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June 1st, 2019

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



east cross



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

Email articles to
office@eastcross.org



Congratulations High School Seniors Class of 2019!

*Hadley Davis, Ornusa Muangkosai, Madison Finton, Mika Gillman, Carinna Marling
Caroline Waldorf, Carson Rainbolt, Tyler Myers, Dax Butler*

More information about our Graduating Seniors can be found on Page 4.

Sermon Series—*Lifted Up*

June 2 Communion
“Ascension of Jesus”

June 9 Pentecost
“Simon Peter”

June 16 Father’s Day
“Thomas”



Another step in our journey...

Learning to Follow Jesus

In a conference I attended a while back, I was reminded of this truth: VISION LEAKS. So here is a reminder of the vision that guides us as a congregation.

I find that if I don't intentionally review why we are here as a congregation, that I don't always focus correctly on how to lead this congregation. I know we say it every week as we begin our worship services, but here's a quick reminder of who we are and what should guide our journey together. I know it's the same message we've talked about for several years now, maybe just stated a little differently, but a reminder that each of us needs, continually.

As we journey together, our goal is to be as much like Jesus as we can be. Some of us have been on this journey for years and have learned much about following Jesus. Some of us are pretty new to the journey and feel like we know less about the journey than others do. The fact is that we are all on the journey together and that we all have more to learn about the life, love, compassion, mercy, mystery, and even the judgment of Jesus Christ.

As a congregation, we are the first to admit that we are still learning to follow Jesus. We desperately want to follow Jesus Christ more closely, than ever before. I hope that as a congregation and as individuals we are learning from our mistakes and doing more 'right',

making us better followers of Jesus than we have ever been.

I have noticed that as many couples spend years and years together they think more alike, act more alike, can usually finish each other's sentences and sometimes even look more alike. If we spend our time seeking God, and learning more about God in Jesus, we also should think more like God, act more like God, and more easily discern God's will in our everyday and special circumstances. Especially in our actions, we should look more like Jesus every day.

Yes, we are people of God. Let's continue our learning as we follow Jesus.

Pastor Jeff

Contemporary Worship

Our team would like to say a huge "THANK YOU!" to all of those who made it possible for us to play at the Frank Phillips Home in May. A special thank you to Bob Fraser for inviting us to play, our trustees and pastors for allowing us to bring our equipment out on the lawn, and especially our community for supporting our team and coming out to worship

with us! It was a great night of relaxation and lifting up the name of Jesus! We are so thankful to live in a community that values worship and isn't ashamed to worship in public, regardless of denomination or venue! Thank you Bartlesville, and thank you East Cross!

God Bless,

Zack Michel,
Contemporary Worship

"Come, let's worship and bow down! Let's kneel before the Lord, our maker! He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep in his hands."

-Psalm 95:6-7 CEB

From Pastor Chad...

On May 5, we had the opportunity to hear from Josh Pulver with Camp Egan, a United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center located in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains just outside of Tahlequah, OK. During his discussion, Josh shared the many ways that lives are changed at Camp Egan and how important camping ministry has been in his life. I know exactly what he means as my life was changed by camp... not just as a student, but as an adult. Had it not been for camp, I know that I would not be here today serving as an associate pastor with all you wonderful people. This is why camp has always been, and always will be, a special place where I feel the presence of God more fully and witness His guiding more clearly. Camp is one of those

life-experiences that everyone should have.

However, with a price tag of around \$300.00/person for upper elementary and Jr. High/ High School camps, many parents have sticker shock and set the idea of sending their child to camp out of their mind. That is why on May 5, I gave a 30 second plea in both services for donations for scholarships to send kids to camp who might not be able to go otherwise. By the end of the second service, we had enough money committed to cover the cost of every student that wanted to go to camp. What a blessing! It makes my heart glad to know that so many from our church will have the opportunity to have this experience with God.

Let me conclude by saying, Thank You! Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for supporting our students as they head to camp. Thank you for pouring into the lives of our young people. Thank you for your love.

Blessings!

Pastor Chad

Update:

There are currently five adult leaders and 33 children / youth attending camp from East Cross!

**Youth Camp is June 17-21*

**6th Grade Camp is June 24-28*

**Elementary Camp is June 24-26*

**Sonshine Camp (1st-2nd Grade) is June 29-30*

Please keep all of our campers and leaders in your prayers!

Traditional Worship

What lifts you up? Is it your family? Friends? During the week, my schedule is very busy, but each Wednesday when I make it to the church for choir practice, I am suddenly lifted up! Wonderful people singing together combined with the

words of the music speaking directly to me, fill my heart with an awesome peace that is welcomed after a long, hectic day! I want to thank the amazing people that sing in our sanctuary choir! The fine people in our choir have committed to using their gifts to enhance the worship experience for our

congregation. I appreciate each of them for not only lifting up praises each week with their voices, but lifting me up and touching my heart with constant encouragement, laughter, prayers, and music!

Margie Green,
Traditional Worship



Student Ministry

Congratulations to all of our recent High School Graduates!

Holden Bryant – Kansas State University;
Mechanical Engineering

Dax Butler – Oklahoma State University;
Biomedical Engineering and Pre-Med

Hadley Davis – Missouri Southern State
University; International Relations and
Spanish

Madison Finton – Roger's State University;
Elementary Education

Mika Gillman – Oklahoma State University;
Biology and Pre-Med

Carinna Marling – Oklahoma State University;
Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering /
Minor in Spanish

Ornusa Muangkosai – University of Bangkok,
Thailand; Architecture

Tyler Myers – Oklahoma State University;
Marketing and Business

Carson Rainbolt – Oklahoma State University;
Biology

Caroline Waldorf – Northeastern State
University; Secondary English Education

We cannot wait to see what God
will do in and through you!

Blessings!

Chad

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES AND COLLEGE STUDENTS!

On June 2, we will launch a new class for recent high school graduates and college students.

This class will meet at 9:45am Sunday mornings in Room 121 and run through the summer months.

For more information about this new offering contact Matt Epperson.

EC Kids

God created us in His image, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to show us the way to live. He also knew we would need help; that's why He sent us the Holy Spirit. With the power of the Spirit, we can produce fruit that points others to Jesus. Every month, kids discover something about God's character and how they can reflect or respond to that character because they are

created in God's image. We call those Life-Apps. And this summer we're discovering how several of these Life-Apps show up specifically in what the Apostle Paul calls the fruit of the Spirit.

All summer we'll be talking about how we can "power up" with the help of the Holy Spirit. When we do, our lives will show the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience,

kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Each of these Life-Apps is something God does in us to change the world around us. We hope this video game theme will be fun for the kids... nostalgic for the parents... and a memorable way to explore how we can "raise our game" by following God!

*Aimee Hall, Director of
Children's Ministries*



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Power Up is almost here! Join us June 10-13 from 6-8:15pm for our fun-filled Vacation Bible School. Our VBS will capture a kid's imagination about our creator so they can discover how they are MADE by God, MADE for a relationship with Jesus, and MADE to love others.

Register your kids or grandkids today at <https://eastcrossumc.breezechms.com/form/PowerUpVBS>

ELEMENTARY SUMMER CAMP

Summer is HERE and in the midst of a busy summertime schedule be sure to consider a camp for your child to attend at beautiful **Camp Egan** located near Tahlequah, OK. Your child will enjoy hiking, swimming, recreation, crafts, small group activities, creative worship and great food! Registration can be made online at www.okcamps.org. If you would like to sponsor a child or for more information, email aimeeb@eastcross.org.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

We are happy that our **current weekday SUMMER SESSION** is being taught by seven wonderful teachers and that our three age-appropriate classes are serving 40 children who's families enrolled them into our fun, caring and loving part-time child care environment.

Plans for our **next SCHOOL-YEAR SESSION** are very good and on-going and we only have a *few and limited* openings available in our eight age-appropriate classes. We encourage families to contact us about their enrollment interest keeping in mind we *do* maintain an on-going Wait List for all of our classes!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS IN JUNE

We are happy to offer this opportunity to *add to* any child's home library or even spark their interest in a variety of early literacy during these summer months and hopefully beyond! By encouraging reading at home this summer, parents, grandparents and care givers can

celebrate and help maintain a child's new or developing skills.

During the month of June,

- ◆ We will offer the opportunity to place orders online by going to www.scholastic.com/bookclubs enter **our** specific order/class code: **H9JQC**
- ◆ Once we receive books that are ordered (in approximately ten days), we will contact the family.
- ◆ We hope to develop a partnership with adult family members and their children to help promote *daily* reading practice and a life-long culture of reading in their homes.

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

Email: ecc@eastcross.org
Phone: 918-333-3814

EAST CROSS NURSERY

It's hard to believe school's out and summer is here. I've always heard that the older you get the faster time flies. This summer get your kids outside where nature is thriving and full of hints as to who God is and what He wants us to do. 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.

The nursery is thriving with children. We continue to offer childcare for all worship services, Sunday school classes, Bible study groups, committee meetings, staff meetings and for many other

church activities. We have two priorities: teaching your child the love of Christ and keeping your child safe.

We are in need of Nursery workers so if you have a love for children and are interested in working in the nursery on an ongoing basis please stop by the office and pick up an application. This is a paid position. Experience working with children and CPR certified is a plus.

*Liz VanDeVenter,
Childcare/Nursery Director*

Tips from Liz and Coleen...

We felt sharing the following information may be helpful to all families whether using childcare inside or outside of our weekday program. Consider these suggestions whenever it is necessary to leave your child(ren) in the care of those that you trust... whether that is with grandparents, a babysitter, our weekday classes **or our Sunday morning nurseries.**

A NOTE ABOUT SAYING GOODBYE TO YOUR CHILD...

We hope you know that every caregiver is doing *everything* they can to make this time of transition as easy as possible for *each and every child!* It is perfectly normal for children to be *slightly* apprehensive about their class (or left with others in a new situation) at first, no matter what their age. Sometimes it may even be difficult for them to *physically separate* from you and come into the room. Tears are quite normal and are expected!



We have a few suggestions to make this adjustment go as easy as possible for ALL involved – the child, the parent/adult, and the classroom teachers:

- ◆ **A brief and friendly** visit with a teacher *assures your child* you are leaving them in a good, fun, and safe place to be.
- ◆ **Always saying goodbye** with a hug and a SMILE shows your child you are comfortable with leaving. Even if you feel sad or apprehensive, **your child needs to see you are confident in your choice.**
- ◆ Remind your child you WILL be back soon...such as: “*after your nap*”; “*when you’re on the playground after naptime*”; “*after church is done*” etc.
- ◆ **Once you say goodbye, LEAVE! Yes, even if your child is crying!** Staying around, especially in the line of sight, for an extended time only *delays the adjustment for your child and perhaps other children.* Please know, going back in to comfort them will make this (*and all future, trust us*) separation times more difficult – this is based on many years of experience! Teachers/caregivers *will hold and comfort* your child, then help them get involved in age-appropriate activities. Yes, it can be *more* upsetting and confusing for them to suddenly see you *not* around, so please let your child SEE you leave *and* return at pick-up time. Do not “sneak out!” **They WILL soon learn you are always coming back!**
- ◆ **TRUST the teachers / caregivers!** Give them the opportunity to earn the child’s trust too.
- ◆ If you are ever needed, the contact information you provide will be used to communicate with you.
- ◆ **Be very positive when you talk about their time in this setting** (talk about their new friends, their teachers, activities they did, etc.)

We know this can be a little bittersweet, but this is truly a real step of independence for your child. We are looking forward to great times with you and your little one!

June Outreach News

GENEROSITY BOXES

For the month of June 2019, **CONCERN CENTER PANTRY** will be our mission for the **GENEROSITY BOXES!** During a recent conversation with the director of the Concern Center Pantry, she said they have several needs at this time. Besides needing the following personal care items such as:

BAR SOAP, TOOTHBRUSHES, TOOTHPASTE

they are also in need of these food items:

POWDERED MILK and **CANNED MEATS!**

Would you grab a few of these items during one of your shopping trips and place them in our **GENEROSITY BOXES** located at each entrance to our church? Many in our community are in need at this time.

VIM (Volunteers In Mission) COSTA RICA



The trip is getting closer // July 6-13! Any of us that are not taking this trip can still be involved—yes we can pray for our team and recipients and also help with finances for our crew and by purchasing rice bags at only \$12.00 each (you can decorate or let the children at VBS decorate for you). These purchased bags are taken with the team and filled with rice, beans, etc. to be given to residents there. Such a blessing to be able to help with such a good mission.

New Day Camp

Have you said prayers for this ministry for children with an incarcerated parent? These children are victims and not having done anything wrong themselves must be heartbreaking for them. Please remember to pray for this important mission.

MUTUAL Girls

Lots of activity going on. New programs being offered and plans for more new programs in the works for next year. The program has a full quota for the Summer program. Another school would like to start a program. Please continue to pray as the staff continues to work with the community on partnerships and provide needed programs.

Tuesday House volunteers continue to work diligently to process items that you and others have donated. If you have a spare hour or more a week, please come and volunteer. You can volunteer Monday and Wednesday 9am-12pm, or a portion of that time, or on Tuesday between 8am-4pm, or a portion of the day. We are growing and need your help.

OSU students presented their suggestions for improving your shopping experience at Tuesday House and more efficient ideas for safety of the volunteers. They did a great job and YES we heard them. A committee has been formed to make improvements to Tuesday House and the annex (former MUTUAL building). They are working feverishly and plan to present a recommendation in June. Please pray for this committee as this is a huge task and commitment.

Vacation Bible School—June 10-13

Vacation Bible School is always a fun learning time for all. Have you volunteered to help? This is a big undertaking and lots of help is needed. Contact Aimee at church and see what area might be a good fit for you.

Remember we are learning to follow Jesus, and inviting others to join the journey. Prayers are answered!!! Thank you all and God Bless until next month.

Thank you

Dear East Cross Methodist Church,

How much I thank you for your prayers and love, calls and visits, and your special thoughts with the beautiful flowers! The pretty “pinks” are still on the bookcase reminding me of how others share in “scary” times in their life. Love and appreciation to the lady who brought the flowers. I’m sorry I was out of my room and didn’t get to visit with her. Also, I am really pleased that Becky Bryant

is coming to my room to visit and serve communion! This is very meaningful to me! Hopefully one of these weekends I can come to Sunday worship. I miss it! Sincerely yours, *Emma Lou Cox*

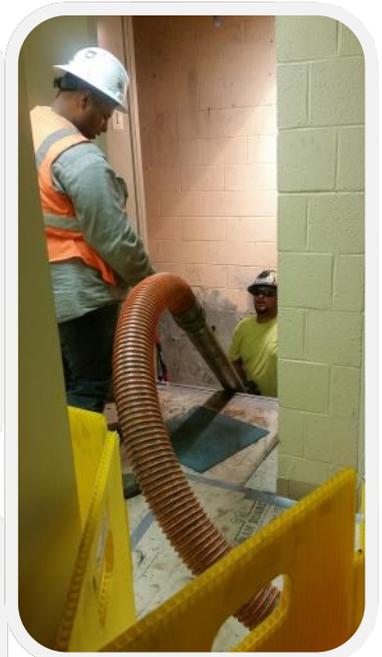
East Cross United Methodist Church,

This past year was full of blessings on our campus. Our work would not be possible without your generosity. Your financial contributions have helped Oklahoma City University develop servant leaders for the transformation of the world. *University—Church Relations*

“Thank you for your generous contribution to Oklahoma City University. The Wesley Center has had such a huge impact on my college career! Thank you, Ashely Freeman”

UPDATE ON ELEVATOR REPAIR

The familiar “Out of Order” sign may soon be gone!
A crew has extracted water from the elevator shaft so that work can continue on a replacement elevator.



ELEVATOR IS
OUT OF
ORDER

PRAYER LIST

Alan Beckworth (Diana Trammel's cousin), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughter), Kathy Christian, 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), Summer Flenniken (Diana Trammel's granddaughter), Marcia Goode, Janice and Bruce Holt (Emmalene Lennon's daughter and son-in-law), Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Mike and Ronda Paxon (Coleen Williams' brother-in-law and sister), Marie Puckett, Jack Randall, Deb Richardson, Spence Rigdon, Susan Shoemaker (Larry and Linda Shoemaker's daughter), Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Greg Spears (Charlene's son), Kermit Tanzey, Joyce Taylor, Jan Waldorf, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Michele Willoughby, Keith Wyrick (Erville Orndorff's nephew), Allie Zoldoske

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

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



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 Boulevard Diner on Saturday, June 1 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
		June 2019				1 8a Men's Breakfast at Boulevard Diner CIA @ Sunfest
2 <i>Communion</i>	3 9:30a ECC Summer Session Begins 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	4	5	6	7 6p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	8
9 <i>Pentecost Promotion Sunday</i> 5p PG Small Group	10	Vacation Bible School // K-5th Grade // 6:00-8:15pm			14 7p Church Bridge	15
16 <i>Father's Day</i>	17 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	CAMP EGAN — YOUTH SUMMER CAMP			21	22
23 5p PG Small Group	24	CAMP EGAN — ELEMENTARY SUMMER CAMPS 3rd—5th Grades // Growin' In Grace M-W 6th Grade Camp M-F			28	29 Camp Egan Sonshine Camp 1st-2nd Grades thru 6-30
30 5p PG Small Group		25	26	27		

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

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

Monday

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

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
6:30pm Praise Band Practice
(June 19 and 26)
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir
(June 5 only)

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

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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



East Cross Early Childhood Center's Parents Day Out and Preschool Classes—May 2019

68 Children; 67 Families Served; 16 Staff/Teachers