

Volume 25, Number 7  
July 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  
Saturday,  
July 20th.

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



# THE FAITH WE SING

## Current Sermon Series

July 7  
***“Jesus Loves Me”***  
John 3:16-17  
Communion

July 14  
***“Here I Am Lord”***  
Isaiah 6:1-13

July 21  
***“When We All Get to Heaven”***  
John 14

July 28  
***“Amazing Grace”***  
Ephesians 2:1-10

## Another step in our journey...

I was looking back at our first year at East Cross and noticed that during that year we finished the flood wall and completed the repairs of the damage caused by the flood the previous year. During that time all of our downstairs rooms were remodeled and to this day, with the exception of the gym flooring, is still very nice.

When we finished the downstairs, we felt the need to be better stewards of the money given, so we moved all the offices into one wing, under one set of air conditioners and heaters, moved the library, and totally remodeled the chapel, parlor, and bride's room to be more flexible. These rooms which were seldom used became our most used rooms

in the building, again under the same a/c-heat as the offices. We have seated over 100 people in the revived chapel since it was remodeled. What a wonderful, beautiful, usable space it has become.

Our major remodel of the Narthex, Children's area and sanctuary was next and has become a major source of excitement as we move forward, following Christ and reaching out to others. I love the building changes that have modernized our worship and teaching areas to help us be more effective to younger generations. We have also done some remodeling of individual rooms on the third floor where our adult Sunday School Classes meet.

There has been a lot of change so we, East Cross, can continue to be the church it was intended to be since its inception, for the last 70+ years.

THANK YOU to all who have been so faithful in your giving of yourselves so we can continue to worship God and serve others as a church community. Thank you leaders for your help so that we have such beautiful, usable spaces for worship and learning.

I'm proud to be a part of the East Cross family for over eight years as we continue to move forward and learn more about how to follow Jesus, and invite others to join the journey.

*Pastor Jeff*

## Contemporary Worship

I want to take the time to thank our church for all the support and encouragement they give my family and me. We always seem to keep ourselves busy, and the beginning of this year has been no different. My wife, Hannah, recently graduated from OKWU with her master's degree in Educational Leadership, and will begin her new role in August as a Title I teacher at Ranch Heights Elementary after teaching 3rd grade there for the past five years. I am also

finishing my master's degree in Educational Leadership, will graduate in August, and will begin a new position in July as our school district's Secondary Technology Integration Specialist after spending six years teaching 9th grade social studies. As all of you know, going through change can be stressful, but encouragement from friends and family make it so much easier! I want to thank each of you that have stopped to encourage or congratulate my wife and me over the past

few months. You may not have known it, but often times you were just what we needed in our time of change and stress, and we both appreciate that so much! We are looking forward to the new, and thanking the Lord for the people of East Cross that have supported us on our journey!

God Bless,

*Zack Michel,*  
**Contemporary Worship**

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

I have been waiting for the month of July to get here since January. It is not because of the hot temperatures or because of the increased frequency of the Ice Cream Truck on my street, it is because it is time to go to Costa Rica to share God's love with Rice and Beans Ministry. I first went to Costa Rica two years ago with many wonderful people from East Cross and the whole experience was amazing!

Sure I was tired and sore at the end of each day, but somehow I had enough energy to dance to silly VBS songs in the morning and to keep moving up and down the hills carrying bags of food in the afternoon. It was an experience that I will always treasure and now it is time to do it again.

I have no idea what exactly we will be doing or where in the beauty of Costa Rica we will be

doing it. But what I do know is that this mission trip has been, and will continue to be, covered in prayer and that God will be our guide as we seek to share God's love! However, now comes the hardest part...the final countdown...waiting for July 6 to get here.

Blessings!

*Pastor Chad*

## ***Traditional Worship***

Many of you know I grew up in Checotah, OK in McIntosh County. My husband says famous country singer Carrie Underwood is the second best singer in McIntosh County—me being the first, of course. That's a funny joke in our family since my only connection to Carrie Underwood was having her mom as my fourth grade teacher in elementary school! Growing up in small town Checotah with one stop-light back then, was a joy and certainly is a huge part of me. My parents owned a grocery store when I was quite young. I would ride my bike to the store on Saturdays and work all kinds of jobs. At only 12 years-old, I

was sacking groceries for customers, cleaning out and organizing the freezer cases, stocking shelves, and even making brisket sandwiches in the meat department. I often think about how much working in that grocery store taught me. At a young age, I was developing communication skills, responsibility, and the sincere value of hard work! Not to mention, I know tons of old country songs that played over and over again on KVOO radio while I was working! At 16, I was asked to be the pianist for the Checotah United Methodist Church! The opportunity to accompany the choir and provide music for the services made me the musician I am today! The people of that

church encouraged me and lifted me up throughout my high school and college years!

When Brad and I moved to Bartlesville, we visited East Cross and immediately felt at home. So many things reminded me of the Checotah UMC. We have the most amazing people at East Cross! There is a friendship and a love that permeates the air the minute you walk in the doors. Thank you for always making our family feel at home and allowing this little McIntosh County girl to serve as your traditional music director.

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

# The Journey Continues...

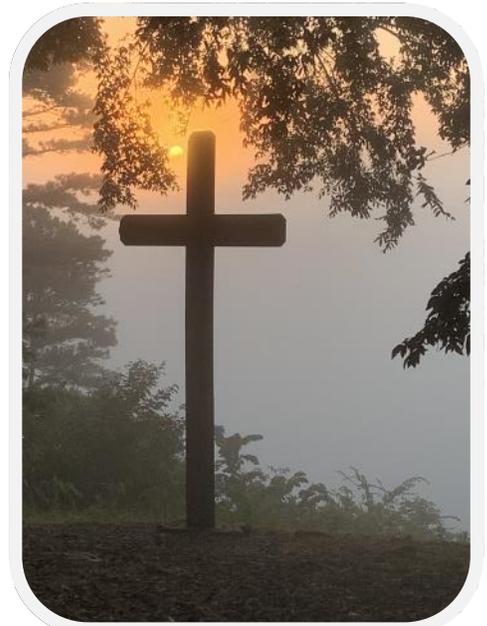
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## Student Ministry

As the youth of today say, "Camp Was LIT!" While the 2019 Green Country District Camp at Camp Egan might be complete, I know that the presence of God that was so mightily felt at camp will continue to guide our students who went. East Cross took twelve campers this year: Lily Bloom, Caden Carr, Alex Cary, Jared Cluen, Jasmine Cluen, Ben Colliver, Briley Davis, Angel Gaines, Carinna Marling, Riley Perceful, Macie Schaper, and Lily Weimer. Thank you to all of our East Cross family for supporting our kids by praying for

them, writing encouragement cards and your financial support. Let the countdown begin until we get to do it again—Camp 2020!

Blessings! *Chad*



— YOUTH —  
CAMP EGAN 2019



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**O**ur family came to East Cross UMC in the early '90's and became members on February 14, 1994; yes, it is a date that has stuck in my memory. I have been part of a wide variety of ministries within our church....beginning as an Extended Sunday School teacher; United Methodist Women (UMW); many years of Vacation Bible School leadership, and Nursery Director. I have been part of the Early Childhood Center since 2000 first as a substitute classroom teacher, then as its Assistant Director, and now its Director since November 2002. Most recently I have added a Tuesday morning Bible-based

small group with some wonderful amazing women!

Personally, my husband, Ron, and I are now the typical "empty nesters" and our two adult sons live in the NE Oklahoma area. Our eldest son is engaged to be married next year, and, both sons, we are very proud to say, are happy in their career choices and are very viable, thriving and successful young millennials!

More and more I enjoy and tend to relish the warmer weather months, sitting on our backyard patio surrounded by all kinds of plants, flowers and even a small raised garden. We still "parent" our pets (two dogs and two

cats) and have recently begun participating in various trips together while sometimes inviting and including family members to join us...several Hawaii trips and soon to Alaska as well!

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

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**Phone:** 918-333-3814



## EAST CROSS NURSERY

**H**appy 4<sup>th</sup> of July! Hope everyone is having a great summer. God has sure blessed me this summer. My daughter Katy who lives in Salt Lake City, Utah is home for a few days over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. My daughter Kelly and her husband, Austin, moved to Norman, Oklahoma from Connecticut on July 1 and are expecting their first child in September. It's been two years since I've had both of my girls home at the same time. What a blessing it is.

Ms. Rachel has taken over for Mr. Rick teaching the 3-PreK Sunday school class. She has a lot of

fun activities planned through Bible study, games music and crafts. The kids love her and I know she's going to teach them about the love of Jesus.

I would like to welcome Ms. Joni to our staff. She is a retired teacher and I know she is going to bring a lot of great and exciting ideas to our nursery. We are very fortunate to have her.

*Liz VanDeVenter,*  
**Childcare/Nursery Director**



## EC Kids

**M**ost of you know we just had our Vacation Bible School last month. What most of you probably don't know is all of my daughters were old enough to volunteer this year. I don't know if I'll be able to truly articulate just how amazing this experience was for me, but I'm sure going to give it a try.

I've always parented with the thought that serving and helping others will help my children establish strong morals. Not only do I feel volunteering is important because it helps to better your church and community, but it also helps to better you as an individual. And the best part is that you get to share that positivity with those you're volunteering with – in this case my own children.

Putting my girls in leadership roles, although confirmed what I had already expected, allowed me to see a small glimpse into their futures. One for sure will be in charge of a company as she has no qualms with telling people what to do. One will be more of a second-in-command type as she doesn't necessarily want to be the one giving orders, but she'll sure call you out if you aren't following the rules. And the last certainly is a humanitarian in all regards. If you've spent any time at all with my children, I'm sure you can figure out which is which.

There was just something about standing back and watching my children lead that gave me chills and put a song in my heart. And East Cross has played a major part in that. Through this church and the volunteers that have poured into their lives over the years, they have gained confidence, compassion, communication skills, a sense of belonging, friendships and leadership skills. They can lead well because someone first led them.

So I want to personally thank everyone who has touched my children's lives in some way past and present through volunteering at East Cross. I would also like to thank everyone who took time out of their lives to volunteer during VBS last month. You may not have realized it, but as you were playing and having fun, you were also showing our kids what it means to lead. You were showing them compassion. You gave them a place to belong, if only for a few days. Because of you, our children and youth have gained and will continue to gain so much. Thank you for not only investing in my own children, but every child that walks in this church!

*Aimee Hall, Director of  
Children's Ministries*



## EC Kids ~~→~~ Activities in July

### CIA (Christians in Action) — Lighthouse

On Thursday, July 11 we will head to the Lighthouse Outreach Center to serve a hot dinner to those in need! Drop off your CIA student at East Cross no later than 4:45pm so we can load up and arrive a little before 5pm (dinner needs to start promptly at 5pm!).

We will help serve pizza, salad and cookies, we will bus tables and clear finished plates/cups, and we will mingle with our dinner guests!



### CIA Super Summer Service Day!

It's time once again for our annual CIA Super Summer Service Day!!! We'll meet at 9:30am at East Cross on July 16 for a FULL day of service and fun! Check your email for more information!

*CIA is for students who just finished 2-5th grade. That's right, if you have a student ENTERING 2nd grade in August, this applies to them! We will be welcoming all new 2nd graders for our Lighthouse and Super Summer Service Day mission trips!*



### EC Kids Family Field Trip

EC Kids mark your calendar for Saturday, July 27 for a fun summer field trip! We are heading to the Gathering Place for a full day of FUN! We will meet at East Cross a little before 9:30am and will be back at 3:30pm. Check out our Facebook event or check your email for more information!

*Due to the busyness of the park, and since it's a family field trip, we are requesting that at least one adult from your family accompany your child(ren).*



## July Outreach News

### GENEROSITY BOXES

For July 2019 the donations in our GENEROSITY BOXES will go to the LIGHTHOUSE OUTREACH CENTER. They are looking forward to EAST CROSS helping with their current needs. It is a **true blessing** for each of us to be able to help and to give to their clients. At this time they are in need of the following items:

**Paper towels and napkins**  
**Cream of mushroom / Cream of chicken soup**  
**Ladies and Men's Razors, Shaving Cream**  
**and Pillow Cases!**

Could you pick up a few of these items and drop them into one of the boxes located at each entrance to our church? You have no idea how much even a couple of these items lifts the clients self-worth to realize someone cares enough to provide for them!!!

### VIM (Volunteers In Mission) to COSTA RICA

The trip is getting closer — July 6-13! Please continue to pray for this mission and for those attending from East Cross: Carinna Marling, Megan Kirchner, Donna Jo Guilfoyle, Jill Weimer, Lilly Weimer, Hadley Davis, Bruce Potter, Bill Amburn, Jeretta Amburn, Riley Perceful and Pastor Chad Perceful.

Rice and Beans bags have been purchased and decorated but you can still donate funds for additional bags for \$12.00 each. The bags will be filled with rice and beans and delivered to local residents of Costa Rica during the mission trip.



### MUTUAL Girls

Staff remains busy while starting new projects and programs. Please pray for them and the girls.



### Tuesday House

HELP!!! Yes, we need help. If you can volunteer any amount of time, please come join us. Please continue to spread the word that Tuesday House is alive and well. We appreciate donations and our faithful shoppers.

### Vacation Bible School

Another success story for this year. Things went smoothly and lots of God's blessings were seen.

We continue to learn to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey. Continue to pray, pray, pray. There are so many bad things going on we need to be diligent in doing our part. Blessings abound. Prayers are answered. Thank you and God Bless till next month.

### **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED** **"CREATE FOR MISSIONS"**

**Friday, July 12 9:30am-2:00pm**  
**First Presbyterian Church 505 S Dewey**

Sewers, pinnars, cutters needed to make lap quilts, pillows, bibs for nursing homes and senior centers. Bring fabric scissors, rotary cutters and sewing machines if you have them.

\$5.00 for lunch

*Thank  
you*

Dear East Cross Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the love and support over the years. Also another huge thank you for the scholarship I received on Graduation Sunday.

Sincerely, *Madison Finton*

East Cross United Methodist Church,

Thank you for giving me money for my basketball camp. I really appreciate it a lot. We played a total of 12 games and won 11 of those twelve. We ended up losing in the championship but thank you so much. I plan on coming to see you all at church in the future. Sincerely, *Antonio Pierce*

Dear East Cross UMC,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, I would like to express our gratitude for your donation from your Chili Cook-off. Your generous gift enables us to continue to provide hope and support to children and families impacted by abuse. Each year, the demand for our services increases – and this is why your donation means so much to us. Warmest regards, *Rhonda Huson, Executive Director, Ray of Hope Advocacy Center, Inc.*

Dear East Cross,

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, gift, flowers, cards, phone calls and the nice visit while at Adams Park recovering from my back surgery. My friends and church family are super nice. *Colleen Oldfather*

East Cross Family,

Huge thank you to the wonderful group that helped unload Tania's moving truck in Bartlesville. Thank you!  
*Nita Kidd Wakeley and Tania Kidd*



### **Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!**

Thank you for your patience while the elevator was out of service and for all the monetary contributions to help get it back into service. We know it wasn't easy "doing church" without the elevator. Especially when it took longer than we had hoped to get it repaired.

A special thank you to the adult classes who graciously accepted alternate arrangements each Sunday morning. Thank you to all who had to take the extra steps to get to their class room and to those who prepared meals for various events and needed to use the stairs getting to and from. Having to replace the freezer, dish washer and elevator in the last seven months has been a challenge, but our people have responded wonderfully and we praise God for your patience and understanding.

*East Cross Board of Trustees*

*Pictured...*

Joe and Kenny from Schindler Elevator of Tulsa completed the installation of the new elevator.

## PRAYER LIST

### New Request....

Linda Harjo, Kaitlynn Thompson  
(Ms. Ingrid, Nursery Staff)

Alan Beckworth (Diana Trammel's cousin), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughter), Kathy Christian, Summer Flenniken (Diana Trammel's granddaughter), Marcia Goode, Bruce Holt (Emmalene Lennon's son-in-law), Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Ronda Paxson (Coleen Williams' sister), 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), Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Michele Willoughby, Allie Zoldoske

### Condolences to...

Coleen and Ron Williams on the death of brother-in-law, Mike Paxson.

Jack and MaryAnn Clark on the death of their sister-in-law, Pauline Clark.

Emmelene Lennon on the death of her daughter, Janis Holt.

Family and friends on the death of Alice Reinecke on June 17.

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](mailto:chasleanne@gmail.com) or 918-327-1226.

**All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Midway Café on Saturday, July 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](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 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	2	3	4 <i>Independence Day</i> Church Office Closed	5 6p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	6 8a Men's Breakfast at Midway Cafe
7 <i>Communion</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
Volunteers in Action (VIM) - Costa Rica Mission Trip						
	6:30p Young Adults			5p CIA— Lighthouse	7p Church Bridge	
14 5p PG Small Group	15 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	16 9a CIA— Super Service Day 6p Piecemaker Quilters	17	18	19	20 10a S.A.L.T. Fellowship Trip
21	22 6:30p Young Adults	23	24	25	26	27 9:30a EC Kids Family Field Trip
28 5p PG Small Group	29	30	31	<i>July 2019</i>		

**Weekly Activities at East Cross**

**Sunday**

8:30am  
9:45am  
11:00am  
11:15am  
12:00pm

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

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

4:00pm

Prayer Group

**Wednesday**

6:30pm

Praise Band Practice

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**



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Chad Perceful  
*Pastor*

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Aimee Hall

*Director of Children's Ministries*  
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*Ministerial Coordinator*  
Linda Thornton

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Coleen Williams

*Early Childhood Center Director*  
Liz VanDeVenter

*Nursery and Childcare Director*  
Margie Green

*Traditional Worship Director*  
Jan Watt, *Pianist*

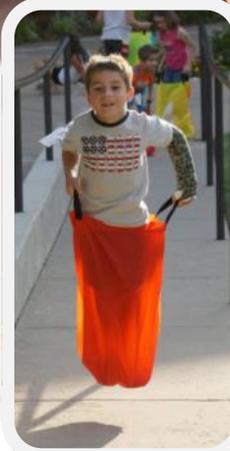
Zack Michel

*Contemporary Worship Director*  
Charles Binau

*Coordinator Audio Equipment/Volunteers*  
Jon Colliver

*Building & Maintenance Coordinator*

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



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL — POWER UP!**