

## Welcome to the March Edition of Eastside's Community Ministry Newsletter!

A HUGE thank you for the nice comments and feedback from the first newsletter sent out in February and a big welcome to new recipients of the ECM newsletter. Since there are some new folks - a quick introduction - I am Kelly Ashby and am currently serving on the Board of Directors for Eastside! It is an honor to be part of this amazing organization. Our Board of Directors and Executive Director Jamie Trout thank you for your support and your generosity. The goal of our newsletter is to keep you updated on projects and needs of the Eastside Community Ministry organization.



WOW oh WOW!!! We need to start off with a huge thank you to everyone who supported the Chair-ity Auction! Thank you to our bidders and donors of the items! Also a huge thank you to Johnny Nolan our auctioneer, Kate Rinehart who served as our very own Vanna White and to Brenda Larrick who served as a fabulous emcee. Over \$25,000 was raised. Thank you to our sponsors - Marquee Broadcasting, WHIZ and Fox 5, The Colony Square Mall, Johnny Nolan Auctioneer and the J.W. and

M.H. Straker Foundation. Eastside will continue to serve our community because of this generous support of so many! THANK YOU!!!!!!



Another HUGE thank you to the J.W. and M.H. Straker Foundation who awarded us with a grant to purchase a new van to help transport the children in our year round youth program. THIS is an honor and we are extremely grateful! Thank you!



Jamie Trout did an AMAZING job representing Eastside Community Ministry at the 100 Women Who Care event held in January! Jamie provided an overview of the services being provided to our community through the hard work of ECM. Jamie was one of three organizations that presented that evening and Eastside Community Ministry was chosen as the winner! The gift amount is still being calculated and we will announce the total in next month's newsletter. Thank you Jamie for your hard work, compassion, services offered, and fabulous speaking skills too!



**March is a time of renewal, a time of reflection, and a time of hope.**

### **Biblical Significance of March**

March symbolizes new beginnings, aligning with themes from the Bible. It represents awakening, growth, and renewal, echoing the message of regeneration found in several scriptures.

### **Spring and Resurrection**

March often marks the onset of spring. This transition reflects the resurrection of Jesus, celebrated during Easter. The symbolism of rebirth resonates with 2 Corinthians 5:17, which states, "If anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" This verse

### **Themes of Hope**

March brings hope, mirroring the hope conveyed in biblical narratives. For instance, Isaiah 40:31 speaks of those who hope in the Lord renewing their strength. This hope inspires perseverance and encourages you to embrace life's changes. captures the essence of transformation and fresh starts.

### **Biblical Events**

March hosts important biblical events, including the preparation for Passover. Passover celebrates liberation and freedom, reflecting themes of deliverance in Exodus. The significance of this observance enhances the renewal themes associated with March.

### **Practical Reflection**

You can use March for spiritual reflection. Consider setting aside time for prayer or meditation. Journaling your thoughts can help track personal growth, aligning your experiences with the themes of renewal found in scripture.

### **Connect with Nature**

Another way to honor March is by connecting with nature. Acknowledge the signs of spring, observe new life, and appreciate the beauty of creation. This practice reinforces biblical teachings about appreciating God's creation, as seen in Psalm 104:24-25, which highlights the wonder of nature.

By focusing on these themes and events, you can deepen your understanding of March's biblical significance while enriching your spiritual journey.

### **Key Themes Associated with March**

March embodies themes of renewal, hope, and preparation in the biblical context, aligning with various scriptures that highlight transformation and new beginnings.

[biblicalchronology.com](http://biblicalchronology.com)



Eastside's current board members are as follows:

Kayla Watts - President

Irv Bell - Vice President

Mike Whiteman - Treasurer

Shanon Ford - Secretary

Chuck Bell

Paul Ragias

Chad Jerles

Susan Dunlap

David Goins

Kelly Ashby

Holly Moore

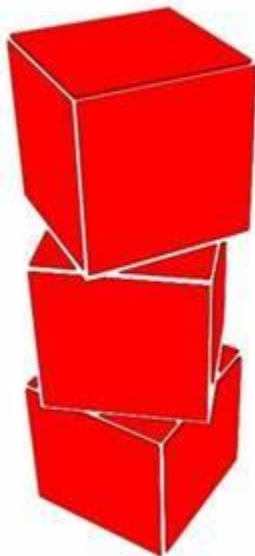
AJ Patel

Joseph Barclay

Elizabeth Chernick

Kari Burkey

Sarah Wickerham



**Things**  
*we*  
**Need**

## "Give a Gift of Eastside"

We accept monetary donations to help daily operations, however, in-kind donations are always needed as well and are greatly appreciated. A month by month list has been put together that focuses on items that are typically in great need during that time of year. Here are the needs for the next several months.

March - Snacks for our after school Youth Program

April - Spring and Summer Clothing

May - Snacks for our Summer Youth Program (non-perishable)

We are also always in need of "Essential Items" and we are encouraging clubs, churches, or businesses to consider choosing a month to adopt essential items. It's simple...Sign up for a month and hold a collection of items - toothpaste, deodorant, women;s sanitary items, laundry detergent, shampoo, conditioner, soap, etc... Items will be disbursed from the Eastside's Essentials building. We will hang a sign with your information and also promote your donation on our website and in our newsletter. We have many requests from our generous community asking "How can we help?" and this is one of the ways that will be a HUGE help!



St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17, the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. St. Patrick's Day 2025 will take place on Monday, March 17. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years. On St. Patrick's Day, which falls during the Christian season of Lent, Irish families would traditionally attend church in the morning and celebrate in the

afternoon. Lenten prohibitions against the consumption of meat were waived and people would dance, drink and feast on the traditional meal of Irish bacon and cabbage.

## IRISH BLESSING

May you always have.....

Walls for the wind

A roof for the rain

Tea beside the fire

Laughter to cheer you

Those you love near you

And all your heart might  
desire.



Heavenly Father, as we enter the month of March, we march forward with prayerful hearts. May this month be a time of divine connection, growth, and purpose. Guide us through the days ahead and grant us the wisdom to navigate the journey with grace. In your name we pray. Amen



Eastside Community Ministry is an ecumenical ministry seeking to help people transform their lives by meeting their basic needs and offering them education, life-skill training, and relationship building opportunities. ECM is a trusting environment where people are loved, valued, and treated with respect. Eastside houses a clothing bank, food pantry, emergency relief funds, a youth program, and several special outreach projects throughout the year.

Thank you again for your support of ECM. We appreciate our generous community. If you would like to volunteer throughout the year please feel free to reach out. Our plan is to send a monthly email. We will spotlight our volunteers, the staff at Eastside, our donors, our services and our projects. If you do not wish to receive this email just let me know. If you have any questions please

reach out to Eastside Community Ministry at 740.452.7519 or send me an email. I love hearing from you!

We wish you a March filled hope, love, and purpose!

Kelly Ashby