



NICHOLS HILLS

united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

The Test

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

- Genesis 22:1-3

Throughout Abraham's life, many times he demonstrated great faith in the Lord. When the Lord said, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you," Abraham went. Yet, there were times when Abraham faltered in his faith; he fell on his face and laughed when God told him that Sarah could give birth to son when she was 90 years.

Now, the Lord wants to know the depth of Abraham's faith. Does Abraham really trust the Lord? The Lord can only know by testing Abraham's faith. The test will require Abraham to offer his only son, the son through whom the Lord promised to give Abraham a multitude of descendants, the son whom Abraham loved, to the Lord as a burnt offering. It is a terrifying test. It is a test designed to show the Lord if Abraham truly trusts only in the Lord.

Faith and trust are at the center of our relationship with God. Every Christian will experience times of testing. Even Jesus, the Son of God, endured a time of testing in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. As the high and holy One, God tests to identify his people, to discern who is serious about faith and to know in whose lives he will be fully God. So often, these tests reveal if we truly believe that God will find a way when there is no way.

I hope you will invite someone you know to join us for worship in person or online on Independence Sunday as we explore the way God tests us and talk about the ways we can pass these tests and grow deeper in our faith in the Lord.

I also want to share with you that I was very blessed in June to share in our church's Ministry to Children and Families. At the beginning of June we had our best Sports Camp. It was thrilling to see the way so many adults and youth in our church served in ministry with children from our church and our community. It was also a joy for me to go to Canyon Camp with Gabriel Ireland, Regan Miller, Avery Smith, Charlotte Smith, Collier Vaughn, Lucy Ann Vaughn, Misha Welchel, Allyson Smith, and Claire Fraley. We had a great time, and it was wonderful to see the close friendships that our children have formed with each other and the way they are each growing as disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we prepare for the new school year that will begin in August, we are excited to relaunch our missional ministries to students at John Marshall High School and Nichols Hills Elementary School. In the coming weeks we will share more information about the ways you can serve in ministry to bless students in our community. Have a great week, and I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,
Trevor

Ministry Calendar

Independence Sunday, July 4

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

Monday, July 5

Church Offices and The Learning Center Closed
Women's A.A. Group at 5:30

Wednesday, July 7

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.
Co-Dependents Anonymous-6:30

Sunday, July 11

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Missions Meeting at 12:15

Monday, July 12

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

Tuesday, July 13

Finance Committee at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 14

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.
Co-Dependents Anonymous-6:30

Sunday, July 18

In Person and Online Worship Services at 8:30 and 10:50 a.m.
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
Children's Ministry Meeting-12:15

Tuesday, July 20

Church Council Meeting at 5:30

Wednesday, July 21

Praise Band Rehearsal at 6:30 p.m.
Co-Dependents Anonymous-6:30

Thursday, August 5

Teachers' Breakfast at John Marshall High School

Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

www.nicholshillsumc.org

facebook.com/nicholshillsumc



Chancel Flowers

July 4: The chancel flowers are given by General Bill Bowden in memory of his first cousin, Parnell Swink, of West Palm Beach, Florida, born in 1934 in Swifton, Arkansas, who served in the U.S. Marine Infantry during the Korean War.

July 11: The chancel flowers are available.

Mission Candle

July 4: The mission candle is available.

July 11: The mission candle is available.

Acolytes

July 4: Gabriel Ireland, Regan Miller, Avery Smith, and Charlotte Smith.

July 11: Henrietta Dockendorf, Scarlett Hoffman, Gabriel Ireland, and Collier Vaughn.

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.



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](https://www.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!

The Promise

Long ago, the Lord made a promise to Abraham and Sarah, an old couple with no children and seemingly no future.

God promised to give this couple a land, to make their descendants more numerous than the stars in the sky, and to bless all of the families of the earth through them.

Join us for worship in person or online at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church as we turn to *Genesis* to see how God overcomes many challenges to keep the promise God made to Abraham and Sarah so long ago.

July 4 *The Test*



The Family of God

When God wanted to bless all of the families of the earth, God chose to do it through a family.

Meet Jacob, grandson of Abraham and Sarah, son of Isaac and Rebekah, brother of Esau, husband of Leah and Rachel, and father of twelve sons and one daughter. Despite his flaws and challenges, God blessed Jacob and worked through him to keep the promise God made to his grandfather, Abraham, and to him.

Join us for worship in person or online at Nichols Hills United Methodist Church as we turn to *Genesis* to see how God worked through the dysfunctional family of God to bless all of the families of the earth both then and now.

July 11 *Trickster and Harry*
July 18 *The Blessing*
July 25 *Sister Wives*
August 1 *The In-Laws*
August 8 *Family Reunion*

Childcare available on Sunday morning.



Claire Fraley,
Director of
Children and
Family Ministry

Children's Ministry

It was such a blessing to go to Growin' in Grace at Canyon Camp with Gabriel Ireland, Regan Miller, Avery Smith, Charlotte Smith, Collier Vaughn, Lucy Ann Vaughn, Misha Welchel, and Allyson and Trevor Smith. We had so much fun hiking up to the cross, playing games outside, doing arts and crafts, swimming in the pool, having cabin time, and meeting new friends. Jesus' light was shining through every one of these children, and it was so amazing to watch them grow closer to God and each other.

I am thrilled to welcome our new Sunday morning Nursery Attendant, Elizabeth Sanders. Elizabeth will be a Sophomore at Oklahoma State University in the Fall pursuing a major in Studio Art and a minor in Fashion Design. Elizabeth has grown up at Crossings Community Church, and her strong faith for the Lord is so evident. She loves kids and has experience with all ages, as well as being CPR trained. We are so excited to have Elizabeth as part of our Children's Ministry and church. Please stop by the nursery and give Elizabeth a warm welcome!



Elizabeth Sanders
Nursery Attendant

Blessings,
Claire



Birthdays

- 07/01 Carla Hill
- 07/01 Moss Robertson
- 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 Melita James
- 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
- 07/22 Becky Robinson
- 07/23 Janet Jones
- 07/23 Beverly Pirtle
- 07/24 Linda Howell
- 07/28 Stella Shdeed
- 07/30 Phillip Rosier
- 07/31 Kristin Byrdsong
- 07/31 Matt Eales
- 07/31 John Griffin

Cares and Concerns

Town Village

Bette Harris

The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

StoneCreek

Lynn Greene

At Home

Roger Etling, Frances Lewis,
David Mueller

Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,
T.L.C. Director

Our children have been so busy with chapel, sports, dance, art, French, and music. Last week they had a private ceramic painting class. They chose their own colors for the plates and made their own designs. These works of art will be fired and returned sometime this month. The new owner of the pottery place commented on how well behaved and good natured the children were. She had worked in childcare and was impressed with our sweet children. They shared colors, talked about their work and design, and were cheerful with each other. Such a wonderful tribute to our fabulous families and teachers! TLC is a blessed ministry.

-Denise

Nichols Hills United Methodist Church
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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 a video study of Ray Vander Laan’s *The Promised Land*. 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

John Naecher III, Audio Visual Tech

Dustin Davis, Sunday Host and Audio Visual Tech

Patricia Harris, Nursery Attendant

Elizabeth Sanders, Nursery Attendant