



Crawford Methodist Church

The Methodist Messenger

February 2026



God Is with Us Along the Way

What might the Season of LENT teach us about the high and low places of personal experience? How might the Season of Lent lead us to renewal in our walk with Jesus? Agreeably, we might have heard the saying that without the death and the suffering of Jesus, without the grave, we could not have Easter, we could not have life. That is all good and well and we know it to be the cornerstone of our faith, which does not mean we will not struggle and experience depression. There is nothing shameful about the millions of Americans that face depression every day. Still, we make the effort and believe that God is always walking with rain or shine and we pray for better days. We pray for break throughs and getting better. We pray that God will shine a light on this season of loss and betrayal with the hope with every breath we take. I have often said from the pulpit that our faith is about “Faith seeking understanding.” I have always loved the framing of that phrase coined by Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109), and that as God surely walks and breaths in us, so does the inspiration to dive deeper in faith with confidence continually allowing us to hold the hands of our maker. Our ultimate concern for our relationship with God is once again invested in this “unmoved Mover of the Universe” (Thomas Aquinas; God as first cause). That points beyond us but includes us at the same time. It provides context for the way the Word of God that became flesh among us is both transcendent and immanent at the same time.

Look at our upcoming scriptures appointed to be used for our worship services during the season of LENT. The Sunday of Transfiguration of our Lord on February 15th (Mathew 17: 1 – 9) and the Ash Wednesday service on February 18th 2026 (Mathew 6: 1-6, 12-14) form a contrast of God’s goodness and human pretense that masquerades as righteous living and worship.

Let’s attempt to connect walking with God and our Lenten Journey, traveling together in faith in Jesus Christ’s unconditional and unmerited grace and love, with our personal stories of faith. So, I share with you one individual Christian Gentleman that has influenced my faith walk with Jesus.

Klaus Penzel Ph.D. was my professor of Christian history while in seminary, and he shared his humility and love and personal story that I now share with you. Klaus Penzel was raised in Germany in the home of a Lutheran pastor. As a young man during World War 2, The Third Reich in Germany forced him and millions of his countrymen to serve in the Army. Dr. Klaus Penzel while engaged in combat, had been captured by the U.S. Army and became a prisoner of war. He was then sent to the United States as a P.O.W. After the war he was released and repatriated to Germany. Later he experienced a calling to become an ordained Lutheran pastor like his dad, and he chose to attend a seminary in the U.S.A. He eventually earned his Ph.D. and gained full citizenship from his status as an immigrant student. He eventually became a full tenured professor at S.M.U. and an American Citizen.

Dr. Penzel’s firsthand experience of a brutal war lends itself to the calm and restoration of the 23rd Psalm when it says, “I will walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil”. Some say of the present times, that we are living in the End Times of history, I say bring it on... let the apocalypse usher a new day in the Kingdom of God on earth, and I might add “Keep your Powder dry”, who knows who Russia will invade next.

In Christ,
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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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 pray everyone's start to the second school semester has been stress-free. It's easy to forget the power of prayer when life gets busy. Just remember, the Lord is always with us and ready to listen.

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

WEEKLY OFFERING TOTALS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Financial Goal</u>	<u>Offering Report</u>
12/28	\$2,930.48	\$1,570.00
1/4	\$2,930.48	\$2,154.00
1/11	\$2,930.48	\$1,833.00
1/18	\$2,930.48	\$1,136.00
1/25	\$2,930.48	church cancelled due to weather



Children's Class

We have children's Sunday School every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Join us for crafts, music, fellowship and bible teachings.

This month's Sunday School verse is, "We love because God loved us first." (1 John 4:19)

February's Schedule is as follows:

2/1 Clayton Pomykal

2/8 Jenny Minnix

2/15 Valentine's Brunch

2/22 Kelli Byers and Kaye Clark

Confirmation Class will continue every 2nd and 4th Sunday at 3:00 p.m.



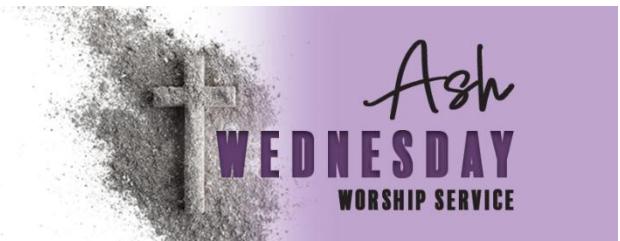
The church needs volunteers for Children's Sermon. We would like enough volunteers to only have you scheduled for Children's Sermon once every three months or more. The only requirement is to prepare and present a sermon. If you would like a prepared sermon for you, arrangements can be made. You may stand or sit while speaking to the children. If you are interested, please contact Suzie Devorsky by calling or texting 254-366-4119 or email srdevorsky@gmail.com.



I will be putting out our Church Directory for updates during the month of February. If you would like to add or edit your address, contact information, birthday, or anniversary, please do so. I will have new, updated directories to pass out in March.

I will also have Emergency Contact slips available. Please fill these out and get them back to me. They will be kept confidential and not included in the directory. They are strictly for the Safety Committee.

Our Ash Wednesday Service will be on February 18, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.



Coffee Plus begins at 9:30 a.m. every 2nd Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you there!



Prayer Requests

Josie Sutherland
Ricky Smith (Glenda's cousin)
KK villa
Van Maussier
Travis Fass
Loretta Willis
Kaleb (Cookie's grandson)
Darlene Grigsby (John's aunt)
Little Holy Tent Celebration
Zach, Katie, and Walker Coia
Clinton DeChaume
Marilyn Judy
Travis Stanford
Megan, Willie, and Brooks
Trey Ditto
Angie Steinkamp
Pata Potter
Patrick Gardner
Wesley Ardoin
Tiffany Stadler

Chuck Raley
Beverly Jones
Ronny Anderson (Amy's uncle)
Peggy Michaels (Waynette's aunt)
Cheryl Isbell
Mark Norwood
Riley Jenson
Clem Kortis
Berry Baize
Terry Taylor (surgery)
Clarence Scott
Michael Schmalriede
Ukraine
Israel Gaza War
Jennifer Coan
Ethan Valdez
Hannah Riley
Megan Ayers (DeChaume)
Emma Harper



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



February
3 rd Bradley Minnix
6 th Kaitlyn Holmes
10 th Connie Schmalriede
10 th Tye Slaughter
11 th Ryan Devorsky
13 th Alana Snider-Cunningham
13 th Shane Walker
17 th Debbie DeChaume
21 st Gareth Jordan
23 rd Karson Spence
26 th Gary Walker
28 th Micah Echols-Snider
7 th Brian and Amy Brookshire
22 nd Rev. Kent and Vicki Berry

Crawford Methodist Women Schedule

Wednesday, March 4th

Place: Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Hostesses: Kaye Clark and Jenny Minnix

Wednesday, April 1

Place: Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Hostesses: Gail Bolin and Glenda Smith

Wednesday, May 6th

Place: Rancher's (Gatesville)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Program: Mother's Day Celebration

Hostesses: Connie Schmalriede

June: No Meeting

July: No Meeting

Wednesday, August 5th

Place: Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Program: Back to School

Hostesses: Janette Baldwin and Linda Leight

Wednesday, September 2nd

Place: Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Hostesses: Amy Brookshire and Linda Spencer

Wednesday, October 7th

Place: TBA

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 4th

Place: Church Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Hostesses: Edie Snider and Laurie

ASH WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH



Ash
Wednesday



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

ASH WEDNESDAY
FOREHEAD
CROSS
FORTY DAYS
PENANCE
REPENTANCE

LENT
PRIEST
DUST
JESUS
PRAYER
TEMPTATION

ABSTAIN
CHRISTIAN
EASTER
MASS
SACRIFICE

ASHES
CHURCH
FASTING
MORTALITY
PURPLE

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion	2 5pm Worship Committee Meeting	3 6pm Faith First Exercise	4	5 10am Men of Faith	6 Rev. Kent is available for visitations	7
8 9:30 a.m. Coffee Plus Souper Bowl Sunday 3pm Confirmation Class 4pm Youth afternoon service	9	10 6pm Faith First Exercise	11 6pm Finance/Admin Meeting	12 10am Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry	13 Rev. Kent is available for visitations 6-7pm Boo's Bingo	14 Valentine's Day
15 Valentine's Day Brunch	16 President's Day	17 6pm Faith First Exercise	18 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	19 10am Men of Faith	20 Rev. Kent is available for visitations	21
22 Joy Jar Potluck/Birthday Celebrations 3pm Confirmation Class 4pm Youth afternoon service	23	24 6pm Faith First Exercise 12pm Newsletter articles due	25	26 10am Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry	27 Rev. Kent is available for visitations	28