



# NICHOLS HILLS

## united methodist church



Dr. Trevor Smith

## The Blessing

<sup>18</sup> So he went in to his father, and said, "I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me." <sup>21</sup> Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not." <sup>22</sup> So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau." <sup>23</sup> He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him. <sup>24</sup> He said, "Are you really my son Esau?" He answered, "I am." <sup>25</sup> Then

he said, "Bring it to me, that I may eat of my son's game and bless you." So he brought it to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. <sup>26</sup> Then his father Isaac said to him, "Come near and kiss me, my son." <sup>27</sup> So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his garments, and blessed him.

-Genesis 27:18, 21-27

The family of God was marked by God's promise, and part of the promise was for their family to be a blessing to all of the families of the earth. This family is preoccupied with blessing as though it matters more than visible things. Blessings are gifts from God. Symbolic actions have real power. In those days, the deathbed blessing had real power to shape the future for that child.

Rebekah remembered the words God spoke to her when she was pregnant, 40 years earlier: the older shall serve the younger. Those words were still ringing in her ears as she helped Jacob trick Isaac into giving him the blessing instead of Esau. Their plan worked. He gave the blessing to the younger rather than the older. Doesn't it matter that he thought he was blessing Esau? Well, no, in that culture this blessing was pronounced by laying hands on the son. That set the future in motion. Now Jacob has the birthright and the blessing, but there are consequences for their actions. Esau is so hurt and so angry that he wants to kill his brother. So Rebekah sent Jacob away to live with his uncle Laban. She was going to call him back when it was safe, but it never became safe. She will never see him again. He will be gone for 20 years. Things didn't work out the way they thought, but that is often what happens when we live our lives only for ourselves. When you think it is all about you, eventually it catches up to you.

So, Jacob becomes a fugitive. He must leave behind everything he schemed to obtain and go to a place he has never been. But this God works in mysterious ways. Just when Jacob is at his lowest point, the Lord appears to him in a dream and makes the same promise to him that the Lord had previously made to his grandfather, Abraham, and his father, Isaac. Most importantly, the Lord promises to be with Jacob wherever he goes. It is here, in the middle of nowhere, that Jacob experiences a conversion. He gives his life to God and even promises to tithe, to give one tenth of the blessings he receives from God back to God.

So, I wonder, how did the Lord first appear to you? What is your conversion story? I hope you will invite someone you know to worship in person or online with us this Sunday as we continue our sermon series on **The Family of God** by talking about the way God blesses and calls us. I will see you on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Trevor

### Ministry Calendar

#### 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

#### Monday, July 19

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

#### 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

#### Sunday, July 25

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

#### Monday, July 26

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

#### Tuesday, July 27

Church Council Meeting at 5:30

#### Wednesday, July 28

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

#### Sunday, August 1

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

#### Tuesday, August 2

Care Meeting at 4:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, August 5

Teachers' Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.  
at John Marshall High School

#### Sunday, August 15

Block Party at 5:00 p.m.

### Nichols Hills U.M.C.

(405)842-1486

(405)843-1835 Fax

[www.nicholshillsumc.org](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org)

[facebook.com/nicholshillsumc](https://facebook.com/nicholshillsumc)



### Chancel Flowers

July 18: The chancel flowers are given by Turner and Cindy Davis.

July 25: The chancel flowers are given by General Bill Bowden in honor of Evelyn Swink, his first cousin.

### Mission Candle

July 18: The mission candle is available.

July 25: The mission candle is available.

### Acolytes

July 18: Gabriel Ireland, Regan Miller, Charlotte Smith, and Lucy Ann Sylvester

July 25: Scarlett Hoffman, Gabriel Ireland, Avery Smith, and Lucy Ann Sylvester

### 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](http://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](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](http://www.nicholshillsumc.org). We look forward to worshipping with you in-person or online!



## 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 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  
Youth Ministry

## Children's Ministry

Our Elementary Sunday School class has been focusing on the generations of God's family. We have spent time studying the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca, and most recently, Jacob and Esau. Our key takeaways are learning how to be honest with one another and how to treat others with respect. The children have been able to make fun crafts such as unique clay bowls to remind us of when Jacob traded Esau his birthright for a bowl of stew.

Blessings,  
Claire

## Youth Ministry

Are you looking for a fun summer outing with your family? St. Yootz Day will be on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Frontier City. There will be a special concert from Christian singer, Toby Mac that evening. St. Yootz Day is for youth and family from all over Oklahoma. Please contact the church office at (405)842-1486 for more information about St. Yootz Day.

Blessings,  
Claire

## Missional Ministries

We are preparing to relaunch our missional ministries at John Marshall High School and Nichols Hills Elementary School in August.

- **Thursday, August 5: John Marshall High School Breakfast at 7:30 a.m.**

We will serve breakfast for the John Marshall High School teachers and staff at 7:30 a.m. More details to come in the next few weeks on how you can sign up to bring items and/or serve. This is always a fun event to get to know the teachers and cheer them on for a new school year.

- **Saturday, August 7: Mission Madness** – We will serve that morning at John Marshall High School to prepare the Neighborhood Market and the Clothing Closet for the school year.

- **John Marshall High School Neighborhood Market** will reopen in early to mid-September.

- **John Marshall High School Bear Cave Clothing Closet** will also reopen this fall. There will be opportunities to serve in the clothing closet and to donate specific clothing items.

- **Nichols Hills Elementary School Backpack Food Ministry and Reading Buddies** will relaunch this fall as well. There will be opportunities to give food to students on Friday afternoons and to read with students.



## Tidbits from The Learning Center



Denise Buthion,  
T.L.C. Director

Each month we recognize the staff members who are celebrating another year of employment with The Learning Center. This month we have two employees to celebrate. On July 6 we congratulated Emily Hinojosa, teacher in the Jaguars' classroom, on attaining her first year milestone. This is her first job and what a jewel she is! On July 31 we will celebrate my work anniversary of being the Director of The Learning Center. What a joy these last seven years have been! We have grown in size from 50 children to 120 children enrolled this summer.

Our staff of 16 is becoming more seasoned with each year and earning formal education. Several of the teachers have attained their associate degrees and child development associate certificates. Michelle Walker is in nursing school. All of us have felt the many blessings that Nichols Hill United Methodist Church and The Learning Center have brought us.

-Denise

### Birthdays

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  
 08/01 Sarah Tirrell  
 08/01 Cindy Withrow  
 08/02 Steve Brown  
 08/04 Zachary Bloomfield  
 08/04 Garrett Davis  
 08/04 Delaney Henry  
 08/04 Molly Love  
 08/05 Craig Sanders  
 08/06 Anita Dahlgren  
 08/06 Megan Dean  
 08/10 Kent Maxwell  
 08/11 Charles Brown  
 08/12 Philip Pippin  
 08/12 Chloe Robinson  
 08/15 Cinda Lafferty  
 08/15 Jon Rogers  
 08/16 Allen Evans  
 08/18 Midge Lindsey  
 08/18 Katherine Schoeffler  
 08/20 Regan Henry  
 08/20 Gunnar Lavenue  
 08/20 Shawn Love  
 08/21 Dick Manley  
 08/21 Clark Musser  
 08/22 Madison Dean  
 08/22 Caroline Mueller  
 08/24 Bruce Fraley  
 08/24 Tom McDaniel  
 08/25 Thomas Flesher, III  
 08/26 Claire Vick  
 08/30 Judy Kauffman  
 08/31 Sue Hood  
 08/31 David Reed

Are you or your family members not on our birthday list? Call the church office at 405-842-1486 to let us know your birthdays.

### Cares and Concerns

#### Town Village

Bette Harris

#### The Fountains at Canterbury

Anita Dahlgren

#### StoneCreek

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 The Conference Room* - Bring your coffee and join “The Brew” as we gather for fellowship and a video study of Ray Vander Laan’s *Prophets and Kings*. 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. The Reveille Class will be restarting soon. 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