



Crawford Methodist Church

The Methodist Messenger

March 2026



To Whom Do We Belong?

As we give witness to the fundamental question of our own legitimacy found in Jesus Christ, we give witness to the same in the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

As we move from Good Friday to Easter morning, almost in the same breath, in a world of interruption and diversion taking place, we find Jesus: The Prince of Peace.

Bodies that decay and the practice of breaking the legs of the crucified sounds like a chapter from the Holocaust being played out on Good Friday. Where is the Good News here? and to whom do we belong too? Yet that the Gospel reading for Good Friday from John's Gospel is bare and unfiltered witness for our souls to drink deeply in the marked wounds of God's divine Son.

When I deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, I had the occasion to provide religious support to one particular Jewish Soldier. I was serving as the Chaplain for the 11th Armored Regiment (Blackhorse: Wildhorse 221 CLAVERY). The Soldier was a very religious person and we all knew it - he practiced his faith with great devotion and love. He had asked his immediate chain of command permission to attend a required festival for practicing Jewish people. He had been denied that request so he came to me as his Chaplain and asked me to do what I could to get him to the festival Yom Kippur.

He was asking for a lot because the festival lasts for 10 days of intense prayer, fasting for 24 hours and repentance to atone for sin. As a Christian Chaplain I could only accommodate the request through the proper military command authority. And that I did as a bothersome GADFLY. Why, because he was one of my sheep. I was his Army Chaplain and a Christian.

The Division Chaplain had to issue an abbreviated military operation order (FRAGO) for moving the individual Soldier from the forward operating base of Mehtar Lam to Bagram Air Base. General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commanding General (HQ, CJFT-82; NATO ISAF) approved the Division Chaplain's request for the Jewish Soldier to attend this Holy Festival. The approval made our hot-blooded Puerto Rican Tactical operations (TOC) Sergeant Major furious because he would lose a skilled Intelligence NCO who spoke the dominant regional language Pashto and was a skilled interrogator for about two weeks. Besides the Sergeant Major really did not care about the religious stuff to begin with.

If we think about the overall force structure of our military, it is inspiring to think that all this effort is done at the expense of just that one Soldier. One Soldier at a time. It would be good for us to stop and recount how Jesus dealt with the criticism directed to him by the Pharisees and Teachers of the law for welcoming and eating with sinners. And How God rejoices over every person with a divine desire to include them as members of the Kingdom of God, on earth as it is in heaven. We are assured through faith in Christ that our great shepherd will leave the 99 sheep to look for the lost one and keep looking for it until it is found (Luke 15 and Matthew 18).

On this Good Friday we read "and because it was the Jewish Preparation Day and the tomb was nearby they laid Jesus in it" (John 19: 24), Then we have the "rest of the story", as the much-loved American radio broadcaster Paul Harvey would say. Or maybe the African American preacher's sermon would fit here, "It's Friday but Sunday is Coming" (A classic sermon preached by S.M. Lockridge) I think so.

May our Holy Tent celebration on March 22nd bring that one person back into the fold of our Heavenly Father – all of heaven will rejoice in this' for we belong to Christ Jesus.

Pro Deo Et Patria (For God and Country)

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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 Crawford, Texas 76638
 Phone: 254.486.2361

Website: Crawfordmethodist.com

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! Spring is on the way, I hope everyone has had a wonderful school year thus far. Remember the power of prayer; share the word of Jesus Christ so that others may be reminded of his awesome power.

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>
2/1	\$2,930.48	\$2,980.00
2/8	\$2,930.48	\$2,000.00
2/15	\$3,364.13	\$1,415.00
2/22	\$3,364.13	\$3,500.00



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, Christ gives me the strength to face anything. (Philippians 4:13)

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.

Don't forget to Spring Forward!



Thank you to everyone who supported our local food pantry during our Souper Bowl Sunday.

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



Prayer Requests

Jabrill Smith (UPS)
Dorothy Donaldson
Kaci Luedke
Coach Plumber
Tammy Westerfield
Mike Patterson
Karter Edenfield
Zoey's friend, Josh
Family of Walker Lee Coia
Travis Fass
Loretta Willis
Darlene Grigsby (John's aunt)
Little Holy Tent Celebration
Clinton DeChaume
Pata Potter
Patrick Gardner
Tiffany Stadler

Chuck Raley
Beverly Jones
Cheryl Isbell
Mark Norwood
Riley Jenson
Clem Kortis
Berry Baize
Terry Taylor (surgery)
Clarence Scott
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



March

1st Cindy Lawrence

7th Zachary Coia

9th Leyton Minnix

11th Jennifer Walpole

17th Jaden Parker

20th Blaine Collins

28th Joshua Byers

29th Brady Ward

31st Jamie Burnett

31st Waynette Ditto

13th Brent and Heidi Elmore

31st Lyndon and Tracy Love

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



Lent Word Search



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

Desert
Pray
Prepare
Sacrifice
Love
Remember

Jesus
Follow
Cross
Ashes
Season
Lent

Fasting
Easter
Forgiveness
Priest
Holy
Palm

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Holy Communion	2	3 6pm Faith First Exercise	4 6pm Crawford Methodist Women	5 11:30 am Men of Faith	6 Rev. Kent is available for visitations	7
8 Daylight Saving Time begins (Spring Forward) 9:30 a.m. Coffee Plus 3pm Confirmation Class 4pm Youth afternoon service	9 Crawford ISD Spring Break	10 Crawford ISD Spring Break 6pm Faith First Exercise	11 Crawford ISD Spring Break 6pm Finance/Admin Meeting	12 Crawford ISD Spring Break 10am Shepherd's Heart Food Pantry	13 Crawford ISD Spring Break Rev. Kent is available for visitations	14
15	16	17 6pm Faith First Exercise St. Patrick's Day	18	19 11:30 am Men of Faith	20 Rev. Kent is available for visitations	21
22 Joy Jar 2-4pm Little Holy Tent Celebration	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
29 3pm Confirmation Class	30	31 6pm Faith First Exercise				