

NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

Home for the Holidays

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest room. -Luke 2:1-7

Christmas Eve is almost here. I hope you are planning to join us in person or online for one of our Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 or 6:00 on Thursday.

On Sunday morning, our message will focus on Mary and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. We will talk about the reasons why Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable even though they were staying with Joseph's family in Bethlehem.

Then, on Christmas Eve our message will focus on what Christmas is all about and how we can join the shepherds in worshipping the newborn king who was laid in a manger. We will sing some of your favorite Christmas carols and conclude our services by passing the light and singing *Silent Night*. We will give away our entire Christmas Eve Offering to sponsor our six Compassion International children and to provide food baskets for the families of students from John Marshall High School and Nichols Hills Elementary School. I want to thank each of you who have given generously to children in our community and around the world to help them experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas.

I also want to thank you for the generous way so many of you have committed to support our church's ministry in the coming year. As of today, 53 families in our church have committed \$413,808 to empower our church's ministry in 2021. We would be happy to receive any remaining Estimate of Giving Cards. If you would like to make a charitable donation that will count towards your 2020 taxes, the Church Office will be open from 9:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Monday, December 28 through Thursday, December 31. Thank you for your generosity.

I also want to share with you that Tausha Davison-Beverly, our Director of Children's Ministry, has decided to resign at the end of the year to allow her to spend more time with her family. Tausha has blessed many children and families in our church and our community through the nearly four years she has served on our staff. I have enjoyed working with Tausha, and I know God will continue to work through her to bless many people. We wish Tausha and her family well. A card basket will be available on Sunday for anyone who would like to participate. Our Staff Parish Relations Committee will be working to identify a new Director of Children's Ministry in the new year.

I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with you. May God bless you and your family as we gather to worship our Savior at the manger.

Merry Christmas!
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
What Christmas Is All About
Sunday School Class at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, December 23

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24

Candlelight Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 and 6:00 p.m.
Reserve Your Seats at
nicholshillsumc.org.

Friday, December 25

Church Office and The Learning Center Closed for Christmas

Sunday, December 27

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

Monday, December 28

Women's Alcoholics Anonymous Group at 5:30 p.m.

Monday, December 28 through Thursday, December 31

Church Office Open, 9:30 to 4:00

Monday, December 28 through Friday, January 1

The Learning Center Closed

Friday, January 1

Church Office Closed for New Year's Day

Sunday, January 3

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

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

facebook.com/nicholshillsumc



Chancel Flowers

December 20: The chancel flowers are available.

December 27: The chancel flowers are available.

Mission Candle

December 20: The mission candle is available.

December 27: The mission candle is available.

Acolytes

December 20: Gabriel Ireland, Lucy Ann Sylvester, and Avery Smith.

December 27: Gabriel Ireland, Louis Fraley, Regan Miller, Avery Smith, and Charlotte Smith.

Tithes and Offerings

Your gifts and tithes make a Christian difference and help us share the ministry of Jesus Christ with people in our church and in our community.

Checks may be mailed to 1212 Bedford Drive, Nichols Hills, OK 73116.

To make an online donation, visit www.nicholshillsumc.org.

To set up an electronic funds transfer contact the Church Office.

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.

Worship Online

Join us online for worship! You can view our livestream at 8:30 or 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.

Christmastime Is Here

Christmastime is here. It's the most wonderful time of the year... a time to remember that God loves us so much that he sent his only Son to live with us, to save us from our sins, and offer us the peace that passes all understanding. This Advent, join us online or in person for worship as we sing your favorite Christmas carols, offer hope and encouragement, and talk about what Christmas is all about.



- December 20** *Home for the Holidays*
- December 24** *What Christmas Is All About*
- December 27** *A Christmas Promise*
- January 3** *The Christmas King*

What Christmas Is All About

Join our Youth and Adult Sunday School classes in the Fellowship Hall as we gather at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays to take a closer look at some of your favorite Christmas movies to see what they teach us about the real meaning of Christmas and how the babe born in Bethlehem can change our hearts and give us joy.



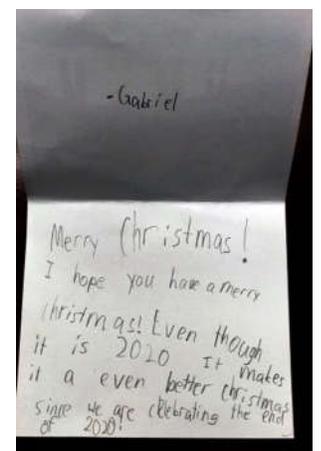
Children's Ministry



Tausha Davison-Beverly
Children's Ministry Director

Over the last few weeks our children have been working on making Christmas greetings and ornaments for some of our families in our church. Their cards have been very uplifting and thoughtful for those who are not able to worship with us in person. I asked a few of them what their hope would be to those who would receive a card, and they said that, "they are praying that it would put a smile on the individuals face and let them know they are not alone and that we are thinking about them."

Blessings,
Tausha



Christmas Blessings

At Christmas we all want to give a gift that will bless children who may not experience the joy of Christmas. During Advent you can give a gift to one of our missional ministries that will bless children in our city and around the world.

- Give \$45 to sponsor one of our Compassion International children for one month.
- Give any amount to purchase items for our toiletry kits for John Marshall High School.
- 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 Nichols Hills Elementary School students.

Person to be honored or remembered: _____

Your name: _____

Relationship of the person to you: _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Candlelight Christmas Eve

This Christmas Eve, journey to **the manger** to celebrate the joy and hope that surrounds the miracle of Christmas.

Listen as the cherished Christmas Story of Jesus' birth comes to life through music and scripture in the warm glow of candlelight.

Experience 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 Services
Thursday, December 24 at 4:30 and 6:00 p.m.

Seating is limited to allow for social distancing.
Reserve your seats online at www.nicholshillsumc.org
Childcare is available on Christmas Eve.



End of Year Giving

2020 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 postmark date no later than December 31st on the envelope to qualify as a 2020 donation.

Electronic: On-line donations made via the church website must be entered on or before December 31st to qualify as a 2020 donation.

In Person: Donations delivered to the church office must be received by 4:00 p.m. on December 31st.



Ending the Year Well



Get a head start on your year-end tax planning.

✓ **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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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.

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.

The names and images shown here are representative of typical donors and may or may not be actual donors to the organization. Under federal rules your benefits may be different from this example. Please contact us for your specific benefits.

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Making Change



Less Is More



Stress Is Bad



Giving Is Good



Tomorrow Matters

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 2021: \$ _____

_____ 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 _____

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director

Twice a year teachers from The Learning Center schedule Parent-Teacher Conferences. During the first week of December we held virtual Parent-Teacher Conferences. Each family hears about the developmental milestones that their child is working on and acquiring. It may look like just play, but there are activities for the whole development of the child. Physical, social, emotional and intellectual development are areas which must be nurtured for children to be successful in life. Teachers work on developmental portfolios of each child throughout the year to demonstrate

how these milestones have occurred and are documented. We share photos, work samples and anecdotal records to support the growth of all the children. These are our little blessings. I hope you have a Merry Christmas.

-Denise

Birthdays

12/04 Ronald McLeod
12/06 Jackie Hall
12/06 Nancy Rowntree
12/07 Charlotte Brown
12/07 Reid Robison
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 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 Casey Harrah
12/29 Taylor McLain
12/30 Abe Malone
12/31 Don Wilson

Cares and Concerns

Town Village

Bette Harris

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

StoneCreek

Ray and Lynn Greene

At Home

Roger Etling, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller



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* - Join us for our All Church Sunday School class, "What Christmas Is All About", in the Fellowship Hall.

KIVA Class: *Meets in the Parlor* - Join us for our All Church Sunday School class, "What Christmas Is All About", in the Fellowship Hall.

Reveille Class: *Meets in the Library* - Join us for our All Church Sunday School class, "What Christmas Is All About", in the Fellowship Hall.

Open Circle Class: *Meets in the Archives Room* - Join us for our All Church Sunday School class, "What Christmas Is All About", in the Fellowship Hall.

Youth Class: *Meets in the Youth Basement* - Join us for our All Church Sunday School class, "What Christmas Is All About", in the Fellowship Hall.

First Graders through Fifth Graders: *Meets in Room 124.* Join us for our All Church Sunday School class, "What Christmas Is All About", in the Fellowship Hall.

Children's Class: *Meets in the Children's Area.* - Join us for our All Church Sunday School class, "What Christmas Is All About", in the Fellowship Hall.

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor

Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music

Delaney Sheffield, Director of Communications

Tausha Davison-Beverly, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Hunter Patman Fountain, Director of Youth Ministry

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

Dustin Davis, Sunday Host and Audio Visual Tech

John Nacher III, Audio Visual Tech

Julie Keller, Nursery Attendant

Patricia Harris, Nursery Attendant