

Volume 26, Number 5
May 1, 2020

East Cross News

Monthly Publication
of East Cross United
Methodist Church



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East Cross and
COVID-19**
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Methodist Church
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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
**Wednesday,
May 20th.**

Email articles to
linda@eastcross.org

Sermon Series: **WE ARE THE CHURCH**

May 3

"I've Got a Bone to Pick With You"

1 Corinthians 6:1-8

May 10

Mother's Day

"Power of Love"

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

May 24

"Hope and Consolation"

2 Corinthians 1:3-11

1 Corinthians 15:35-58

May 17

"Hope and Glory"

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

May 31

Pentecost

"The Body of Christ"



Another step in our journey...

Just a couple of months ago I never envisioned us not worshipping together in our Sanctuary. Even a month ago I was so sure that by the first of May we would be back together eating doughnuts, drinking coffee, and at least bumping elbows as we gathered together to worship the Risen Savior. Now, it looks like it may be even another month before we physically join together in the Sanctuary to worship.

During this process I have learned a few things, as I'm sure you have. First, I'm so thankful for a faithful, caring congregation. Your generous

giving as well as the kind words you give through social media, texts and online chat during the worship services mean so much to all of your East Cross staff. Second, we have an amazing staff that has adapted to do quality ministry in these ever-changing dynamics each week. I, as I know several of you do, peruse the internet after our services and worship with other congregations, and the production of our services is as good as any I see. Many thanks to all our music, recording, editing, mixing, and lighting people for jobs well done. Third, I don't like preaching to an empty room or drinking coffee by myself,

so I'm so ready for us to join together again as soon as it is safe for us to do so.

What I hear in our staff meetings, and what I totally concur with is that we miss seeing all of you so much. We miss our family. We're still doing ministry, but much of the joy of ministry involves being with our brothers and sisters in Christ. We will be together again soon, so don't lose hope, rather use this "down" time to enhance your relationship with God as, even in this time of separation, we are learning to follow Jesus and inviting others to join the journey.

Pastor Jeff

Contemporary Worship

We miss you!! These past weeks have been very strange to me, but God sometimes seems to find ways to put us in positions we've only ever dreamed about. I never imagined that we would ever have to lead worship in an empty sanctuary, but we have always talked about having the ability to stream our worship services. It seems that God had a plan for us to do that sooner than we thought! Finding the blessings in situations like this is just one thing that makes our God so great! He brings growth out of our pain! I hope that during this time, you are actively looking for silver linings, because they are everywhere! Whether it's getting to spend more time with your family, spending

more time outdoors, or even getting some much needed stress relief and rest, God is bringing something good out of this, and I believe that He has a purpose for all things! As a church family, let's be known for focusing on the good that He brings out of all situations!

"From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise."

-Philippians 4:8 CEB

God Bless,

Zack Michel, Contemporary Worship

From Pastor Chad...

Each month, the staff of East Cross writes a newsletter article to let you know what is happening in their respective areas of ministry. Personally, I have written a newsletter article every month for the past 13 years and 10 months—that is a total of 166 newsletter articles. As I reflected on this, I realized that I have shared a lot of the things on my heart with you, but never offered you the opportunity to share the things on your heart. Therefore, and I know that this might seem strange, I want to make this article interactive. I want to hear from you. I want to hear what is going on in your respective area of ministry. Remember just because you might not work at the church, does not mean that you do not have an area of ministry.

Before going into a discourse comparing the human body to the church, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12 that we all have been gifted by the Spirit of God. Beginning in verse 4 (CEB), he says, *“There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good.”* Did you catch that last verse? We are ALL gifted to work for the common good—to share the Good News of Jesus in the way that we have been gifted to do so.

The interactive part... email me at associate@eastcross.org and let me know how you are

putting the Spiritual Gifts which you have been blessed to work for the common good even in this season of quarantine. Maybe you are an intercessory prayer warrior. Maybe you are checking on your neighbors. Maybe you are sending notes of encouragement. However you might be using your Spiritual Gifts, email me and let me know. If you don't know what your Spiritual Gifts might be, there are numerous inventories you can take online to get you started (email me and I'll send you a link). You see, family, the truth is that even though we might be physically separated, we can still do the work to which God has called us right where we are.

Blessings,

Pastor Chad

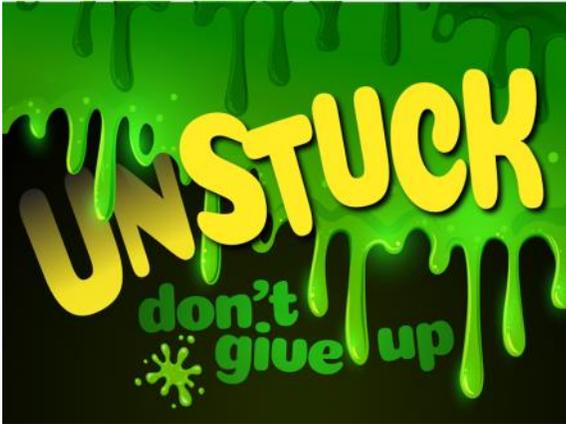
Traditional Worship

I want to thank you, EAST CROSS! Over these last few weeks, we have had some amazing services online. Because of your faithfulness and giving, we have been able to offer some really fantastic services. On Sundays, I love reading your comments as you "roll call" who is worshiping together. I miss all of you so much. I miss the church choir and our times together on Wednesday night and singing in worship together on Sunday morning. I miss the laughter and hugs I see all over the building. Soon we will be back together in the building and I know we as a church family will be forever changed. We have experienced something together — yes, the pandemic will never be forgotten, but I'm talking about what we have experienced together as a

church with our online services. We have overcome an obstacle, we met the challenge of adversity, and we didn't accept the obvious. We let God be God and let Him be in control. I am so blessed to work with an amazing staff who are creative and passionate about our church! They have truly inspired me with the work they have done to stay connected with you. Because of the faithful giving of our people, we were able to secure the necessary equipment to make quality online services, daily devotions, children's ministry, youth ministry and so much more behind the scenes continue with strength over these last several weeks. Thank you, Church! WE are the church and WE are in this journey together!

Margie Green, Traditional Worship

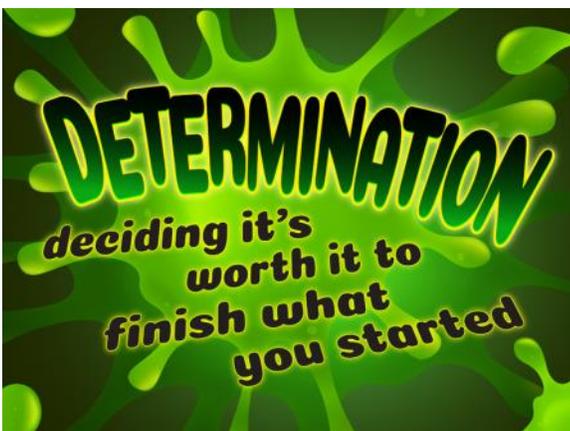
EC Kids



More than ever, life is full of sticky situations. There's that thing on your to-do list that you know you have to do, but you just don't want to do it. There's that assignment that you have to finish—and you know others are depending on you—but you just can't seem to find the motivation to get it done.

So what do you do when you feel stuck? What do you do when you just can't bring yourself to move forward? That's what determination is all about—and it starts with our relationship with God. He can help us get UNstuck.

Determination is deciding it's worth it to finish what you started.



Throughout the Bible, we read about all sorts of people who showed determination in the face of hardship and difficulty. They relied on God's strength to get them through it. Even Jesus Himself endured through the pain of the cross so that we would be able to have a forever relationship with God. When it comes to the situations in our own lives, God gives us the Holy Spirit to empower us to keep going, even when life gets difficult.

Watch each week's Bible Story online and find fun activities at www.facebook.com/ECKids!



If your family has a prayer request: <https://form.jotform.com/aimeehall/prayer-requests>

To schedule a Virtual Meet Up with Mrs. Aimee: <http://calendly.com/eckidsbartlesville>

Aimee Hall,
Director of Children's Ministries



EC Kids Weekly Bible Stories

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus' Final Orders to His Disciples / Ascension Matthew 28:16-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-11

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going even when it seems impossible.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY:

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost Acts 2:1-41

BOTTOM LINE

God gives you what you need to keep going.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY:

Peter and John Are Taken to the Sanhedrin Acts 3:1-4:21

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going even when it gets tough.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY:

Stephen Acts 6:1-7:60

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going because God knows the end of the story.

WEEK FIVE

BIBLE STORY:

Philip and the Man from Ethiopia Acts 8:26-40

BOTTOM LINE

Keep going even when you have questions.

MEMORY VERSE

"LET US NOT BECOME TIRED OF DOING GOOD. AT THE RIGHT TIME WE WILL GATHER A CROP IF WE DON'T GIVE UP."

GALATIANS 6:9,
NIRV

EAST CROSS NURSERY

With 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.

I think that when the dust settles, we will realize how little we need, how very much we actually have and the true value of human connection.

Liz VanDeVenter, Nursery Director

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER



Promoting Week of the Young Child is most often done in April, but during these times of limiting our social opportunities and times when families are together more than is typical; why not consider some of these activities as a family (shared via the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, OKDHS).

M is for Monday's Activity:

Mmmm..... Have children say what their favorite food is that makes them say *mmm*! Have children show what their face would look like and take photos of them showing what their face looks like when they love what they are eating; go through old magazines or search online to find photos of their favorite foods to make a collage. Happy *mmmm* Monday!

T is for Tuesday's Activity:

We love spending **Time** with you. Take photos of children at different times throughout their time with you that show their schedule of a day. Throughout their day, discuss time and announce what it is "time for". Children and adults thrive on routines and are more comfortable being able to anticipate what will happen next. At a time of such uncertainty, maintaining a schedule and being able to look forward to a time when we know what to expect is so important!

W is for Wednesday's Activity:

In Oklahoma, we have a lot of **Wind** on most days. Have children share with you the things they can do when it is windy - or if the weather is appropriate, take photos of children having fun in the wind. Activities could include watching leaves blow, flying a kite, flying streamers, enjoying the wind blow on your face, and watching birds to see how the wind might determine how they fly.

Th is for Thursday's Activity:

Today is set aside for **Thank you's**. Have children make or draw thank you cards for their family, friends, neighbors telling them "thank you" for taking such good care of them, for working hard, making meals, playing games with them, or reading to them.

F is for Friday's Activity:

Find pictures of **Families**... the child's own family; family images that could be downloaded off the internet or cut out from old magazines or catalogs and talk about different kinds of families. Friends and families and even child care environments surround children and let them know they are safe and loved. Not only at the end of this week of various activities, but always, we need to know how important families and friends are to each and every one of us!

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

Email: ecc@eastcross.org

Phone: 918-333-3814

May Outreach News

Outreach Is Not On Hold!

It seems that everything has been put on hold with the coronavirus. I am so thankful for Sunday Worship services and ZOOM Bible Study meetings.

Outreach is preparing for the summer disaster relief VIM and the fall VIM to Red Bird, Kentucky. We continue to provide a meal once a month at the Lighthouse Homeless Shelter and we have members volunteering at local missions such as Mary Martha. What we can do at home is to call friends and family to check on them and as many have done, take a meal to a friend in need.

1. Summer camps are still being planned. CJAMM plans to

host NEW Day Camps for children who have at least one parent incarcerated.

2. The US Postal Service still plans on their annual canned food drive in May. You will receive information about the drive from postal workers. They will leave a flyer in your mail box with the date and what to donate (canned food of course).

3. We have missionaries around the world that need our prayerful support. You can even send them a nice card or letter to encourage them in their work.

4. Go to websites about Red Bird, CJAMM, Ray of Hope, Rice and Beans ministry, Pearl's Hope at Frances Willard, or Lydia Patterson

School to find out more about what God is doing locally and around the world.

“God the Father chose you because of what he knew beforehand. He chose you through the Holy Spirit’s work of making you holy and because of the faithful obedience and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

May God’s grace and peace be multiplied to you.”

1st Peter 1:2

Peter wrote to the faithful in Asia Minor, now Turkey. God has entrusted us with His mission field. Let's cultivate, plant, and be about God's work so that God can harvest.

MAY GENEROSITY BOXES

Concern Center Food Pantry is our designated recipient for the months of April and May. Although we are currently not accepting donations at the church, we ask that you, please, hold on to your donations so we will be ready to respond at an appropriate time to assist those in our community that are now or will shortly be in need of food assistance.

Concern Center Food Pantry has requested the following food items:

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

There is also a need for these personal items:

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

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

May is National Military Appreciation Month

National Military Appreciation Month (NMAM) is celebrated every May and is a declaration that encourages U.S. citizens to observe the month in a symbol of unity. NMAM honors current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including those who have died in the pursuit of freedom. The month of May is characterized by six national observances which highlight the contributions of those who have served.

The Six National Observances during National Military Appreciation Month are:

Loyalty Day — Friday, May 1, 2020

Loyalty Day kicks off our Nation's month-long celebration of military appreciation. It is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States, and to reflect on the proud heritage of our American freedom.

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) — Sunday, May 3 thru Saturday, May 9, 2020

Celebrated the first full week in May. A time set aside to honor the men and women who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees and ensure that our government is the best in the world.

Victory in Europe Day AKA V-E Day or VE Day — Friday, May 8, 2020

May 8, 1945 is the day when Germans throughout Europe unconditionally surrendered to the Allies. This day marked the end of World War II in Europe.

Military Spouse Appreciation Day — Friday, May 8, 2020

Traditionally set for the Friday before Mother's Day. A day to honor military spouses with appropriate ceremonies and activities. Recognizes the important role our military families play in keeping our Armed Forces strong and our country safe.

Armed Forces Day — Saturday, May 16, 2020

Celebrated the third Saturday in May every year. A single holiday for citizens to come together and thank our military members for their patriotic service in support of our country. This day honors everyone serving in the U.S. Military branches; Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines, Navy. There is also Armed Forces Week which typically leads up to Armed Forces Day, although it is not an official observance, many activities are planned nonetheless during the week.

Memorial Day — Monday, May 25, 2020

A Federal holiday observed on the last Monday in May. A remembrance of our veterans. Commemorates the men and women who died while in military service.

History of NMAM

In 1999 Senator John McCain introduced legislation to designate the month of May as National Military Appreciation Month. Both the Senate and House of Representatives adopted resolutions calling for Americans to recognize and honor U.S. Service Members during NMAM. These proclamations also urge the President to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe NMAM.

EAST CROSS PICTORIAL DIRECTORY UPDATE!

Obviously, COVID-19 and shutdown orders across the country have affected nearly every part of our lives, and at the moment, that includes the East Cross Pictorial Directory.

The Lifetouch representative responsible for putting together the East Cross directory is currently out of her office because she is under the authority of the state of Ohio's shutdown order. She has all of our materials, including photos and roster updates; however, because of the shutdown, she isn't able to process them. Thus, you could say the directory is currently in limbo.



However, once she is allowed to return to work, she will be able to process our directory as usual, and we will - we hope! - in short order be able to receive our directories and distribute them to our church family.

Thank you for your patience!

On a happier note, we're pleased to announce that our new directory has a total of 172 family units, including 42 families who weren't in our last directory! Thank you, everyone!

*Thank
you*

It was God's perfect timing! It is because photo sessions for our new church directory were completed mid-March that home addresses, phone numbers and email addresses are updated in our database! This has allowed us to reach out to our church family with updates on our current situation in ways we have never done before! Thank you to all who participated in photo sessions, and thank you to these volunteers who helped with sign-up, and verified contact information!

Thank you, Isabella Sousa, Diana Trammel, Ruth and Don Howell, Carol and Mike Smith, Evelyn Meade, Paula Lindblom, Sharon Swisher, Susan and Bill Henning, Shirley and Jerry Kintner, Melda and Gary Howard, Glenda and Charles Driskill, Pastor Jeff Burress.

THANK YOU!!! *Your Pictorial Directory Team — Aimee Hall, Nicole Hashke, Linda Smith*

East Cross staff will continue to update our church family as needed by enews, Facebook, our webpage www.eastcross.org, and other 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...

Elaine (Holly Binau's friend), Val Cottle, Loyce Gerth (Terry Gerth's mother), Gary Howard, Shirley McKnight (Rita Neff's mother), Larry Shoemaker, Pat Smith

Chris Ambler (Scott and Martha Ambler's son), Gary Brown, Amelia and Kate Callaway (Drew and Debbie Coffee's granddaughters), Kathy Christian, Jack Clark, Jerry Cox, L.H. Dupire, Summer Flenniken and Tyler Lorenz (Diana Trammel's grandchildren), Marcia Goode, Sandy Harris, Don Keeler, Amy Kelton (Teresa Dietz' friend), Emily Kuntz, James Kuntz, Steve McAllaster (Joyce Taylor's brother), Barbara Nissan (friend of Teresa Dietz), Colleen Oldfather, Corinne Pichler (Nancy Pichler's granddaughter), Jack Randall, Deb Richardson, 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, Bill Zoldoske

Condolences to...

Kevin and Debbie Graham on the death of Kevin's brother, Kerry.

Pam Knuth and family on the death of her husband, Barry.

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. 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 May has been canceled. Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 6 for breakfast and fellowship at 8am! Location will be announced at a later time.



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. 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
3 <i>Communion</i> 8:30/11am Online Services	4	5	6	7	1	2
					8	9
10 <i>Mother's Day</i> 8:30/11am Online Services	11	12	13	14		
17 8:30/11am Online Services	18				22	23
24 8:30/11am Online Services	25 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Church Office</i> <i>Closed</i>	26	27	28	29	30
31 <i>Pentecost</i> 8:30/11am Online Services	May 2020					

Activities and meetings at the church are suspended during the month of May.
Worship with us online Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00.

Spring and Summer Activities at East Cross

Our Wednesday Night Connections Meal and Small Groups will not meet in May.
We look forward to beginning again in August after school has started.

Church camps for youth and elementary aged children are still planned at Camp Egan for this summer. Campers will be fully refunded if camps are cancelled.

Our Early Childhood Center's Summer program for the month of June is staffed and will be ready to begin once there is authorization for it to open.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 20-23.

Look for more updates in our weekly East Cross enews or facebook posts.

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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

**WE ARE THE CHURCH
TOGETHER**

WORSHIP WITH US ONLINE!

www.eastcross.org 8:30am // 11:00am