

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



east cross



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In the event of inclement weather that may cause services to cancel, check our website www.eastcross.org, radio stations 1400AM & 100.1FM, local TV stations or facebook.

Church Office:
918-333-0810
FAX: 918-335-1664
ECC: 918-333-3814



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

Email articles to office@eastcross.org

Current Sermon Series...

24 Hours that Changed the World

March 31
4th Sunday in Lent
"Sentenced"
Matthew 27:11-26

April 7
5th Sunday in Lent
"Tortured and Humiliated"
Matthew 27:26-31

April 14
Palm Sunday
"Crucified"
Mark 15:25-39

April 21
Easter Sunday
"Resurrected"
Mark 16:1-15

EASTER SUNDAY

8:30am Traditional Worship
9:45am Traditional Worship
11:00am Contemporary Worship

Communion served at all services.
Children's Church offered at 9:45am and 11:00am services.



Holy Week Services

April 18 7:00pm
Holy Thursday
Communion

April 19 7:00pm
Good Friday
A Service of Tenebrae

Childcare for children 4 years and younger available for both services.

Connections will not meet on Wednesday, April 17.

Another step in our journey...

KAIROS

Kairos is a Greek word for time. Kairos means a special time rather than chronological time. That is what we had at James Crabtree Correctional Center in Helena, Oklahoma a couple of weeks ago.

The most important result of Kairos at JCCC was the lives changed for Jesus Christ. I saw changes in every one of the 41 inmates who attended. For four days they heard about the unconditional love of God, and then saw it in action before their very eyes by those serving them for the weekend and by all those who participated by sharing meals, prayers and cookies.

While I'm sure that not every inmate who attended will be perfect from this day forward (just like the rest of us), I do know that there were some major steps toward God by men who had rejected God and His Church for many years, and for some who weren't even aware of what healthy, unconditional love was. It was fun to watch them begin to grasp what was going on. There are ongoing Bible studies and weekly Prayer and Share times to help each man continue on their journey of following Jesus.

I want to thank you for your participation in this Kairos event. I'm so glad I used my Mission week to participate in

this great ministry. I'm proud that Garry Gunter also participates in Kairos weekends. The guys we were ministering to were so impressed that people that didn't even know them would take time to pray every day, that you would make so many cookies that even they could not eat them all, and that anyone would take the entire weekend to spend with them when we didn't have to.

Your love for others and self-sacrifice changed lives in a big way and I thank you for participating.

Pastor Jeff

Traditional Worship

This Lenten season, we will journey through the last 24 hours before the crucifixion of Jesus. There are so many hymns that help illustrate this remarkable story of redemption and grace! Victory in Jesus is a fine example of a stirring hymn summarizing the wondrous story of our Savior's amazing love.

Sing out strong the mighty chorus of this gospel hymn! Because He first loved us with His ultimate sacrifice we can celebrate the victory of life eternal!!

Margie Green,
Traditional Worship

*O victory in Jesus,
My Savior, forever!
He sought me and bought me
With His redeeming blood;
He loved me ere I knew Him
And all my love is due Him,
He plunged me to victory,
Beneath the cleansing flood!*

From Pastor Chad...

When I was growing up, I remember one of my pastors always asking me a series of questions the closer we came to the Easter Celebration. He would ask me, "How is this season of Lent going for you? Have you spent time reflecting on your relationship with God? How will this Easter be different?" To be honest, I did not know how to answer. So I would say, "Good. You bet. And this year we are going to my grandma's in Norman to hunt for Easter eggs filled with money." As you can tell I missed the point of the questions he was asking. That is because what he really wanted to know was how were things in my soul. Was I doing

the work necessary to rid my life of sin? Was I seeking a renewal in my relationship with God? When Easter arrives, will I trust God with more of my life and claim the power of the resurrection for myself? I would love to have the opportunity to go back and answer those questions again.

I would like to think that I have grown and matured as a person and as a follower of Christ since those early years, but then I find myself in moments where my focus is fixed on the lesser things once again. It is there in those moments that I realize there is still room for growth and that I need to keep moving to be more like Jesus. In other words, I have not yet arrived.

The journey of Lent continues. If you are anything like me, this journey can seem overwhelming. That is when I am reminded that on the other side of the pain of the Cross is the new life of Easter. There is hope in this journey.

In closing, I want to ask you the same questions that my minister used to ask me: "How is the season of Lent going for you? Have you spent time reflecting on your relationship with God? How will this Easter be different?" I pray your answers will be better than mine.

Blessings!

Pastor Chad

Contemporary Worship

As we move further into the season of Lent and hear more from Pastor Jeff's series "24 Hours That Changed the World", we will start to get a glimpse of the very real pain and torture that our Savior went through, as well as the glorious moment of His triumphant resurrection. This month in our Contemporary services, we will begin two new songs that speak to both experiences. The song

"Scars" by I Am They and "Living Hope" by Phil Wickham both proclaim that we have victory and freedom even in the midst of our trials and pain, and though we have scars and our sin separates us from Christ, He made the ultimate sacrifice for us through *His* scars here on Earth. What an incredible reminder that even in our imperfection, the Perfect One died *and* lives for us!

"He was pierced because of our rebellions, and crushed because of our crimes. He bore the punishment that made us whole; by his wounds we are healed." - Isaiah 53:5 CEB

God Bless,

Zack Michel,
Contemporary Worship



Student Ministry

I cannot believe how much of this year has already gone by—so much so that we are already starting to focus on graduation and summer. One area of focus is Senior Sunday which is scheduled for May 19. Parents it would be a huge help if you would provide us with a senior picture, an early childhood picture (the more embarrassing the better) and some information about their future plans. Please bring these items to the church office or email high resolution digital copies to Chad (associate@eastcross.org) by April 30 so that we can begin work on the presentation for Senior Sunday.

I also want to let you know that the search is underway to find a Director of Youth Ministries. We have sent information out through multiple channels, but if you happen to know someone who might be interested, please have them contact the church office. We ask that you be in prayer that God would bless us with another amazing person that will bless the lives of our youth and our church.

Have a fantastic Easter as you celebrate the risen Savior!

Chad

Graduating High School Seniors

Please submit pictures of your high school senior to be included in a video presentation on Senior Sunday to the church office or by emailing to associate@eastcross.org by Tuesday, April 30.

EAST CROSS YOUTH MINISTER!!!

We are seeking someone to help lead the youth at East Cross and it is an exciting opportunity! The job description can be found on our East Cross facebook page or stop by the church office for a copy. If interested please send your letter of interest and resume' to:

East Cross Methodist Church
c/o Bob Fraser, Staff-Parish Chair
820 S Madison Blvd
Bartlesville OK 74006



GENEROSITY BOXES

For APRIL 2019, the **FOOD 4 KIDS** program is our local mission outreach! Each month close to 2,500 food packets are sent home with children in need. That's nearly 650 food packets a week that are placed in these kids backpacks! Your kindness by helping to meet the needs of these kids is cherished more than you realize. This program is in need of the following items to supplement that which they are unable to obtain from the local food bank.

**Pudding cups—vanilla or chocolate; Fruit cups;
Raisins—small boxes; Boxes of regular cereal
Fruit snacks—with 100% fruit juice; Cereal bars**

Would you pick up a few of these items and toss them in your shopping basket; then toss them into the Generosity boxes that are conveniently located at **EACH** entrance to ECUMC!

EC Kids

When you're stumbling in the dark, there's only one thing to do.

Turn on the light! The same is true when you feel like you're stumbling through a difficult time in your life. Turn on the light of hope! After all, our hope doesn't come from this world. Our hope is in Jesus. Jesus died on the cross to defeat sin, darkness, and death—forever. He rose from the dead and proved that everything He said is true. He offers the hope of eternal life to anyone who believes. As we examine the events surrounding Jesus' death and resurrection, we are going to focus on helping kids see that whatever happens in life, we can have hope in Jesus.

We start the month with friends of Jesus who had lost all hope. John records an incredible moment that we find

in **John 11:1-45**. When Lazarus died, Jesus used the opportunity to point people to God. Next, we head to an incredible moment John records in **John 12:9-16**. God's people had waited for generations for God to send the Messiah. They were overwhelmed when Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem. God kept His promise. The mission to save the world was happening.

In week three, we'll take a look at Easter through John's perspective in **John 18:1-20:18**. As the disciples experienced the events of the crucifixion, from Jesus' arrest in the garden to His death, they must have wondered if everything they experienced with Jesus was all for nothing. But that all changed when they discovered that Jesus was alive!

We'll finish the month with an important moment recorded in **John 20:19-29**. Although Thomas was one of Jesus' disciples, he hadn't yet seen Jesus face-to-face after the resurrection. When the rest of the disciples tried to tell him that Jesus was alive, Thomas couldn't believe it. Jesus showed up again, went to Thomas and gave him a chance to touch the scars. Thomas knew once and for all that Jesus was alive!

We can't always understand why some things happen. But we can believe in a God who keeps His promises. We can have hope, even in the toughest times, because we know He can make something good out of something bad.

*Aimee Hall, Director of
Children's Ministries*

3RD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

Our 3rd Grade Bible Presentation will be here quickly! Bibles will be presented to our current 3rd graders on Sunday, May 5. Please be present for both services. Bibles will be presented towards the end of first service and at the beginning of second service. If you have a 3rd grader, keep your eyes out for a postcard with more information!

EASTER EGG DONATIONS

We are asking for help in making our annual Easter Egg Hunt the best year ever! We are in need of *wrapped candy*. If you'd like to help, donations can be left at the EC Kids Check In Desk or the main office!

Thank you in advance for being so generous!



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Please Note This Correction & Updated Information:

The information regarding our upcoming fees for Summer Session and our next School-Year Session have **been revised and updated since our March newsletter**. This updated information is currently found on each of our Preliminary Enrollment Forms for those sessions. These are located on the church website AND on our bulletin board next to our Early Childhood Center's office.

- **Preschool Parent / Teacher Conferences** will be offered to 41 preschool children's families on April 12!
- ◇ *Part of our job in our Preschool classes is to "introduce" many early learning objectives to the children and encourage their individualized development. We recognize that no two children are exactly at the same point in their skills, and that's alright! These one-on-one conferences are a wonderful way to understand and observe a specific child's development and our Preschool teachers spend a lot of time gathering, organizing, and even interpreting information about each child's growth and early development. This, their second "progress report", provides support information that enables the teachers to share meaningful and descriptive information with the parents in determining their readiness for their next educational step.*
- **Enrollment Opportunities** for our *upcoming* classes (Summer Session and next School-Year Session) are now "open to the public!"
- ◇ Our **Summer Session** (June 3-26; Mondays and Wednesdays; 9:30am – 3:00pm; offered for children 16 months of age through those children entering Kindergarten) Each year our

Summer Session continues to be all about "fun" and there is typically much smaller class sizes with very limited staffing options so be sure and return your child's enrollment forms (along with those appropriate fees) by May 1st so that they can be a part of all the activities we have planned.

- ◇ Our **School-Year Session** (Aug. 2019 – May 2020) offers Parent Day Out classes (again for 16 months of age through 2 years old) & our Preschool classes (for children who will turn 3 or 4 years of age by Sept 1st).
- ◇ **ALL** upcoming session's "**Preliminary Enrollment Forms**" can be retrieved on the church web site (www.eastcross.org) via the Early Childhood Center tab, **OR** by contacting the Early Childhood Center's office directly at 918-333-3814 or email us at: ecc@eastcross.org
- **We anticipate a need to hire additional classroom staff** to aid in the care & early education of the children in our upcoming sessions – Mondays & Wednesdays, 9:15 AM – 3:15 PM! Our program employs persons that have we feel have the appropriate gifts & talents that they want to share with the children & also help achieve the highest level of service for the Lord within this ministry of the church & to our community! We have already begun **taking employment applications and interviewing** for adults (also college-aged persons) that would like to be a part of our staff here at East Cross ECC for these areas of classroom leadership.

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

EAST CROSS NURSERY

“Happy Easter!”

I love this time of year! Easter is a sign of celebration, growth, fresh starts, life, new directions and a sense of Springing into a year that has already started getting away from us. At Easter we don't just celebrate our hope for life after death, we celebrate our hope for life now. Let's take time from our busy schedule to think about what Easter is really about.

This month the 3 year old—PK class will be learning about the true meaning of Easter and the love of Christ, and how we can be kind and show God's love to our family and friends, through

stories, crafts and a movie. The class has also started practicing their song for Dine and Shine in May.

On April 14, we will have our Easter Egg Hunt after the 11:00 service. It will be in the gym or outside by the Gathering Area, depending on the weather. Have your child bring their Easter basket and be ready to have fun.

Please remember to sign your child in and out of the nursery. This is for everyone's safety.

Liz VanDeVenter,
Childcare/Nursery Director

Why Do We Sing Songs & Share Poems? Why Do We Tell Stories?

- ~ To listen to the rhyme
- ~ To make eye contact
- ~ To play along with instruments
- ~ To pace the story to fit the listener
- ~ To move to the rhythm
- ~ To create tales about personal heritage
- ~ To make up new words
- ~ To model the importance of language

- ~ To clap to the cadence
- ~ To hear the inflections of voice
- ~ To help us recognize and create patterns
- ~ To use movement & motion
- ~ To help express our different emotions
- ~ To teach reading through the words & letters
- ~ To learn to read
- ~ To “get help” with the telling of it
- ~ To find the meaning in the words
- ~ To change the story



Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, April 14! Registration will start in the Christian Life Center at 12:15pm—right after our Contemporary Service. Children nursery aged through 5th grade are welcome.

Rain or shine, we will hunt!
So don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!

February Outreach News

CONCERN CHILD LEARNING CENTER (CCLC)

CONCERN constructed the CCLC building in the 1970's for an enrollment of 90 children. Changing regulations over the years now limit their enrollment to 58 children which has decreased their income. In addition, a few years ago DHS put a freeze on accepting new families into their program, so when children graduate from CCLC there are fewer who qualify to receive DHS funds to fill the vacancies.

CONCERN looked for a partner who could continue to provide affordable, quality childcare and that partner is Washington County Childcare Foundation. CCLC will become part of the existing network of Delaware childcare facilities and have the financial backing to keep it going. Prayers have been answered and a solution found that continues the promise of quality care and education for the children while being able to help more people in need.

Jane Phillips Valentine Party went well. We did not furnish goodie bags this year only cupcakes and drink boxes. Feedback from staff members at school said the children did not miss the bags. Next year we may try to furnish a treat basket for each classroom and staff along with cupcakes and drinks for everyone at the school.

Journey Home

This is a wonderful ministry. A small group of individuals provide end of life care. Some of our members have utilized the facility with nothing but thankfulness. We were told that they have donations but you can participate any time you want by providing a meal for about ten people, desserts, etc. They can always use laundry items such as bleach, detergent, etc.

Kairos Ministry

Pastor Jeff went to jail in Helena, OK for a few days. Guess someone must have worked some magic and got him released. East Cross sent over 166 dozen cookies with Jeff for inmates, even on short notice. Such an awesome church we have.

MUTUAL

Summer program enrollment is open for current and former members and the public on April 8. The program runs from June 3 to August 2, 2019 at a cost of \$30 per week. MUTUAL is now located at 3401 Price Road, Bartlesville, OK 74006. More information can be yours by calling 918-336-9151.

EASTER is just around the corner and so are the "EGG BOUQUETS"

God blesses us every day and we can be a blessing to others. We can PAY IT FORWARD!

Again this year we are providing buckets filled with goodies from caring, loving Christians for the Washington County Foster Children. Can you help? There are around 85-90 children at this time, but the number changes almost every day. The children range in age from newborn through eighteen years.

This year you may choose an "egg flower" that contains a surprise or two. Along with the "egg flower" you also have a choice of a bucket for each child. Each "egg flower" will be marked with the age and gender for easy choosing for you. After you choose your "egg flower" a sign up sheet will be available (your name, phone number, age and gender of your child). Then choose a bucket and have fun shopping for your child.

NOTE: Please only buy items that will fit in the bucket. PLEASE DO NOT attach items to the outside of the bucket or that are too large to fit in the bucket. A sheet with suggestions of items will also be available to give you a few ideas.

IF YOU PREFER NOT TO SHOP you can make a donation and we will shop for you. A vessel will be available or give to Diana Trammel.

Please return to the gathering area with your bunny attached and place under or around the table that is set up for this ministry, **no later than April 14, 2019** so we can count, sort, load and deliver to DHS.

Thank you for being generous, caring Angels of God, to make children happy. GOD BLESS!



Dear All,

Thank you, East Cross UMC for your prayers and support during my dad's illness and passing. Thank you for all the special visits from Pastor Jeff and our friends from Journey of Hope Small Group.

Love, *Bill and Jeretta Amburn, and Jeri Wilson*

Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for all your love, service and kindness to our family. Linda Smith fielded many phone calls. Pastors Jeff and Chad visited Helen. Chad read scriptures to Helen before family could arrive the day of her Homecoming. The Family Bereavement Meal Team made a lovely meal for the family. Pastor Jeff played Southern Gospel at the piano and Margie Green lead singing.

Your service truly expressed a loving heart for our Helen and our family. Thank you for all that kindness, love and talent. *Bob, Mary and the whole Shell household*

Dear East Cross,

Thank you for your donations of \$250.00. Your generosity will be a big help to carry out our mission.

*Norma Isnard, CWU Treasurer
(Church Women United)*

Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for all of the prayers, love and support you have given us during the illness and loss of our son and brother, GL Baker. We'll never forget all of the expressions of kindness.

Jewell Baker, Kevin, Debbie, Matthew and Michael Graham

TO THE MEMBERS OF YOUR CONGREGATION,

I appreciate and do not take for granted your effort to successfully pay 100% of your apportionments in 2018. I believe every dollar given to the church is making a difference somewhere in the world. Because of your generosity, there is less suffering and more healing in the world today. There is less ignorance and more education across the globe today. There is less despair and more hope among people today.

Because of your generosity and our connection, United Methodists share the gospel and make a difference in the lives of people. Thank you for sharing in the work.

In service of others,
James Nunn
Bishop, Oklahoma Area UMC

East Cross Family Bereavement Meal Ministry

If you would like to serve your church family in this important ministry, please contact the church office at 918-333-0810 or contact Linda Shoemaker at 918-914-2044 or email her at stressalot@aol.com.

Volunteers are needed to help with food preparation (bring a food dish for the meal) and/or assist with hosting the day of the meal (set tables, make coffee, tea, clean up).

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 4
6:30PM
CHAPEL

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Alan Beckworth (Diana Trammel's cousin), Summer Flenniken (Diana Trammel's granddaughter), Jan Waldorf

Annie Bollinger (daughter of Charlie and LeAnne Christensen), Kathy Christian, Drew Coffee, Carol Ehman (family friend of Rick and Becky Bryant), Dave Faust (Melda and Gary Howard's son-in-law), Muriel Faust (Dave Faust's mother), Don Fleming (Teresa Dietz' friend), Marcia Goode, Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Mike and Ronda Paxon (Coleen Williams' brother-in-law and sister), Marie Puckett, Deb Richardson, Spence Rigdon, Greg Spears (Charlene's son), Kermit Tanzey, Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Michele Willoughby, Keith Wyrick (Erville Orndorff's nephew), Allie Zoldoske

Condolences to...

Jewell Baker, Debbie and Kevin Graham on the death of Gary Baker, son, brother and brother-in-law.

Colleen Oldfather on the recent death of her sister, Ruby Premeau.

Bob and Meredith Fraser on the death of Bob's dad, Blaine Fraser.

Pam Knuth on the death of her friend, Joan Collins.

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

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| * Robbie Lawson | SPC Luis Balli | CPT Daniel Smith |
| * SSG Gary Mabry | LTC Darrin Cox | CDR Robert Staten |
| * SSG Jared Seat | LTJG Lisa Freeman | SFC Clifton White |
| * CPT Derek Smith | Mark Hathaway | |
| * <i>deployed</i> | LCDR Eric Rolfs | |



Please keep our active duty military and our veterans in your prayers. 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 or 918-327-1226.

All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Boomerang Cafe on Saturday, April 6 at 8am!



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. 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 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	2	3 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	4 6:30p Church Council	5 6p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	6 8a Men's Breakfast Boomerang Cafe
7 <i>Communion</i> 12p Camp Registration Day	8 6:30p Young Adults 7p Miriam	9 7p Outreach	10 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	11 6:30p Children's Council	12 7p Church Bridge	13
14 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 12:15p Easter Egg Hunt 5p PG Small Group	15 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	16 6p Piecemaker Quilters	17 NO Connections	18 9:30a Rebecca 7p Holy Thursday Service	19 7p Good Friday Service	20
21 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:30 Service 9:45 Service 11:00 Service	22 <i>Easter Holiday</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i> 6:30p Young Adults	23	24 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	25	26 12:15p ECECC Teacher Appreciation Luncheon	27
28 <i>Confirmation Sunday</i> 5p PG Small Group	29	30		April 2019		

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:45am Small Groups for all ages
9:45am CONFIRMATION—Youth
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service
11:15am Children's Church
12:00pm S.A.L.T. Lunch
5:00pm C3 Youth Ministry

Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12:00Noon Early Childhood Center PreK
(not on 4/19)

Saturday

EAST CROSS NEWS (USPS 164-540)
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Chad Perceful
Pastor

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Coleen Williams

Early Childhood Center Director
Liz VanDeVenter

Nursery and Childcare Director
Margie Green

Traditional Worship Director
Jan Watt, *Pianist*

Zack Michel

Contemporary Worship Director
Charles Binau

Coordinator Audio Equipment/Volunteers
Jon Colliver

Building & Maintenance Coordinator

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

