

Volume 26, Number 3  
April 1, 2020

# East Cross News

Monthly Publication  
of East Cross United  
Methodist Church



# east cross

## HOLY WEEK

**April 5 Palm Sunday**

***"The Journey to the Cross"***

*Luke 19:28-44, Luke 23:26-34*

**April 12 EASTER SUNDAY**

***"Walk to Emmaus"***

*Luke 24:13-35*



Like us on Facebook  
and stay connected!

**For Up To Date  
Information On  
East Cross and  
COVID-19**

go to our website  
[www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org)  
or East Cross United  
Methodist Church  
on Facebook.

If you do not have  
access to a computer  
you may also call  
Pastor Jeff Burress  
918-977-0658.

Church Office:  
918-333-0810  
FAX: 918-335-1664



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

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



## Sermon Series: WE ARE THE CHURCH

**April 19**

***"Resurrection: He Appeared"***

*I Corinthians 15:1-11*

**April 26**

***"All Things to All People"***

*I Corinthians 9:19-27*

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

I've heard time after time that no one in our nation that is alive now has ever seen anything like what we are going through. I'm sure that is right. Whenever I turn on the news there are new stories of more issues than there were in the previous hour's news cycle. This week we've watched our retirement accounts drastically reduced and then one of the talking heads declares that next week it will get bad.

There has been a moment or two that I have been tempted to be afraid (that is an

understatement), but every time I open my Bible or catch myself humming a tune, the words that come to me are words of hope and how we can trust God.

Maybe we haven't seen anything this bad before, but God has stood with people who through the ages have either collectively or personally seen much worse. God will also be with you and me during this time. I'm sure we will have new challenges to face this month and will have to make some unwelcomed changes in our lives, but God still cares about

us and is with us in our times of trial and isolation. We are not totally isolated even when socially distancing ourselves when God is with us.

Let's do our part by staying as safe as possible, and then turn our lives over to God who loves us and cares for us even more than we love ourselves. This is the God who sees the future better than we can even see today.

Stay in touch with God, your family and your Small Group. They are your life lines.

*Pastor Jeff*

## ***Contemporary Worship***

It's amazing how God can use times of stress and trouble to push you out of your comfort zone! The story of Jonah comes to mind. God called him to Nineveh, but Jonah ran, not trusting the plan God had for him. Not until God got Jonah's attention through a big storm and a big fish did Jonah realize how incredible God's plan was, and how even through trials, something good was to come.

I must admit, live streaming our worship services has felt like my Nineveh for some time. It's something that I have feared doing because it involves our worship team, pastors, and staff getting out of our comfort zone and stretching ourselves in a new way. While many see only the negative in our world, especially in light of the recent pandemic, I look forward to seeing how God is going to

use it for good, and for His glory. I know that once we get back to meeting together, I will be thankful for this time that God showed us what He can do when we give Him control, reaching those outside our church walls in an awesome new way.

God Bless,

*Zack Michel,*  
***Contemporary Worship***

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

**B**ack in January, I had an idea for this newsletter and I really did not know why at the time. The idea came from an old English proverb dating back to the 1600's that says, "April showers bring May flowers." Now this is not always the case in Oklahoma as the historical data shows that May is actually the wettest month. However, historical rainfall totals are not the point of the proverb. Instead, the point of the proverb is that out of times of trouble, beautiful things can happen. The reality is that the rains will fall, trouble will come, but the message of the proverb is to have hope.

Jesus gives us a similar message of hope in John 16. In this chapter, Jesus was sharing with his disciples the reality of what was to come—the pain of the cross, the desertion of the disciples, the

resurrection of that first Easter and his eventual return to the Father. This was a lot for the disciples to understand, so Jesus summed it all up in verse 33 (NIV) when he said, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Jesus told them clearly that the rain is coming when he said that "in this life you will have trouble." However, he also assured them of the flowers that will bloom as he encouraged them to "take heart" and reminded them that he has "overcome the world." Family, the promise of John 16:33 is still true for us today even in the grips of this worldwide pandemic in which we find ourselves.

My encouragement to you, and the hope that I am clinging to, is that even though we find ourselves practicing social

distancing and in different levels of quarantine, we are not alone. The very one who has overcome the world, has promised to "be with us until the very end of the age" — Matthew 28:20.

Take heart. Be encouraged as you continue walking with Jesus.

Blessings,

*Pastor Chad*

***"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."***

***John 16:33 (NIV)***

## **Wednesday Night Connections Is Temporarily Postponed**

**We look forward to resuming our meals and Small Groups again soon.**

## *Traditional Worship*

**W**e have been presented with a very unusual task in these uncharted times we are facing. We have been asked to stay home! Now I don't know about you, but this is a rarity in our household. We go from one thing to the next at a very fast pace. We are planning the next busy thing before we have completed the one we are in the middle of currently believing that being busy somehow makes us better. I had a friend who recently made the statement that this time, though uncertain, is a gift in their house. Being together with real face-to-face time is allowing their family to reacquaint, share some lasting memories, and lots of laughter

which is healing for their souls! I have been surprised by all the posts on social media regarding ways to fill this time of being home. There are tons of articles about things to watch on TV, things to do with kids, things to craft—the list goes on and on. And then, there is a whole list of amazing opportunities which are free to everyone right now—virtual tours of museums, concerts from famous artists in their homes, digital books to download, even virtual amusement park rides. It seems like when our busy lives were suddenly stripped away, we instantly have to find something in desperation to fill the time. We don't know how to relax, take a breath, rest, and be still. What if...just what if...we

were STILL. God calls us to BE STILL! Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still and know that I am God!" I know it is unrealistic to assume we should just do nothing and sit quiet and still for the duration of these weeks ahead, but we should embrace the idea that being home, being with family, and being with GOD is a much needed time for all of us bringing us back to the basics and shifting our priorities back to the right order. We can all reset and come out of this time stronger with renewed faith and strength! Allow yourself some time this week to BE STILL and let God sit with you!

*Margie Green,*  
*Traditional Worship*

## **EAST CROSS NURSERY**

**W**ith all our plans cancelled and social distancing in full effect let's take this time to spend with our family and to stop and be thankful for what we have. Let's keep everyone in our prayers, especially our health care workers, first responders and military. I know this is a difficult time for everyone but I truly believe that God is not going to give us anything we can't handle. If anything, all of this will make us stronger.

While childcare is on hold over the next few weeks, I will be cleaning and sanitizing all the Sunday school rooms. The safety and health of all the children in the nursery is very important to me. I will definitely miss seeing all the kids but they will always be in my prayers.

I hope everyone has a wonderful Easter.  
"He is the Resurrection and the Life."

*Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director*

## EC Kids

**H**umility isn't easy. If we're honest, WE want to be first in line. WE want that last slice of cookie cake. When something good happens, WE want the credit. Let's face it; it's a "me first" kind of world. But when Jesus came, He turned that kind of thinking upside down . . . especially when He died on the cross for us. Jesus changed everything, and He still does today! He gave us the perfect example of humility—putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve.



We start off the month online in Matthew 26:36-56. Jesus had been with His disciples at a special Passover meal where He demonstrated service and humility as He washed their feet. Afterwards, Jesus led them to the garden to watch and pray. Jesus gave us an important lesson in humility as He prays to His Father, "Not my will, but Your will." Jesus was soon arrested

and put on trial to humbly face the darkest moments of His life.

For week two, we celebrate Easter. We'll see through John 18:12–20:23, how Jesus' life, death, and resurrection makes it possible for us to have a forever relationship with God. Jesus humbly gave Himself for us as the ultimate sacrifice to rescue us from the consequences of our sin. In Philippians 2:3-8 Paul explains how Jesus is the ultimate example of humility.

In week three, we learn that as you deal with one another, you should think and act as Jesus did . . . He was humble and obeyed God completely. He did this even though it led to his death, (NirV). As God's Son, Jesus was equal with God, but instead of using that to His advantage, Jesus put us first and made a way for us to have a relationship with God.

In Luke 24:13-35, we find two followers of Jesus on their way to Emmaus. From what we read, it seems they were sad and confused by Jesus' death on the cross. Little did they know that Jesus was walking with them. He explained how Jesus' death was the answer to years of God's promises to



the Israelites. They were shocked when they realized that this person was Jesus. They ran back to Jerusalem to tell everyone about what they had just seen.

Figuring out how to be humble can be difficult. But we don't have to figure this out on our own. When Jesus was on earth, He gave us the ultimate example of humility. Jesus is God, and He put that aside for us. Through His life and death, He also showed us how to serve others and put them first.

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



## EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

### “35 Years of Ahhh...some!”

So, with the suspension of our current school-year classes, our program is following the guidelines for our church building by limiting group gatherings through social distancing as set forth by the leadership of East Cross United Methodist Church *and* following state and federal guidelines. First and foremost we are thinking of our teaching staff, our classroom children and all families and are concerned about the well-being of everyone!



Many currently planned activities of course will not occur *but* we look to the future with hopes and plans knowing that these are praying times for each of us and that when we put our faith over fear and know that the Lord has everything under control, we will be okay.



**opportunities** for our upcoming classes (Summer Session and

next School-Year Session) are now *open to the public*. We have already received *MANY outside inquiries* and actual enrollments, filling spots in our classrooms.

Our **Summer Session** (June 1-24, 2020) is all about fun, so be sure and return your child's enrollment forms as soon as possible so they can be a part of all the activities we have planned. We can only accept enough enrollment applications dependent upon the actual working staff which are limited in the summer for appropriate child-to-staff ratios.

Our **School-Year Session** (August 17, 2020–May 14, 2021) offers Parent Day Out and Preschool classes for children 16 month olds through 4 year olds. ALL upcoming session's "*Preliminary Enrollment Forms*" can be retrieved on our church website ([www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org)) via the Early Childhood Center tab, **OR** contact the ECC office.

We once again anticipate a need to find

**additional classroom staff** to aid in the care and early education of the children in our upcoming sessions! Our program employs persons that we feel have the appropriate gifts and talents to share with children and also help achieve the highest level of service for the Lord within this ministry of the church and to our community! We have begun **taking employment applications** for adults (also college-aged persons) that would like to be a part of our staff here at East Cross Early Childhood Center for these areas:

- ◇ This **Summer's classes** (8 working days) for the month of June, working with children 16 months-of-age through those entering Kindergarten;
- ◇ **Next School-Year Session** (August 2020–May 2021):
  - Parent Day Out classes** (Mondays and Wednesdays), who shall be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma, a general understanding and love for, and possible history of caring for young children;
  - 3 and 4 year-old Preschool Teacher Aides** are to have basic experience in areas of early childhood education and basic child care skills, also have child care work history and desires to *assist* the lead teacher.

All applicants offered a position will be required to submit required fingerprinting; background and reference checks; be able and willing to be CPR certified; and go through a multi-step interview process so that we can find the right person for our program. If you or someone you know is interested in finding out more about our needs, please have them contact Coleen ASAP!

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

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

**Phone:** 918-333-3814

## April Outreach News

### From the January Red Bird Bulletin

"We are at a critical juncture and are issuing a plea for your immediate support. For nearly 100 years, our school at Red Bird Mission has remained the one constant institution in this very isolated area of the southeast Kentucky mountains. It was established to serve those in need, and has partnered with the community to provide education and health care in order to minimize the devastating effects of deep and persistent poverty. The school and mission have grown to

meet the challenges faced by each generation. A focus on workforce development has led to the forthcoming addition of vocational and technical training for our students and those living in and around the Red Bird area. By combining our exemplary academics along with vocational training, we renew the founding concepts of Red Bird Settlement School—prepare students to further their education and provide for themselves and their families. This is the genuine pathway to a promising future for our region and fulfills the Red Bird Vision of 'building healthy, sustainable communities within the

mountains of southeastern Kentucky'. This is not a band aid, but a sustainable permanent solution. We have readied the necessary infrastructure for the educational needs of today. But, in order to be successful, Red Bird School needs the financial support of our alumni and friends to support us through the initial start-up years."

East Cross supports both the Red Bird School and the Red Bird Mission through generous giving of tithes and offerings.

### The Current State of Missions

Jeretta and I have been in contact with numerous mission sites and the Oklahoma Volunteer in Missions (VIM) office. Currently, our summer disaster relief mission is still planned as well as the Red Bird VIM. All sites and agencies are using protocols put in place by the CDC and United Methodist Church to ensure the safety of those we serve and for volunteers. All of these groups are in contact with team leaders to reassure that mission efforts will continue and will not be cancelled unless it is obviously necessary. Work has been suspended in most areas for a month or six weeks which gives them the opportunity to re-evaluate.

Bartlesville agencies are requesting additional help as more needs arise. The numbers who need help are growing and East Cross will respond as we can.

Lerene Schornick is doing a fabulous job staying in contact with local missions such as AGAPE, CONCERN, and the Lighthouse. She will share with us information as she gets it and we hope to continue serving our community through our Generosity Boxes. Thank you, Lerene and thank you, East Cross!

*Bill Amburn, Outreach Chair*

## April Outreach News...cont'd

### Beyond Relief Sewing Classes Opens Up Job Opportunities



The newest class for Beyond Relief, a Christian Trade School in Haiti, is sewing. Those who graduate have jobs awaiting them in industry.

The ministry continues to grow with plans to expand in areas such as:

- General Store—to sell school supplies and items made by the students
- Canteen Area—to sell drinks and snacks at cost
- Second floor classrooms—adding capacity

East Cross supports Beyond Relief through generous tithes and donations.



## APRIL GENEROSITY BOXES

In response to the current crisis and to assist those in our community that are now or will shortly be in need of food assistance, the **Concern Center Food Pantry** will be the recipient of our Generosity Box donations in April.

They have requested the following food items:

**Powdered Milk, Eggs, Sugar, Flour**  
**Small cans of Tuna and Chicken, Spam**

There is also a need for a few personal items:

**Small Bars of Soap, Shampoo, Deodorant**  
**Toothpaste, Toilet Paper**

Just a reminder that the church is open Monday-Thursday, 8am-5pm. The Generosity Boxes are available at the main entrance. Call ahead or ring the doorbell to leave your donations.

Remember, we are all in this together and we need to share with those that have a great need!

Thank  
You

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for your generosity and for making sure that Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries "CJAMM" is still a priority to your church and giving.

This year we were able to help over 7,000 people with your support. Our Exodus Houses, Redemption Missions, and New Day Camps are thriving. We were able to launch two new programs; New Day Three and Exodus House Wrap Around Care. For more information visit us at [www.cjamm.org](http://www.cjamm.org).

We appreciate you and together we will break the generational cycles of incarceration.

Sincerely,  
*Kristen Harlin*, Executive Director



THIS CERTIFIES THAT

## BARTLESVILLE EAST CROSS UMC

Has graciously given 100% of apportionment pledge for 2019 to Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries "CJAMM" as the Mission and Ministry Giving for the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference.

Thank you for your dedication and support to CJAMM.

Dated this 10 day of March, 2020

*April Sellers White*, Board Chair

*Kristen Harlin*, Executive Director

**East Cross Church will continue to update our church family as needed by email, Facebook, our webpage [www.eastcross.org](http://www.eastcross.org), or mailings. If you need assistance with shopping for essential items (food, prescriptions, household items) contact Jill Weimer 918-907-0753. We have a host of volunteers ready to serve you! We look forward to gathering with one another for worship and fellowship at East Cross in the near future!**

## PRAYER LIST

### New Prayer Requests...

L.H. Dupire, Barry Knuth, Bill Zoldoske

Chris Ambler (Scott and Martha Ambler's son), Annie Bollinger (Charlie and LeAnne Christensen's daughter), Gary Brown, Amelia and Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughters), Kathy Christian, Jack Clark, Jerry Cox, Summer Flenniken and Tyler Lorenz (Diana Trammel's grandchildren), Marcia Goode, Kerry Graham (Kevin Graham's brother), Sandy Harris, Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Vivian King (Tammy Baughman's mother), 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 from East Cross), Michele Willoughby

### Condolences to...

Gene and Jan Waldorf on the death of their great nephew, Ryan Belden.

Tootsie, Kevin, Terri, Kamden Bryan on the death of husband, father and grandfather, Pete Bryan.

Evelyn Meade on the death of her nephew, Curt Meade.

Wanda and Paul Cook, Linda and Tim Smith on the death of sister-in-law and aunt, Lois Jean Long.

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 [gmagdathoward@gmail.com](mailto:gmagdathoward@gmail.com). Please keep our active duty military and our veterans in your prayers.

**Need help with grocery shopping? We have volunteers ready to shop for you! Contact Jill Weimer 918-907-0753.**

**The men's breakfast for April has been canceled. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 2 for breakfast and fellowship at Boomerang at 8am!**



### East Cross Sunday Morning Van Ministry

has temporarily been suspended. Our volunteers look forward to serving you in the near future. Questions? Contact the church office 918-333-0810 between 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday thru Thursday.

**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
<i><b>April 2020</b></i>			1 Connections Postponed This Month	2	3	4
5 <i>Palm Sunday Communion</i> 8:30/11am Online Services	6	7	8	9 <i>Holy Thursday</i>	10 <i>Good Friday</i>	11
12 <i>Easter Sunday</i> 8:30/11am Online Services	13 <i>Easter Holiday Church Office Closed</i>	14 6pm Piecemaker Quilters	15	16	17	
19 8:30/11am Online Services	20	21			24	25
26 8:30/11am Online Services	27	28	29	30		

If your Small Group would like to continue to meet at East Cross in a cleaned and disinfected room, call the church office to check availability.

## East Cross -News

**Be on the lookout for our weekly East Cross  -News!**

**To keep our church family informed of church news and activities,  
we will begin emailing East Cross E-News next week.**

**If you do not have the capability to go online, call the church office  
918-333-0810 and a hard copy will be mailed to you.**

**You may also call Pastor Jeff Burress 918-977-0658 for updates.**

**EAST CROSS NEWS** (USPS 164-540)  
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Margie Green  
*Traditional Worship Director*

Jan Watt, *Pianist*

Zack Michel  
*Contemporary Worship Director*

Charles Binau  
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Jon Colliver  
*Building & Maintenance Coordinator*

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

# EASTER

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

8:30am // 9:45am // 11:00am

**WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE!**