

The messenger

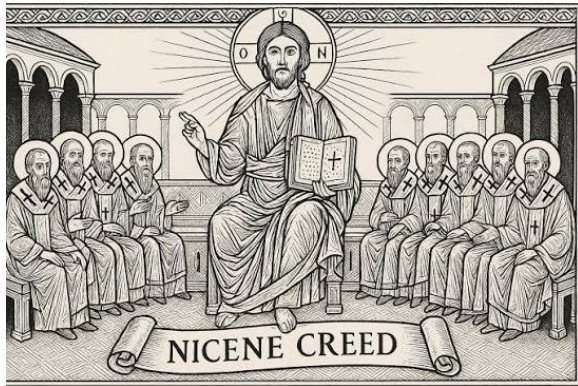
first methodist church splendora

Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly and Witness Boldly

August 2026

firstmethodistchurchsplendora.org

Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot, Pastor



Pastor's message

The Nicene Creed: A True Expression of the Christian Faith

Our *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* includes *The Nicene Creed* as one of our doctrinal standards. It is a “normative” document, which means that it establishes the standards by which we judge true and false teaching. This discernment as to what is true and what is not true is important because it binds us together in what we believe. It is foundational to our faith. It sets the boundaries for what we preach and teach in the Global Methodist denomination and it unites us with the true universal Church, the body of Christ in motion in the world.

While our usual go-to for worship services is *The Apostles' Creed*

originating in the second century, *The Nicene Creed* (A.D. 381) is more detailed, emphasizing the true nature of Christ, and clearly connects our worship with our orthodox belief as Global Methodists. *The Nicene Creed* is more widely used and recognized across most orthodox Christian traditions.

The *Book of Doctrines and Discipline* gives us a brief history of *The Nicene Creed*:

The Nicene Creed was developed by the first ecumenical council of the Christian Church that met in 325 A.D. in ancient Nicaea, in the present-day nation of Turkey. The creed was later amplified and adopted as a true expression of the Christian faith at a second ecumenical council held in Constantinople in 381 A.D. While the creed expresses the belief of the “catholic” or universal church, Christians in the East and West have long disagreed over the inclusion of one word, *filioque*, a Latin term meaning “and the Son.” The original creed expressed the idea that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father, while

(Continued on page 2)

(Pastor's Message from page 1)
churches in the Western tradition (including Methodists) came to believe that the Spirit proceeds from both the Father and the Son. Reflecting its worldwide nature, Global Methodists are free to include or

leave out the phrase, “and the Son” in the use of the creed both in worship and for instruction in the faith.

THE NICENE CREED (A.D. 381)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things came to be; who came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his Kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

* universal

While we will most likely continue to use *The Apostles' Creed* as our usual expression of faith during worship, it is good for us to expand our faith-knowledge base into all of the theological foundations in our doctrine. From time to time you will see *The Nicene Creed* pop up in our worship service. Now you know, what it is, where it comes from, and why it is important.

By His Grace,
Pastor Steven†

new Bible study series August 5

After a brief break, Dinner & Bible Study will resume on August 5 @ 5:30PM. The new study, “Profoundly Christian, Distinctly Methodist” is designed to deepen your understanding of our doctrinal and theological foundations. Your journey in these 10 sessions will be both personal and your faith walk will be participant will receive their and each session will begin with a presentation. And as usual, a meal and fellowship will start the evening. Hope to see you then!



Calendar of events

- 2nd- Holy Communion & Worship 9AM*
Communion Rail gifts go to
The Good Samaritan Fund.
Sunday School 10:15AM
- 5th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:30PM
- 7th- Bingo Night Fundraiser 6PM
- 9th- Worship Service 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM

Board of Stewards Meeting 12:45PM

12th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:30PM

15th- Food Pantry Day 9AM
Volunteers needed

16th- Worship Service 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM

19th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:30PM

23rd- Worship Service 9AM*
Sunday School 10:15AM

26th- Dinner & Bible Study 5:30PM

30th- Worship Service & Laity Sunday Angel
VanOstrand will present the message. 9AM*

* Worship in-person or Live Stream



august
anniversaries
and Birthdays

9 Pastor Steven Lightfoot
10 **Diana LeBlanc**
14 *Leslie Bernard*
17 **Joe & Jeanette** Melton
20 *Abner Perez*

25 **Jeremiah Johnson**

26 **Tracy Blake**

27 **Ellis & Linda Duke**

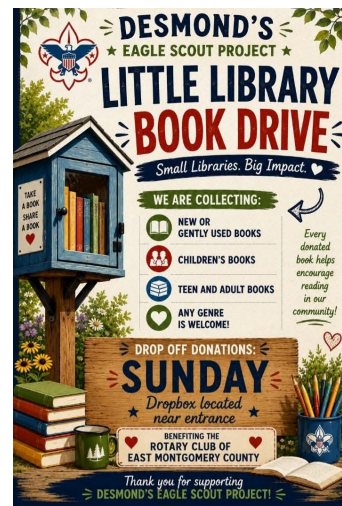
28 *Daniel Perez JR*

29 **Frankie Jones**

30 **Sherrie Johnson**



31 **Jene & Angie Ainsworth**



Support Desmond from our Boy Scout
Troop in earning his Eagle Scout Badge.
You may drop off new or gently used books
here at the church.

prayer list

*"God is your refuge and
strength, your help in times of need."
Psalm 46:1*

Selah Marie - Ellis Duke's Great-
Granddaughter - Major surgery Aug 4th
Pat Barrington - Grief
Darlene Trapp - Cancer
Chantel Wilson - Cancer
Diana & Kevin Alston - Travel Mercies
Cadence Welch - Off to church camp this

week

Ray & Chari Ricks - Health & Healing
Craig & Christie Hantelman - Health & Healing

Sandie Hales - Health & Healing
Billie Jackson - Health & Healing
Ellis Duke, Brandi Masterson & Joey - Healing & Faith

Linda Duke, Jake & Katy - Healing & Faith
Angel Van Ostrand - Continued Healing



Keith
Family
Graves & Family

Gary & Merle Fritz
Shirley & Bob Adams
Robert & Mae Bible
Smart & Blake Families
Bob Guttenberger
Billie Jackson
William Frazier
Kenneth Van Ostrand
Patty Dye
Linnea Hickman
Billy Gibson
Tommy Johnson
David Goodrum
Jimmy Holden
Renee McMillian
Shirley Schumaker
Duane Hall
Norman Glass
Alton Moore
Sally Tudor
Tricia Harrod
Our Church
Youth of our church
Pastor Steven & Family
Our Nation & Leaders
Law Enforcement personnel
Upcoming Fund Raiser - August 7th

wait. You may give online in two ways. We accept *Pay Pal* and *Tithely*.

“What?! You forgot your check this Sunday?” No worries! Use the QR Codes listed below and your gift to the church is sent immediately.

There is a small fee charged to use either QR code and both are secure to use. Electronic gifts will be included in your annual giving statement and are tax-deductible.



PAY PAL

TITHELY

Our church will always continue to accept your gifts by check and cash, but you now have other options when you need it.

Remember to link your Kroger Card to our church ED607.

Thank you for your gifts to our church.
“God loves a cheerful giver!”



your giving

During the summer months, giving is traditionally down due to lower attendance. Members take trips or have occasions to miss coming to church. If you miss church, your gift giving to the church doesn't have to