

Volume 24, Number 3
March 1st, 2018

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



east cross



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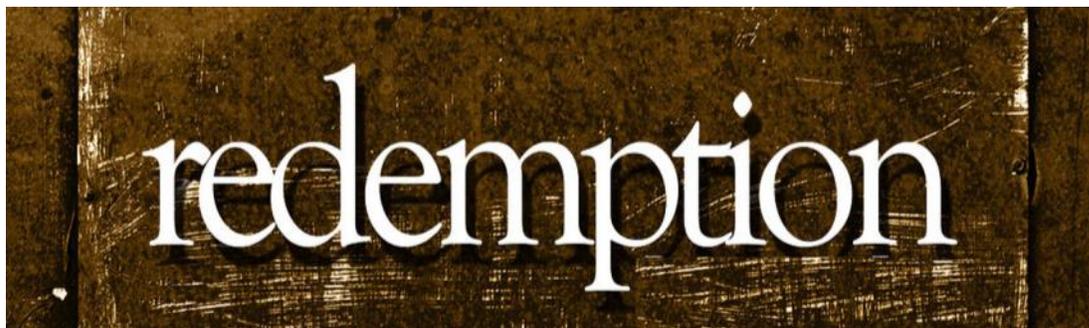
Early Childhood
Center: 918-333-3814

www.eastcross.org



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

Email articles to
office@eastcross.org



March 4

3rd Sunday in Lent
Communion
Sermon: The Rescue
Genesis 14:1-16

March 11

4th Sunday in Lent
Sermon: Out of Egypt
Exodus 12

March 18

5th Sunday in Lent
*Sermon: The Unfamily
Becomes Family*
Ruth 4:13-17

March 25

Palm Sunday
6th Sunday in Lent
*Sermon: The Thief
and the Garden*
Luke 23:32-43

EASTER SUNDAY April 1

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

*Communion will be
served at all services*



Holy Week Services

March 29 7:00pm

Holy Thursday
Traditional Music
Communion

March 30 7:00pm

Good Friday
Contemporary Music
A Service of Tenebrae

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

Another step in our journey...

The Lenten Season

Some Lenten observances border on works-righteousness, like giving up something we cherish for the weeks before Easter. We recognize our sinfulness and need for redemption, but we have a tendency to emphasize our own efforts at self-improvement and can unwittingly de-emphasize grace. While I'm a good Wesleyan and believe wholeheartedly in working out my salvation with fear and trembling, I also understand all my work and effort as a response to grace, not a way to earn grace. Redemption is God's doing, so leading up to our remembrance of the cross and the glorious resurrection of

Jesus, we want to refocus on the story of redemption found throughout the narrative of Scripture. God's story is a story of redemption, unfolding in lives, families, and nations through the ages.

Origins of the concept of redemption can be traced to the ancient culture in which God's self-revelation initially unfolded. This was a patriarchal culture centered on the extended family. In this tribal society, persons finding themselves on the margins through poverty or enslaved by enemies could be restored to the family and the resulting security of their place within the family by the patriarch. He would mobilize his resources to rescue the lost family member and restore them to their rightful

family status. The narrative of redemption is brought to its climax in the New Testament through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Yahweh is presenting himself as the patriarch of the clan who has announced his intent to redeem his lost family members. Not only has he agreed to pay whatever ransom is required, but he has sent the most cherished member of his household to accomplish his intent—his firstborn son. Through God's action we are rescued and made co-heirs with God's Son. What a story! And, it's unfolding still, as we join God in his mission of rescue and redemption until the fullness of the Creation is renewed.

Pastor Jeff

Traditional Worship

Don't you just love the hymns that tell the "old redemption story"? Over the next several weeks, Pastor Jeff and Pastor Chad will be taking us through familiar stories in a sermon series about redemption. Like these old stories, so many of our beloved hymns speak about redemption in their timeless lyrics. We can hold these melodies and words in our heart as our Blessed Assurance that we have been purchased by "His redeeming blood."

The song What Wondrous Love is This sings, "...to lay aside His crown for my soul." One of my favorites, Victory in Jesus, sings, "He sought me and He bought me, with His redeeming love." Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It sings, "...Redeemed, redeemed His child and forever I am."

These are only a few of the great redemption songs of Amazing Grace. Do you have a favorite?

As we journey together through the Lenten season, my hope is that the stories and the songs help you to draw nearer "to the cross where Thou hast died" in the ultimate price of redemption and grace.

"How wonderful, how marvelous and my song should ever be. How wonderful, how marvelous is my Savior's love for me!"

*Margie Green,
Traditional Worship Director*

From Pastor Chad...

As we approach the Easter celebration, we continue to focus on gaining a better understanding of redemption. We often speak of being redeemed people because of the work of Jesus on the cross and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. It was over the course of those three days that Jesus paid the price and redeemed us, so that we might have the privilege to be called the children of God. If God has done the work of redemption, so then what is our response?

God is a God
of love, one
who is ready
and willing to
forgive and
accept you
as you are.

Last year I had the opportunity to hear Christian recording artist Zach Williams live at a conference I was attending in Florida. While I had heard, and even sung, some of his songs before, it wasn't until I heard him live that his music took on a whole new depth. One song in

particular, *To The Table*, is one that just left me in awe. It wasn't the soulful sound of his voice or the strumming of the guitar that got me, but it was the message of the song. The song starts out like this:

*Hear the voice of love that's
calling
There's a chair that waits for you
And a Friend who understands
Everything you're going through*

*But you keep standing at a
distance
In the shadow of your shame
There's a light of hope that's
shining
Won't you come and take your
place*

*And bring it all to the table
There's nothing He ain't seen
before
For all your fear, all your sorrow
and your sadness
There's a Savior and He calls
Bring it all to the table*

The message of this song is that God is a God of love, one who is ready and willing to forgive and accept you as you are. There is nothing that you have to do to earn the grace that God is ready to give, you simply have to accept it. You see church, God has done the work of redemption and now it is up to us to come to the table that God has set.

We don't have to stand in the shadows of our past any more. We don't have to let the sin of our lives weigh us down. We don't have to tremble before the fears that stop us from living. We can approach the table just as we are, baggage and all, and know that we are accepted. Church the Savior is calling—ready to redeem every part of our lives. The question is, how are you going to respond?

It is my prayer that, as we approach Easter, each of us will spend time searching our lives, identifying the parts that keep us from God and then "Bring it all to the table". How will this Easter be different for you?

By the way, if you have not heard the song *To The Table* by Zach Williams, take a moment and Google it. It will bless your day.

Blessings!

Pastor Chad

*"...bring it all to the table
There's nothing He ain't
seen before
For all your fear, all your
sorrow and your sadness
There's a Savior and He calls
Bring it all to the table"*

C3 Student Ministry

Redemption Then Growth

We just finished our Valentine's dinner and we've found ourselves entering in to the Lent season. Our students did an amazing job. They served all night long and they gave everything they had for others. I was so excited for them that it made me want to serve others as well. I keep saying this word "serve" but essentially what it means is this; We are so delighted in God that we can't help but serve others. Our

redemption is not because of the good feelings we get by serving others. It is because of our redemption that we serve. It's the reason that we love. God redeemed us.

I hope that as we approach Easter, you realize the redemption that you have. I think we tend to forget how blessed we are by the redeemer. I know I do. We, as followers of Christ, are redeemed and therefore spread the love of God our Father to others. It doesn't have to be our students reaching out to our

community. It can be all of us getting up every day and fully delighting ourselves in God; because of the extreme joy and happiness that God alone brings us, we all can't help but to serve.

I hope you enjoy a couple of these redeemed people serving and loving others. Thank you for all of your support and I look forward to seeing you all at Easter!

Evan Holmes, Director of Youth Ministries

Contemporary Worship

As a worship leader, part of my responsibility is finding new music for us to use in our services. Most of the time, I try to find music that is relevant to an upcoming sermon series or something that really reinforces or models the vision of our church. Doing this for over a year now, I have found that my daily choices of music can directly impact my heart and my attitude, especially in how I interact with others. I have long been a fan of many styles of music. Country, classic rock, and pop radio stations are all found on my radio presets, and I enjoy listening to just about any genre of music, but the days that I am actively searching for new worship music seem to also be the days that infect my heart and mind with the

fruit of God's Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It always seems that when I am slowing down and focusing on lyrics that speak the heart of God's word, my heart also opens up to receive what God wants to speak into my life. I want to encourage each of you to spend some daily time listening to worship music each day. For me, it's my morning drive to work. It's been a great way to start my day, and an opportunity to bring myself closer to the heart of my savior.

God Bless,
Zack Michel,
**Contemporary Worship
Director**

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against things like this. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the self with its passions and its desires. If we live by the Spirit, let's follow the Spirit."

Galatians 5:22-25 (CEB)

EC Kids

In the United States, the month of March ushers in the conclusion of college basketball with a massive tournament of champions that lasts four weeks. It's no wonder they've nicknamed this March Madness! It's a time of rivalries, fierce competition, and surprising upsets. You never know what might happen when you turn the game on except that peace is the last thing on anyone minds.

Isn't that true of life sometimes? We get so caught up in winning an argument or making ourselves look good that we forget that finding peace is the best solution for the situation. We hope through this basketball-themed month, we can help kids have fun while they learn about what God says about making peace a priority in their relationships.

CIA

CIA will be taking over our coffee bar on March 11! Come ready to greet, restock and clean up as we serve our church family!

GAME NIGHT

On Wednesday, March 14, drop in with some friends or make some new ones as you challenge each other at our Game Night! Bring your favorite board game, play a friend's game or choose one provided by EC Kids. You won't want to miss this fun night! (During normal Connections hours.)

EASTER EGG HUNT

Our Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday, March 25! Registration will start in the Christian Life Center at 12:15pm - right after our Contemporary

Service. We are changing things up this year, and I know the kids will LOVE what we have planned! You will not want to miss it! Children nursery age through 5th grade are welcome. Don't forget to bring your Easter baskets!

EASTER EGG DONATIONS

We are asking for help in making our annual Easter Egg Hunt the best year ever! We are in need of prefilled plastic Easter Eggs. Please make sure the candy is wrapped. 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!

*Aimee Hall, Director of
Children's Ministries*

EAST CROSS NURSERY

We've all heard the saying about the month of March: "Comes in like a Lion and goes out like a Lamb." Well, I don't know about you but I'm ready for warmer weather. While the weather may change, like it hopefully will in March, we worship a Savior who never changes: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

As Easter approaches, let's take time from our busy schedule to

think about what Easter is really about. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In this great mercy he has given us new births into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." Peter 1:3.

Our Easter egg hunt will be March 25 after last service, so have your child bring their Easter basket and be ready to have fun. We are taking donations for plastic Easter eggs and candy, so if you would like to donate you can drop

them by the nursery office.

This month the 3-PreK Sunday school class is focusing on "The Love of Christ", and how we can be kind and show God's love to our family and friends. They are also working on scripture memorization and are being encourage to bring their Bible to Sunday school.

*Liz VanDeVenter,
Nursery Director*

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

The month of March in our Early Childhood Center, provides a lot of early learning activities for the children. While each of us associated with this program feel personally lead to provide quality loving care in this Christian environment, we also feel that by being part of this ministry is an opportunity to model good Christian and Godly principles. It is a blessing to do so each and every day!

March is also when we begin enrollment for future sessions and classes—Summer Session (June 2018) and our next “School-Year” Session (August 2018—May 2019). The first two weeks in March we allow East Cross church members and those families currently in our program the opportunity to be the first to enroll their children. After our return from Spring Break on March 26, enrollment is then “open to the public.”

Preliminary Enrollment Forms

Both upcoming session’s Preliminary Enrollment Forms can be retrieved on the church website www.eastcross.org, or by contacting our ECC office directly at 918-333-3814, or email us at ecc@eastcross.org.

SUMMER Session

June 4-27

Mondays and/or Wednesdays,
9:30am—3:00pm

Cost is \$20 / day / child
Children 6 months-of-age
through entering Kindergarten
in the fall.

Enrollment Fee (*non-refundable*) is \$15 / child and is due at the time Preliminary Forms are submitted to the ECC office which reserves a spot for your child in our age-appropriate classes.

Classes fill up quickly because limited staff is available, and placement into age-appropriate classes is on a first come, first served basis. We recommend submitting our “Preliminary Enrollment Form” along with the appropriate enrollment fees as soon as possible to the ECC office.



Fall’s SCHOOL-YEAR Session

Begins Monday, August 20

Parents Day Out classes for
6 months-of-age thru 2 years-old
Mondays and/or Wednesdays
9:30am—3:00pm
1 day / week rate is \$90 / month
2 days / week is \$150 / month

Preschool classes are for children that are 3-years old and 4-years old BY September 1 of the current school year
Children attend Preschool classes on Mondays, Wednesday, and Friday
9:30am—12:00pm
Rate is \$120 / month

Extended Care option is available Mondays and/or Wednesdays 12:00pm—3:00pm for children attending our AM preschool classes; there is an additional fee of \$10 / day.

Enrollment Fees are \$35 for your 1st child, and then \$15 for additional children from the same family. These fees are non-refundable and are due at the time paperwork is submitted to reserve a spot for your child in their age-appropriate class.

We welcome new friends and families at this enrollment time of year so please feel free to contact me with any questions or to schedule a time for a tour.

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

learning to follow Jesus,
inviting others to join the journey

- 7 -

NEW SMALL GROUP

2+One 2+One 2+One
2+One 2+One 2+One
2+One 2+One 2+One

Ecclesiastes 4:12
A small group for married couples

Starting March 4!
Sunday mornings, 9:45, Room 329

First comes love, then comes marriage, then comes a small group!

2+One is a small group for married couples of East Cross. Believing that God should be the center of our marriage, we invite you to join us as we journey through life together, focusing on being the couple God intends for us to be.

We'll meet on Sunday mornings at 9:45am in room 329 for discussion and fellowship with each other; and, of course, we also have plenty of social activities planned as well!

Join us in strengthening our lives together. **2+One**: A cord of three cannot easily be broken.

March Outreach News

Big Thanks to all who give so generously to the **Generosity Boxes!** March recipient will be

Lighthouse Homeless Shelter.

Their special needs are: sheets (new or slightly used), flat blankets (no comforters), hygiene products (bar soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorant and feminine products). One client was given a bottle of mouthwash recently and declared "You just made my day". If a small item like this can be a blessing, won't you drop a few of these items in your shopping cart and place them in our Generosity Boxes? Boxes are located at each entrance of our church.

On Wednesday evening, April 18, East Cross will host the **Red Bird Cardinal singers from Kentucky.**

There will be 30 middle school and high school students and five sponsors. East Cross will need to provide one night accommodations for our guests. Please contact Vicky Beierschmitt 918-914-0271 if you can provide accommodations.

Another great successful **Chili Cook Off** is in the books. Lesli Perceful won People's Choice, Jerry Kintner won Judges Choice and Brian Davis won Best Presentation. 'Congrats!' Plenty of good food—chili and homemade noodles with trimmings, and lots of great items in the silent auction. **We raised \$2842.25 for the following organizations:**

AGAPE

This group of volunteers minister to the physical and spiritual needs who are unable to meet those needs on their own. They also

serve over 2,000 meals a month for people in need and 1400 snack items to twelve local schools while the children are in school.

Concern

Our Mountain of Food drive continues to aid families that are less fortunate. Families can receive food once a quarter and the need grows monthly.

Concern Child Learning Center

This organization continues to care for children from families that cannot afford child care and receive no financial aid.

CWU Wheels2Work

This organization is a car repair clinic. Paying a limited amount for transportation needs such as car repairs, insurance, tags and title transfers to enable people to get to work, doctor appointments or school.

ECUMC Benevolence

This is a "Pay it Forward" fund to help new residents to Bartlesville and also church members that need help for a variety of reasons. East Cross also refers people to the Samaritan Counseling.

Lighthouse

Continued support to this organization that houses and feeds the souls and tummies of the less fortunate.

MUTUAL

This ministry provides a safe environment for all girls to learn life skills and discover their God-given talents and experience the Love of Jesus.

MUTUAL Gold

A club for young girls and all-day summer program to grow in a safe learning environment. They learn to sew, cook, arts and crafts. They

play games, take field trips and just get to be a kid. They also provide the girls with homework help.

New Hope UMC

Their purpose is to reach Indian persons with the good news of Jesus Christ thru the United Methodist witness. They are very well known for their 'Wild Onion Dinners'.

Ray of Hope continues their renovation of the former Grace Epworth Church. To assist hope and healing to innocent children for allegations of sexual and physical abuse, neglect and witness to violence.

Samaritan Counseling

This organization provides affordable psychotherapy and pastoral counseling that integrates body, mind and spirit for person seeking healing.

MUTUAL Tuesday House Resale Shop

This shop continues to Grow! Through generous donations you can purchase just about anything you can possibly want or need at a great price (located at 321 South Penn) Tuesday from 8:00am to 4:00pm and Saturday 9:00am to 12:pm. Donations are accepted Monday and Wednesday 9:00am to noon, Tuesday 8:00am till 4:00pm and Saturday from 9:00am to noon. Bring us your trash and it will be someone's treasure.

A huge THANK YOU to all who participated in the Chili Cook Off as bakers, buyers, cooks, donors, eaters, setter uppers, taking downers, and all who helped in any way!!! What a great bunch of people we have at East Cross! Always willing to pitch in and participate.



Dear East Cross Church,

We so appreciated the dedicated volunteers that prepared and served a delicious lunch for our family on the day of Leon's memorial service. Your warm and comforting deed was most gracious especially on such a brutally cold day.

Sincerely, *David and Annette Brammer*

Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for your words of sympathy, your voice of concern, your gesture of caring, the delicious noon lunch and the love you offer.

Sincerely, *Erville and The Family of Jim Orndorff*

Dear Friends at East Cross,

Thanking everyone for your prayers and concerns for my daughter, Janice. She has responded to treatments very well. Janice is now on her second round of chemo and she has done very well with it. Also, thanks for your prayers for George.

Love to all, *Emmalene*

Celebration of Life

Vernon Taliaferro
Wednesday, March 14 at 2:00pm
East Cross Sanctuary

Vernon is Claudia Rolfs father
and a former member of East Cross.

East Cross Family Bereavement Meal Ministry

If you would like to serve your church family in this important ministry, please call the church office 918-333-0810 or contact Linda Shoemaker 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 to assist with hosting the day of the meal (set tables; make coffee, tea; clean up).

Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Church Women United World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 2 9:30am
Refreshments served
New Hope United Methodist Church
901 W 9th St Dewey, OK

2018 Teacher of the Year and Rising Star Teacher Nominees call East Cross home!

Warren Neff, Hannah Michel and Zack Michel were recently selected by faculty at their respective schools as nominees for District Teacher of the Year and District Rising Star Teacher.

Warren (Teacher of the Year Nominee) teaches AP Physics, Inquiry Physics, and STEM Advance Math Applications at Bartlesville High School.

Hannah (Rising Star) teaches 3rd grade at Ranch Heights Elementary, and husband, Zack (Rising Star) teaches Oklahoma History and Financial Literacy at BHS.

A public program celebrating nominees will be on Tuesday, March 27 at BHS Fine Arts Center Auditorium at 6:00pm.

Congratulations to "OUR" nominees!



**Easter Bunnies for
DHS Foster Kids
are coming...**

Be on the lookout!

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Gary Brown, Pete Bryan, Lyndell Kintner (Jerry's mother), Rita Neff, Susan Neff (Warren's sister-in-law), Tamara Rohlfing (Bonnie's daughter-in-law), Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Amy Wivel, (Becke Rake's sister)

Joe Belden (Jan Waldorf's brother), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Al Bunge, Richard Burress (Jeff's brother), Geoffery Christensen (Eileen Christensen Perrin's son), Kathy Christian, Bryant Collier, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Eddie Danford (father of Brenda Commons), Stan DeFehr, Debbie Dagenette, Marcia Goode, Jason Hall, Edna Harbison, Janice Holt (Emmalene Lennon's daughter), Gertrude Hughey, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Marie Puckett, Rita Putney (Becky Bryant's friend), Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Helen Shell, Carol Stithem, Kermit Tanzey, Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Raymond White, Terri Woods

Condolences to...

Bill and Susan Henning on the death of Bill's mother, Suzanne Henning on February 2.

George Galanis' family and friends on his death on February 7.

Dan and Sherry Williams on the death of her mother, LaWanda Hendricks on February 8.

Erville Omdorff on the death of her husband, Jim on February 11.

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

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

All persons serving in the military and their families.

Please be praying for PFC Luis Bali and family as he begins his deployment to South Korea. Please pray for SSG Jared Seat and his family as he begins his 3-year deployment to Germany without them. Separation is so hard.



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 Eggbert's on Saturday, March 3 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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	March 2018			1	2 6:30pm S.A.L.T. Fellowship	3 8a Men's Breakfast at Eggbert's
4 <i>Communion</i>	5 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	6	7 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	8 6:30p Children's Council	9 7p Church Bridge	10
11 12 Noon Church Conference 5p PG Small Group	12 6:30p Young Adults 7p Miriam Circle	13 6:30p SPRC 7p Outreach	14 Connections 5:30p Meal 6:00p Small Groups	15 9:30a Rebecca Circle	16 No ECC Classes Today	17
18 2:00p Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	SPRING BREAK—No ECC Classes					24
	19 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	20 6p Piecemaker Quilters	21 No Connections No Choir or Band practice	22	23	
25 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 12:15p Easter Egg Hunt 5p PG Small Group	26 6:30p Young Adults	27	28 No Connections	29 7p Holy Thursday Service	30 No ECC Classes 7p Good Friday Service	31

Weekly Activities at East Cross

Sunday

8:30am Traditional Worship Service
9:45am Small Groups for all ages
11:00am Contemporary Worship Service
12:00pm S.A.L.T. Lunch
5:00pm Youth (not on 3/18)

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
5:30pm Connections Meal
6:00pm Small Groups
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

Monday

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

Thursday

Friday
9:30am-12Noon Early Childhood Center

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Saturday

EAST CROSS NEWS (USPS 164-540)

Published monthly

Postmaster: Send address changes to:

East Cross United Methodist Church
820 S. Madison Blvd.
Bartlesville, OK 74006-8533

PERIODICALS U.S. POSTAGE PAID
AT BARTLESVILLE, OK 74003
USPS 164-540

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Traditional Worship Director
Pianist
Amelia Nash, *Organist*
Zack Michel
Contemporary Worship Director
Seth Weimer
Sound Tech
Jon Colliver
Building & Maintenance Coordinator

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

Children, Youth and Adults Sharing LOVE with Others

