



THE MESSENGER

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SPLENDORA
*Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly
and Witness Boldly*

MARCH 2026

firstmethodistchurchsplendora.org

Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot, Pastor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Deception and False Teaching

Truth is important. Truth leads to life. Lies and deception lead to death and destruction. This is an important point of consideration for us as we start this Lenten Season.

One of the most insidious ways Satan attacks the church and the seeker alike is by presenting an alternative to the truth that sounds and feels good. For example, it feels good to hear that all people will get to spend eternity with God in heaven, and that all paths lead to Him, that one belief system or religion is as good as another and that all that matters is that we are good people.

That feels good - but it's not biblical and it's just not true. It's

called universalism. It teaches a broad way into heaven, but we know that the way is narrow and that the Bible teaches us that only Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life, and that no one comes to the Father but by Him.

Satan will try his best to deceive and divert Christians away from the truth. More and more we see people led astray by progressive and alternative Christianity, which is really not Christian at all. These mockeries of the gospel tickle the ears of many a Christian, with their everybody-gets-a-trophy theology. They profess a kernel of the truth to enhance their credibility, but they twist the word of God and omit the whole truth of God in order to intentionally lead people away from Him. These seemingly glittery, shiny new concepts and teachings suggest that there are many ways to heaven, and they profess that humans should follow their hearts and do what feels good – they're not new at all really, they're merely the

same old lies and deceptions in new packaging... which is false teaching, suggesting the heretical ideas that God's Word is insufficient, and that God's will is somehow changeable and inconsistent.

Satan uses whatever and whoever is available to him in his mission to deceive, to kill and destroy. We need to be especially watchful in this season, where he will call evil good and good evil. Always compare the messages you hear coming from various sources to the truth of God's Word and you will be equipped to make good, biblically-based choices regarding them.

Over and over again, history has demonstrated that every society where individual freedom has been oppressed has also persecuted the universal church because it champions freedom for all of God's people. As Christians, we need to take every message we receive, attitude of discernment because some ideologies being actively considered by the current culture are incompatible with individual liberty and are therefore incompatible with Christianity. Make your life-choices armed with a foundation of God's truth, because we ultimately have to accept personal responsibility for those choices.

Brothers and Sisters, we can only be born again in truth. We can only be born again through Christ. Anything that leads us down a path

that suggests we can get there without Jesus is destructive. Please don't venture down that path. No matter how glittery it looks and how good it makes us feel - the glitter will fade and the feeling will too.

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. AMEN.

**By His Grace,
Pastor Steven†**



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1st- Holy Communion Sunday
and Worship 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM**
 - 4th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM**
 - 7th- *Bridal Shower for
Sayra and Ethan 2:00PM***
 - 8th- Sunday Worship 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM**
 - Board of Stewards Meeting 12:45PM**
 - 11th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM**
 - 15th- Sunday Worship 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM**
 - 18th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM**
 - 20th- *Bingo Fund Raiser 6-8PM***
 - 21st- Food Pantry 9AM**
 - 22nd- Sunday Worship 9AM***
 - 25th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM**
 - 29th- Palm Sunday & Laity Sunday
9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM**
- * Worship In-person or Live str**



**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES
& BIRTHDAYS**

- 3 **Susie Dams**
- 6 **Travis Bernhardt**
- 6 **Soila Sportell**
- ♥ 7 **Charles & Mawana Jones**
- 13 **Mike LeBlanc**
- 14 **Billie Jackson**
- 14 **Ashley Vasquez**
- 16 **Bill Plath**
- 19 **Merle Fritz**
- 20 **Matthew Graves**
- 21 **Evelyn Cater**
- 23 **Jeanette Melton**
- ♥ Tom & Tess Nardozzi
- 26 **Mikkie Lemaster**
- 27 **Karl Gray**
- 28 **Mildred Powell**
- 28 **Angie Ainsworth**
- 29 **Tess Nardozzi**

*Bridal Shower
for Sayra & Eathan
Saturday, March 7th
2:00 to 4:00pm*

registered at
Amazon+Target+Wal-mart
theknot.com/sayraandethan



HOLY WEEK

MARCH 31-APRIL 5

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday,
March 31st and concludes on
Resurrection Sunday, April 5th.

This week is remembered in the
Gospels; Matthew 21-28, Mark 11-16,
Luke 19-24 and John 12-20.

March 31: Palm Sunday Service 9AM

April 1: *Passover Begins*

April 2: The Last Supper

April 3: Good Friday Service 7PM

April 4: Resurrection Sunday Service
9AM

BINGO FUNDRAISER

Mark your calendar for Friday,
March 20th for our Bingo Fundraiser
6:00-8:00PM.

We will need prizes for Bingo
winners, prizes for a Silent Auction
and raffle donated. There will hot
dogs, soft drinks and snacks
available for purchase. Also
volunteers will be needed for the
Snack Bar, selling Bingo cards, card
checkers. Sherry Stallings and
Shirley Madruga are the Co-Chairs.
Promote the fundraiser on your
social media platforms, invite your
neighbors and co-workers. Let's
make this the best Bingo Night ever!



WAYS TO GIVE

Your giving is always appreciated. God gives us many gifts to help our church further His Kingdom, money is just one way we can give. Your gift, whether it is weekly or monthly gives our church opportunities to offer Jesus to our community. Your monetary gifts may be given in person at worship services, or electronically through PayPal or Tithely QR Codes listed below.

We also need volunteers to help with maintaining the building with repairs and weekly cleaning, supplying supper for Bible study, helping with our missions, donating supplies for the kitchen, restrooms and office, and helping with Worship. Your talents and gifts are always welcome here.

If you have a Kroger Savings card, make sure it is linked to our church ED607. Kroger donates a portion of your purchase back to our church.

Remember, God loves a cheerful giver!

PayPal QR



Tithely QR



PRAYER REQUESTS

“Pray without ceasing.”

- The Johnson Family - Loss of Lonnie's Brother - Comfort & Peace
- Angel Van Ostrand - Healing following a fall/dislocated shoulder
- Shaun Adams - Fell off horse
- Barbara Martin - Pending medical procedure
- Merle Fritz - Pending surgery
- Gary Fritz – Strength as caregiver
- Cadence Welch - Broken Foot –
- Ellis & Linda Duke - Health
- Steven Vanevery - Starting Chemo
- Bridget Vanevery - Peace
- Wally Lemaster - Chemo/Radiation
- Bill Lemaster - Chemo/Radiation
- Mikkie Lemaster - Peace
- Joey, Jacob, & Katy Masterson
- Mike Duke, Crystal Duke Dubose, Ben & Rachell - New Baby
- Dan Prentice - Lost job, troubles
- Drew Fenstermaker - Custody of daughter
- The Blake & Smart Families
- Karl Keith
- Craig & Christie Hantelman
- Chantel Wilson
- Shirley Schumaker
- Connie & Billy Gibson
- Vera Johnson
- David Goodrum
- Ailene Wilson
- Duane Hall
- Norman Glass
- Sissie Blanco
- The Van Ostrand Family
- William Frazer
- Darlene Trapp- cancer
- Our Church
- Our Country