

Volume 24, Number 9  
September 1st, 2018

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication  
of East Cross United  
Methodist Church



# east cross



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Center: 918-333-3814

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



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

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

*You're invited!*  
SEPTEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> • 5-7PM  
**FREE** Walking Tacos  
Kona Ice  
Color Cups

Invite your neighbors and friends to see the renovations inside our building and learn about ministries offered throughout East Cross all year!

**Sermon Series:  
HEALTHY HABITS**

September 2  
*The Habit of Scripture*

September 9  
*The Habit of Community*

**HEALTHY HABITS**

**Upcoming Sermon Series: GAME CHANGERS**

September 16  
*Find Rest in an Anxious World*

September 23  
*Your Body is a Temple*

September 30  
*Healthy Relationships with  
Time and Money*

October 7  
*Do Justice, Love Mercy,  
Walk Humbly*

## Another step in our journey...

### Who Are We?

Following is a letter sent from our Conference Office with information about a meeting that affects our lives as United Methodists. If several have an interest in going to OKC for this meeting several of us could go together in a church van. If several want to view this meeting via live streaming we can set up a place to do that in our church building. You can go to our website at [www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org) to access the weekly devotions mentioned in the letter below. If you are interested in participating, call the church office and let us know.

*Pastor Jeff*

### *Letter from our Conference Office...*

**Dear Oklahoma United Methodist Family,**

As many of you know, we will soon be facing an important time in the life of our United Methodist Church. On February 22-24, 2019, a special called General Conference will be held in St. Louis, MO with the purpose of discerning the direction our church will go regarding the Human Sexuality questions we have debated over many years. We encourage every United Methodist in Oklahoma to be in prayer concerning this conference. We also have available a weekly devotion (written by Oklahoma leaders) that can supplement your prayer time. Use the following links to subscribe to that resource. Here's the link to sign up for the weekly devotions: <https://okumc-reg.brtaapp.com/28WeeksActsDevotions> and the link to the archived devotions: <http://okumc-email.brtaapp.com/archivearea/329>.

We would also like to invite you to attend a presentation about the plans that are scheduled to be presented at the called General Conference. This discussion and presentation will have members of the Oklahoma delegation present as well as Bishop Nunn. This important gathering will be held on **Friday, October 5 from 2:00pm - 4:00pm at St Luke's UMC Christian Life Center (CLC) in Oklahoma City**. There will be no charge to attend, however if you plan on attending we need you to register so that we have adequate seating and handouts for all. Please use the following link to register your attendance for this meeting:

<https://okumc-reg.brtaapp.com/OklahomaDiscussionon2019GeneralConference>.

If you are not able to be present, we plan to live stream this important discussion in the life of our denomination. A link to the live stream will be provided on the conference website and sent by email to you as we get closer to the date.

We want to thank you for your prayers, concerns and continued commitment to our beloved church. As challenging as this discussion may be to some, it also offers us hope for a future that will best reflect our ongoing commitment to making disciples for the transformation of the world. We look forward to seeing many of you on October 5.

*Rev. Linda Harker, Chair Oklahoma Delegation*  
*Rev. Joseph Harris, Assistant to Bishop Nunn*  
*Dr. Don Kim, Oklahoma Delegation*

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

**O**ne of the things that the beginning of the school year does is to remind me of a fresh start. Now I know I am no longer in school and, no, I am not living through my kids, but I still find myself thinking about this every time that bell rings calling kids back to their classes. I remember back when I was in school that every year at this time I would tell myself that this year would be different. This would be the year that I would break out of my shell and really soar. This would be the year that I would finally dunk the basketball on a ten-foot goal. Then I would get to school and fall back into the same ol' routine thus letting my hopes go as unrealized as me ever dunking the basketball. This pattern continued all the way through High School and even into my college years at

Oklahoma State. I think the reason that I perpetuated this pattern was because I was focused on me and what I wanted for my life. Most of the time, I failed to involve the one person that truly had a plan for my life and could provide me the direction and resources I needed to get there—God.

I love the verse in Isaiah 43 that says, “<sup>19</sup> Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it? I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.” That was me! God was creating a fresh start for me and I failed to recognize it. Looking back, I can see sections of the “way in the desert” and the “paths in the wilderness” that God was making for me, but in the moment I could not see past Chad. For me, the problem was that I never took the time to “Look!” It was this spiritual blindness that stopped me from

truly living the fullest life that God had for me.

What about you? Do you long for God to create a fresh start in your life? Are you actively looking for God to do something new in your life? In Revelation 21:5 we see that we serve a God who reminds us, “Look! I’m making all things new.” There is that word again—look! You see church, if we desire a fresh start, then we need to fix our eyes on the very One who knows the way to restoration and fullness of life. As part of our everyday journey, we need to get in the habit of slowing down and looking for the way and the paths that God has set before us. Let God direct you to the new thing He has in store for you.

Blessings!

*Pastor Chad*

## ***Traditional Worship***

**C**ome, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout to the rock of our salvation! **2**Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him in song.... Psalm 95:1-2

After a restful summer break, the choir is back and ready to lead worship! We would love to have you join us and be a member of our fun small group! Together we

laugh a lot, encourage each other, and experience JOY in singing. Last week at our first choir rehearsal, we discussed how we are children of a singing God. The Bible says the aim of our singing is “to raise sounds of joy” (1 Chronicles 15:16). God does not expect us to have the perfect Soprano or Baritone voice, He only calls us to enter His presence and joyfully sing. Experience the JOY of

singing and join us for rehearsals on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the chapel or at 8:00am for Sunday morning traditional worship!

*I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.*

*Psalms 104:33*

*Margie Green,  
Traditional Worship*



## C3 Student Ministry

### Back to School

If you haven't noticed, school is starting back up and we have so much left to do in 2018!

Our theme word for this year is "Beyond." God can do so many things to take us beyond. I want our students to go beyond just surviving the year and to truly thrive. In order to thrive, we need to challenge ourselves and keep running the race this year. Here are some ways that we feel we can do that in C3:

1. We want our students to work through their faith by going through the "C3 process" of Creating opportunities to meet with Jesus, Connecting lives to Christ, and Commissioning themselves into the world to show the love of Christ.

2. We ask all of our students to serve. In one way or another, we

have many different opportunities to serve. Whether it's opening a door for someone at an event, or giving a devotional to their peers, it's important to learn how to lead and share our talents with others.



3. We ask our students to pray with and for each other when we meet for studies. Being a leader starts with something as simple and important as praying. We let God do all the work. We are just His instruments!

As I look at these few goals that we are striving for, I realize we all can do these things. Life doesn't just stop when we leave our

teenage years. You could say it is just beginning! God has so much in store for us, we just need to trust in Him and see the forest from the trees to see where God will take us Beyond.

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

**C3 YOUTH MINISTRY**  
6TH-12TH GRADE

**SUNDAY'S: 5PM-7PM**  
YOUTH WORSHIP,  
MESSAGE, & GAMES!

**WEDNESDAY'S:**  
5:30- FREE MEAL!  
6:00PM-7:00PM- SMALL GROUPS

Sp Adobe Spark

## Contemporary Worship

**A**s we start this new year of school and connections, it seems like everyone is settling back into the normal routine of life after summer. Several of our church members have been out on vacation and attending to activities and travel. Because of this, we try our best to make our summer worship experiences familiar and steer clear from

introducing new songs when not everyone is here to learn and enjoy them together! That being said, our worship team has been learning and practicing new songs all summer, and are very excited to start introducing them to you in our contemporary service! Last month we started doing a new song called "Heart Won't Stop" by John Mark McMillan, a fantastic worship

anthem that declares God's unwavering and ever-pursuing love for each of us. Our desire is that our new songs continue to speak God's message of love each week, and that you leave our worship services feeling loved, encouraged, and blessed!

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

## EC Kids

It's the beginning of another school year! A new classroom, new teacher, new routine, new friends - it's a lot to process for a child! Not only is there big change, but the amount of learning that happens throughout the school year is significant. When we give kids a task, they're often eager to help. But what if they learned to do tasks without being asked? What if we helped them see the needs around them and then take action? That's initiative: *seeing what needs to be done and doing it.*

That's what the theme "Dirty Jobs" is all about. After all, there are plenty of "dirty jobs" around us that need to be done—from trash cans that

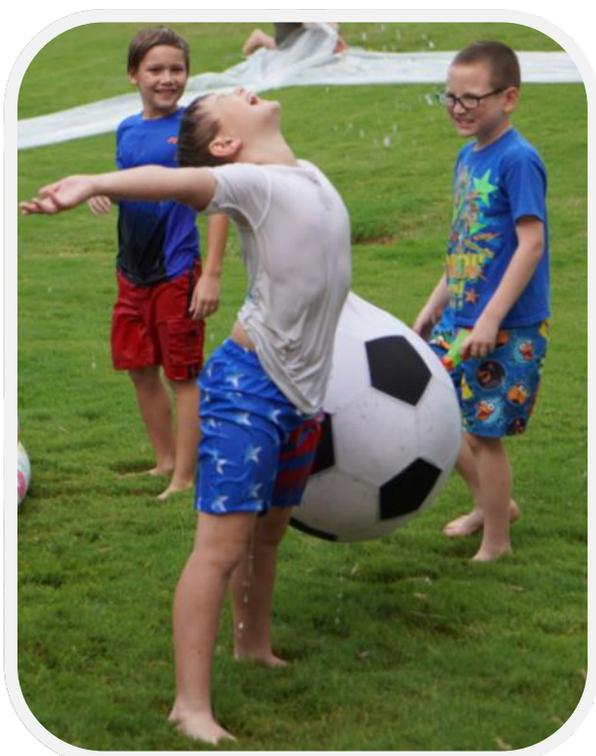


need to be emptied to clothes that need to be tossed in the hamper to making sure all the papers in backpacks get to Mom and Dad's hands.

They're all around us from school to home to the backseat of the minivan.

All month long, we'll be taking a closer look at one of the best examples of someone who showed initiative even when he didn't have to. When God saw our sin, He took initiative. He sent Jesus to make things right. When we see a need and choose to do something about it, people can see the reality of God's love for them.

*Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries*



## EC Kids Back to School Bash!



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**W**ell, we have begun the 33<sup>rd</sup> year of our “school-year” session of this ministry which provides our church family and our community a safe, loving and Christian environment for young children!

Our **Parent Day Out** classes (*6 months of age through 2 years old; Mondays, Wednesday or BOTH days, 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM*) currently have a few openings...

### **INFANT Class**

(6 months—approx. 15 months of age)  
Mondays - 3 spots available  
Wednesdays - 2 spots available

### **TODDLER Class**

(16 months—approx. 23 months of age)  
Mondays - 1 spot available  
Wednesdays - 1 spot available

### **TWO’S Class**

Sorry, **NO** spots currently available!

### **OLDER TWO’S/YOUNG THREE’S Class**

(2 years old turning 3 years old after September 1 through the end of December)  
Mondays - NO spots available!  
Wednesdays - 2 spots available

### **3-Year Old Preschool**

(3 years of age BY September 1)  
Classes meet every Monday, Wednesday and Friday; 9:30 AM – Noon with an option to stay in the afternoons until 3:00 PM.  
M, W, F—6 spots available

### **4-Year Old Preschool**

(3 years of age BY September 1)  
Classes meet every Monday, Wednesday, Friday; 9:30 AM – Noon with an optional time to stay in the afternoons until 3:00 PM.  
M, W, F—6 spots available

We DO maintain a waiting list for all of our classes the entire session, so even though our classes may fill up, there are times that we refer to this list and fill openings from it.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, East Cross Early Childhood Center staff and its church committee members along with several of the church Trustees have recently worked on MANY projects that have updated and enhanced our facilities. We are TRULY BLESSED, THANKFUL, and APPRECIATIVE for those who continue to commit to our ministry!

~ *Coleen Williams,*

**Director @ East Cross  
Early Childhood Center**

Email: [ecc@eastcross.org](mailto:ecc@eastcross.org)

Phone: 918-333-3814



## EAST CROSS NURSERY

**E**ast Cross United Methodist Church offers a safe and clean environment where children can grow spiritually, physically and emotionally. Rooms provided meet children's developmental needs with age appropriate toys and activities. Our nursery workers demonstrate a genuine

love and concern for the well being of all children which, in turn, personifies a loving and understanding God.

We believe that all children are God's greatest gift! Nursery ministry provides care to infants through PreK. We strive to help your child build trusting relationships and feel the sense

of belonging by reaching out in love and understanding.

If you are interested in on-going work opportunities or even periodically volunteering, please contact me or come see me on Sunday mornings.

*Liz VanDeVenter,*  
**Nursery Director**

## September Outreach News

### **Rice and Beans Ministry**

Fred Curry from Rice and Beans Ministry recently visited East Cross and spoke at both worship services. He gave insight to how this mission began and how far it has come to help many in Nicaragua. Fred is very passionate about his role in this mission.

Miriam Circle ladies made 34 pillowcase dresses for Fred to take back to the girls in his ministry. Miriam circle aims to make 100 dresses for next year.

Can you sew? Do you want to make a small contribution? Contact Jeretta Amburn or Debbie Potter for information. Please pray for Fred and his crew to continue making a difference.

### **Mountain of Food**

Mountain of Food is coming soon! Mark you calendar for October 14 thru November 4. Last year was the largest we have ever done in collecting food for those in need in our area so let's top that this year.

### **Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree will be here again in November and December. More info to come.

### **Kairos Prison Ministry**

We have a date for Kairos Prison Ministry...October 4-7. We will need cookie bakers and cookie baggers. Garry Gunter is the contact person for this ministry serving Connors Correctional Facility.

### **Concern Food Pantry**

Concern is doing big business. There are greater needs for more people in our community each month.

### **Tuesday House**

Tuesday House is busy, busy, busy. Volunteers are still needed! Are you lonely, bored, and have time to fill? Come join us! There is a job that can use your expertise or hobby to help support MUTUAL Girls! We are supporting over 500 girls this year. Volunteer and enjoy good fellowship and fun!

Are you part of a committee at East Cross? Come join the Outreach Committee on September 11 at 7:00pm in the Jesus Room. Get involved and be part of deserving ministries.

## Red Bird VIM Reflection

July 21—28, 2018 were the dates of the East Cross Red Bird VIM with a team of 14 missionaries working at two sites to share the love and skills which God had blessed them. Joyful and family are the two words that describe the team best. The team was always having a good time whether it was on the 16 hour bus rides or working at the two homes doing plumbing, installing a new kitchen counter and sink, sheet rocking, and painting.



One of the blessings at both sites was the opportunity to visit with the families they served and learn more about the needs of the families. Sunday was a day of worship with Bible study and worship time at a local Church. Evenings were a time the team met together to share experiences, devotional time, and prayer. Breakfast times began with a camp devotion and after breakfast it was off to

Fish Trap Road to enjoy the challenges of the day. Just ask Hadley, Corinna, or Megan about using power tools!



The team thanks East Cross for helping make this VIM happen with your prayers, financial support, and encouragement.

A special thanks goes out to Heather Davis for sending food for breakfast and lunch on Sunday and to Melda Howard who provided snacks for the trip. Also thank you to East Cross members who helped with scholarships for team members.

If you want more information just ask one of the team members. There is no doubt they would enjoy sharing the adventure God gave them. Unforgettable!

*Bill, Marty, and Jaden Wright; Hadley Davis; Jeff Burress; Julie Benyshek; Evelyn Meade; Megan Kirchner; Darrell Coe; Corinna Marling; Donna Guilfoyle; Bill and Jeretta Amburn; James Bond (member of 1<sup>st</sup> UMC Tahlequah)*





Drew and Debby Coffee joined our East Cross family on July 29 during the 8:30am service by transfer from another denomination. They are active members of the Upper Room Sunday School class. Drew is retired and is interested in bible study, Debby enjoys crafts and sewing, and they both enjoy cooking. Their address is 216 Steeper Dr. Their home phone number is 918-876-5030.



Evelyn Meade transferred her membership to East Cross from another denomination during the 8:30am service on August 12. Evelyn is on the Board of Trustees, attends all East Cross VIM trips, is knowledgeable in plumbing, helps with our Wednesday Night Connections meals, and is a member of Fellowship Sunday School class. She resides at 5532 Cornell Drive. Her phone number is 918-331-0546.

Be sure to welcome Evelyn, Drew and Debby the next time you see them!



East Cross Church,

Many thanks for your faithful support. CONCERN supports clients in so many ways: food, utility cut-off notices, prescriptions, a night's lodging for the homeless, and the essential and necessary State ID or driver's license. We could not offer so much to so many without your help.

Please express our heartfelt gratitude to your faith community.

*Kay Martin, CONCERN*

## **G**enerosity Boxes

Our local mission outreach for September is the **FOOD 4 KIDS** program!! As school is now in gear, these food packets are sent home each weekend to those in need. Your fantastic kindness in helping to meet the needs of many kids in Washington County is appreciated more than you realize! This program is in need of the following items to supplement what

they obtain from the local food bank. So while you are shopping, won't you grab a few of these items and toss them in your cart? The boxes are conveniently located at **EACH** entrance to ECUMC!

***Pudding cups – vanilla or chocolate***

***Fruit cups (no applesauce)***

***Small boxes of raisins***

***Fruit snacks – the ones with 100% fruit juice***

***Fruit juice boxes with 100% fruit juice***

## PRAYER LIST

### New Prayer Requests...

Paul Broerman, Paul Evans (Aimee Hall's dad), Don Fleming (Teresa Dietz' friend), Blaine Fraser (Bob Fraser's dad), Leslie Neff, Helen Shell

Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Kathy Christian, Joan Collins (friend of Pam Knuth), Doris and Eddie Danford (Brenda Commons' parents), Marcia Goode, Edna Harbison, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, James Kuntz, Louis and Emily Kuntz, Bob Murnan, Mike Paxson (brother-in-law of Coleen Williams), Marie Puckett, Euela Randall, Spence Rigdon, Lerene Schornick, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Glenna Wright (Steve Wright's mother), Allie Zoldoske

### Condolences to...

Darrell Coe on the death of his brother on July 28.

Harvey Smith on the death of his twin brother, Alvah Smith.

Paul and Wanda Cook, and Linda and Tim Smith, on the death of brother-in-law and uncle, Raymond Stevenson.

Family and friends of Wilma Marwil on her recent death.

Robert and Dixie Cody on the death of their daughter, Roberta "Robbi" Cody.

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

## Pray for our Military

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

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



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

**All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Painted Horse on Saturday, September 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](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
2 Communion	3 <i>Labor Day Holiday</i>  <i>Church Office Closed</i>	4	5 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	6	7  6:30p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	1 8a Men's Breakfast at Painted Horse <hr/> 8
9	10 6:30p Young Adults 7p Miriam	11 7p Outreach	12 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	13 11a Stewardship  6:30p Children's Council	14  7p Church Bridge	15
16 3p Worship Team mtg 5p PG Small Group	17 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	18 6p Piecemaker Quilters	19 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	20 9:30a Rebecca	21	22
23 3p CIA — Food 4 Kids	24 6:30p Young Adults	25	26 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	27 6:30p Church Council	28	29
30 5p PG Small Group			<b><i>September 2018</i></b>			

**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  
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

**Saturday**

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Chad Perceful  
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Margie Green  
*Traditional Worship Director*  
Jan Watt, *Pianist*  
Zack Michel  
*Contemporary Worship Director*  
Jon Colliver  
*Building & Maintenance Coordinator*  
Crystal McCollam, *Custodian*

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

## VIM Mission Trip to Red Bird, Kentucky *(see related article on page 8)*



VIM team members had the opportunity to visit with families they served and learned more about their needs.