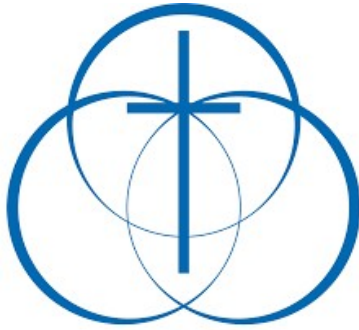




THE MESSENGER

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SPLENDORA

*Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly
and Witness Boldly*

SEPTEMBER 2025

firstmethodistchurchsplendora.org

Rev. Steven Lightfoot, Pastor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Church Membership: Why It's Important

Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot

There was an old American Express commercial whose tagline was, "Membership has its privileges..." The premise was that the American Express card was not merely a credit card, but rather it was a membership card that gave access to all the benefits affiliation had for the member, over and above those who were not members. To be a member was an honor, and signified acceptance into a family of card-carrying, like-minded people.

Without drawing too much from the Amex analogy, church membership also has its privileges, which might be worth considering if you are attending regularly, participating in the fellowship and life of the church, but have not yet made the next step into the commitment of membership. Here

are some points to consider if you are on the fence about joining the local church:

In joining the church you make public and visible your commitment to Jesus Christ and his people. A profession of faith is not to be hidden. We are saved when we believe in our hearts that Jesus died, was buried and resurrected **AND** when we confess with our mouths that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father. Joining the church says all of that with commitment, and plainly

Making a commitment makes a powerful statement in a low-commitment culture. Today's culture tends to be non-committal. It's as if some believe giving a firm "yes" or "no" somehow limits their options, when the opposite is actually the case. Saying yes to church membership says I am committed to this family of people, and they are committed to me. It says I am here to give of myself in greater proportion than I take for myself.

Joining in makes you a part of something bigger than yourself. We are not called to be Christians alone, but rather we are called to be
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Christians in community. The church is the body of Christ, with Christ as the head. Church membership brings purpose AND freedom. We have the purpose of the body to make disciples of Jesus Christ, and the freedom to express our faith as individual parts of the body, each with our own gifts and abilities.

Church membership keeps you accountable. Members tend to be more committed in attendance, giving, prayer and service. When we join a church, we tell others that we are offering ourselves to one another to give and receive encouragement, correction, and service. As members, we help one another along in our sanctifying journey, helping one another to live lives of holiness as we strive toward perfection.

Joining the church makes it clear to your Pastor and lay leaders that you are one of the flock. It's difficult to shepherd the sheep if the shepherd doesn't know the sheep belong to his charge. Your Pastor takes his call to shepherd and equip the church for ministry seriously. The people must also make their commitment to be shepherded and equipped for ministry just as seriously.

Membership identifies you as a sheep of this specific pasture.

Joining the church gives you an opportunity to live into and respond to your covenant relationship with God. Saying yes to Jesus places you squarely into a covenant relationship with God. God promises to save you through Jesus, and you promise to love God and love people in response. Joining the church gives you the platform from which you can operate to keep your part of the covenant relationship.

Joining the church is a simple process. Just let your Pastor know that you are ready to take that next important step in your faith journey by becoming a committed part of the family of God, and this specific body of Christ in motion at First Methodist Church Splendora.

The Pastor will meet with you and in that discussion, you will schedule a Sunday for your induction into the local church. You will also be brought into the Global Methodist Church and you will be asked to respond to the following questions during your induction:

Do you believe in God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit?

Do you confess Jesus Christ as Savior, put your whole trust in His grace, and promise to serve Him as your Lord?

Do you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures?

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to keep God's holy will and commandments and walk in the same all the days of your life as a faithful member of Christ's holy church?

Will you be loyal to Christ through the Global Methodist Church and joining with your brothers and sisters around the world do all in your power to fulfill its mission?

Will you be a faithful member of First Methodist Church Splendora, a Global Methodist Community, doing all in your power to strengthen its ministries through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness as Christ's representative in this world?

As you can see from these questions, this is a public profession and affirmation of Christ as your Lord and Savior. You are, in fact, taking vows of membership. If you have never been baptized, as an infant or as an adult, your induction will also include the

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sacrament of Holy Baptism. It's a marvelous outward physical expression of an inward spiritual grace, which is at work within you by the power of the Holy Spirit. And you won't be in it alone! The congregation is asked to affirm their commitment to support you in the faith. The congregation responds affirmatively to the following question:

Will you who witness these vows encourage [these persons] in the faith and do all in your power to support [these persons] in [their] life in Christ?

And then you are welcomed into this family of God, this body of Christ, in movement in this community. Glory to God. AMEN.

I hope you will consider joining the family of God at First Methodist Church Splendor. Take the next step... Membership has its privileges.

By His Grace,
Pastor Steven†



Dinner and Class Meetings will resume on Wednesday, September 10 at 5:45PM for dinner and 6:00PM for Class Meeting. Bible Study will resume later in the fall.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school for adults will resume September 7 @ 10:15AM.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**7th- Holy Communion Sunday
and Worship 9AM***

Sunday School 10:15AM

10th- Dinner & Class Meeting 5:45PM

14th- Worship 9AM*

Sunday School 10:15AM

Board of Stewards Meeting 12:45PM

17th- Dinner & Class Meeting 5:45PM

20th- Food Pantry 9AM

Volunteers needed

21st- Laity led Sunday Worship 9AM*

Sunday School 10:15AM

24th- Dinner & Class Meeting 5:45PM

28th- Laity led Sunday Worship 9AM*

Sunday School 10:45AM

*** In-person and online worship**

PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Steven will be away September 19 through October 4th.

Sunday Worship message on Sept. 21st will be given by Cindy Reed. The message for Sunday, Sept. 28th will be given by Angel Van Ostrand. Please support by coming to the Lay led services even though the Pastor will not be here. The Global Methodist Church encourages the Laity to be ready to bring the message to the local church. Hope to see you then!



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

- ♥ 3 **Lonnie & Sherrie Johnson**
- ♥ 3 **Karl & Sheila Keith**
- 6 **James Duke**
- 7 **Corey Howard**
- 8 **Rory Jackson**
- 10 **Jackson Dean**
- 14 **Frankie Freeman**
- 15 **Jackie Noss**
- 22 **Landon Gray**
- 23 **Sandie Hales**
- 24 **Kaidince Hendry**
- ♥ 25 **Steven & Angela Lightfoot**
- 25 **Tom Nardozi**
- 26 **Shirley Dunn**
- 26 **Brooke Jones**
- 30 **Cindy Reed**



BINGO NIGHT IS BACK!

Mark your calendar for Saturday,
October 18th 6-8PM for fun and
fundraising. Volunteers are needed.
Please contact Sherry Stallings 713-
906-7847 or Shirley Magruda 214-733-
6489 to see how you can help!



PRAYER LIST

"Pray continually."

Merle Fritz
Schaefer Family - Mercy & Guidance
Duke, Masterson, Shugart Families -
Health & Faith
Amy Tompkins Ricks - Caregiver for
Mother
Gabriel Solomon - Finished Boot Camp
John Welch - Boot Camp
Cadence Welch - Starts homeschool this
week
Christine & Jeff Marzolla - Ministry
Chantel Wilson - Healing
Ray Ricks - Healing
Kay Martin - Healing
William Blake - Health
Karl Keith - Health
Patti Lyons - Health
Anita Gaudred & Family
The Van Ostrand Family
Patty Dye
Kathy Johnson
Travis & Marilyn Knowlton
Craig & Christie Hantelman
Carolyn Tompkins
Janice Langford
Lillian Kinnard
Abby Dewey
Evelyn Cater
Allyson Welch
Koleton Haley
Becky Welch
Charles, Mawana Jones and family
Frankie Freeman-moving
Shirley Dunn-moving
Teachers and students 2025-26 school
year
Law Enforcement & First Responders
Our Nation
World Leaders-wisdom
Our Church
Pastor Steven & Angela-traveling