February 24, 2021 Volume 29, Issue 4

Nichols Hills
united methodist church

Dr. Trevor Smith

Jesus Must Die: Mourned

4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."
-Matthew 5:4, 10-12

Sandwiched between the story of the rejection of Jesus in his hometown and the story of Jesus feeding more than five thousand people with five loaves and two fish is the dreadful story of how King Herod, after he had blown out the candles on his birthday cake, snuffed out the life of John the Baptist.

What's a bad story like that doing in a nice place like this? This is the only story in Matthew's Gospel that is not a story about Jesus. It seems so out of place. It doesn't seem to fit where Matthew put it. What was Matthew thinking?

Most of us have come to believe that if we follow Jesus and do what he calls us to do, then everything will be great, but Matthew wants to remind us that doing God's work is no guarantee that we will be loved and respected. In fact, it is almost certain that the more faithful we are, the more we will be treated like Jesus himself, who was despised and rejected. Matthew wants us to know that when the disciples go out to do the work of God's kingdom, when the church rises up to be the church, the world rises up to be the world.

So, the disciples went out to preach the gospel… well, good. But don't forget, John the Baptist preached the kingdom, too, and the world snuffed him out. So, the disciples went out to cast out demons and to heal… well, good. But don't forget, John the Baptist sought to heal the demons that raged in King Herod, and it cost him his life. When the church rises up to be the church, the world rises up to be the world.

Now all of this may sound a little strange to us, because this isn't our experience. When we do the work of the church, the world rises up to call us blessed. When we preach the gospel, the world invites us to join the Rotary Club. When we reach out to heal, the world puts us on the hospital board. When we feed and clothe students, the newspaper reporter calls us and writes a nice story about it.

I think Matthew would understand this, but at first Herod did not want to harm John, he just wanted to domesticate him. Herod was perplexed by John, but as long as he could keep him in chains, Herod enjoyed listening to John. But when push came to shove, Herod was just as sorry as he could be, but John had to die. When the church rises up to be the church, the world rises up to be the world.

This Sunday our Girl Scouts will help lead us in worship as we tell the story of John the Baptist's death and talk about why it is so important for us to continue to be the church in a world that resists Jesus' message and ministry. I hope you will join us for worship in person or online at 8:30 or 10:50. Have a great weekend, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Sunday, February 28
In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Girl Scouts at 1:30 p.m.

Monday, March 1
Women's Alcoholics Anonymous Group at 5:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2
Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3
Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 7
In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Girl Scouts at 1:30 p.m.

Monday, March 8
Women's Alcoholics Anonymous Group at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 9
Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University begins at 5:30 p.m.
Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 14
In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Daylight Saving Time Begins - Spring forward one hour

Nichols Hills U.M.C.
(405)842-1486
(405)843-1835 Fax
www.nicholshillsumc.org
facebook.com/nicholshillsumc

Chancel Flowers

February 28: The chancel flowers are available.

March 7: The chancel flowers are available.

Mission Candle

February 28: The mission candle is available.

March 7: The mission candle is available.

Acolytes

February 28: Scarlett Hoffman, Gabriel Ireland, Regan Miller, and Collier Vaughn

March 7: Henryetta Dockendorf, Gabriel Ireland, Regan Miller, and Charlotte Smith

Tithes and Offerings

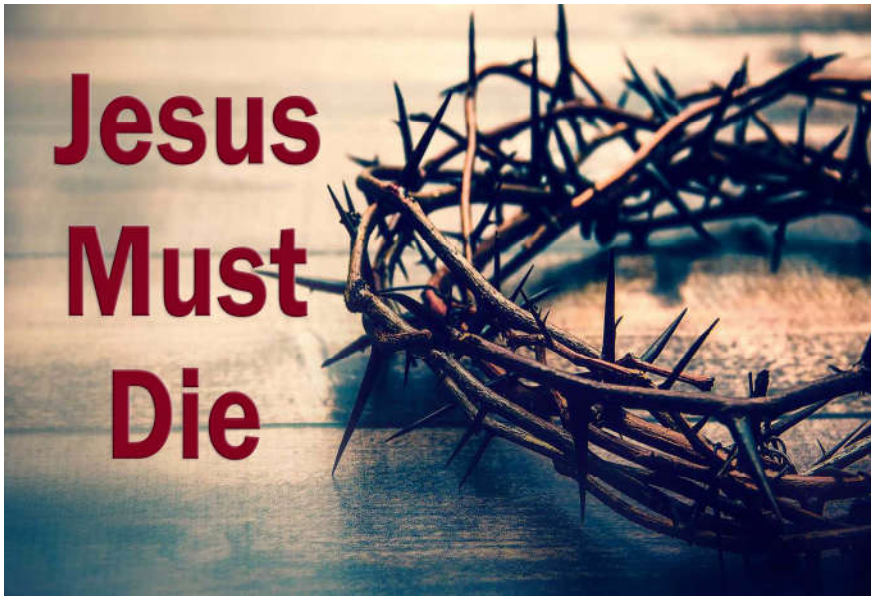
Your gifts and tithes make a Christian difference and help us share the ministry of Jesus Christ with people in our church and in our community.
Checks may be mailed to
1212 Bedford Drive,
Nichols Hills, OK 73116.
To make an online donation,
visit www.nicholshillsumc.org.
To set up an electronic funds transfer contact the Church Office.
Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.

Worship Online or In Person

We would love for you to join us for in person worship on Sunday mornings at 8:30 or 10:50.

We also are streaming online. You can view our worship services on Facebook every Sunday morning at 8:30 and 10:50? Our Facebook page is facebook.com/nicholshillsumc. Don't have a Facebook account? No worries. You can view our livestream without having an account. You can also view the worship service throughout the week. If you do have a Facebook account, we encourage you to send us a message and let us know you are participating.

We also post the Sermon Notes and the Prayer and Study Guide on Facebook as well as our website, www.nicholshillsumc.org. We look forward to worshipping with you in-person or online!



Jesus Must Die

The Scriptures say: **Jesus Must Die.**

God's plan for salvation was clear: **Jesus Must Die.**

Jesus' adversaries were adamant: **Jesus Must Die.**

Jesus' disciples didn't understand why **Jesus Must Die.**

Join us this Lent as we turn to Matthew's Gospel to journey with Jesus to the cross and learn why **Jesus Must Die.**

February 28	*Mourned*
March 7	*Built*
March 14	*Transfigured*
March 21	*Cleansed*
March 28	*Died*
April 4	*Rose*

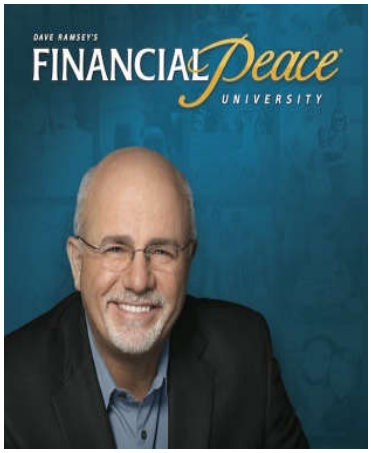
Online Worship: facebook.com/nicholshillsumc

Maundy Thursday—April 1 at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday—April 2 at 6:00 p.m.

Financial Peace University

Would you like to eliminate $5,300 in debt and save $2,700 in three months?



Join us for Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, a nine-week class on faith and money. Dave and his teaching team will walk you through the basics of budgeting, dumping debt, planning for the future, and much more!

The class meets at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The price is $99. Sign up by calling the Church Office at 405-842-1486.

Children's Ministry

Claire Fraley, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Isn't it comforting to know that God is always by our side? This Sunday, February 28, we will be focusing on how to trust Jesus through life's unexpected "storms." (Great timing given our recent weather challenges!) My hope for this lesson is that your child will learn how to remain faithful when facing life's storms and know that God is always with them. With so much happening in the world, one thing is certain: we have an everlasting God who will never leave or forsake us. I can't wait to share this message with your child and remind him or her that God will be with them no matter what.

Blessings,
Claire

Easter Eggs

Easter is on April 4th, and it is quickly approaching. The Children's Ministry has started planning for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. We will need lots of plastic eggs and prefilled plastic eggs to make this a memorable event for our children and the families in our community as well.

Our Girl Scouts have volunteered to fill our Easter Eggs on Sunday, March 28 during their normal scheduled meeting. If you can donate candy, plastic eggs, or prefilled plastic eggs, please place them in the wagon in the Narthex by Monday, March 22.

Girl Scout Sunday

This Sunday our Girl Scouts will help lead our worship services and will sell their delicious cookies during the Sunday School hour and after the 10:50 worship service. If you can't eat cookies, they accept donations of cookies for the military and the teachers at John Marshall High School and Nichols Hills Elementary School. Cookie sales are the only source of funding for our Troop 22. The girls work very hard and learn many life-long skills from selling cookies. When they aren't selling cookies at church, many of them are selling cookies in front of stores like Walmart or Buy for Less every weekend for two months.

We are proud of our Girl Scouts, and look forward to worshiping with them.

Tidbits from The Learning Center

Denise Buthion, T.L.C. Director

We are so pleased to add a new person to our team. Her name is Isabelle and she is originally from Utah. She is in the position of a floater, who goes from room to room giving teachers breaks or filling in when they are absent. This is her first week at TLC. There are several mandatory training requirements that she must begin before she is in the classroom. We do a thorough background screening on all staff through OSBI. Please join us as we welcome Isabelle Palmer to The Learning Center.

Isabelle Palmer

-Denise

Birthdays

02/26 Avery Niemann
02/27 Ryan McLain
02/27 Joy Richardson
02/28 Ken Howell
03/01 Grace Buxton
03/01 Robert Margo
03/01 Sharon McLeod
03/02 Graham Fraley
03/04 Nolan Coyle
03/04 Nan McGowen
03/05 Jordan Cardenas
03/05 Tom Fraley
03/05 Mac Shdeed
03/05 Scarlett Shdeed
03/06 Harvey Harmon
03/06 Kaley Were
03/10 Kati Miller
03/11 G. T. Blankenship
03/11 Lauren Heflin
03/13 Christi Coyle
03/15 Lydia Hunt
03/15 Gordon Ryan
03/16 Kathryn Guerra
03/18 Mark Michael
03/19 Mary Ann Carmichael
03/20 Kneely Buxton
03/20 Caleb Magness
03/21 Jacob Robertson
03/21 Becky Sims
03/22 Stephanie Henry
03/24 Dick Graves
03/24 Helen Sullivan
03/24 Russell Walker
03/27 Buzz McDaniel
03/28 Layton Hill, IV
03/28 Drake Parsons
03/28 Bruce Rosier
03/28 Della Walker
03/28 Dick Webber
03/29 Ann Brown

Cares and Concerns

Town Village
Bette Harris

The Fountains at Canterbury
Anita Dahlgren

StoneCreek
Lynn Greene

At Home
Roger Etling, Frances Lewis, David Mueller

There will be a private funeral service for Ray Greene on Saturday, February 27 at 10:30, which can be viewed on our Facebook page, facebook.com/nicholshillsumc.

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 The Conference Room* - Bring your coffee and join "The Brew" as we gather for fellowship and an in depth study of the *God and the Pandemic*. 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 speakers on various topics. Leaders: Dennis and Delores Bradford.

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.

First 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.
Leader: Claire Fraley

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.
Leader: Claire Fraley

Dr. Trevor Smith, Senior Pastor
Michael Wylder, Director of Church Music
Delaney Sheffield, Director of Communications
Claire Fraley, Director of Children's Ministries
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 Naeher III, Audio Visual Tech
Julie Keller, Nursery Attendant
Patricia Harris, Nursery Attendant

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405-842-1486 • 405.843.1835 Fax • www.nicholshillsumc.org
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