

OUR UNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS

First Presbyterian Church Of Dunellen

At First Presbyterian Church you will find a wide variety of beliefs about Spiritual Gifts and their practice. Our Spanish language ministry tends to have a “charismatic” flavor, while it would be very unusual in our English language services to see an outward expression of the so-called “charismatic” gifts. We believe that this diversity of expression is part of God’s good design for our church and it’s ministry!

- We believe that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a gift from God and cannot be obtain through any other means or works (Eph. 2:8; John 14:6).
- We believe that when you receive Jesus as your personal Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you (Acts 2:38-39). You must be born of the spirit and water in order to see the reign of God (John 3:3-5).
- We believe, as the Bible teaches in 1 Corinthians 12, 13, and 14, that there are gifts given by the Holy Spirit, including gifts of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous power, tongues and interpretation of tongues, prophecy, and discerning of spirits. These gifts are given by the Spirit of God as He determines (1 Corinthians 12:1-11). All of the spiritual gifts are alive today. They should be used according to Paul’s teaching for the edification of the church.
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience of God’s Spirit within us, overflowing outward through us (John 7:37-38). This filling of the Spirit should not be taught as a second baptism needed for salvation or for ministry; neither should speaking in tongues be taken as a necessary sign to prove this beautiful experience. The “Fruits of the Spirit” are the more reliable (Galatians 5:22-23), and we must bear all the fruits. Jesus said, “By their fruits you will know them” (Matthew 7:16).
- All the gifts of the Holy Spirit are valuable to God. We should not boast in any gift that we receive, and we should use them as the Bible teaches. We affirm that the gift of tongues should be used in public service only if there is interpretation for the edification of the body (church), and when used, the gift of tongues should be exercised by only two or three people, speaking one at same time (1 Corinthians 14:27).