

The messenger



first methodist church splendora
*Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly
and Witness Boldly*
June 2026

firstmethodistchurchsplendora.org

Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot, Pastor

pastor's message



The Gifts of the Spirit Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot

One of The Holy Spirit's functions is the generation and re-generation of life. In Genesis we see The Holy Spirit moving over the surface of the waters, then God speaks and The Holy Spirit moves... and there is light and life, generated by the power of The Holy Spirit!

Then, much later, by the power of The Holy Spirit, the Virgin Mary conceives and the earthly life of Jesus, Emmanuel, God incarnate, begins. Indeed, each of us begins our life, spiritually, by the power of The Holy Spirit.

Regeneration comes as we are reborn. And part of that regeneration is the imparting of Gifts of the Spirit.

Every child of God is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, specially gifted to play a unique and valued role in the body of Christ. No one is without gift or purpose.

Spiritual gifts are not our talents or skills. They are the grace of God at work within us,

empowering us to match our deep passions with the world's deep need. The gifts are given to individuals, but they are given for the benefit of others, to build and strengthen community, and to meet the needs of those around us.

Here are some important passages of Scripture concerning the gifts of the Spirit. Take some time to read these Scriptures carefully, and lean on the Holy Spirit to unlock their deep meaning for you as you read and ponder them:

Ephesians 4 Unity of the Spirit

4 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, 2 with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, 3 being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. 8 Therefore it says, "When He ascended on high,

*He led captive a host of captives,
And He gave gifts to men.”*
9 (Now this expression, “He ascended,”
what does it mean except that He also had
descended into the lower parts of the
earth? 10 He who descended is Himself
also He who ascended far above all the
heavens, so that He might fill all
things.) 11 And He gave some as apostles,
and some as prophets, and
some as evangelists, and some as pastors
and teachers, 12 for the equipping of
the saints for the work of service, to the
building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we
all attain to the unity of the faith, and of
the knowledge of the Son of God, to
a mature man, to the measure of the stature
which belongs to the fullness of
Christ. 14 As a result, we are no longer to
be children, tossed here and there by waves
and carried about by every wind of doctrine,
by the trickery of men,
by craftiness in deceitful
scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love,
we are to grow up in all aspects into Him
who is the head, even Christ, 16 from whom
the whole body, being fitted and held
together by what every joint supplies,
according to the proper working of each
individual part, causes the growth of the
body for the building up of itself in love.

1 Corinthians 12-13

The Use of Spiritual Gifts

*12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I
do not want you to be unaware. 2 You know
that when you were pagans, you were led
astray to the mute idols, however you were
led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that
no one speaking by the Spirit of God says,
“Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say,
“Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.
4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the
same Spirit. 5 And there are varieties of*

*ministries, and the same Lord. 6 There are
varieties of effects, but the same God who
works all things in all persons. 7 But to each
one is given the manifestation of the Spirit
for the common good. 8 For to one is given
the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and
to another the word of knowledge according
to the same Spirit; 9 to another faith by the
same Spirit, and to another gifts
of healing by the one Spirit, 10 and to
another the effecting of miracles, and to
another prophecy, and to another
the distinguishing of spirits, to
another various kinds of tongues, and to
another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But
one and the same Spirit works all these
things, distributing to each one individually
just as He wills.*

*12 For even as the body is one and yet has
many members, and all the members of the
body, though they are many, are one
body, so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit
we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or
free, and we were all made to drink of one
Spirit.*

*14 For the body is not one member, but
many. 15 If the foot says, “Because I am not
a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not
for this reason any the less a part of the
body. 16 And if the ear says, “Because I am
not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is
not for this reason any the less a part of the
body. 17 If the whole body were an eye,
where would the hearing be? If the whole
were hearing, where would the sense of
smell be? 18 But now God has placed the
members, each one of them, in the
body, just as He desired. 19 If they were all
one member, where would the body
be? 20 But now there are many members,
but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say to
the hand, “I have no need of you”; or again*

the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." 22 On the contrary, it is much truer that the members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary; 23 and those members of the body which we deem less honorable, on these we bestow more abundant honor, and our less presentable members become much more presentable, 24 whereas our more presentable members have no need of it. But God has so composed the body, giving more abundant honor to that member which lacked, 25 so that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. 26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it. 27 Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. 28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. 29 All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? 30 All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? 31 But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

The Excellence of Love

13 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor,

and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. 4 Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, 5 does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, 6 does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part; 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known. 13 But now faith, hope, love, abide these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Romans 12 Dedicated Service

12 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. 3 For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members

in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly: if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor; 11 not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; 12 rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer, 13 contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.

14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. 16 Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation. 17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men. 19 Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. 20 "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him, and if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

My prayer for each of you during this season of Pentecost is that God would open

to you, through the power of the Holy Spirit, a new appreciation for the calling of God on your life, and that you would pray for the gifts of the Spirit to be poured out on you in accordance with His perfect will. AMEN.

By His Grace and In His Spirit,

Pastor Steven†



calendar of events

- 4th thru 6th**- Trinity Conference
 - 7th**- Holy Communion Sunday & Worship Service 9AM*
 - 10th**- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
 - 14th**- Worship Service 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM
 - 20th**- Food Pantry Day 9AM
Volunteers Needed
Worship Service 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM
 - 24th**- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
 - 28th**- Worship Service 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM
- *Worship In-person or Online

Rail offerings

For many years, your rail offerings went to our Good Samaritan Fund. Beginning in June, we will rotate rail gifts as follows:

June 2026: ACTS 2 Outreach Fund

July 2026: Audio/Visual Fund

August 2026: Good Samaritan Fund

September 2026: ACTS 2 Outreach
October 2026: Audio/visual Fund
November 2026: Good Samaritan fund
December 2026: ACTS 2 Outreach

Day!
is Fathers'
Celebrate with
donuts @
8AM



June birthdays

1 **Kim Hopson**

5 **Mary Powell**

6 Ethan Jackson

9 Emma Bonnette

13 **Shirley Madruga**

18 **Kay Martin**

19 **Mary Johnson**

26 **Sandy White**

27 Avery Vasquez

New security measures

Due to the new reality of churches becoming new targets for terrorism, our church has taken measures to help increase security. At 9:00AM on Sundays, the exterior door to the Fellowship Hall will be locked. After the ringing of the church bell, the Sanctuary doors will lock. Should someone come to church after the door is locked, a camera connected to the booth monitors will help identify and the visitor can be "buzzed in." This is very similar to what is used at school and banks. Please keep all houses of worship in your prayers for their safety.



Trinity Annual Conference will return to College Station, Texas, June 4–6, 2026. Our Conference theme is ***The Power of Personal - Inviting Others to Christ Through Personal Stories.***

Because we live in a world searching for hope, we invite you to consider the ways in which God is inviting you to share your own story of spiritual breakthrough, growth, and transformation.

As a Conference, we are focused on growing more aware and attuned to the work of the Holy Spirit among us, and the spreading scriptural holiness in our local communities and across the globe.

This awareness of God positions us to simply and humbly tell others how God has touched our lives. Throughout scriptures, Jesus calls people of all walks of life to go and tell others what the Lord has done for them.

You may recall the testimony of the restored man in Mark 5:19, when Jesus commissions him saying, *"Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."*

The man proclaimed Christ across the Decapolis, and *"all the people were amazed."* God meets us in our broken places, extends mercy, restores us, and then calls us to testify. That testimony becomes an invitation to people longing for

J June 21st





Pray for the Holy Spirit to work
safely for its delegates.

Robert & Mae Bible
Tricia Harrod
Joey Masterson
Kevin Alston

Prayer list

*"Wait patiently for
the LORD. Be brave
& courageous. Yes, wait patiently
for the LORD." Psalm 27:14*

Curtis Ainsworth (Gene's brother) –
Heart Bypass Surgery/Recovery
Ray Ricks - Upcoming surgery
Linda Wiseman - Health issues
Thomas Blake - Lung Cancer
Chantel Wilson - Cancer
Ramona Ferguson - Continued Therapy
Karl Keith - Health
William Blake - Health
Craig & Christie Hantelman - Health
Pamela Morgan - Health
Dell Hart - Health
Barbara Martin - Healing
Merle & Gary Fritz - Healing
Ellis Duke - Continued Healing
Angel Van Ostrand - Continued Healing
Brenda Storey - Continued Healing
Sean Hales - Travel Mercies and Life Choices
Pastor Steven & Family
Chari Ricks
Duane Hall
The Van Ostrand Family
The Schaefer Family
Billy & Connie Gibson
David Goodrum
Shirley Schumaker
Tommy Johnson
Lonnie & Sherrie Johnson & Family
Shirley & Bob Adams
Norman Glass
Smart and Blake Families
William Frazier