



Crawford Methodist Church

The Methodist Messenger

August 2025



"Ye are the Body" writes Bonnel Spencer (Order of the Holy Cross) expressing the nature and work of the body of Christ, the church. And we hear, "Remember your baptism and be thankful" from the service for death and resurrection. All of which points to our Easter joy in life overcoming death in Christ's resurrection. I am grateful. We all are grateful and touched by the grace of God. It is out of that sentiment that the following thoughts seem to weave together for me as they point to the mystical and earthly body of Christ's work on earth and in heaven. The church is made from all baptized Christians and that even includes Baptists, Church of Christ, and Mormon's. We will run into some of the most unlikely people in heaven. Why? Because our God is a righteous judge and shows no partiality.

I owe a debt of gratitude for all the love, support, and prayers for recovery from total knee replacement to all of you and especially to Vicki for her care and support during this time of surgery and convalescence. If I had known how difficult the surgery was going to be, I might have had second thoughts on the decision to go forward with it. Still, the surgery was a decision for the work and life in front of me. With this in mind, I recognize that our church family is making an investment in its pastor by making it possible to take the time off for therapy and recovery. At this point I am working out of a kind of sabbatical circumstance until I can drive with my orthopedic doctor's release. I remain engaged in the work of our church. Where this leads from here means maintaining healthy disciplines that contribute to all the energies that can be harnessed into the best possible and active life in front of me and our life together. My overall health is good and we have information and data supporting healthy heart and lung health. Now, I need to do what Jim McMillian was helping me to do before the Lord called him home by using the SILVER SNEAKERS plan that the McGregor gym has to offer and eating healthy food in reasonable amounts. Jim would make it down to the gym during the week in the mornings, have breakfast and be back in Crawford before most people got up in the morning. I like the sound of that and a bonus for me is that our grandsons Gareth and Benny will be driving themselves to school this year-providing they can keep from wrecking the cars before we can replace them. I will give them credit for working hard and saving money for buying and repairing trucks and cars.

We are all in the same boat on this one. We are all charged with looking after each other's wellbeing. What is essential for Christian belief and practice has been referred to as "The Biblical Imperative for Care Giving," which takes Galatians 6:2-10 to heart. This means carrying each other's burdens because Jesus has touched our lives and when that happens, we become compelled to care for others.

"No pain, no gain came to me as an encouragement from a church family member...It's like "suck it up pastor and push forward". That is good advice for any of us to hear when it is given out of love. I heard this from my high school and Cross-Country coach and I heard this upon arrival standing on the little yellow foot prints at Marine Corps Recruit Training Depo (MCRD) San Diego-back a half-century plus ago. It's the same message we all hear when we have to push ourselves beyond our own natural limits in order to achieve the goal. It's the same message Paul gives the early believers when he compares the Christian life to that of an athlete. Philippians 4:13 nails it down by stressing the confrontation for overcoming obstacles and challenging situations. The good news here is that God has our back in Jesus who is always our greater strength. When we have the privilege of having had people like Boo Lynch in your lives then you can see firsthand what happens to us when we stay in love with God. The relationship changes us and makes us better people. She had that transformational effect on many of us and it continues to ground us in our missional desire to share the love of God in Christ. Her legacy of work and caring continues in our lives today.

Last Sunday, July 20th I preached sitting on the sanctuary level floor in a chair. My knee replacement led me to do things differently and not use the pulpit area to preach from which was okay. After the service, I was inspired by stories shared with me from others about knee

replacement, one shoulder replacement, and a hip replacement. All of which is to say that I was being told "I feel your pain" and you will get through all of this and be a healthier person. It worked. Our community of believers made a connection with me as they expressed care and concern within a community of people with the shared values of God's love made real in both our sorrows and joys. Yes, let us give thanks for the body of Christ and our baptism in it. Because with it comes the potential of great transformation and invitation to live out our lives together with the mystical union of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

My take away from it all: The Body of Christ is God's vehicle for community and care in the world. Our responsibility is to take care of each other because Jesus has touched our lives.

We are Blessed,

Kent

Our mission is to become a community of believers and followers of God; the Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit. We gather to worship and become stewards and disciples who express our faith with others, nurture one another, and are in ministry with Christ.

How to reach us:

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Facebook page: Crawford, Texas FUMC

fumccrawford@gmail.com

Pastor's email: John.Kent.Berry@gmail.com

Pastor's phone: 254.722.9680

Youth Leader: Nathan Byers

Organist: Karen Crockett

Pianist: Vicki Berry

Senior Bells Director: Marda Raley

Youth Report

Hello Crawford Methodist Youth. I hope you all are staying safe and keeping God first. It's going to be very hot and humid so please pray for our farmers and ranchers. They work hard to provide our nation with the food and supplies we need. Let's lift them up.

As we begin the new school year, don't forget the power of prayer. Let's start the first semester by putting Jesus first and spreading the love he has for all of us.

Morning youth services are every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Youth afternoon services are on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 4 p.m. unless it falls on a holiday, then we will reschedule accordingly. Also, if there is any youth news I need to be made aware of (sporting events, birthdays, joys, or concerns) please send me an email, text, or call. If you would like to be added to the youth list for updates and youth activities, please let me know. See you at youth group, as always, bring a friend! --- Nathan "Nate" Byers, Youth Director

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7



Children's Class

Six Weeks Focus: The Beatitudes

Lesson: True Happiness is Found in God Alone

- Week #1 Aug. 10th – Glenda
 #2 Aug. 17th – Jenny
 #3 Aug. 24th – Cookie
 #4 Aug. 31st – Kelli and Kaye
 #5 Sept. 7th – Marda
 #6 Sept. 14th – Clayton

The Sunday School verse is: **“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13**

Confirmation Class will resume Sunday, August 24.



August

1st Ellie Puryear
 14th JM Finstad
 18th Dusty Lynch
 18th Jeffrey Holmes
 25th Christy Walker
 27th Ray Hickok

4th Randy and Debra Veazey
 11th John and Jenny Minnix
 20th Berry and Marda Raley
 21st Lori Galt

Prayer Requests

Cheryl Isbell
Ernie Isbell
Flood victims
Mark Norwood
Family of Mike Ludiker
Nancy Jones
Family of James Booker
Jane Nelson
Family of Clayton's great aunt, Bonnie
Family of Boo Lynch
Family of Ken Harris
Pam Edwards
Jennifer Walpole's cousins, Jayce and Roman
(infant having seizures)
Cindy Raborn
Carrie and Talley Barnes
Riley Jenson
Brenda Roland Walker
Hunter McFarland
Clem Kortis
Summer safety
Russel Hall
Kevin Finstad
Joanne Smith
Larry Lawrence

Berry Baize
Cookie's daughter, Lynda King
Steven Cribbs
Raven Jones
Beverly Jones
Mary Ellen Cribbs
Terry Taylor (surgery)
Debbie DeChaume
Reg Baldwin
Linda Vandiver
Gene Clements
Shirley Bullard
Clarence Scott
Michael Schmalriede
Ukraine
Israel Gaza War
Eunice Boedeker (school counselor)
Amy Caramanna
Kathy Hickey
Jennifer Coan
Ethan Valdez
Hannah Riley
Megan Ayers (DeChaume)
Emma Harper
Nancy Way



Please stop by and say hello to our members and Crawford residents in nursing homes!!

Joyce Holmes
c/o Stoney Brook
Rm 210
151 Royal Dr.
Hewitt, TX 76643

Barbara Lovorn
c/o Stoney Brook
Rm 605
151 Royal Dr.
Hewitt, TX 76643

Due to popular demand, Coffee Plus will continue. We have a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We are asking that 2 people sign-up each week, one to make the coffee and one to bring food. Coffee Plus begins at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday morning, except 4th Sunday Potluck, in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!



Rev. Kent is currently not going to the Texas Juvenile facility on Fridays. Instead, he is making visitations. If you desire a home visitation, please contact him or the church office.

Bless the Backpacks

Crawford Methodist Church
Sunday, August 10
10:30 A.M.

Join us for Worship and special prayers for our Students, Teachers, and School Administrations. All ages welcome.

A bright green backpack is shown from a front-three-quarter view. It is filled with various school supplies: several colored pencils (red, yellow, green, blue), two pens (one pink, one blue), a green ruler, and a black smartphone. The backpack is sitting on a light-colored wooden surface.

Crawford Methodist Kid's Club

BACK TO SCHOOL Party

August 10 after Church

The background is a dark chalkboard. In the foreground, there are several items: a stack of three books (one red, one blue, one yellow), a single red apple, and a silver mesh pencil holder filled with colorful pencils. The text is overlaid on this background.

WEEKLY OFFERING TOTALS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Financial Goal</u>	<u>Offering Report</u>
6/29/2025	\$2,930.48	\$620.00
7/6/2025	\$2,930.48	\$2,840.00
7/13/2025	\$2,930.48	\$2,679.00
7/20/2025	\$2,930.48	\$1,290.00



Grandparents Sunday:

Do you have a favorite photo or two with you and your grandparents? If so, please text the photo to Kayla at 254-640-1232. We want everyone, not only the youth and children, to share photos. Please start looking now for your favorites and send to Kayla. Thank you!





Back To School Word Search



A X O B H C N U L B S J C B P Q D R D C
L P U V D R C B A S N O G Y E I E E N R
G I P H U D Z C E E A O L V N H N G U A
X C B L E K K C Q F H O L F C Z O T O Y
X I S R E P E F T M H N Z A I I T L R O
H R G A A R T Y Q Y F T E Y L G E J G N
O H Y C F R R I Y L K T A K Z C B S Y S
C H K K O H Y S C H O O L M R S O E A Y
J I U C S E L U D E H C S L C A O K L D
L B M A U E C C M D M X O I O L K P P W
O Q G D P W D T Y R K Y S E N C K V G S
P F Z T O S E S Y T D S L C J W K X K H
O Z E V N E D K O U O B G N T T U E F F
L P S T U D E N T R M Q N E J X O R R O
J G X Y F H D S S D E O D I W H M I K W
F J B O H G F A E R T W S C Y Y L G E E
L A W V J G A C M U T N U S I N H G R C
F T U Q P Z S R O W Y N Z H Q Y B B F I
E W M J C Q N O T F X C U R C S B F F O
W R I T I N G H N M S V R Y N H N T H O

APPLE

DESK

LUNCHBOX

PENCIL

SCHEDULE

SCISSORS

TEACHER

BACKPACK

LIBRARY

MATH

PLAYGROUND

SCHOOL

STUDENT

WRITING

CRAYONS

LOCKER

NOTEBOOK

RECESS

SCIENCE

STUDY



A B C

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Rev. Kent is available for visitations.	2
3 Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship @ 10 a.m.	4 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the parsonage	5	6 Crawford Methodist Women meeting @6:00 p.m.	7 Men of Faith @ 10 a.m.	8 Rev. Kent is available for visitations.	9
10 Blessing of the backpacks Back to School Party Youth afternoon service @4:00 p.m. Coffee Fellowship @ 10 a.m.	11 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the parsonage Crawford ISD Blastoff	12	13 Finance/Admin Meeting @6:00 p.m. School Begins	14 Men of Faith @ 10 a.m. Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry @ 10:00 a.m.	15 Rev. Kent is available for visitations.	16
17 Update Prayer Requests Coffee Fellowship @ 10 a.m.	18 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the parsonage	19 Newsletter articles due at noon	20	21 Men of Faith @ 10 a.m.	22 Rev. Kent is available for visitations.	23
24 Joy Jar Potluck Confirmation Class @ 3:00 p.m. Youth afternoon service @4:00 p.m.	25 Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the parsonage	26	27	28 Men of Faith @ 10 a.m. Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry @ 10:00 a.m.	29 Rev. Kent is available for visitations.	30
31 Coffee Fellowship @ 10 a.m.						