabulary. These terms saturate the news, social media posts, and conversations throughout the world. Covid 19 has certainly challenged the human race to rethink the ways in which we go about interacting with each other in our day to day activities. In tandem with Covid, the layers of discord in our nation have dealt a double blow to our great nation and adds to the entropy that now envelopes our society. In all of this change, witnessing people singing and playing instruments from balconies, joining together via virtual performances is a beautiful testament to the great importance of music in our lives and how nothing can separate us from God's gift of melody and music.

Unison, a musical term used often, instructs musicians to join together in unity, move as one line to create a dominant melody. Music is a mechanism for humans to connect with one another in solidarity. It encourages us to share parts of ourselves through the sounds that are strung together through the composer's notes. When telling our stories or channeling who we are with music, an awareness can develop, and a bond can be solidified. The psalmist, David, was no stranger to discord and tumult, and I'm reminded of Psalm 133, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." In Psalm 133 it's probably not too difficult to fathom how certain music may mirror your own thoughts and feelings. Lyrics or melodies can potentially communicate the message that you want to convey. Songs can capture an emotional state or personal situation in the best way possible. Joining together as one is amazing, and I hope that we can all be together... in unity... very soon.

Harmony, another musical term used frequently, takes many different tones and helps musicians create a synthesis of sound that can be pleasing to the ear. When we sing or play in harmony we take the gifts of many and create one spirit. Some sing high and some sing low, others may play in the middle, but we are all moving in harmony, creating something beautiful. In I Corinthians 12, Paul emphasizes over and over how different we are but how we work together in harmony. Just as the body is made of many different parts, our hands and our feet may function differently, but they are all a part of the greater body. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, all of these differentiations are laid aside as we blend the colors of each soul, into the beauty of a rainbow, we all are walking to the throne in harmony.

Give us life Lord, in unity and harmony make us whole. Let our music speak the words we can't express.

-Michael Wylder

Sunday School Resuming Date Change

Due to the recent spike in Coronavirus cases in Oklahoma, Sunday school and small groups will not resume until Sunday, July 19.

On July 5 and July 12, we will offer worship services at 9:30 and 10:50 a.m. Then, on July 19, we will resume our normal Sunday morning schedule with worship at 8:30 and 10:50 and with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m.

We will take this next step in our Regathering Plan with restrictions on size and expectations for social distancing.



Regathering

We are committed to creating an environment that meets government recommendations for safety. To make that possible, our worship services have been redesigned to create a sanitary, touchless environment that allows for physical distancing. This includes a significantly reduced capacity. We are following the plan our Church Council approved by taking the following steps. Each step is contingent on the latest information available.

Step 1 — Online Worship at facebook.com/nicholshillsumc on Sunday, May 24.

We will continue to livestream our worship services each Sunday.

Step 2 — On Campus Worship beginning on Sunday, May 31.

We will maintain social distancing, and families will worship together.

Worship Services will be offered at 9:30 and 10:50 a.m.

No Childcare will be available.

No Sunday School Classes or Small Groups will meet.

No Outside Groups will meet.

Step 3 — Sunday School and Small Groups Resume on Sunday, July 19.

Children's Sunday School Classes and Adult Sunday School Classes resume with restrictions on size and with expectations for social distancing.

Worship Services will be offered at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.

Step 4 — Normal Activities Resume at Nichols Hills U.M.C. on Sunday, August 2.

Let's Work to Stay Healthy Together

What We're Doing

- All staff and volunteers will be wearing masks.
- Additional hand-sanitizing stations will be placed throughout the building.
- All worship services will be a touchless experience, and all high-traffic areas will be thoroughly sanitized between services.
- No water fountains will be open or usable.
- No hospitality food or beverages will be offered.
- No offering plates will be passed. Instead, there will be offering plates in the back of the sanctuary for people who want to give.
- All hymnals, bibles, seatback materials, papers, and pens will be removed.
- We will use infrared thermometers to take the temperature of each person entering the building.

How You Can Help

- If you don't feel well or have health concerns, please stay home and join us for online worship at facebook.com/nicholshillsumc.
- We encourage you to wear a mask, and will have one available for you if needed.
- Please wash your hands and use hand sanitizer often.
- Maintain a distance of six feet between yourself and other guests.

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director

Every day our children arrive from home with sunscreen on their little bodies. After playing outdoors and naptime they all need another slathering of sunscreen. Teachers go from one child to another and re-apply an additional coat of protection on them.

Children thrive from outdoor play and it is a great way to emotionally connect to their teachers.

Swinging with the children and singing songs is always a favorite thing to do. If the weather is too hot we always have the Fellowship Hall to run, jump, play with the big parachute, and ride tricycles. There is seldom a boring moment at The Learning Center. We will be closed July 3 for Independence Day. Happy 4th of July!

-Denise



Birthdays

07/01 Carla Hill
07/01 Bill Smith
07/03 Tom Klos
07/03 Chris Lansden
07/04 Will Malone
07/04 Pam Shdeed
07/05 Peggy Crawford
07/06 Ronald Elkins
07/07 Sue Goodman
07/07 Jane Harlow
07/07 Allyson Smith
07/09 James Meyerson
07/09 Gladys Miskovsky
07/09 Michael Palmer
07/10 Nathaneal Crownover
07/14 Steve Dickey
07/15 David Brown
07/17 Margaret Wells
07/21 Stuart, Jr. Hunt

Cares and Concerns

Epworth Villa

Sylvia Miller

Town Village

Bette Harris

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

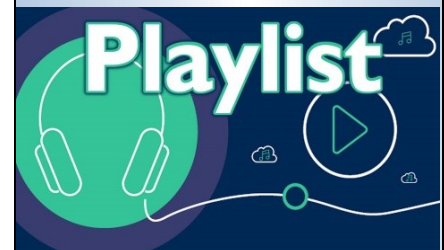
StoneCreek

Ray and Lynn Greene

At Home

Roger Etling, Frances Lewis,

David Mueller



Playlist

Your life has a **Playlist**—songs you sing in your car, songs that touch your soul songs you play again and again.

The great songs of our faith connect scripture to our hearts and help us live our faith each day.

Join us for our summer sermon series as we sing your favorite songs and tell the stories that inspired them.

July 5 *This Is My Song*

July 12 *Take My Life, Let It Be*

July 19 *The Old Rugged Cross*

July 26 *Oceans*

Online Worship:

facebook.com/nicholshillsumc

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

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Permit Number 1226
Oklahoma City, OK



Sunday School Classes - Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Classes will begin meeting again on July 19.

The Brew Class: *Meets in Room 131* - Bring your coffee and join "The Brew" as we gather for fellowship and a meaningful study. 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 as we learn from different speakers on various topics. Leader: Lance Benham.

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* - Join us as we gather for fellowship and a meaningful study. Our Circle is always Open.

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

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

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

Jeremy Gossett, Audio Visual Team Leader

Randall Blair, Sunday Host and A/V Tech

Dustin Davis, Sunday Host and A/V Tech

Marita Barkus, Nursery Attendant