

# THE MESSENGER

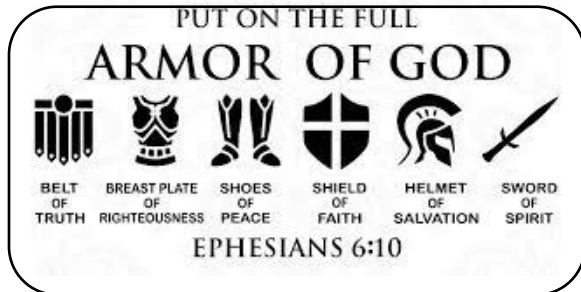
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SPLENDORA

*Who Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly  
and Witness Boldly*

SEPTEMBER 2024

Foot, Pastor [firstmethodistchurchsplendor.org](http://firstmethodistchurchsplendor.org)

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



### Christ in the Political Arena

Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot

I used to be a politically minded person. By that I mean, I followed the country's political ebb and flow with zeal and passion, caring deeply about party policy and platform. I believed in the two-party system and the free expression of differing ideas.

In 2008, something changed in the political landscape in America. A darkness infiltrated the system, and it became less about differing voices for the good of the nation, and more about silencing free speech, limiting liberty, and squashing the spirit of the republic. It became oppressive and ominous. It moved from a government of the people to a government ruling over the people. It became us versus them.

Since entering fulltime ministry, I have been careful to keep my personal political opinions out of the pulpit. I prefer to focus on Christ, as his Gospel is the true source of liberty and freedom in this and every nation. I will continue

~~to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and only the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life.~~

The thing about the political arena is that it deals with the affairs of mankind. Satan is all about influencing the affairs of people, all about deception and leading people down the wrong path. Satan is deeply engaged in the political arena... And so must the Church also be engaged, lest the affairs of people be solely governed by the demonic powers and principalities of this dark age.

The Church, headed by Christ, must shine the light of truth into the political arena. We must be boldly proclaiming Christ, witnessing to the true liberty and freedom he brings to all of humankind. We must call out the darkness and evil when we see it and overcome it with light and truth spoken in love. To do otherwise is to hide the light under a bucket and allow the present darkness to persist.

*"Therefore, take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist on the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm therefore, having belted your waist with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having strapped on your feet the preparation of the gospel of peace..."*  
(Eph 6:13-15)

Shalom,  
Pastor Steven†



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Holy Communion Sunday & Worship 9AM\*  
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- 4<sup>th</sup>- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Sunday Worship Service 9AM\*  
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM  
Board of Stewards Meeting  
12:45PM
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
- 15<sup>th</sup>- Sunday Worship Service 9AM\*  
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- 18<sup>th</sup>- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
- 20<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>- *Global Methodist Church  
General Conference in  
San Jose, Costa Rica*
- 21<sup>st</sup>- Food Pantry 9AM\*
- 22<sup>nd</sup>- Sunday Worship Service 9AM\*  
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- 25<sup>th</sup>- Dinner & Bible Study 5:45PM
- 29<sup>th</sup>- Laity Lead Sunday Worship 9AM\*  
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- \*Worship Services in-person & Online*

## EVERY WEEK AT FMCS

The Church Building is in use for the following:

- MONDAYS—Cub Scouts 7:00PM  
TUESDAYS—Boy Scouts 7:00PM  
WEDNESDAYS—Dinner & Bible Study or  
Class Meeting 5:45PM  
FRIDAYS—Girl Scouts 5:30PM



## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES & 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**
- 19 **Darren Grupa**
- 19 **Nancy Hatchett**
- 22 **Landon Gray**
- 23 **Sandie Hales**
- 25 **Steven & Angela Lightfoot**
- 25 **Tom Nardozi**
- 26 **Shirley Dunn**
- 26 **Brooke Jones**
- 30 **Cindy Reed**



## GIRL SCOUTS MEET ON A NEW NIGHT

Effective September 6, 2024, our Girl Scout troop will meet at FMCS on Friday nights at 5:30PM.



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL BOXES

It was suggested we provide some needed school supplies to the Splendora ISD elementaries for students in need. 100 pencil boxes filled with essentials needed for school, along with a message from our church and “a little Jesus” inside each box. 25 boxes went to each Splendora ISD Elementary campus. To God be the glory!



## GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH CONVENING GENERAL CONFERENCE

September 20-26, 2024 will be the Global Methodist Church Convening General Conference held in San Jose, Costa Rica. This is a historic event as the Global Methodist Church only began operations May 1, 2022. This convention will have a delegation of Global Methodists spanning the globe: North America, Central America, South America, Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, England, and the Philippines. Please keep this convening conference in your prayers.

## OUR CHURCH'S ONLINE PRESENCE

Our podcast and live stream currently reach out to 685 cities/towns/villages in 58 countries (or territories) on six of the seven continents. I don't have good data on the settlements on Antarctica, so it's difficult to claim all seven continents with any degree of certainty, but we are on many platforms, so it is possible to hear us there. Our largest audience is in North America at 55%. Next is Asia at 32%. Europe is 11% of our audience. The remaining 2% is made up by Africa, South America, and Oceania (Australia and New Zealand). The largest audience in terms of single cities is Tokyo, Japan. We have broadcast our messages via podcast since January 2015. The livestream came along later in 2020. Since we began our global outreach, we have published 438 weekly episodes, which have been downloaded (viewed) more than 22,000 times by a global audience. To God be the glory!

**Parking Lot SALE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024, 8-3:00 PM**

**RENT YOUR SPOT - \$25**

We have 25 spots for rent! Get yours and sell your stuff! You provide the table and chairs. Canopys must be weighted.

**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SPLENDORA**  
26117 FM 2090, Splendora, TX 77372

**TO RESERVE YOURS - CALL OR TEXT 281 433 0957**

Rain or Shine! Great Location! Plenty of Parking!



## PRAYER REQUESTS

“I heard your  
prayer...Trust  
my timing.”

- Upcoming Convening General Conference of the GMC in Costa Rica
- Norm & Lovada Linquist – Norm is back in the hospital in ICU.
- Tess Nardozzi and family as her mother Ellen Combine passed away on Friday, August 30.
- Tess also is requesting prayer for her brother-in-law, Wally, who starts chemo September 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Tess Nardozzi – Requesting prayers that the results of her MRI of the brain and spine are good.
- Mawana Jones – Continued Back issues – Possible treatments/Healing
- Patty Dye – Possible tumor on her kidney
- Wilma Martinez – Healing
- Sue Williams – Healing
- Patti Lyons - Healing
- Duke, Masterson, and Shugart Families – Health and Faith
- Craig & Christie Hantelman – Health issues
- Bob Hantelman – Health issues
- Karl & Sheila Keith – Health issues
- William Blake – Health issues
- Caleb Barroso – Health
- Ella Smart - Health
- Allyson Welch - Direction
- Kris Duke – Travel mercies
- Marvin Moran
- Shylo Sims – Job mercies – Find a job
- Ashley Hernandez – Job mercies - Find a job
- The Smart Family

- Amy Ricks
- David Van Ostrand
- Charles Kincannon
- Tommy Johnson
- Debby Parsons
- Shirley & Bob Adams
- Shirley & Harry Schumaker
- Jonathan Smoot
- Pastor Steven & Family
- Unspoken
- Our Church & Leadership
- Our Country & Leadership

## YOUR GIFTS AND TITHES

Our church is dependent on your financial gifts and tithes. We cannot continue our Ministry, serving our community without your financial support. If possible, check with your banking institution if they support EFT or Bill Pay. Each month or weekly you may automatically send your gift directly to the church. This way you don't have to write a check or forget to bring it to church.

Remember to link your Amazon Smile Account and your Kroger card to our church. If you have any questions please contact Sheila Keith at [sheilakeith@gmail.com](mailto:sheilakeith@gmail.com). Thank you.

## LADIES' LUNCHEON

Please mark your calendar for November 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Ladies' Luncheon at 11:30AM. Details will be available soon. Contact Angel Van Ostrand 281-659-6481 for any questions.