

learning to follow Jesus, inviting others to join the journey

The inauguration of President Joe Biden just took place. I'm proud that in the United States of America we have always had a peaceful transfer of power. I'm proud that we have a voice in who is in power. I'm proud that our leaders are accountable to the citizens of our country. I'm also proud that we have the right to speak our minds, even if it others don't appreciate our words.

Today, as I watched the inauguration and the peaceful transfer of power from and to quite different leaders, I was proud to be an American, proud of my country and very thankful for our freedoms. Regardless of our politics, let's pray for our country and our leaders. Every leader needs to be covered with prayers continually.

Jeff

OKLAHOMA BLOOD INSTITUTE BLOOD DRIVE

Thursday, February 4 1:30-5pm at East Cross

Signup on Sunday morning or call Vicki Bland 918.625.7744 to reserve a time slot.

Appointments are needed to participate.

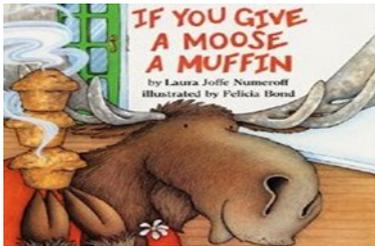
Masks and photo ID are required for all donors.

Recently, I have been thinking a lot about joy. Merriam-Webster's says joy is "the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires". I have to tell you that I struggle with that definition... especially on the heels of 2020. Is joy intricately linked to our circumstances or can we choose joy no matter what is going on around us? Can we choose joy?

I think we can chose to be joyful even when everything around us seems to be headed in the wrong direction. Psalm 118:24 reminds us that "This is the day the Lord has made; We will rejoice (*be joyful*) and be glad in it." (NKJV) King David reminds us that all we need to do to choose joy is to remember that this is the day the Lord has made. Pastor Rick Warren says it this way, "Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be alright, and the determined choice to praise God in every situation." I know that choosing joy is easier said than done, but my goal for 2021 is to be joyful no matter what! Will you join me?

Chad Perceful, Associate Pastor / Youth Pastor

The children have begun “checking out” books weekly from our Lending Library to take home to share with their family. We know when little ones share stories, they experience important bonding time, expand their vocabulary, and develop a love for reading.



Our Preschool children will be exploring the “If you Give A...” *Moose a Muffin, Pig a Pancake, and a Dog a Donut* series. Introducing these books provide the children a variety of classroom activities they thoroughly enjoy each year!

Our Parent Day Out children (1 and 2-year olds) weekly themes for next month are: Hearts and Love; Valentine’s Day; Sign Language; and Transportation. Their teachers offer numerous ways of introducing and sharing these concepts with through activities in music and songs, crafting, storybooks, and simple games.

Our Preschool classes (3 and 4-year olds) will be talking about the obvious color of the month, PINK, and the obvious shape of the month, the HEART! Having a weekly “Star Student” gives an opportunity for each child to share many wonderful things about themselves with their classmates.



Our ministry (36 years and growing stronger each year) and our age-appropriate classrooms continue to offer *MUCH more than just “child care”*. We offer LOTS of hands-on learning experiences in peer social settings in both our Parent Day Out and Preschool classrooms.

Coleen Williams, Early Childhood Center Director

CALENDAR — January 2021

- 20 6:00pm CONNECTIONS—All ages
(Grandparenting class NOT meeting tonight)
- 20 7:00pm Trustees
- 21 6:30pm Children’s Council
- 21 7:00pm Basketball Practice
- 22 9:30am-Noon ECC Preschool
- 24 8:30am & 11am Worship Services
- 24 9:45am Small Groups—all ages
- 24 5:30pm Youth
- 24 5:30pm PG Small Group
- 25 9:30am-3:00pm ECC PDO / Preschool
- 25 5:00pm Basketball Practice
- 25 6:30pm Young Adults
- 25 7:00pm Basketball Practice
- 26 6:30pm Cub Scouts
- 27 9:30am-Noon ECC PDO / Preschool

Prayer Requests...

Randy Blevins (Joyce Kelsey’s family), Larry & Liz Myers (Virginia Messick’s sister & brother-in-law)

Condolences to...

Howard McGuire on the death of his wife, Deb Richardson McGuire on January 14.

Thank you so much for providing Angel Tree gifts for Big Brothers and Big Sisters. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are greatly appreciated!

Families of Big Brothers/Big Sisters Participants

Ways you can give.



Website

www.eastcross.org

Menu tab top of page



App



Mail

East Cross UMC

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