



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SPLENDORA

*Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly  
and Witness Boldly*

NOVEMBER 2025

[www.firstmethodistchurchsplendora.org](http://www.firstmethodistchurchsplendora.org)

Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot, Pastor

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



### Get in the Game

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we are imperishable. 26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air; 27 but I discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified.*

In Paul's letter, he speaks to the church at Corinth using an example of something familiar to them – the games. The Isthmian games would have been celebrated in the region in that day, and racers running for the crown of laurel would have been held in high regard by

the people; so Paul uses the metaphor in his teaching. Of course the crown to which Paul is alluding is a much more glorious prize; an incorruptible, heavenly crown.

Kingdom work is not a spectator sport. We are all called to it and we should enter into our calling with a winning mind-set. We should daily strive

to be first in the glorious contest, running persistently in the direction of the cross and leading as many along with us as possible. Sitting on the sidelines, complacently watching is not an option for the Christian. We are called to "get in the game." We should be continuously praying to the Father, telling Him, "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

Races are run on a set course. Deviation from the course comes with penalty and might lead to disqualification. Paul says we should not run without aim, but we should seek God's direction. We should follow the leading of the Holy Spirit so that we do not run the race in vain. And if we are obediently fulfilling our mission, to know Christ and make Him known, then we should remain steadfast and faithful in the maintenance of our mind, body, and soul so that, after we have engaged with and made disciples, we do not fall prey to our own sinful nature and become a stumbling block, or a bad example to those we have discipled. (cont. page 2)

(cont. from page 1)

In Hebrews 12:1 the author says this, "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith..."

As Christians, people are watching us. Believers or not, they are holding us to a higher standard. Unlike the games, there can be many crowns awarded, not just the one. And so, we are called not only to be runners, but coaches and trainers also, working tirelessly to share the gospel in order that Jesus Christ may bring as many across the heavenly finish line as possible.

Peace.  
Pastor Steven†

# November

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Holy Communion & Worship 9AM\*  
Sunday School 10:15AM
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
- 8<sup>th</sup>- *Parking Lot Sale 8AM-3PM*
- 9<sup>th</sup>- Sunday Worship Service 9AM\*  
Sunday School 10:15AM
- Board of Stewards Meeting 12:45PM*
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
- 15<sup>th</sup>- *Food Pantry 9AM*
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Sunday Worship Service 9AM\*  
Sunday School 10:15AM
- 19<sup>th</sup>- *Local Church Conference 6PM*
- 23<sup>rd</sup>- Sunday Worship Service 9AM  
Sunday School 10:15AM
- 26<sup>th</sup>- No Bible Study
- 27<sup>th</sup>- *Happy Thanksgiving*
- 29<sup>th</sup>- *Set-up Nativity Scene 9AM*
- 30<sup>th</sup>- *Dress Rehearsal for Live Nativity 5PM*



## ANNIVERSARIES

## & BIRTHDAYS

- 1 John Duke
- 3 Sarah Dams
- 6 Ava Level
- 9 Richard & Ava Level
- 12 Clint & Nancy Hatchett
- 19 Shawn & Delise Grovo
- 22 Ann Elliott
- 23 Ramona Ferguson
- 24 Brenda Storey
- 25 Michael & Joanna Bonnette
- 26 Karl Keith
- 27 Gloria Cox
- 29 Dan Graves



Dinner and Bible Study is Wednesday Nights at 5:45PM

The series we are studying is from *Victorious Eschatology*, which is the Biblical Study of End Times. It is a very surprising study; not what one would expect in End Times study.

We will not have Dinner & Bible study on November 19<sup>th</sup> and November 26<sup>th</sup> due to the Local Church Conference and the day before Thanksgiving.

If you have not attended this particular study, please do not allow that to stop you. The Pastor can get you up to speed. Hope to see you then!



Although we celebrate Thanksgiving Day on the last Thursday in November, everyday is perfect to give thanks with our grateful hearts.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all!



Mark your calendar for Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 6PM for our Live Nativity, telling the Glorious Story of Our Savior's Birth. There will be live "actors" and real animals! Even a camel!

This is a gift to our community. Afterward there will be Christmas Carol singing, refreshments and a gift bag for the children attending. Bring your own lawn chair, dress for whatever weather we will have that evening. Invite your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to attend.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP ASSEMBLE THE NATIVITY ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup> 10AM. IF YOU HAVE A PORTABLE DRILL, PLEASE BRING IT. WITH HELP IT SHOULD NOT TAKE VERY LONG. THANKS!**



## NEW MEMBERS

It is always great to come worship our LORD and SAVIOR, but it is especially wonderful when there is a Baptism and new members joining our family here at First Methodist Church Splendora!

On Sunday, October 19, 2025 Christopher (Chris) Ricks was baptized by Pastor Steven. Chris and his wife, Amelia (Amy) Ricks together joined our church. Chris is the son and Amy the daughter-in-law of Ray and Cheri Ricks. It was a very joyous occasion!

Welcome to Chris and Amy! We are so glad you are part of our Church Family. God bless you both!

## Death & Resurrection Notice

*With great sadness, we announce the Death and Resurrection for Patricia (Patti) Lyons.*

*Patti was a Registered Nurse for many years, and was well regarded in her medical career.*

*Patti joined our church on November 9, 2014.*

*She was a faithful member with a generous heart. Later due to illness, she was unable to attend our church in person. She was a regular attendee of our Online services.*

*Please pray for her friends, family and our church for the loss of Patti.*

*Service details are pending.*

*"Well done, good and faithful servant, Patti."*



## PRAYER LIST

*I will answer them before they even call to me. While they are still talking about their needs, I will go ahead and answer their prayers. --*

*Isaiah 65:24*

Family and friends of Patti Lyons  
Jo Ellen Winslow  
William Frazier and family (Uncle has medical issues / Mother and Sister are in the process of buying a home  
Unspoken - Pray for our family  
Schaefer Family  
Anita Gaudeau - Health & Healing  
Alton Moore  
Robert & Mae Bible  
Linda Dunaway - Health & Healing  
Tommy Johnson  
Renee McMillian  
David Goodrum  
Shirley & Bob Adams  
Shirley Schumaker  
Mrs. Tompkins - Healing (Amy Rick's Mom)  
Duke, Shugart, Masterson Family - Faith & Health  
John and Vivian Frederick - Health  
Ann Elliott - Healing  
Tom Nardozzi - Grief & Peace  
Wally Lemaster - Chemo & Radiation - Peace  
Gary & Merle Fritz - Health  
Karl Keith - Health  
Lovada Linquist - Heart Procedure - late October  
Johnson Family - Lonnie, Sherrie & Jeremiah  
Charles & Mawana Jones

Frankie, Evan & Brooke Jones  
Debbie Szymanski & Family  
Garry @ Turbo Valves  
Sage Herr  
Craig & Christie Hantelman - Grief, Health & Peace  
Charles & Mawana Jones  
The Van Ostrand Family  
Evelyn Cater - Peace & Comfort  
Johnny Blake and Family  
William Blake  
Cindy Reed  
Allyson & girls  
Linnea Stoddard- surgery from a fall  
Josh Wineman  
Unspoken  
Our upcoming Local Church Conference on Nov. 19  
Elected delegates to the GMC General Conference  
Our Country Leaders and our church  
Our military  
Our missing children  
Bingo Night was a huge success  
Food Pantry - being able to help the community  
Those who are going without enough food in November  
The people in Jamacia devastated by the recent hurricane  
The persecution of Christians all over the world.  
The Hostages returned to Israel and the continued fighting in the Middle East  
The people who do not know Jesus or refuse Him

*“Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” —Romans 12:2*