

Volume 26, Number 2  
February 1, 2020

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication  
of East Cross United  
Methodist Church



# east cross



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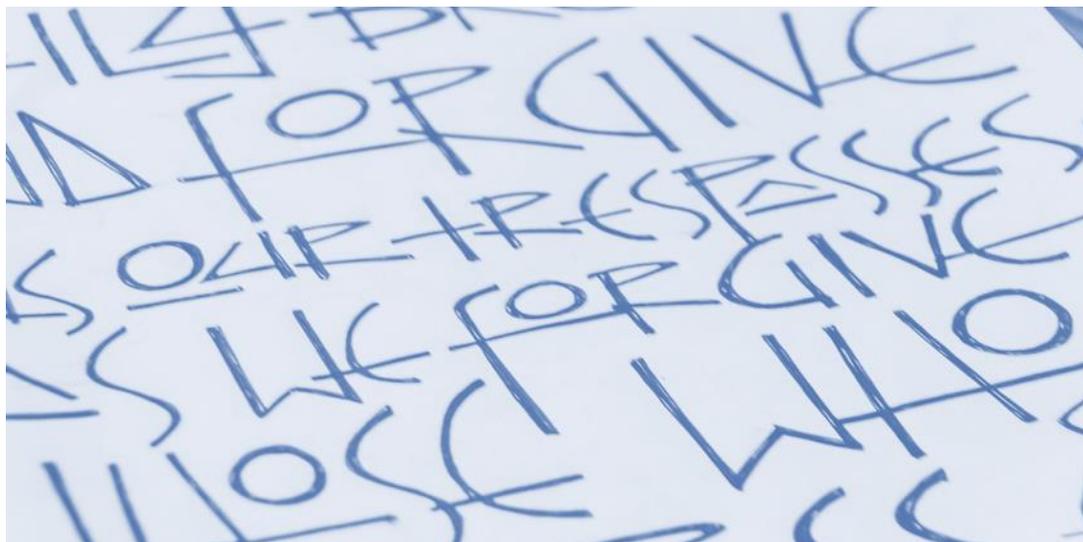
Church Office:  
918-333-0810  
FAX: 918-335-1664  
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Newsletter articles for the next issue are due in the church office by noon on **Thursday, February 20th.**

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

## Sermon Series: **THE LORD'S PRAYER**



**February 2**

***"Our Daily Bread"***

Matthew 6:9-11, John 6:30-31, 35

*Communion*

**February 16**

***"Lead Us...Deliver Us"***

Matthew 6:9-13

**February 9**

***"Forgive...As We Forgive"***

Matthew 6:9-12, 14-15

Luke 23:34

**February 23**

***"For THINE is the Kingdom,  
Power and Glory"***

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)



### **Ash Wednesday Service — February 26 6pm**

Ash Wednesday will be observed in place of Wednesday evening small groups. Youth and children may attend the service in the Sanctuary with their families following the 5:30pm meal. The service will include an imposition of ashes

## ***Another step in our journey...***

### **Who Are We and Where Are We Headed?**

What do you do when everything around you is changing and it's hard to find something solid on which to hold? We all need a foundation to which we can hold on, a base from which we can get our bearings. Throughout history there have been times when people of faith have needed reminders of who God is, what the church is, and what our purpose is as the church.

Let me quote some words written by Samuel Stone:

"The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord; we are his new creation by water and the Word; from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be his living servant people by his own death set free." Christians around the world have been singing those words for over 200 years and being reminded of our one foundation. Edward Mote said it this way, "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand." We are people of God, followers of Jesus Christ. Our understanding of who Jesus was and what Jesus did is Holy Scripture,

the Bible, the word of God. So, our foundation is Jesus Christ, and the authority upon which our foundation rests in the Bible. We must continue to hold on to Biblical values, and Jesus' principles even in the midst of the theological storm that is around us, and continue our journey of learning to better follow Jesus.

Who Are We and Where Are We Headed? We're followers of Jesus, and we're headed toward being more Christian in our actions and thoughts than we were last year.

*Pastor Jeff*

## ***Traditional Worship***

*"O sing unto the Lord a new song; for He hath done marvelous things..."*  
*Psalm 98:1*

**D**o you ever get a song in your head that plays over and over again? I call those "earworms". Sometimes it is very annoying to have the same phrase of a song replaying incessantly in your mind! Like many of you, I reflected on the good and bad of 2019 and made decisions

about changes I wanted to make in my life to start fresh in 2020. I found that I was very good about dwelling on the negative things in my life, the tough moments, the hard parts, and complaining about it. I complained to my husband, my parents, friends, and even some of you that would listen—almost like a song playing over and over again. It was a negative melody that wouldn't quit.

God calls us to SING A NEW SONG! A song of joy! A song

of praise! Even in the hardest parts of our lives, a mighty song can be a weapon against the enemy. A loud melody to drown out the negative noise! A song of praise to meet Jesus who far exceeds anything we can imagine for our lives! What kind of song is your heart singing? With a new year, SING A NEW SONG! Let your weapon be a melody!

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

## From Pastor Chad...

**W**e find ourselves in February, the month where LOVE takes center stage, especially on Valentines Day. However, what would it look like if we take this focus and broaden it from this romantic love to something much greater? How would this community, and our own lives, be different if we lived out the two greatest commandments? Mark 12:30-31 (NIV) says: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with

all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

This seems like something that as a follower of Christ we should excel at, but the truth is that these two greatest commandments are some of the hardest to keep. The only way that we can keep them is if we intentionally make them our focus. Therefore, I want to challenge each of you, as you

journey through this month of LOVE, to continually ask yourself one question: How am I going to show love to God and my neighbor today?

Blessings on the Journey,

*Pastor Chad*

*'Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart...  
with all your soul...  
with all your mind and  
with all your strength.'*

*'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*  
Mark 12:30-31

## Contemporary Worship

**I**n Pastor Jeff's recent series titled "The Lord's Prayer", we've looked at the way in which Jesus taught us to pray. As we continue to work our way through this series, I'm reminded of how awesome it is that the God of the universe allows us to come to him with the desires of our heart and he hears us and promises to respond. Sometimes He answers right away, and sometimes He makes us wait, but we can be confident that His timing is perfect and His will for our lives is to bring glory to Him! I've said many times that the way I personally communicate with God is through my worship. You may have a similar line of communication with Him. Regardless of how He speaks to you, we should always strive to be in that mode of communication. The more we seek

His will for us, the more we are open to receiving what He wants us to hear!

God Bless,

*Zack Michel,*  
**Contemporary Worship**



## EC Kids

**W**hat's on your playlist? Do you like pop, country? Or are you more into classic rock, you know, like from the '90s—How is that over 20 years ago?! All kidding aside, we love music because it can convey the things that are hardest for us to express. The right song, at the right time can say everything you need to say.



And more than anything, sometimes expressing love can be the hardest thing –

especially for kids. As followers of Jesus, we can show love with more than just words. We can show love with our actions, when we choose to treat others the way we want to be treated. After all, isn't that what Jesus said is most important? Loving God, and loving others.

All throughout the Bible, the writers of Scripture remind us that God is love. From the creation of the world to God's relentless pursuit of us, God has shown time and again that love is most important.

Even though we've all sinned, God loved us enough to make a way for us to have a forever relationship with Him. The Gospels are full of moments where Jesus prioritized love above all else, especially when

He summed up the greatest commandment with: Love God and love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus made this real when He showed us how much God loves us by sacrificing His life for our sins. This month we will navigate our way through Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and we pray that through the Gospels, our kids will start to realize that loving God can look like singing worship songs, but it can also mean doing their best, being generous to others, or putting others first. We're all different, so we hope to help kids understand how they can love God individually with everything they've got.

*Aimee Hall, Director of Children's Ministries*

### CIA – Project Love

Join us on Sunday, February 9 for our next Christians In Action—Project Love!

For Project Love, we will be creating and decorating Valentine's Day cards for our home bound East Cross members who are unable to attend church each week. Our goal is let them know how loved they are even if we don't see them often.



CIA is for mission minded children in 2nd-5th grades who want to serve God by sharing His love and being the hands and feet of God!

### EC Kids Lock In

Friday, February 21, we will be hosting the Winter Lock-In at East Cross. Drop your child off at 7pm (please eat dinner before) for a night they won't soon forget.



Cost per Child: \$5 and can be paid the night of the Lock-In! Friends are encouraged! Snacks will be provided throughout the night and breakfast will be served the following morning.

Pick up is no later than 8am on Saturday, February 22. For more information, or to RSVP, email [aimeeb@eastcross.org](mailto:aimeeb@eastcross.org).

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

**D**uring the month of February, our **Parent Day Out** children (Toddlers, 2-Year Old Class and our Older 2's/ Young 3's class) will be introduced to weekly themes such as: Hearts and Sign Language; Love and Valentine's Day; Our Senses (*smell, taste, hear, touch and see*); and the ever-popular Dinosaurs. All of the children's classroom teachers will *introduce* these themes in a variety of ways such as arts and crafting; story books (*of course*); songs and even a few simple games.



**Preschool Chapel** will be on February 10 and is led by Ms Christy, one of our 3-year-old teachers. Each month she has been teaching the children all about Jesus...his birth, being dedicated at the temple, and also all the healing he did for so

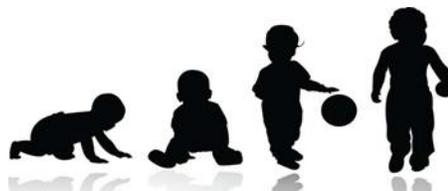
many people. In February she will share with the children the miracle of feeding 5000 people. **Our hope is that the children will begin to understand that everything Jesus did was because He LOVES us!**

Ms Christy always has very interesting visual and hands-on props for the children to see and learn from each month. She does a wonderful job and we greatly appreciate her!

February is also **Dental Health month** and the **Preschool children** are always excited when we invite in a hygienist from Safari Smiles to come in and share with them in a fun and entertaining way about the importance of good dental hygiene!

*Something that I personally understand more and more as the years progress...*

**Days are L—O—N—G  
Years are Short**



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

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

Phone: 918-333-3814

### Wednesday Night Connections

**5:30pm Meal    6:00pm Small Groups For All Ages**

***The Case for Christ***

led by Gary Howard

***Going Deeper***

led by Pastor Jeff

***Knitting for Beginners***

led by Sharon LaFerry

***Good Grief***

led by Debbie Coffee

***Adult Bible Study***

Room 304

**6:00pm Wednesday, February 26 — Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary**

## EAST CROSS NURSERY

**E**ast Cross Nursery is off to a great year! What a joy it is to minister to the little ones the love and peace of God. It is the Nursery's desire that our littlest attenders at East Cross experience their first glimpses of God's kindness through this ministry. We want to point children and their families to Jesus and his work so they will build a relationship with him. The Nursery also wants parents to be assured that their children are in a secure and nurturing environment. We truly believe that children are a gift from God.

We continue to offer childcare on Sundays, Wednesday evenings for Connections, and for

small groups for children birth through PreK. We also provide care for children Kindergarten-5th grade when needed.

Jesus said God loves and cares for us even more than he cares for the birds and the flowers. Matthew 6:25-34. This month the 3 year old-PreK class will practice "Jesus Loves Me" each Sunday. They will also learn about: "Jesus Stops the Storm" Matthew 8:23-27; "Jesus Feeds 5,000" Mark 6:32; "Treat Children How You Would Treat Me" Mark 9:32 and "The Forgiving King" Matthew 18-21.

*Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director*

## ***New Church Pictorial Directories***

**We're Creating a New East Cross Pictorial Directory  
and We Want You to Be a Part of It!**

Signups are currently going on NOW for photo sessions!

You can sign up online at the East Cross website [www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org) or on the East Cross Facebook page [www.facebook.com/eastcross/](http://www.facebook.com/eastcross/) You can also sign up at church after 1<sup>st</sup> service, Sunday school, and 2<sup>nd</sup> service in the Gathering Area.

In addition to being a part of the Directory, you'll receive one 8 x 10 print FREE! You'll also have the opportunity (but NO obligation) to purchase additional photo products.



**March 3-6 (Tue-Fri)  
2pm to 9pm**

**March 7 (Sat)  
10am-5pm**

**March 13 (Fri)  
2pm-9pm**

**March 14 (Sat)  
10am-5pm**

So check your calendar and schedule your photo session right away!

## February Outreach News

### Jane Phillips School Valentines Parties

It appears that another group is providing Valentines parties this year at Jane Phillips Elementary School. Therefore, we have decided to use the Generosity Boxes to provide needed school supplies for them instead! Items useful include glue sticks, wide-ruled notebook paper, pencils, washable markers, crayons, boxes of tissue, and Clorox wipes. Just drop these items in the Generosity Boxes at each entrance to the church.

### Volunteer In Mission (VIM) June 21-26, 2020

East Cross is planning a VIM to help with the disaster recovery in Northeastern OK. We will work within an hour's drive of Bartlesville, perhaps in Bartlesville. The plan is to meet each morning at the church at 7:00am with a sack lunch. We will travel together in the church van. Either eat breakfast at home or bring it to eat on the way. We'll bring water and Gatorade for during the day. After work each day we will eat dinner on our way home to Bartlesville. Not any place fancy, because we will be in our work clothes.

Please pray about whether you should join us. Feel free to share this information with others who may be interested. The cost should be no more than \$50 per person. The next meeting will be on Sunday, February 9, at 2:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please plan to attend this important meeting. The leader is Jeretta Amburn. (918-907-0104) Please call with questions. We will have a great VIM serving the Lord by helping the least of these get back to normal!

In His Service, *Jeretta Amburn*

### Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

Thank you to everyone who was involved in our very successful Chili Cook-off!!



Many of you donated desserts or items for the silent auction. Some of you purchased items and others donated money as you voted on your favorite chili! Some of you came and enjoyed the fellowship with your church family! Some of you did all these things!! Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

All details of the Chili Cook-off will be in the next newsletter. The winners and the amount of money collected will be announced!!



### Tuesday House Resale Shop

Have you decided to be more giving to others this year? We have a great opportunity for you! A great group of folks gather weekly at Tuesday House to sort through donations and put them in the store for the sales. We could really use you as a volunteer, both men and women.

Donations are accepted on Mondays 8am-noon and Tuesday 8am-4pm, Wednesday 8am-noon and Saturday 8am-noon. You can work hours to fit your life!!

The store is open for business on Tuesdays 8am-4pm and Saturdays 9am-noon. This is a great ministry supporting MUTUAL Girls Club. Join us and serve!!

## Green Country District LEADERSHIP TRAINING DAY Saturday, February 15 Claremore First UMC

### Registration Details

- Cost is \$10 per person. Pay online, by mail, or upon arrival
- Pre-registry by February 10 is important for lunch count
- Registration Link: <https://okumc-reg.brtaapp.coam/2020GCDLEADERTRAINING> or go to [www.greencountrydistrict.org](http://www.greencountrydistrict.org)

### The Day's Agenda

- 9:00-9:30 Gathering and Fellowship
- 9:30-10:00 Worship  
*Led by Elevate Band (Claremore FUMC)*  
*Speaker: Javier Pollack, District Lay Servant Dir.*
- 10:15-11:45 Keynote, Kay Kotan  
*"Recovering the Call of Lay Ministry"*
- 11:45-12:30 Lunch
- 12:45-2:30 Workshops

### Meet Kay Kotan, our Guest Presenter

Kay Kotan is a leading light in our Methodist connection as a teacher and thinker on church leadership. She serves as Director of The Center for Multiplying Disciples, overseeing church revitalization and new church starts for the Arkansas Conference of the UMC. Along with her colleague, Rev. Blake Bradford, Kay co-wrote *Mission Possible* on the simplified accountable board structure for local churches. She's also written *Gear Up and Get Their Name*, along with several other books. Kay is widely sought for her wisdom. She is an enthusiastic, passionate presenter who challenges workshop participants in both their thinking and their doing. It is a gift to have her spend the day with us here in Green Country.



### Workshops Offered

- Making the "Simple Board" Effective
- Nuts & Bolts of Church Security
- Methodists Responding to Disaster
- Tips for Growth in Any Church
- Using the "Unstuck" Toolkit
- Putting Tech to Work for Churches
- QPR—Reducing Suicide Behavior



Marc and Belinda Matthiesen transferred their membership from First UMC Conroe, TX to East Cross on January 5. They are both retired and attend the Journey of Hope small group on Sunday mornings. Their address is 17713 N 4013 Drive. Marc's cell phone number is 832-444-4562 and Belinda's is 918-766-3183. Welcome, Marc and Belinda to our East Cross family!

We also welcomed Tary and Joni Clump into our East Cross family on January 5. They transferred their membership from First UMC McAlester. Both Tary and Joni are retired. They moved to Bartlesville to be nearer to their grandsons, Andrew and Wesley, and their parents, Bryan and Rachel Clump! Their address is 4422 Fairview Rd and their home phone number is 918-429-9313. Welcome, Tary and Joni to our growing East Cross family!



Dear East Cross Family,

The Bunge family wishes to extend a huge thank you for the delightful luncheon we shared prior to Al's Celebration of Life service and to all the ladies who made it possible. The reception that followed was wonderful and we had so many friends compliment the church for providing us with such a pleasant setting to meet and greet. We are extremely grateful.

Blessings to all, *Barbara Bunge*

## ***GENEROSITY BOXES — FEBRUARY Jane Phillips Elementary School***

As this is the middle of the school year, many of our schools are running low on school supplies that were provided at the start of the school year. After visiting with the office staff at Jane Phillips Elementary School, they were so excited to hear that we would like to help them with this big need and provided the following list:

**Crayons, Markers, Pencils,  
Wide-ruled Paper, Glue Sticks,  
Kleenex, and Clorox Wipes**

Do you remember how exciting it was to receive a new box of crayons and to be able to color with unbroken crayons? While shopping for your household, could you drop a few of these needed items in your shopping cart and place them in one of the Generosity Boxes located at each entrance to East Cross UMC. Let's bring smiles to these children!



## PRAYER LIST

### New Prayer Requests...

Kermit Tanzey, Sue Whitaker  
(David Whitaker's sister-in-law)

Chris Ambler (Scott and Martha Ambler's son), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Pete Bryan, Rhonda Burress, Amelia and Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughters), Kathy Christian, Muriel Faust (Dave Faust's mother), Summer Flenniken and Tyler Lorenz (Diana Trammel's grandchildren), Marcia Goode, Linda Harjo, Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Barry Knuth, Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Steve McAllaster (Joyce Taylor's brother), Emmalene Lennon, Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Alfonso Paniagua, Corinne Pichler (Nancy Pichler's granddaughter), Jack Randall, Deb Richardson, Kim Shepherd, Jeana Smith (Tim Smith's sister), Joyce Taylor, Nita Wakeley, Jeremy Waldorf, Chris Watson (Chad Perceful's aunt), Beth Wiley (long-time missionary out of East Cross), Michele Willoughby

### Condolences to...

Marla and Wayne Benyshek on the death of Marla's mother on January 10.

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

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



Please relay any updates and/or additions to Melda Howard at 918-327-9416 or email her at [gmagdadoward@gmail.com](mailto:gmagdadoward@gmail.com). Please keep our active duty military and our veterans in your prayers.

**All East Cross men are invited to meet for breakfast and fellowship at Weeze's on Saturday, February 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.



## NEW EAST CROSS PHOTO DIRECTORY IN 2020!

Look for signups for your photo sessions online and at church!

**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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>February 2020</b>						1 8a Men's Breakfast at Weeze's
2 <i>Communion</i> Youth Super Bowl Party	3 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	4	5 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	6	7 6:30p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	8  Youth— Winter Jam
9 <i>Scout Sunday</i> 2:15p VIM mtg 3p CIA 5p PG Sm Grp	10 6:30p Young Adults 6:30p Miriam	11 7p Outreach	12 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	13	14 6:30p Church Bridge	15 Green Country District Leadership Trng. Claremore
16	17 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry 7p Trustees	18 6pm Piecemaker Quilters	19 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	20 9:30a Rebecca  6:30pm Children's Council	21  EC Kids Lock-In	22
23 5p PG Small Group	24 6:30p Young Adults	25	26 5:30p Meal 6p Ash Wednesday Service	27	28	29

## 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

### Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center  
(not on 2/17)

### 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

**EAST CROSS NEWS** (USPS 164-540)

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*Nursery and Childcare Director*

Margie Green  
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Zack Michel

*Contemporary Worship Director*

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



**WORSHIP AT EAST CROSS  
FOR ALL AGES**

