

Volume 25, Number 9
September 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
Friday,
September 20th.

Email articles to
office@eastcross.org

Sermon Series: **LETTER FROM A PASTOR**



September 1
10:00am One Blended Service
"Jesus Is Like Us"
Hebrews 1:1-3:6
Communion

September 8
"Once and for All"
Hebrews 7:1-10:18

September 15
"Encourage One Another"
Hebrews 10:19-39; 13:1-2

September 22
"Faith of Our Fathers and Mothers"
Hebrews 11:1-40

September 29
"The Great Cloud of Witnesses"
Hebrews 12:1-17



Another step in our journey...

WE HAVE A YOUTH PASTOR

I am so proud to introduce to you our 'new' Youth Pastor, Chad Perceful.

Chad has been leading our youth program since January and in our searching and my prayers for God's direction, I kept coming back to Chad as the best possible choice for us at this time. We interviewed qualified candidates, but felt that God was leading us back to Chad each time. When I approached Chad, he had been in prayer and after further prayer we feel this is the right

decision for East Cross, the youth program and Chad.

Chad has served East Cross for over 13 years and will continue to be our Associate Pastor. His main focus will be Youth and Evangelism. I hope when you see him you will congratulate him on this new venture and find a way to support our youth program. The youth program is rebuilding right now and has some of the strongest young people coming into the program that I've seen for years in any

church I've served. Thank you Aimee and all those who work with our children for your work in helping these young people mature spiritually and get ready for leadership in this, the next step of their journey.

I thank God for leading us and changing us as we move forward to follow Jesus, and invite others to join the journey.

Pastor Jeff

Traditional Worship

In a past newsletter, Pastor Chad wrote about making a sincere effort to see the joy around him each day. His challenge really hit me about how we can focus on all the negative things around us and miss the small things that make us smile and bring true joy!

The choir is back from our summer break and we want to spread joy through our singing in morning worship! We will be focusing on songs of praise for a few weeks! Lifting praises through song connects our

hearts in worship and allows us to have a sweet conversation with the Lord! There is so much joy in praising our God!

I hope you can see the joys all around! What things have given you joy today? In the coming days, I challenge you to find joy around you. Sometimes we have to purposefully look for it when it gets covered up by ugly things in the world, but I promise it is there! There's an awesome quote that says, "When joy is a habit, love is a reflex!" God gives us joys to

remind us He is with us! When you find the joys, make sure you give Him praise!

Margie Green,

Traditional Worship

*"My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you!"
Psalm 71:23*

From Pastor Chad...

Isiah 43:19 (CEB) begins like this: “Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it?” This verse has been on my heart for almost a year as I have been praying for God to reveal the new thing that He is doing in my life and in the life of East Cross. And I will tell you that I finally know what the new thing is for me... I am now the Youth Pastor here at East Cross. I am still appointed as the Associate Pastor by the conference, but my role has changed and some of the things that I have been doing have been shared with others. My main focus now will be ministering to and with the youth of this church and the community. I am excited to see what God has in store for our students. We have a great

group of young people that are ready to grow in Christ, are already inviting others and have a passion to share God’s love through service.

As I embark on this new role, I will be honest with you and tell you that I need some help. First of all, I would ask for your prayers for the students, and for myself, that God might lead us where we need to be. Secondly, I would ask for your continued service to and with our youth. There are lots of ways in which you can serve our students: provide a meal on Sunday nights, serve as a small group leader, serve as a Sunday night assistant, help with events both away from and here at the church, and even open up your home for an event such as a small group host night. The

third way that you can help is by simply engaging our youth through conversation to let them know that East Cross truly cares for them as they take this spiritual journey—share a smile, say hello, ask how school is going.

As I said before, I am excited to be a part of this new thing that God is doing here at East Cross and in my life. It is something new and unfamiliar, but, with God’s help and guidance, the lives of our students will be impacted as they learn to follow Jesus and invite others on the journey.

Blessings to you all,

Chad
(the Youth Guy)

Contemporary Worship

Pastor Chad brought a great message last month on discovering and using our spiritual gifts! The Lord has blessed many of you with the gifts of discernment, teaching, leadership, serving, etc. that are not meant to be hoarded or squandered! God desires that we use our gifts to spread His good news and gift of salvation to the world. I have the incredible opportunity to lead a group of people each week that share their gifts selflessly by leading our congregation in worship. If you feel

that God has given you the talents and abilities to lead others into His presence through worship (including singing, playing an instrument, running our sound/media, etc.) come talk to me! I would love to speak with you about how you can use your gifts in our worship services!

God Bless,

Zack Michel,
Contemporary Worship

EC Kids

Whether it's a brand-new school year, an unexpected challenge for your family, or a hike on the Appalachian Trail, any big adventure takes trust.

It's a good thing we can put our confidence in someone we can depend on — specifically, "Someone" with a capital S. Even when we feel like we can barely put one foot in front of the other, we can always put

our trust in God. He knows the trail ahead of us. And He can lead us through any obstacles that are standing in our way.

Throughout history God has proven His faithfulness to us, especially in keeping His promise to send Jesus to save us. God will continue to be dependable. The Bible is filled with examples of people who knew first-hand what it means to trust God. This month, we focus on two of them: Jacob

and Joseph. Through their stories, we'll discover how we can trust Him no matter what we face.

Atmee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries



September is Spirit Month!

Each Wednesday in the month of September, our Connections is going to have a different Spirit Month theme! The purpose of Spirit Month is to get our kids enthused and supportive of our church in a fun, creative way. Participation is not mandatory, but encouraged for ALL ages!

Sept. 4th - Crazy Sock Day – Come in your craziest socks on your feet, hands, hair, etc!

Sept. 11th - Crazy Hair Day – Get crazy with it and come to church with bizarre hair!

Sept. 18th - Neon Day – Come to church dressed in your brightest neon colors!

Sept. 25th - USA Day – Wear ALL red, white and blue! Flags in your hair gets bonus points!

CIA – Food 4 Kids

CIA is headed to Food 4 Kids on Sunday, September 29 from 3-5pm! We will meet at the church in the EC Kids Worship Area for a short devotion at 3pm. Then we will load up on the vans and head for Food 4 Kids! CIA will be back to the church before 5pm to be picked up by parents.

Each CIA child needs to bring a package(s) of juice boxes for the weekend food bags they will be filling for the Food 4 Kids program. The more juice boxes the better as there are over 500 children in the Washington County area who receive a bag of food each Friday during the school year so they will have something to eat over the weekend.



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Here we go...we are beginning our 34th year of our ministry which provides our church family and our community a safe, loving and Christian environment for young children!

We are *very blessed* to have a wonderful and dedicated staff of classroom teachers. Currently we have 14 adults with plans to add others to our staff. The children are lead and guided by their teachers using weekly thematic units that offer a variety of opportunities for children to cultivate their large and small motor skills, self-awareness, social skills, language development and early concepts of colors and shapes in an age-appropriate peer socialization environment.



All of our classes, from Toddlers through 4 year-old Preschoolers, have planned activities based on the children's surroundings which are a great way of **helping them make connections within their world**. Their teachers take advantage of **"teaching moments"** such as: a child is excited about a new sibling, or an interesting critter found on the sidewalk, or even the weather. This can lead to new teaching moments by grabbing a book from our library, finding a "coloring page" out of the many resources we have, and, creating an artistic way to further teach and expand upon new experiences during the class' daily circle time. Doing this is **a simple way for a child to discover what is relevant around them and makes learning more meaningful!**

Of course, *both* of these ways of teaching young children can greatly benefit in preparing them for new adventures in their class and possibly all future learning environments!

Our **Parent Day Out (PDO) classes** (6 months of age through 2 years old) meets Mondays and Wednesdays; 9:30am – 3:00pm:

TODDLER Class - 6 children enrolled

TWO'S Class - 9 children enrolled

YOUNG THREE'S Class - 9 children enrolled

Preschool Classes (for children 3 or 4 years of age by September 1 of the current school year) meets Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

3-Year Old Preschool classes - Total of 36 children enrolled in our 3 separate classes;

4-Year Old Preschool class - 14 children enrolled

We DO maintain a waiting list for all of our classes the entire session. So, even though most of our classes are full as we begin the school-year session, there are occasions that we refer to this list when there is a need to fill openings as they sometimes occur!

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

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



EAST CROSS NURSERY

This month we are starting something new! The second Sunday of each month during last service is going to be story/game time with Ms. Emily. We feel this will give the children something to look forward to and a fun way to learn about Jesus.

The 3 year old class will finish the last story of Moses in Exodus 15:22-25;16 where God takes care of his people by giving them food and water in the desert.

The story of Ruth 1-2:23 is next where we learn how Ruth showed God's love by being kind to Naomi. Hannah's prayer follows; 1 Samuel 1-2:18-19 we will learn to praise God through prayer and learn how to pray.

Finally they will learn how Samuel obeyed God by learning to be a helper to Eli in the Tabernacle. We too, can be helpers to show how much we love the Lord. This story comes from 1 Samuel 1:28, 2:11, 2:18-21, 26.

Please remember to sign your child in and out of our nursery. This is for the safety of your child. Please don't bring your child to the nursery if they are sick. We do not want to share your child's sickness with our friends.

Liz VanDeVenter,
Childcare/Nursery Director

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTIONS

5:30PM MEAL — \$2.00 per adult
(Guests, Children and Youth Eat Free!)

6:00PM SMALL GROUPS — Adults, Youth, Children

Childcare available for 4 year olds and younger

Adult Studies

Going Deeper — Pastor Jeff Burress

This class is an ongoing Bible Study based on the scripture references used in Sunday morning worship services.

In this setting we can take time to ask questions and learn from each other and grow in our faith.

War Room Bible Study— Rhonda Burress

Prayer is a Powerful Weapon // Topics include:

Dealing with Spiritual Lukewarmness

Christian Accountability

Grasping Grace and the Gospel

Engaging in Spiritual Warfare

Trusting God in Prayer

There will be a workbook to purchase.

September Outreach News

Mountain of Food

Mountain of Food is coming October 13—November 3!!! There will be new opportunities for you to be a part of this amazing ministry. More details to come.

Concern

Children that had been going to Concern Child Learning Center are now going to the Delaware facility on Tuxedo Boulevard since the Delaware Tribe has purchased the center. Concern will be holding a fundraiser at St Johns school on October 4.

Journey Home will participate in the 100 mile garage sale this September 13-14. If you have nice items you would like to donate for sale contact Journey Home for more information.



Ray of Hope is continuing their work in our community. If you see staff workers, please give them a big "Thank You" for continually stepping up.

Red Bird Mission

Bill Amburn will keep us informed about plans for a trip to Red Bird Mission in October of 2020. This will be an "adult only" VIM.

MUTUAL

MUTUAL is supporting approximately 475 girls at this time; 19 classes, nine schools and three school districts. Wilson Elementary's 13 week parenting classes will add additional children.

A variety of classes are being offered (some ongoing and some new) such as: financial peace, abortion recovery, Stonecroft bible study, partnering with eldercare, and a mentoring program starting in October.



MUTUAL is involved in a local fundraiser. The Lowe Family Scholars and Washington County School Supply Drive (aka Pack the Backpacks) are co-hosting a fundraising event called "Bartlesville's Got Talent". The event will be held Saturday, September 7 at the Bartlesville Community Center at 7:00pm. Twelve performers have chosen a non-profit organization to represent and one of those is MUTUAL. Voting tickets for your choice of performer are available for purchase. For more information contact Jane Sears 918-766-5280 or go to Bartlesvillegottalent@gmail.com



Tuesday House

Lots of activity and several changes are happening; it looks different week to week. Come check us out and watch the progress. Donations are down a bit but retail sales continue to be good. THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Tuesday House held its "Teacher Supply Giveaway" in August.

There will be a "Fall Festival Sale" on Saturday, October 5 on the Tuesday House driveway from 9am-12noon. Come shop!

Tuesday House still needs volunteers. Can you spare a few hours? There are lots of areas that you may choose from and you can set your own hours! Come join this great group and make new friendships. If you can't volunteer, please continue to shop with us and let people know we are here! It is amazing that so many people don't know about Tuesday House.

Please continue to pray for those in need, whether for spiritual, mental, financial, or medical, etc. needs. Nothing is more powerful than prayers. God Bless!

GENEROSITY BOXES

Our local outreach mission for **September** is the **FOOD 4 KIDS** program which is operated out of AGAPE. Each month close to 2,500 food packets are sent home to those in need of nutrition over the weekends. That is nearly 650 food packets a week that are placed in these kids backpacks. Your kindness by helping to meet the needs of these kids is cherished more than you realize.

This program is in need of the following items to supplement that which they are able to obtain from the local food bank.

pudding cups – vanilla or chocolate;
 Fruit cups; Raisins – small boxes;
 Fruit juice boxes – with 100% fruit juice;
 Cereal bars; Individual cracker packages;
 Boxes of regular cereal (which are divided into individual baggies and are then given out)

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

Beyond Relief International Ministries

Beyond Relief Int'l. Ministries trade school in St. Louis du Nord, Haiti, held its 2018/2019 school year graduation on Sunday, July 14. Over 200 students received diplomas recognizing their skills in art, computer, electricity, English, plumbing, sewing, or tiling. These new skills will, literally, change their lives, the lives of their families, and their communities. They now have the opportunity to earn a living and East Cross plays a big role in this accomplishment through both your prayer and financial support of Beyond Relief.

Our first graduation in 2013 had a total of 17 graduates in art, electricity, English, and plumbing. Up until 2015 school was held in several rented facilities. Now God has blessed us with ¼ acre of land on which we now have six large classrooms, an office, a guardhouse, several storage buildings, and a guesthouse where our Haitian director and

his family live full time on site. Our God has blessed us with all this through supporters such as you, our friends and family at East Cross. We are so thankful for your prayer support and your financial support through the years. You are truly a blessing to these young Haitian adults. There will be fewer Haitian children going to bed hungry and fewer being dropped off at an orphanage because their parents can't afford to keep them because of your generosity.

Early in the 2018/2019 school year our electrical students were able to work with Sonlight Power to install a 24-panel solar system on top of the guesthouse. East Cross provided financial support for this project that has allowed the school to avoid using the

gasoline generator for over six months! No cost, and more electricity for lights, pumping water, and cooling food than we've ever had before. Thank you so much!

This photo is of the solar system, our director and his children, and some of the Sonlight Power team that worked with our students to install the system. Our director, Mackel Jean, is standing with the white shirt on.

David Kuntz, President





Rick and Sharon McCool joined East Cross during the 11:00am service on July 28. They are active members of the Journey of Hope Sunday morning small group.



Rick and Sharon's home address is 330 Park Hill Lane. They are both retired and enjoy spending time with their kids, grandchildren and camping in their RV. Welcome Rick and Sharon to our growing East Cross family!



Dear East Cross Family,

Thank you for the bible and the East Cross Donna Vinsant Memorial Scholarship. I have grown my faith over the last six years at East Cross going to Youth and church on Sunday mornings. I'm excited to attend K-State and major in Mechanical Engineering.

Sincerely, *Holden Bryant*

Dear East Cross,

Thank you so very much for the scholarship. It really helps me and I could not be more grateful! Thank you for the wonderful years at the church I had and for all the amazing people it put in my life!

Mika Gillman

East Cross UMC,

The Stine Family wants East Cross UMC to know that we feel blessed to have you, Jeff and Chad, plus all the members who helped feed us and helped to celebrate my father's life!

God Bless, *Greg Stine and the Robert Stine Family*

In
Memory
Of

Dear East Cross Congregation,

A memorial service for my parents, Stan and Wilma Marwil will be held on Wednesday, September 25 at 11:00am at Memorial Park in Bartlesville. My father died in 2006 and my mother in 2018. For any of you that knew Stan or Wilma, you are invited to join us as we share stories and celebrate their lives.

Sincerely, *Lindsay Marwil (Stan and Wilma's son)*

CIRCLE OF CARE BENEFIT CONCERT—SANCTUS REAL

When: Saturday, September 21 Doors at 6:00pm

Where: Venue 68, Tulsa, OK

Why: Raise Funds and Friends to Benefit Children In Need

Who: UM Leaders, SS Classes, Youth Groups, YOU

How: Buy tickets to attend this FUN event. Tickets start at \$20



PRAYER LIST

New Request....

Chris Ambler (Scott and Martha Ambler's son), Virginia Messick, David Whitaker, Nancy Williamson

Alan Beckworth (Diana Trammel's cousin), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Amelia and Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughters), Erna Chamley (Heidi Petty's mother), Kathy Christian, Glenda Driskill, Dave Faust (Melda and Gary Howard's son-in-law), Muriel Faust (Dave Faust's mother), Summer Flenniken (Diana Trammel's granddaughter), Marcia Goode, Linda Harjo, Bruce Holt (Emmalene Lennon's son-in-law), Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Pauline Kenton, Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Corinne Pichler (Nancy Pichler's granddaughter), Jack Randall, Deb Richardson, Spence Rigdon, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Greg Spears (Charlene's son), Joyce Taylor, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Beth Wiley (long-time missionary out of East Cross), Michele Willoughby, Allie Zoldoske

Condolences to...

Bruce and Debbie Potter on the death of Bruce's brother, Fred.

Jim Middleton on the death of his wife, Charlotte on August 20.

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 Weezie's on Saturday, September 7 at 8am!



SUNDAY MORNING VAN MINISTRY



Call the church office at 918-333-0810 and **leave a message on extension 105** before 7:30am on Sunday mornings. You may also have a standing request to be picked up each week.

ONLINE GIVING... You can give electronically by going to our website www.eastcross.org. Click the menu tab on top of the Welcome page and click on "Give Online" OR scroll to the bottom of our Welcome page and click on "Give." Funds can also be withdrawn automatically weekly or monthly by completing a request form available in the treasurer's office.



East Cross also offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image to the left using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader.

learning to follow Jesus,
inviting others to join the journey

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am One Combined Worship Service <i>Communion Sunday</i>	2 <i>Labor Day Holiday</i> <i>Church Office Closed</i>	3	4 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	5	6 6p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	7 8a Men's Breakfast at Weezie's
8 5p PG Small Group	9 6:30p Young Adults 7p Miriam	10 7p Outreach	11 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	12 6:30p Children's Council	13 7p Church Bridge	14
15	16 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	17 6p Piecemaker Quilters	18 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	19 9:30a Rebecca	20	21 10a S.A.L.T. Fellowship Trip to Woolaroc
22 5p PG Small Group	23 6:30p Young Adults	24	25 11a Memorial - Stan & Wilma Marwil Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	26	27	28
29 3p CIA Food 4 Kids 5p PG Small Group	30		September 2019			

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 Youth (*Not on September 1*)

Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
(*Not on September 2*)

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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Rev. Jeff Burress
Pastor
Chad Perceful
Pastor

Director of Youth Ministries
Aimee Hall

Director of Children's Ministries
Linda Smith

Ministerial Coordinator
Linda Thornton

Treasurer-Membership
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



WAR ROOM MOVIE NIGHT

A large crowd gathered on opening night of Connections to view the faith-based movie *War Room*. Rhonda Burress is leading a follow-up bible study on Wednesday nights.

