



THE MESSENGER

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH SPLENDORA

NOVEMBER 2024

*Who Worship Passionately, Love Extravagantly
and Witness Boldly*

Reverend Steven G. Lightfoot, Pastor

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Responsible Citizenship

By Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot



Romans 13:1-7 has something to teach us about being a responsible citizen. Since we are casting our vote this month in a national election, a review of Paul's letter to the Romans regarding government is in order.

Paul writes:

1-3 Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen. If you're irresponsible to the state, then you're irresponsible with God, and God will hold you responsible. Duly constituted authorities are only a threat if you're trying to get by with something. Decent citizens should have nothing to fear.

3-5 Do you want to be on good terms with the government? Be a responsible citizen and you'll get on just fine, the government working to your advantage. But if you're breaking the rules right and left, watch out. The police aren't there just to be admired in their uniforms. God also has an interest in keeping order,

and he uses them to do it. That's why you must live responsibly—not just to avoid punishment but also because it's the right way to live.

6-7 That's also why you pay taxes—so that an orderly way of life can be maintained. Fulfill your obligations as a citizen. Pay your taxes, pay your bills, respect your leaders."

"All governments are under God."

That's a bold statement. Governments that stay within the boundaries of God's Word and Will are legitimate.

Governments that operate outside of God's Word and Will are out of God's order and are, therefore, illegitimate. As responsible citizens, we have the responsibility to elect government representatives that value God's Word and will. To do otherwise is irresponsible.

"That's all well and good, Pastor. But who should I vote for? How should I cast my vote so that I can be a responsible citizen and choose representatives that most closely align with the Word and Will of God?"

Great question!

Here's my response: I will never, as your Pastor, tell you specifically by name which candidates you should support in any election. I will, however, tell you how I go about choosing the candidates for whom I will cast my ballot. My process is simple and methodical. Firstly, I consider the key

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issues in play in the political

arena and compare them to the scriptural position on them to determine on which side of each issue I should stand as a righteous person within the will and Word of God. For example, one of the hot-button issues in this election is the right to life of the unborn. God's Word is clear on this issue:

Psalm 139:13-16 tells us, *"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My 10: was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."*

Even more clearly, Exodus 20:13 commands us, *"You shall not murder."*

Secondly, I compare the biblical position on the issue to the party platform of each political candidate. I do this because some politicians are experts at being vague and noncommittal on the issues, so their positions on key issues are not clearly stated. But the party platform is more definitive and usually well-documented. The platform will tell you what the candidate really stands for, even if they won't. If the candidate is prone to flip-flopping on the issues depending on to whom they are speaking, the platform will tend to tell you who they really are and what they really believe.

Finally, I choose to support those candidates whose party platforms most closely align with Biblical, Christ-centered values. For me, a platform that protects the lives of the innocent is of critical importance and honors the Word and heart of God. While not the only issue in play in a national election, I believe the right to life is basic and fundamental. A nation that gets this issue right is headed in the right direction. To choose otherwise is to

willfully step into the abyss of depravity and wickedness.

Aligning ourselves, our government, and our nation with the Word and Will of God is the only way to move out of our current circumstances as a people, and into the forgiveness and mercy of God.

2 Chronicles 7:14 instructs us, *"If my people who are called by My name humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

I encourage every citizen to participate in the election process, and to do so with right motives, choosing wisely according to the precepts given us in God's Holy Word.

By His Grace,
Pastor Steven†

November

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 3rd- Holy Communion & Worship 9AM*
Rail Gifts go to Good Samaritan Fund
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- 5th- *Election Day—Remember to Vote*
- 6th- Dinner & Class Meeting 5:45PM
- 10th- Worship Service 9AM*
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- Board of Stewards Meeting 12:45PM
- 11th- *Veterans' Day Holiday*
- 13th- Dinner & Class Meeting 5:45PM
- 16th- Food Pantry Day 9AM
Memorial Service for Norman Linquist
11AM with reception following.
- 17th- Worship Service 9AM*
Adult Sunday School 10:15AM
- 20th- Dinner & Class Meeting 5:45PM
- 24th- Worship Service 9AM*
- 27th- No Dinner/ Class Meeting
- 28th- *Happy Thanksgiving*
*Service Online & In-Person



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES AND BIRTHDAYS

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

CLASS MEETINGS RETURN

Beginning, November 6 at 5:45PM
Dinner with Class Meetings through
November 20. There will be no meeting
or dinner on November 27th due to
Thanksgiving Day being on the next day.
There will be a break for the month of
December. In January we will resume
Dinner and Bible Study.
Looking forward to seeing you on the
6th!



SERVING GOD FOR GOOD

Read Matthew 20:20-28

Brad moved to a new city and quickly found a church where he could worship. He went to service for a few weeks, and then one Sunday he talked to the pastor afterward about his desire to serve in any needed. He said, "I just want to 'reach for the broom.'" He started by helping set up chairs for the services and cleaning the restrooms. The church family found out later that Brad's giftedness was in teaching, but he was willing to do anything.

Jesus taught two of His disciples, James and John and their mother a lesson in servanthood. Their mother requested that her sons have a place of honor on each side of Christ when He came into His kingdom, (*Matthew 20:20-21*).

The other disciples heard about this and grew angry with them. Perhaps they wanted those positions for themselves? Jesus told them that exercising authority over others wasn't the way to live (*vv. 25-26*), but instead, serving was most important. "*Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant*" (*v.26*).

Brad's words "reach for the broom" are a practical picture for what each of us can do in our communities and churches to serve Christ.

How will you and I "reach for the broom" as God leads us?

This is taken from the publication "Our Daily Bread" devotional for Sept/Oct/Nov 2024. Copies of "Our Daily Bread" are available free at our church or you may order a subscription at ourdailybread.org



PRAYER REQUESTS

Family & friends of Sue Williams - Comfort & Peace

Lovada Linquist & family-Comfort & Peace
Wally LeMaster - Cancer/treatments
Linda Dunaway - healing
Ellis Duke - Peace & Happiness in his life
Mawana Jones – Healing from back surgery
Ramona Ferguson - Pending hip surgery
William Blake - Health
Tiffany Hendry - Job
Hugo - Job
Gloria Cox - Healing
Merle Fritz - Healing from back surgery
Also husband Gary - caregiver
Christie & Craig Hantelman - Healing
Tess Nardoizzi-healing
Solia Sportell - Healing
Angel Van Ostrand - Healing
Patti Lyons - Health issues
Sean Hill - Health issues
Karl & Sheila Keith
Duke, Schugart, Masterson families - Health & Faith
Susan Schaefer - Back & knees
Gene Ainsworth - Guidance
Allyson - Guidance
Patty Dye - beloved pet "Nahla" died
Charles Kincannon
Shirley & Bob Adams
Ralph Madonna
Pastor Steven & Family
Debbie Syzmansk & Family
Garry @ Turbo Valves
Our Church
Peaceful election outcome
Israel issues
Ray Jackson - Cancer
Caregiver Donnalee Jackson
Tommy Johnson - Heart surgery
Wayne Boring - Lymphoma
Sage Herr - Cancer
Jenna Loghry – 11 yrs old; kidney failure
Henry Williams - Cancer
Ann Duke Elliott - healing
Carolyn & Dewayne Tompkins
Tommy Johnson
Annie Adams Goodrum

Prayer requests from Archie's Ministry:

*Tammy - Praise and restore
Hailey - Healing
Lin - Pray for her family
Carmela - Diabetes & family
Steven - Health
Kenny & Alice
Paul – Family*

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. Thank you.

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. 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!



**REMEMBERING
NORMAN "NORM" LINQUIST
1945-2024**

Norman Michael Linquist went home to Jesus, his LORD and Savior on October 17, 2024. He was born in Cleveland, Ohio on June 16, 1945 but came to Texas soon as he could.

Norm is survived by his loving wife, Lovada which they had been married 44 years. Survived by two children; daughter, Joanne Fitzpatrick and son, Jerry Linquist and two grandchildren.

Norm had a long-distinguished career as a salesman for commercial printers for over 30 years.

Norm had a passion for American Patriotism and for many years, had been involved in a group devoted to studying the U.S. Constitution. He was kept well informed on political issues, especially those involving the U.S. Constitution.

Norm and his wife Lovada joined First Methodist Church Splendora on November 10, 2019. As a member, Norm regularly attended Worship, Sunday School and Bible Study until his health made it very difficult to attend.

A Celebration of Life for Norm will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at 11:00AM will be held at First Methodist Church Splendora, with Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot officiating. A reception held following the service.

Please keep Lovada and family in your prayers. Norm will be sorely missed



**REMEMBERING
MARILYN "SUE" WILLIAMS
1938-2024**

Marilyn "Sue" Williams went home to Jesus, her LORD at age 86, on September 30, 2024. Sue was born to Stanley Watson and Viola Thompson on April 25, 1938 in New Orleans, Louisiana. She graduated from Milby High School in Houston 1956. Sue married Warren K. Williams in 1968 and settled in Splendora, Texas.

Sue is survived by her four grandsons; Avery Williams, Aaron Williams, Asa Williams, Dustion Dougherty; step-daughter, Karen Williams; daughter-in-law, Julie Williams; sister, Beverly Tommasi and niece Billie Winterrowd. She was actively involved at First Methodist Church Splendora.

A Graveside Service was held on October 25, 2024 at Forest Park Lawndale in Houston. A Memorial Service was held on October 26, 2024 at First Methodist Church Splendora. Rev. Steven G. Lightfoot, officiating both services. Both were attended by family, friends, and church members.

Please continue praying for Sue's family and friends. Sue's hearty laugh will be missed.

