

Volume 24, Number 7  
July 1st, 2018

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication  
of East Cross United  
Methodist Church



# east cross



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



Newsletter  
articles for the  
next issue are due  
in the church office  
by noon on  
Friday,  
July 20th.

Email articles to  
[office@eastcross.org](mailto:office@eastcross.org)



## Sermon Series NOAH...

July 8

Heartbroken Creator  
Genesis 5:28-30, 6:5-22

July 15

Noah, Ark  
Genesis 7-8

July 22

After the Flood  
Genesis 9

## Sermon Series Conclusion of IN THE BEGINNING...

July 1— *Communion*  
Sibling Rivalry  
Genesis 4:1-16, 25-26

## East Cross VIM to Red Bird Kentucky

East Cross will send fourteen missionaries to Red Bird from July 21 to 28. We have been told that they need work in the school and will have a "punch list" of needs to complete. The punch list will include painting and completing a concession stand for sporting events. We may also have the opportunity to distribute food to low income families. Leaving on Saturday, July 21, will give us the opportunity to go to Church with a local congregation and look around before we worship Sunday evening with other VIM teams. VIM Team Members include:

Bill and Jeretta Amburn  
Donna Guilfoyle  
Hadley Davis  
Corinna Marley  
Meghan Kirchner  
Julie Benyshek

Bill and Marty Wright  
Jaden Wright  
Darryl Coe  
James Bond (Tahlequah First)  
Evelyn Meade  
Jeff Burress

We appreciate your prayers for travel mercies, safety as we work, and guidance as we share God's love in this area of Appalachia.

## Another step in our journey...

### Family Summer Mission

One thing that John Wesley taught in his sermons and required from the class meetings was that fellow Methodists must "do good." He taught that we need to go beyond doing no harm, and look for opportunities to do good for other people. Again, Wesley taught that we should go further than just taking the opportunity to do good when it presented itself. He taught that we should actively seek opportunities to do good.

Here is my challenge for your family this summer. I challenge you to actively look for chances to do good for someone else while you are on your summer vacation, or doing your normal summer activities. If you have children at home, it is a great chance for them to observe and participate in great Christian activity while at play.

Here's the rest of my challenge. Post a story about your "mission" or "doing good" on the church facebook page. Another family might be challenged or motivated to do a similar mission.

We are Christian at work, at home, in our family unit, and even when we're taking time away from our work schedules. How will you do good?

*Pastor Jeff*

Wesley taught that we should go further than just taking the opportunity to do good when it presented itself. He taught that we should actively seek opportunities to do good.

## Contemporary Worship

**M**any times in today's culture, we debate and discuss the topic of worship, specifically what kind of worship God desires from his children. Should we sing hymns, or contemporary music? Should we raise our hands and clap or be reverently quiet during our services? The scripture that addresses these questions most directly is in the book of John:

"But the time is coming and is here, when true worshippers

will worship in spirit and in truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth." John 4:23-24 (CEB)

Worshipping in "spirit" involves giving our heartfelt praise to God. It engages our emotions and longing after the heart of the Lord. Worshipping in "truth" is to have full knowledge of the One we worship. It engages our thoughts as the Holy Spirit shines light on our minds and increases our understanding of

the Lord. In this scripture, I believe God is saying that true worship comes from those who are both deeply emotional, and love deep, sound doctrine. The question I have for you, and for myself each week is: "Does your personal worship experience incorporate both the heart and the head?"

God Bless,

*Zack Michel,*  
**Contemporary Worship**

## ***From Pastor Chad...***

It seems that every morning I sit down at my desk and go through about 150 emails, of which, 140 of them are advertisements, junk or spam. The longer the day goes on, more and more emails seem to appear in my inbox. Finally, after I call it quits for the day and head home, I walk out to the mailbox at home and sure enough, more advertisements and junk mail. They never seem to stop. The truth is that the spam emails and the junk mail at home really are not the problem, but the time I use sifting through them all to make sure I do not miss anything is. I let these things distract me and thus tear my focus away from things that really matter—God, my family, my duties as Associate Pastor... I need to refocus. For you it might not be

the never ending stream of emails or the limitless supply of junk mail, but more than likely there is something that pulls your focus off of the important things. As a result, you need to refocus as well.

If we are going to continue to move in the direction that God would have for us on this journey then we need to keep our focus on the very one that God sent as the model for our lives. This is why the writer of Hebrews reminds us to “Keep your eyes on Jesus, who both began and finished this race we’re in. Study how he did it. Because he never lost sight of where he was headed—that exhilarating finish in and with God—he could put up with anything along the way: Cross, shame, whatever.” Hebrews 12:2-MSG

Jesus showed us how to overcome temptation. Jesus showed us what it means to suffer and triumph. Jesus showed us how to live as a people filled with love and grace. If Jesus has done all of this, and so much more, why would we ever focus our attention anywhere else?

It is a battle each day to not get stuck in the muck and the mire of constant distractions. Therefore, I invite you to shift your focus once again, and, in the words of that wonderful hymn, “Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face, and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

Blessings!

*Pastor Chad*

## ***Traditional Worship***

If you do an online search for the number one, top-rated hymn you will quickly find the answer is...you guessed it, Amazing Grace. There is, of course, a lengthy list of the top beloved hymns of all time that follows.

Singing hymns during worship each week is a perfect way to lift up our praise and comfort our soul with the familiar words that are near and dear to our heart. One thing I love about planning worship

services during the summer is singing all the great hymns that everyone knows and loves. What are some of your favorite hymns? If you would like to submit one of your favorite hymns, please feel free to email me at [marbrad@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marbrad@sbcglobal.net) or slip in a note in my mailbox in the church office. I look forward to singing one of your favorites this summer!

*Margie Green,*  
***Traditional Worship***



## C3 Student Ministry

### Small Groups...

People sometimes ask me what I think that our youth group does really well. After my short three years at East Cross, I've seen many things done very well here and one of the things that I've seen done very well is our small groups!

We had 7-8 small groups running for our youth program on Wednesday nights last year! That is eight different pairs of adults leading a group of students for an hour each week. That is amazing! What is "leading?" We meet up before the start of the school year to discuss what being a small group leader is all about which does a great job to prepare us to lead a small group.

Joe Maddon, the general manager of the Chicago Cubs, has a great quote that I like to use when explaining to an adult how to lead a group. He says, "Be present, not perfect." I tell my leaders all the time to not be intimidated to lead someone else in a group towards Christ. You are not playing the part of Jesus for your group. Jesus is already doing that! He did all the heavy lifting. We have the Word of God to lean on and understand together. As a leader, you just need to be willing to be present and live life together. After all, we are all better together.

I hope that our small group leaders know how great they are and how impactful they have been to our students. We had the

students make some "Thank You" cards to the small group leaders at the end of the year and there were some great ones that I've kept and shared with leaders and some that I've hung up on my wall in my office to remind me of why we do what we do. It was a simple card with a simple message on it. It said, "Dear Small Group Leaders: I just wanted to say... That you are the reason I choose to believe in Christ so... THANK YOU!"

Thank you small group leaders for being a true game changer!

*Evan Holmes,*  
**Director of Youth Ministries**

*Camp Egan June 2018*



## EC Kids

**S**o I'm guessing a lot of you KNOW a lot about following Jesus. I mean, God loved us first, so we can always act with confidence as we love God and love others. Simple, right? Well, yes. But it's not easy. What IS easy is getting distracted by a million and one things. You try to do the right thing: sit with a lonely kid at lunchtime, open the door for others, try out for the school play. But even though you know God is with you, it's easy to forget. It's easy to get scared in the middle of a big step and panic. That's why the key to true confidence is this: stay focused on Jesus and what God says is true. Focus on how much He loves you. And then, even if—WHEN—you panic, He'll give you the strength and confidence to pull through. In July, we continue our discovery of confidence with incredible examples found in Daniel, John, Matthew, Acts and Romans.

**How would you live if you believed what God says is true?** We close out the summer with this important question. We want kids to realize that what they have learned about confidence can

impact how they live their life. We hope they catch a vision for what their life could be if they put their trust in Jesus.

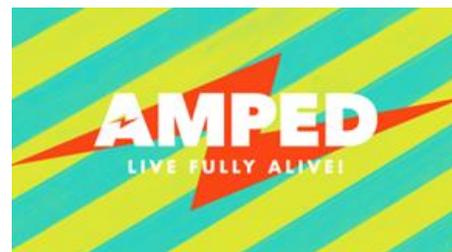
“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 1:6

### CIA Super Service Day

Be on the lookout for more information for our CIA Super Summer Service day! It will be on Tuesday, July 10 from 9am to 4pm. CIA (Christians In Action) is for children currently in 2nd—5th grades. That's right, for this CIA, we welcome our incoming 2nd graders!

### EC Kids Summer Field Trip

FUN things are in the works for our EC Kids Summer Field Trip scheduled for Saturday, July 28! Our day will be from 10:00am to 4:30pm for a full day of fun! This trip will be for all EC Kids ranging from Kindergarten – 5th grade AND their families! Details will be emailed out in the middle of the month!



### VBS Thank You

Church family,

The words 'Thank You' just never seem to be adequate enough. Last month during our Vacation Bible School, AMPED, we ministered to 75 children and were blessed with nearly 60 volunteers that were in the thick of it all or behind the scenes. Thank you to each and every one of you for your flexibility, patience and serving hearts. You all are truly special and I'm always so blown away by the many different talents and gifts that God has blessed us with as a church family. It is always such a humbling experience to see God moving in our church and children as we learn and celebrate His word and it simply could not have happened without you!

Thank you to all!

*Aimee Hall, Director of  
Children's Ministries*

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**O**ur Early Childhood Center just completed our Summer Session.

We welcomed 39 children into



our classes that were led by 13 adult staff! Each week the classes were introduced to fun learning activities through weekly themes such as:

Getting to Know You; Father's Day; Camping, Picnics, Bugs and Insects; Ice Cream; and lots of Water Activities on our final day! Physical fitness activities were also part of each classes schedule.



*ECC children enjoyed making fresh-squeezed lemonade!*

### "School-Year" Session Enrollment Update

There are a few openings on Mondays and Wednesdays for:

**Infant class** (6 mos.~5 mos.)

**Toddler class** (16 mos.~23 mos.)

**Older 2's / Young 3's class**

(3 years old *after* September 1 but before December 31) - two openings on Wednesdays.

**Two-Year Old class** is *FULL*.

**3-Year Old Preschool**

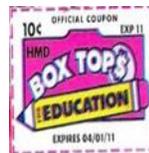
(3 years old *before* September 1) — limited openings in 3 classes.

**4-Year Old Preschool**

(4 years old *before* September 1) — limited openings in two classes.

Preschool meets on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays.

**Thank you once again** for adding to our collection of "Box Tops for Education" and



"Ink-Jet Cartridges."

We gladly accept these anyway you bring them to us!



Yes, these really do add up to easy and extra "fun money" used to obtain the extra things for the children/classrooms to enhance their learning while they are in our care!

### Help Wanted

We still have opportunities for a few additional classroom teaching staff this upcoming session. The employment need is for:

Mondays and Wednesdays  
(work hours 9:15am–3:15pm)

Previous "classroom teaching" experience is *not required* but a *love and appreciation* of working with very young children is a major factor when considering the "right" employee. We are willing to train the right person.

All employed staff are required to go through an interview process and submit to fingerprinting background checks.

Our program typically follows the Bartlesville public school system calendar so this can be a good opportunity for a parent / person who wants to work while their children are in school and could use a little extra spending money!

*~ Coleen Williams,*  
**Director @ East Cross  
Early Childhood Center**

Email: [ecc@eastcross.org](mailto:ecc@eastcross.org)  
Phone: 918-333-3814

## EAST CROSS NURSERY

**S**ummer months can be challenging for some families. It is best to keep a routine if possible as children need to know what their days will be like. Take them to the park, visit a museum, go to the library and cherish this time together.

During this time of year, nature is thriving and is full of hints as to who God is and

what He wants us to do. God made things in nature not only to help us stay healthy and alive, but to tell us something about Himself and His relationship with us. The Bible says that nature gives clear testimony to God's existence—that's why teaching children about nature can help them understand God that much more. So get outside and play. Explore and have a great summer.

This 4th of July let's remember that God encourages us to celebrate our freedom in being a child of God. We can be confident in freedom that God loves us and wants to bless our lives. Celebrate the freedom we have to know God as well as the freedom we have in America.

*Liz VanDeVenter,*  
**Nursery Director**

## S.A.L.T.

### *Single Adults Living Triumphantly*

#### **A Singles Prayer...**

My God, I thank you for the blessings of the single life.

One of your plans was for people to get married and have children. But I know that your good and perfect will is also for some of us to be single and not have children at this time. For this life, I thank you.

For the gift to be free to learn to love without clinging to seek relationships without owning, and to offer my love and kindness among many friends.

Yes, Lord at times I am lonely, like all people can be. So I ask you to fill those times of emptiness with your presence. Enter into the barren places with your refreshing water of life.

And, as I continue on this path—living by myself—keep my friends and family close, no matter how far away they live. Give me peace in my daily work, joy in the pursuit of wholeness, and comfort in the solitary nights. And please continue to grant me a giving heart. For I know Lord, I am blessed.

Written by... *Donna Jo Guilfoyle*

*S.A.L.T. meets each Sunday at 9:45am in Room 323 and at various restaurants for lunch each Sunday. They meet at 6:30pm the first Friday night of each month for fellowship in the coffee bar area of East Cross.*

## July Outreach News

**T**he Outreach Committee did not meet the month of June, but East Cross activities are strong. We are such a caring, giving church there are always lots of ministries going on and hopefully you are part of least one or more.

### TUESDAY HOUSE

Are you looking for a new outlet or adventure? Come volunteer for an hour, two or whatever time you can provide. We are open Monday from 9am to 12pm preparing for our Tuesday retail day. Tuesday we open at 8am until 4pm. On Wednesday from 9am to 12pm we prepare for Saturday's sale that is held from 9am till noon. Donations are accepted all of these days.

We will be closed the week of July 2 thru July 7 to observe the 4th celebrations but will reopen July 9.

Are we as a church serving our community? YES!!! We are serving as our Lord commanded us to do. Are you serving or need a place to have great fellowship, fun and yes, work, but, you want to really enjoy yourself? Tuesday House is in need of volunteers! We need men to

help with mowing, weed eating, sorting donated items, and unloading trucks with donated items. There is always something to be done. Please consider being a part of a great organization.

Ladies we need volunteers to cashier, sort donated items coming in, dusting, straightening and placing items in retail departments for sale, etc. The fellowship is great and a great group of people to work with.

We are a beehive of activity and would love to have you join us. Proceeds of sales from Tuesday House help to support MUTUAL Girls Club.



### Summer Prayer Needs

During the Summer are you praying special prayers for our ministries such as VIM, Kairos, MUTUAL, Camp Egan, campers, Concern, Agape, Lighthouse, Concern Child Learning Center, etc.? During the Summer with the heat, school out of session, vacations, and church members with health or personal issues, there can be additional concerns for

people's welfare. Remember these and other areas that need our prayers.

### Generosity Boxes

**THE LIGHTHOUSE OUTREACH CENTER** is the beneficiary of the donations dropped in our GENEROSITY BOXES during the month of July. At this time they are especially in need of personal hygiene products such as:

shampoo and conditioner,  
hair brushes and combs,  
toothbrushes and toothpaste  
mouthwash,  
bar soap,  
deodorant,  
feminine products

What a blessing for the clients as they are given a small bag of personal hygiene items when they come to the Lighthouse Outreach Center. Won't you take this opportunity to be a part of this blessing by dropping a few of these items in our Generosity Boxes located at each entrance to East Cross UMC? Thank you!



### **New Day Camp — A CJAMM Initiative**

The United Methodist Oklahoma Conference offered New Day Camp 1 June 11-16 for 8 to 11 year olds, and will hold New Day Camp Too July 16-20 for 12 to 14 year old adolescents. These young people have at least one parent incarcerated. The camp is located at Crosspoint Camp on

the shores of Lake Texoma and staffed primarily by volunteers. The campers have worship each day, small group time to study Biblical truths, swim time in the lake, fishing, group building and more! Stan Basler is this year's camp chaplain and he does a great job relating Scriptural truths to the campers. Campers have leaders or leaders in training with them 24/7.

The money from East Cross VBS plus socks and t-shirts were happily received and used to supply clothing for campers who come without enough clothes. Thank you for your prayers and support for reaching out to these kids with God's love, mercy, and grace. Please consider volunteering in 2019. Contact Bill Amburn for more information.



Dear New Day Camp Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous contribution of \$177.82 and the clothing you sent to camp. Your gifts will make a difference in the lives of children that are victims of crime.

We pray you are blessed as you have blessed us. *Staff of New Day Camp*

Dear Ones,

Thank you so much for all the good wishes, prayers and love you have shared with us as we move on to a new season in our lives. East Cross has been our "family" for 31 years, such a great part of our lives. We will miss all of the wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ who have given us love and support during our time as a part of East Cross. We feel that this is God's plan for us and look forward to being nearer to our immediate family so that we can share more of the everyday parts of their lives. We will not forget you. Thank you again and we love you all.

Sincerely, *Amelia and Melodie Nash*

East Cross United Methodist Church,

Thank you for your recent donation to Concern. We greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely, *Concern Child Learning Center*

East Cross UMC,

Thank you for your generous contribution. You have helped a family in need build a decent affordable house.

*Bartlesville Area Habitat for Humanity*

(*Habitat for Humanity* is a non-profit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. For years East Cross has supported this organization through an endowment setup to help fund the building of houses in Bartlesville and beyond.)



## PRAYER LIST

### New Prayer Requests...

Lerene Schornick

Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Kathy Christian, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Eddie Danford (father of Brenda Commons), Marcia Goode, Edna Harbison, Vera Hibbard, Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Bob Murnan, Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Marie Puckett, Euela Randall, Claudia Rolfs, Joe Smith (Anita Spencer's brother-in-law), Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Glenna Wright (Steve Wright's mother)

### Condolences to...

Bob and Paula Lindblom, and Amanda and Lee Brammer on the death of mother and grandmother Laverne Lindblom.

Steve and Pat Wright on the recent death of Steve's father, Gordon Wright.

Emma Lou Cox on the death of her grandson, Austin Wayne Cox.

Warren and Rita Neff and family on the death of their sister-in-law, Susan Neff.

If you know someone that needs to be added or removed from the Prayer List, call the church office at 918-333-0810.

## Pray for our Military

* PFC Luis Balli	* CPT Derek Smith	Mark Hathaway
* Esn. Lisa Freeman	* <i>deployed</i>	LCDR Eric Rolfs
* Robbie Lawson		CPT Daniel Smith
* SSG Gary Mabry	MAJ Todd Abshire	CDR Robert Staten
* SSG Jared Seat	LTC Darrin Cox	SFC Clifton White

Please pray for all persons serving in the military and their families.



If you have a loved one or a friend currently on active duty in the military and would like them added to our Wall of Honor, please contact Charlie and LeAnne Christensen at [chasleanne@gmail.com](mailto:chasleanne@gmail.com) or 918-327-1226.

**All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Painted Horse on Saturday, July 7 at 8am!**



## Church Women United's CREATE FOR MISSION DAY

Friday, July 13, 2018 9:30am-2:00pm Lunch: \$5.00  
Oak Park UMC 601 Brentwood Rd

*We will be cutting and sewing catheter covers, lap quilts, clothing protectors and pillows to be distributed to area nursing homes. We need sewers, cutters, pinners, pressers, pillow stuffers. All women are invited.*

## Sunday Morning Van Ministry



Call the church office at 918-333-0810 and **leave a message on extension 105** before 7:30am on Sunday mornings. You may also have a standing request to be picked up each week.

**ONLINE GIVING...** You can give electronically by going to our website [www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org). Click the menu tab on top of the Welcome page and click on "Give Online" OR scroll to the bottom of our Welcome page and click on "Give." Funds can also be withdrawn automatically weekly or monthly by completing a request form available in the treasurer's office.



East Cross also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image to the left using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader.

learning to follow Jesus,  
inviting others to join the journey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Communion</i>	2  6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i>  Church Office Closed	5	6  6:30p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	7  1st-2nd Grade Camp Sat-Sun  8a Men's Breakfast at Painted Horse
8  2p Red Bird VIM Meeting  5p PG Small Group	9  6:30p Young Adults	10  9a CIA Super Service Day  7p Outreach	11	12  6:30a Children's Council	13  7:00p Church Bridge	14
15	16  6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	17  6p Media Training 6p Piecemaker	18	19	20	21  VIM July 21-28
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
VIM (Volunteers in Mission) to Red Bird Mission; Beverly, KY July 21-28						
5p PG Small Group	6:30p Young Adults	7p ECC Committee Mtg				10a EC Kids Summer Field Trip
29	30	31			<i>July 2018</i>	

**Weekly Activities at East Cross**

**Sunday**

8:30am  
9:45am  
11:00am  
11:00am  
12:00pm  
5:00pm

Traditional Worship Service  
Small Groups for all ages  
Contemporary Worship Service  
Children's Church  
S.A.L.T. Lunch  
Youth

**Wednesday**

6:30pm

Praise Band Practice

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Tuesday**

4:00pm

Prayer Group

**Saturday**

**EAST CROSS NEWS** (USPS 164-540)

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Linda Thornton

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*Early Childhood Center Director*

Liz VanDeVenter

*Nursery and Childcare Director*

Margie Green

*Traditional Worship Director*

Jan Watt, *Pianist*

Zack Michel

*Contemporary Worship Director*

Seth Weimer, *Sound Tech*

Jon Colliver

*Building & Maintenance Coordinator*

*learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey*

## Environmental Projection Enhances Worship at East Cross

Images can be projected across the entire back wall of the sanctuary creating unique worshipful environments for services throughout the year.

