

Crawford Memorial United Methodist Church
Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost, October 18, 2026
Childcare is available in the nursery for children under the age of 5.
† *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

Prelude Helena Veranian

Welcome Rev. Jennifer Mihok

Introit “Over My Head” Chancel Choir

† **Call to Worship** Joyce Cummings

When the way is difficult and dangerous,
let us still choose what is good and just.

When evil comes to break us down and break us apart,
let us still choose to carry on with each other.

When power from on high strikes fear in our hearts,
let us still choose the courage to persist.

For we know that the love and power of God, which abides in us, will not be overcome.

† **Hymn**..... When the Storms of Life are Raging..... UMH 512

1. When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me.
When the world is tossing me, like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.
2. In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
in the midst of tribulation, stand by me.
When the host of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle, stand by me.
3. In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;
in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me.
When I've done the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou who know knowest all about me, stand by me.
4. In the midst of persecution stand by me;
in the midst of persecution stand by me.
When my foes in war array
Undertake to stop my way,
thou who sav-ed Paul and Silas, stand by me.
5. When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me;
when I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me.
When my life becomes a burden,
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou Lily of the Valley, stand by me.

Time for All God's Children Rev. Jennifer Mihok

† **Passing the Peace** (with our nearest neighbors)

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God our creator, children all are we.
 Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
 Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
 With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
 To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
 Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Introduction Rev. Jennifer Mihok

Scripture Reading Excerpts from Esther 1-2 Joyce Cummings & Neil Cudmore

Response “Nothing Can Trouble” TFWS 2054

Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
 Those who seek God shall never go wanting
 Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
 God alone fills us.

Sermon For Such a Time: Vashti, Esther, ... Rev. Jennifer Mihok
 and the Situations We Don’t Choose

Anthem “Morning Has Broken” Chancel Choir

Sharing our Prayers Rev. Jennifer Mihok

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer Rev. Jennifer Mihok

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father (Maker), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom (kin-dom) come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom (kin-dom), and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Gratitude Moment

† **Doxology** “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH 94

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise God, all creatures here below:
 Alleluia! Alleluia!
 Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
 Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious God, you choose ordinary people to be about your work in this world, no matter what the time or circumstance. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude and our efforts to be faithful in our own situations. Use what we offer to encourage the weary, welcome the searching, and embolden the righteous for the sake of your kin-dom. Amen.

Announcements

† **Hymn** “Of All the Spirit’s Gifts to Me” UMH 336

1. Of all the Spirit's gifts to me, I pray that I may never cease to take and treasure most these three: love, joy, and peace.
2. The Spirit shows me love's the root of every gift sent from above, of every flower, of every fruit, that God is love.

3. The Spirit shows if I possess a love no evil can destroy,
however great is my distress, then this is joy.
4. Though what's ahead is mystery, and life itself is ours on lease,
each day the Spirit says to me, "Go forth in peace!"
5. We go in peace, but made aware that, in a needy world like this,
our clearest purpose is to share love, joy, and peace.

† **Benediction & Blessing** Rev. Jennifer Mihok

Postlude Helena Veranian

*Please remain seated during the postlude, then join us in Gifford Hall for fellowship during coffee hour
and a congregational meeting to begin at 11:30.*

Call to worship from enfleshed.com.

Prayer of dedication adapted from Discipleship Ministries.

Coffee Hour

Each week Coffee Hour is served by a team organized alphabetically by last name. Everyone is encouraged to join our Coffee Hour teams. Next week, 10/25, families/individuals with last names beginning **H-LA** will be responsible for Coffee Hour. There will be NO coffee hour on Sunday, November 1, so that we can all get to the Wilmington UMC for lunch starting at 11:30am, prior to our Church Conference at 1pm.

Options for Giving

Friends and members are asked to prayerfully consider giving in support of Crawford's ministries and operations. We invite you to bring your offerings with you to church. Or you can mail a check to 34 Dix St., Winchester, MA 01890. Mail is checked daily. We welcome online giving through our website at crawfordmethodist.org/give.

Our Staff

Minister	Rev. Jennifer Mihok
Music Director	James Gutierrez
Organist/Pianist.....	Helena Veranian
Sexton/Custodian.....	Jose Deleon
Nursery Manager	Cindy Slack
Treasurer	Doug Marmon
IT Director	Robert McAlpine
Church Administrator.....	Stacey Hilliard

The church office is open Monday through Thursday, from 9 to 3, and at other times by appointment.

Voice mail (781-729-5056) & email (office@crawfordumc.org) are checked daily.

Rev. Jen Mihok can be reached at pastor@crawfordumc.org.

Coming Up at Crawford

Today, October 18	Congregational Meeting (after church)
October 25.....	The Spirituals Concert (2pm)
November 1.....	Church Conference at Wilmington UMC (1pm)
November 14	Holiday Faire (8:30-2)
November 22	Consecration (Stewardship) Sunday
November 29	First Sunday in Advent

See upcoming issues of the Messenger for more information about these and other happenings at Crawford! Not receiving the Messenger? Contact the church office or subscribe here: crawfordmethodist.org/subscribe

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