

Volume 26, Number 3
March 1, 2020

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



east cross



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FAX: 918-335-1664
ECC: 918-333-3814



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

Email articles to
linda@eastcross.org

Sermon Series: **WALKING WITH JESUS**



March 1
“Made to Worship”
1st Sunday in Lent
Communion

March 15
“Abundant Living”
3rd Sunday in Lent

March 8
“Bible Study”
2nd Sunday in Lent

March 22
“To Serve or Be Served”
4th Sunday in Lent

March 29
“Let’s Go Fishing”
5th Sunday in Lent

Another step in our journey...

LENTEN SEASON

The Lenten Season for 2020 began on Ash Wednesday, February 26 and continues to Easter Sunday on April 12. Here is a quick reminder of what Lent is, and how we can best observe the Lenten Season this year.

The early Christians observed the days of Jesus' passion (the days leading up to his crucifixion) and resurrection, and it became the custom of

the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.

During this Lenten Season we are reminded of mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ, as well as our need for mercy and forgiveness. During this season we see the need we all have to renew our faith.

I invite you to observe a holy Lent this year with a

combination of several different disciplines you can begin, or continue. Observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

You can make a good beginning every day of Lent by thoughtfully praying the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor Jeff

Contemporary Worship

As we prepare to make several improvements to our stage, including installing several stage boxes and running many of our current cords under the stage for a cleaner look and feel, I want to thank all of those who have been a part of the planning process and the construction. Our church is blessed to have so many hard-working people who give of their time and talents to make our facility so incredible.

Our contemporary worship team is currently working on raising \$2,000 for a new laptop to run our Ableton software. Since coming on in January of 2017, we have been utilizing my personal computer, which is nearly a decade old!! If you are at all interested in making a donation to help us cover the cost of a new laptop, please contact the church offices or come talk to me personally! Thank you so much for continuing to support our ministry!

"Enlarge the site of your tent, and stretch out the drapes of your dwellings; don't hold back. Lengthen your tent ropes and strengthen your stakes. To the right and to the left you will burst out, and your children will possess the nations' land and settle their desolate cities."

-Isaiah 54:2-3 CEB

God Bless,

*Zack Michel,
Contemporary Worship*

From Pastor Chad...

There are times that the overwhelming busyness of life takes over and it is hard to hear the voice of God. Then there are times it seems that God is tired of being ignored, and, therefore, speaks louder than the busyness. Recently I experienced both of these in the same day. In the midst of checking things off the to-do list, I got caught up in the stress and negativity that seemed to be hovering around me. That is until I made a hospital visit that provided me the clarity that I needed to hear the voice of God once again. The phrase that woke me up was a common phrase that I had heard so many times before—"You need to stop and smell the roses." Normally when I hear this, it is met with a "yeah, yeah" and I continue to press on missing out on the blessings around me. However, this time was different and reminded me of a devotion that

I read a while back. In the article, the author shared these thoughts:

"When we stop and smell the roses, we're reminded of God's blessings. We think about the good things God is doing in our lives, rather than our troubles. We view life from a glass-half-full perspective, rather than a glass-half-empty perspective. Our thankfulness is then reflected in our prayers, as well as every aspect of our life. We 'rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks' (1 Th. 5:16-18)."

The author goes on to say, "A positive attitude results from smelling the roses. If anyone had a reason to have a negative attitude, it was the apostle Paul. He had been in prison, beaten, scourged, beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked, and poor. But through all this, he remained positive—he focused on good

things rather than bad things. Paul's attitude was, "God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God" (Rom. 8:28). Paul knew that God used everything in his life for good, even when suffering greatly for the cause of Christ." (<https://m.biblestudyguide.org/articles/blessings/stop-and-smell-roses.htm>)

We have to, no matter how busy our schedules might be, take time to smell the roses in our life. Whether it is a simple walk, a beautiful sunrise, taking that extra minute to hug your kids or actually stopping to smell some roses, we cannot go on at the pace of life which finds us missing some of the glories of God's creation. That's because the key to living a grateful and positive life is stopping to smell the roses.

Blessings,

Pastor Chad

Traditional Worship

Every night, I count my joys! Each week, the choir and Jan Watt make the top of the list. I know many of you that attend the 8:30 service have been blessed by Jan's music during our services. She always has a unique way of rounding out the music with beloved melodies that create a seamless worship experience. We are so fortunate to have her on the East Cross staff. She is an amazing person inside and out, and her music at the piano each week is truly a gift!

The choir is filled with incredible individuals who serve in all areas of our church. They dedicate themselves to East Cross in all kinds of ways, but set aside time each week to sing in the sanctuary choir. Our time together on Wednesday nights is such an uplifting part of our week. I hope Jan's music and the choir are an uplifting part of your worship in the Traditional service. Please help me thank Jan and the members of the choir for sharing their gifts of music at East Cross!

Margie Green, Traditional Worship

EC Kids



It seems all of us love a good home improvement show. Why is that? Why is it so satisfying to watch a project come together? Maybe because we all love a good fixer-upper. We love to see the experts take something that was dilapidated and broken-down and turn it into a thing of beauty.

All of us have relationships that we might call fixer-uppers. If we're honest, it takes a lot of strength to want to make them good as new. It requires us to let go of what's right and fair in order to fix what's broken. That's never easy. But with God's help, we have the tools we need to forgive—to decide that someone who has wronged us doesn't have to pay.

We start the month with one of Jesus' parables recorded in Matthew 18:21-35. Jesus told

this parable because Peter asked a question about forgiveness. Peter might have thought he was doing pretty well to say he'd forgive someone seven times, but Jesus raises the stakes and says we ought to forgive others even more. In week two, we find Jesus interacting with an unexpected person in Luke 19:1-10: Zacchaeus.



He was a tax collector working for Rome. In week three, we find that Jesus brought His followers to a mountain to explain to them what it means to live as part of God's kingdom. During that message, He said something important about forgiveness. In week four, we head to Luke 15:11-24. Jesus shares a parable to help people understand God's amazing grace and forgiveness. In the last week of the month, we continue on to Luke 15:21-32 and the story of the Lost Son.

Throughout the Bible, we can read about the importance of forgiveness. Right from the start, God made a way for Adam and Eve to have a relationship with Him again. The same is true for us. No matter how much we mess up, God will always make a way to forgive us. When it comes to forgiveness, we can also look to Jesus, who chose to forgive even those who were crucifying Him. Because of God's amazing forgiveness, we should work hard to forgive others.

Aimee Hall,
**Director of
Children's Ministries**

*Put up with one another.
Forgive one another
if you are holding
something against
someone.
Forgive, just as the Lord
forgave you.*

Colossians 3:13

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, we worship a Savior who never changes: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

The safety of our children is a high priority here at East Cross so please remember to sign your child in and out each time you bring them to the church nursery. With all the flu and tummy bugs going

around please make sure your child is feeling well. This is for everyone's safety.

This month the 3 year old-PK class will be studying the acts of Jesus and his many parables. God's love is endless, and we can learn through these stories how to act in similar situations life can bring. We look forward to teaching your children this month always, thank you for the blessing each Sunday.

Liz VanDeVenter,
Nursery Director



BOARD GAME NIGHT

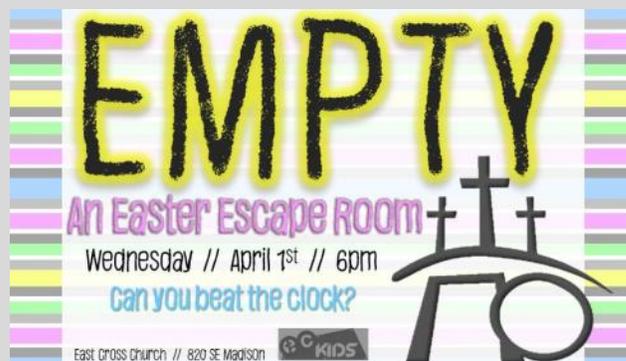
On Wednesday, March 11, will be one of our favorite nights! Board Game Night will be held during normal Connections times. Drop in with some friends or make some new ones as you challenge each other at our Board Game Night! Bring your favorite board game, play a friend's game or choose one provided by EC Kids. You won't want to miss this fun night!

PICNIC AT THE PARK

After 2nd service on Sunday, March 29, we will head out to Sooner Park! Don't forget your lunch! Please bring what you would like your family to eat as the whole family is welcome to attend! ***weather pending***

EASTER ESCAPE ROOM

No worries, parents! We're not locking your children in a room! However, we ARE hosting a biblical ESCAPE ROOM! On Wednesday, April 1, join us for our Easter themed Escape Room. More details can be found on our EC Kids Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ECKidsUMC/). Bragging rights are up for grabs, y'all! This will be held during our normal Connections hour. Enjoy a meal starting at 5:30pm and Connections begins at 6pm!



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

“35 Years of Ahhh...some!”

March is the time of year when enrollment begins for upcoming sessions and classes – Summer Session (June 2020) and our *next* School-Year Session (August 2020 through May 2021). During the first two weeks in March, we encourage East Cross church members, families *currently* enrolled and our teaching staff in our program the opportunity to be the *first to enroll* their children into their age-appropriate classroom. After our return from Spring Break on March 23 enrollment will then be “open to the public” and we will fill any remaining openings in each of our classes!

Preliminary Enrollment Forms for both upcoming sessions will be available March 1 on our church website (www.eastcross.org), or by contacting our Early Childhood Center office directly 918-333-3814 or email us at: ecc@eastcross.org.

SUMMER Session June 1 – 24
Mondays and Wednesdays
9:30am – 3:00pm



Welcoming children 16 months-of-age through those *entering* Kindergarten in the upcoming school-year. Every child will be enrolled BOTH days; no payment credit for absences during the month. Enrollment form and \$180/child session fee are BOTH required BY May 1 (paid in full; in advance; non-refundable).

Classes fill up quickly because there is limited staff available, and placement into age-appropriate classes is a first come, first served basis based on staffing, so we recommend submitting the “Preliminary Enrollment Form” along with the appropriate enrollment fees as soon as possible to the Early Childhood Center office!

Fall’s SCHOOL-YEAR Session — August 17

Classes begin on Monday, August 17. **Parent Day Out** classes are for **children 6 months-of-age through 2 years-old**. Offered Mondays and/or Wednesdays; 9:30am – 3:00pm.

- 1 day / week rate is \$100 / month
- 2 days / week rate is \$160 / month

Preschool classes are for children **3-years old and 4-years old BY September 1** of the current school year. **Children will attend Preschool classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9:30am – 12:00pm.**

- Rate is \$130 / month

Extended Care option is available Mondays and/or Wednesdays from **12:00pm – 3:00pm** for children attending our morning preschool classes. There is an additional fee of \$15/ day.

Enrollment Fees are \$40 for your first child, and \$15 for additional children from the same family. Enrollment 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**

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

Employment Opportunities @ East Cross ECC

We anticipate a need to find *additional classroom* staff to aid in the care and early education of children in our **Next School-Year Session** (*August 2020 and beyond*)! Our program employs persons that we feel have the appropriate gifts and talents and who want to spend time with young children while also in one of the highest levels of service for our Lord within the ministry of His church and to our community!

Employment applications are accepted for adults (*18 years+ of age*) that would like to be part of our staff and employed in our **Parent Day Out Classes** (*Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:15am – 3:15pm*). Our classrooms are **co-teaching situations** (two adults) and shall have a high school diploma; a general understanding and love for young children; and *possible* previous experience in this kind of setting (although not required); work days (Monday and Wednesday) follow public school calendar.

Also needed: Periodic Substitutes... fill in when a classroom teacher needs to be absent; this is a “floating” position, and as with several of our past substitutes, that person could be asked to be placed as a permanent, ongoing classroom teaching position!

All applicants interested in a position (*subs too*) will:

- * Go through a multi-step interview process so we can find the “right” person(s);
- * Be *required* to submit to fingerprinting; background and reference checks;
- * Be able and willing to be CPR/First Aid certified; be able to lift up to 30 pounds;
- * Participate in a multi-level and required orientation process.

If you or someone you know might be interested in finding out more about our needs, please contact the Early Childhood Center office ASAP at 918-333-3814 or email: ecc@eastcross.org

*At this point in our search, we are asking each of our current staff, and truly invite you too, to **PRAY with us**. We have faith that we will be provided those persons that will feel led to be part of our ministry to the children of our community!*

Wednesday Night Connections — Beginning March 4

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

Gardening

led by Susan Henning
Room 329

Going Deeper

led by Pastor Jeff
Room 306

Lent Bible Study

led by Evelyn Meade
March 4: Meet in Chapel

Crocheting for Beginners

led by Diana Trammel
Room 302

Adult Bible Study

Room 304

No Connections Wednesday, March 18 — Due to Spring Break

March Outreach News

Chili Cook-off and Silent Auction

The Chili Cook-off created a lot of fun and raised over \$3400 for local ministries. Nine ministries will receive \$384.13 each that will help needy families. The ministries are: Lighthouse, Concern, Agape, Ray of Hope, Wheels to Work, Journey Home, Samaritan Counseling, New Hope, and East Cross Benevolence Fund.

Winners! Fireman's Choice winner was Chad Perceful; People's Choice winner was Heather Davis; and Best Presentation was Vicki Bland.

Thank you to everyone that helped make the Chili Cook-off a success. The chili, chicken and noodles, and desserts were delicious. Thank you to people and local businesses who contributed to the silent auction. Please be working on your chili recipes for next year's entries.

March Generosity Boxes Ray of Hope

Ray of Hope is the designated recipient of our Generosity Box donations for March 2020. At Ray of Hope they feel that it is everyone's right to be safe and comfortable; so they feel their

greatest needs at this time is to help them supply bottled water and individual snacks for their clients. They are finding that they are in need of more computer paper to use for all the reports that are required.

Will you assist the staff to help their clients feel comfortable and safe by supplying **individual snacks and bottled water** to be shared with them? Also, help the staff by dropping **a ream or two of copy paper** in our Generosity Boxes located at each entrance to East Cross!

Thank you!

New Church Pictorial Directories

**We signed you up all last month, and now the time has come!
It's Photo Directory Session Time!**

Did you forget your signup time? You can contact the church office at 918-333-0810 for a reminder! If you added your phone number and checked the box at signup, you'll receive a reminder phone call. And, if you signed up online, you'll get a reminder email too.

We still have a few signup slots remaining! You can sign up online at <http://www.eastcross.org/> or at <https://www.facebook.com/eastcross>

Please arrive 5 to 10 minutes before your session time to give yourself plenty of time to get checked in.





Announcing the birth of...

Reagan Clementine to Brad and Melissa Shoemaker. Reagan was born on February 4, weighed 6 lbs 11 oz and was 20 inches long. She was welcomed home by big sister, Elizabeth and big brother, Austin. Proud grandparents are Larry and Linda Shoemaker. Congratulations to all!



Dear East Cross,

Just want to say thank you to all of you who have been such a big help through my father's death, Henry Templeton, in October.

My mother, Catherine Templeton, was very pleased to be prayed with and anointed before her surgery. She is recuperating very well and getting back into the swing of things at Green Country.

Thanks, *Sharon Brown*

Dear East Cross Church,

Thank you so much for the donation of Orff instruments. My students have loved using them! We are blessed to have the instruments to use.

Thank you, *Sarah Stapelton, Kane Elementary School Music Teacher*

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation and blessings. Being here at the Lighthouse is helping me change my life and overcome obstacles in my life. *Tonia*

Dear East Cross Church,

Thank you for letting us hold our meetings at your beautiful church building. We really appreciate it.

Piecemakers Quilt Club

100th International Annual 'World Day of Prayer' with Church Women United — March 6 at 9:30am
at New Hope Indian United Methodist Church, 901 W. 9th St in Dewey. Coffee at 9:30am followed by "Rise, Take Your Mat and Walk" written by Zimbabwe women. Includes stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions and their experiences of God's great love.

The service is based on the John 5 story of Jesus answering a desire and need for healing. We must answer God in prayer about our unspoken needs and then take the action he commands.

The motto for "World Day of Prayer" since 1920 is "Informed Prayer Leads to Prayerful Action".

All are welcome. Local contact: Pat Netzer 918-337-2118

PRAYER LIST

New Prayer Requests...

Gary Brown, Jerry Cox, Kerry Graham (Kevin Graham's brother), Sandy Harris, Vivian King (Tammy Baughman's mother)

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, Summer Flenniken and Tyler Lorenz (Diana Trammel's grandchildren), Marcia Goode, 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), Kermit Tanzey, 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...

Family and friends on the death of Betty Shiers.

Michael, Kara and Rayleigh Rowell on the death of Kara's mother.

Gary and Cindy Spears on the recent death of Cindy's uncle.

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. 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 Midway Cafe on Saturday, March 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.

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. 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 <i>1st Sunday Lent</i> Communion	2 6:30p Prayer Shawl Ministry	Pictorial Directory Photos 2—9pm			6 6:30p S.A.L.T. Fellowship	7 8a Men's Breakfast at Midway Cafe Photos 10am-5pm
8 <i>2nd Sunday Lent</i> 5p PG Small Group	9 6:30p Young Adults 6:30p Miriam	10 6p Evangelism 7p Outreach	11 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	12 6:30pm Children's Council	13 6:30p Church Bridge Photos 2—9pm	14 Photos 10am—5pm
15 <i>3rd Sunday Lent</i>	SPRING BREAK				20 9:30a Rebecca	21 10a S.A.L.T. Fellowship Trip
22 <i>4th Sunday Lent</i> 5p PG Small Group	23 6:30p Young Adults	24	25 Connections 5:30p Meal 6p Small Groups	26	27	28
29 <i>5th Sunday Lent</i> 12:30p EC Kids Picnic in the Park	30	31	March 2020			

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 3/15)

Monday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
(not on 3/16)

Tuesday

4:00pm Prayer Group

Wednesday

9:30am-3:00pm Early Childhood Center
(not on 3/18)
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir
7:30pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday

Friday

9:30am-12:00Noon Early Childhood Center PreK
(not on 3/13, 3/20)

Saturday

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Jan Watt, *Pianist*

Zack Michel
Contemporary Worship Director

Charles Binau

Coordinator Audio Equipment/Volunteers

Jon Colliver

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learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey



Aimee stays charged up!



**EC KIDS
WINTER
LOCK-IN
2020!**