

The Messenger



**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —**
a Global Methodist Family

Summer Stock July 2024



38635 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL 33542
Church Office: (813) 782-5645
www.fmcz.org / info@fmcz.org

Join us for Live, In-Person Sunday Worship

Contemporary Service 9:30am

Traditional Service 11:00 am

Children's Church dismissal at both services

Adult Sunday School: 9:30-10:30am Crusaders room;

11:00am-12Noon Truthseekers room

New to FMCZ? Welcome!

First-Time Guests

Welcome! We hope you'll have a wonderful, Spirit filled experience worshipping God with us. We have a gift for you. Just ask one of the ushers for a first time guest gift bag after the worship service.

Children's Nursery

We offer a Nursery for children aged 8 weeks through 5 years. It opens at 9:15am each Sunday morning and is open for the full hour of each worship service. It is a safe and nurturing place with screened and trained leaders located in the Education Building through the door to Cooper Hall .

Children's Church

Kindergarten through fifth graders are invited to Children's Church! They are dismissed halfway through each worship service. One of our screened and trained team members will lead them to the Children's Church room in the **Education Building** for a fun, Christ-centered learning experience. All parents/guardians please pick up your children immediately following the service.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the sanctuary lobby, in Cooper Hall by the kitchen, and at the end of the hallway in the Education Building. Changing tables are available in most restrooms..

Sunday Café

Drop in for light refreshments in Cooper Hall before or between worship services 9:00-11:00am. Grab a cup of coffee and a treat on your way to worship or Sunday School class, and meet some of the other friendly people in our church family!

Campus Map



- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| A. Truthseeker's Room | E. Kitchen |
| B. Crusader's Room | F. Rest Rooms |
| C. Nursery | G. Choir Room |
| D. Children's Church | |



July Worship Services

Sunday, July 07: Communion Sunday, New Worship Series Begins

A Model for Prayer: "Adoration" Luke 11:1-13 (NIV)

Sunday, July 14: Mission Sunday

A Model for Prayer: "Confession" Luke 11:1-13 (New Living Translation)

Sunday, July 21: New Members Sunday

A Model for Prayer: "Thanksgiving" Luke 11:1-13 (Common English Bible)

Sunday, July 28: Worship Series Concludes

A Model for Prayer: "Supplication" Luke 11:1-13 (New King James)

WORSHIP: Witnessing Boldly

Music Ministry

Salvation's Rock [Contemporary Service 9:30am]

Music Worship Leader: Eric Gale

Practice Schedule: Tuesdays: 7:30—9:30pm, Sundays 8:00am

Chancel Choir [Traditional Service 11:00am]

Music Worship Leader: Miriam Ezra

Hand Bell Choir [Periodically at Traditional Service 11:00am]

Practice Schedule: Mondays: Bells 6:00—7:00pm; Choir 7:00—8:00pm

Men Of God [Periodically at Traditional Service and other functions]

Practice Schedule: Varies



Hand Bell Choir



Salvation's Rock Contemporary Praise Band

Spotlight on < Salvation's Rock Band Members

Periodically, the Messenger will spotlight some of the many groups and individuals active at our church and give a shout out to their contributions to our whole congregation. This month, we introduce a few members of the 9:30am Praise Band, who give their time and talents through the week to help lead our Sunday prayers and praises.



Tamela Davis—Vocals

Tamela has been singing since childhood when she joined her church youth choir directed by her Mom, (no pressure there!). After some years away from group singing, Tamela is happy to be working actively on her vocal talents again, a pursuit she finds both fun and challenging.

Tamela is a fairly recent addition to Salvation's Rock, bringing with her musical influences such as Amy Grant, 2nd Chapter of Acts, The Imperials, Pat Benatar, Journey, and Billy Joel.

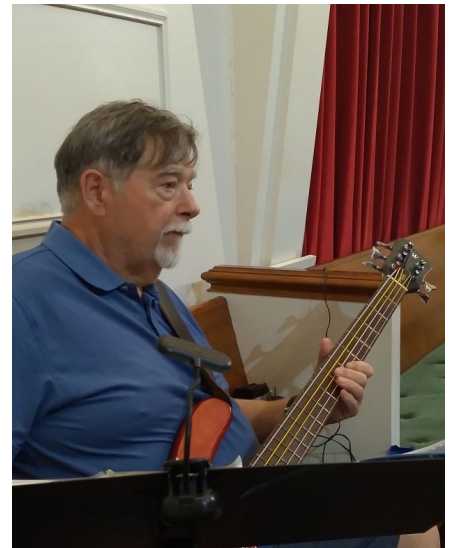
With a vibrant and happy disposition, Tamela finds joy in the way music can bring a church full of individuals together in a collective voice of praise. So next time you hear Tamela, don't be afraid to join in and lift your arms to the Lord; and if you see her at the Sunday Café, know that her hidden talent is hugging.

Tom Sharp—Bass Guitar, Lead Guitar

Tom is certainly very comfortable playing bass guitar from his chancel perch, having first joined the band part time a decade ago and later as a full time member in 2019. Tom has come by his talents and skill sets naturally, having played for over sixty years and learning music from both his grandparents and uncle who were in bands. Tom currently plays eight instruments and would love to learn the cello (when he has time!).

Tom's rich musical background includes playing in numerous venues big and small with a diversity of musical groups but here with Salvation's Rock, his focus is in glorifying God and bringing listeners closer to His real presence.

Considering his music as both art and craft, this bassist hopes to touch souls while continuing to fine tune his skills and find new directions for his playing. A long and winding road from his start in 5th grade band.



Patricia Pedigo—Piano, Vocals

Patricia joined Salvation's Rock about 8 years ago when she served primarily as pianist and occasional singer. Now she splits her time fairly evenly between vocals and keyboard, a feature of this current ensemble-focused band that she particularly enjoys. Patricia began teaching herself to play piano a decade ago and feels privileged to have been mentored and encouraged by past band members like Bobbie Crosby and Sarah Smith.

Patricia's musical influences include gospel singer Nicole C. Mullen and Whitney Houston and is partial to those artists with distinctly beautiful voices. She finds peace of mind and soul when singing praise music and feels music connects her directly with all those in the church who are singing along and sharing that praise experience. "Feeling and knowing that they are close to God in song is what I would like everyone to experience at our services."

The title of this month's Messenger, SUMMER STOCK, points out how playfully creative the English language can be, conjuring a wide array of meanings and nuances out of simple turns of phrase. In the theater, SUMMER STOCK refers to off-season productions that are mounted with scenery and costumes already in stock; a time to try new ideas and scripts without the pressure inherent in the regular subscription season. Usually it's the time when carpenters and painters get to work building and decorating the next season's properties, filling out their storage rooms with new stock. For the managers and directors, it's the time to "take stock" of their creative assets and talent pool while organizing the busy production times just ahead. So while many think of the summer months as a slow-paced respite from daily doings, in the theater, it's a time of fast-paced, behind the scenes planning, building, maintenance, and preparation for the fall season. It's a time of investment in the "stock", or the value of the player's assets that will be available to tap into in the busy days ahead. All of this is surprisingly not unlike summer in our church; although it's "off-season", there is a lot of energy at work behind and in front of the scenes investing in our stock for the season ahead.

Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]



Activities include Sunday ushers, Narthex greeters, Sunday service preparation, Communion stewards, and Visitor assistance.

Contact: kharwell63@aol.com if you are interested in helping to grow our church family by being a public face of welcoming.



Technical Support Services [Team Leader ~ Todd Kramer]



Activities include live audio and projection control, streaming video control, and audio/video preparations. The quality of our live services impacts how much and how well we engage those who may be looking for a church to attend.

Contact: tkramer@fmcz.org if you are interested in joining this vital tech team.

Sunday Café ~ Cooper Hall [Team Leader ~ Michelle Hill]

The Sunday morning cafe is located in Cooper Hall from 9:00 am until 11:00 am every Sunday.



MINISTRIES: Making Disciples for Christ

Children's Ministry [Team Leaders ~ Carol Runyon and Polly Adwell]



A Whole Summer of Themed Sunday School Experiences
with fun, crafts, games, and learning about Jesus

June 30th: Stars and Stripes Sunday themed with patriotic reds, whites, and blues

July 7th: God is Our Rock Sunday themed with Rock and Roll, air guitars

July 14th: Wild West Sunday themed with western shirts, horseshoes, and water pistols

July 21st: Super Hero Sunday themed with super games and a Best Cape Contest

July 28th: Olympics themed with Frisbee golf, hula hoops, and fun Olympic style games

Youth Ministry [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra]

Family Friendly Fellowship Events

Wednesday, July 10th, 6:30—8:00pm Cooper Hall

Join us for great entertainment, cool games, refreshing fellowship,
and, of course, delicious ice cream!



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY MORNING DURING 9:30 SERVICE

Praise and Prayer Group [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]

Every Tuesday Morning 9:00am

Truthseekers Classroom Education Building.

We encourage anyone who would like to join the ranks of these prayer warriors to contact Connie Norton at the email address below. The FMCZ prayer group work very closely with the specific intents and needs of all prayer recipients, to personalize and focus every prayer.

Prayer requests can be sent by email to cnorton40@tampabay.rr.com and must confirm the approval of the person or persons being prayed for. The team also ask requestors to provide complete contact information in order to follow up with phone calls or cards.

Recently, I asked Connie to comment on her personal understanding of prayer, its intentions, and its power. Her answer appears here: *What is prayer? Prayer is a conversation with God. Through prayer we can align ourselves with our creator! His presence is revealed to us. We grow in our love and worship of him. Our Life becomes fuller, richer, and more peaceful. A good prayer life, in my estimation, is being aware of God's presence. We turn over control of our life to him and do his will.*

Prayer is the single most important thing that we can do to know God and to be in union with him. If we do not have prayer in our life, our priorities get mixed up!

Connie and her team of Prayer Warriors pray regularly, not just for themselves, but for our whole church congregation and for the special needs and prayer requests sent to their attention. Many of us are not as connected to active prayer as this team is and may be looking for ways to gain deeper insight into the act of daily prayer. For reading on prayer, Connie recommends *The Prayerful Spirit*, by James Gills, M.D. Along with this, Pastor Steve will be holding a **Prayer Workshop Series on Wednesday evenings in July** in our chapel. Join him to learn about practical prayer on **July 17th, 24th, and 31st from 6:30—7:30** and discover new ways to connect to the power that prayer provides.



Walk to Emmaus [Team Leader ~ Dave and Roz Hill]

Luke relates a story of two disciples of Christ who were going along the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a town about ten miles away. As the two friends were walking together, they shared their grief and concerns about the recent death of Jesus. An unknown person joined them and proceeded to explain the scriptures to them as they walked. Toward the end of the day's travel, they urged the stranger to eat with them. As the stranger took bread, blessed, broke, and shared it with them, their eyes were opened and they recognized the risen Christ. Then they rushed back to Jerusalem to share the good news.



The modern Walk to Emmaus is a 72 hour experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation. You will enjoy three busy days of singing, learning, laughing, praying, worshiping, and discussing. These discussions center around talks given by laity and clergy regarding God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the modern Christian community, and how it expresses itself in today's world. You will discover how grace is real in daily life, how to live a life of grace, and how to bring that grace to others. In the end, you will have experienced Christian love in action that will equip you for new levels of grace-filled service and leadership.

Next Walks: Men's ~ March 20 - 23, 2025 Women's ~ March 27 - 30, 2025

Adult Studies and Classes

July Prayer Workshops ~ [Pastor Steve Ezra]

As Martin Luther wrote hundreds of years ago, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing"! As a church, prayer will clarify God's vision for us as we continue "moving forward." Individually, prayer will keep us closely connected with our Heavenly Father.

I am inviting our church family to join me for prayer this summer, not for prayer "meetings" but for prayer "workshops."

We'll meet in our chapel (entrance off 10th Street) to learn more about prayer and to then pray together. We'll revisit the basics of prayer with very practical insights, and then we'll pray. We'll pray for our community, our church, and for individual needs.

Please join me on the following days and times:

**Wednesdays, July 17th, 24th, and 31st
6:30 - 7:30pm in the Chapel**



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

July Field Trip to Tampa Learning Center

Plans are in the making for our field trip to the Rosa Valdez Learning Center of Cornerstone Ministries in Tampa **July 11th**. Please plan to meet in the church parking lot between 8:30 & 8:45 in the morning that Thursday. Please bring school supplies like pencils, crayons, erasers, rulers, notebooks and folders to donate for the children there.

After our tour and time with the kids, we'll stop for a no host dinner at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City.



Please call Phyllis Blanchard at 712 830 5196 by July 9th to reserve a ride.

Miriam Circle [Team Leader ~ Ann Crawford]

The Miriam Circle, a ministry group within United Women in Faith, is a gathering of women dedicated to nurturing faith, fellowship, and service. Join the circle to explore and share your faith journey with a community of supportive and understanding women, diving into the many teachings of the Bible through engaging and thought-provoking study sessions.

Next Circle meeting ~ Monday, September 9th, 12:00pm—2:00pm

No meetings in June, July, and August. Meetings will resume in September

Spotlight on < United Women in Faith

In 1869, Clementina Butler and Lois Parker, wives of missionaries to India, made a plea to 8 women at the Tremont Street Methodist Episcopal Church in Boston about the spiritual and physical needs of poor women in India. They could not be treated by male doctors. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Help was desperately needed.

The 8 women were moved to action. They quickly organized. The Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society as formed and funds were raised to send educator Isabella Thoburn to India. Clara Swain, MD soon followed with her medical skills and doors began to open. The Isabella Thoburn College, the region's first women's college remains operational today. By 1903, 34 years later, the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church had 265 missionaries carrying on the work tending to the physical and spiritual needs of women and children in India, China, Japan, Korea, Africa, Bulgaria, Italy, South America, Mexico, and the Philippines by means of women's colleges, high schools, seminaries, hospitals, dispensaries, day schools, and "settlement work".



Pictured left: Founding Members
Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society

Mrs. Thomas Rich, Mrs. E. W. Parker,
Mrs. Thomas Kingsbury,
Mrs. William Merrill, Mrs. William Butler,
Mrs. Lewis Flanders

In 1875, the Women's Missionary Association of the United Brethren Church as formed and two strong Women's Home Missionary Societies were founded – the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1879 and the Women's Missionary Society of the Evangelical Association in 1884. These groups became powerful, independent women's organizations, sending hundreds of women missionary doctors, nurses, and educators all over the world and supporting countless US and international projects and advocating for justice, children, women, and disenfranchised communities.

Ladies' Aid Societies were started in the early 1900s and in 1972, United Women in Faith first became the women's mission organization as part of the United Methodist Board of Global Ministries. In 2012, the United Methodist Church General Conference voted to make United Methodist Women's national policy making body autonomous.

When the Methodist Church in Zephyrhills was formed, women served as helpers wherever they were needed. Not unlike today, women were teachers, housekeepers, cooks, organizers, and savers. They saw need and sought to fill it. Today, women in our church sing in the choir, teach Sunday school, serve as lecturers, care for children in the nursery, use their talents to sew, paint, and cook. They run the office, dispatch help, and coordinate the assets. We are willing helpers in service. Meetings begin with prayer and devotions and continue with a discussion of current business and sharing of joys and concerns. The United Women in Faith Unit meets the second Thursday of each month, September through May, for lunch and fellowship at noon in the Cooper Hall. After lunch, members enjoy presentations from a variety of sources – local dignitaries, service providers, and agencies that help care for women and children in need. They assemble visitors bags for visitors to Sunday services, craft cards for soldiers in war zones and patients in hospital care and they hold two fundraisers – one in the spring and one in the fall. Funds raised support United Women in Faith as well as local and regional charities. The Purpose of United Women in Faith is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Presently, United Women in Faith in Zephyrhills sports 41 members and 1 circle. Some of the Projects supported by the group include the Zephyrhills High School ABC Program, Farmworkers Self Help Inc, Meals on Wheels, Woodland Elementary, Lowell Correctional Institute Oasis Program, Sunrise of Pasco, Cornerstone Ministries, Caterpillars to Butterflies, and Southeastern Guide Dogs. There is no fee charged to join and all Christian faiths are welcomed. **Please call Phyllis Blanchard, President, for more information at 712-830-5196 or connect through e-mail at lpb5152@yahoo.com.**

Historical background provided by unitedwomeninfaith.org

MISSIONS: Community Outreach

Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]

Every month, participating community families receive bags of non-perishable food items. Currently our pantry is assisting an average of 120 families each month with a useful variety of essential groceries and home items that may otherwise be outside of a family's budget. In these days of high inflationary prices, the pantry serves as a vital part of keeping hunger at bay in our own neighborhood.



Once a month we provide carts in front of the sanctuary and in Cooper Hall to accept any donations from our congregation. However, ALL donations are welcome to be dropped off any time at the church office during regular business hours.

FMCZ's Mission focus of the Month for June, July, and August will be our own Food Pantry Mission. Please read more about the pantry in our Monthly Mission article elsewhere in the Messenger. Help us continue to serve by giving generously to our neighbors in need.

THIS MONTH'S FOOD DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY WILL BE ON THE 21ST

Thrift Shop [Team Leader ~ Lyn Sears]

The Norma Hall Thrift Shop and Thrift Shop Annex are both ongoing vital components of our community ministries. Proceeds from all shop sales go directly to supporting all of our other local ministries such as Food Pantry and United Women in Faith.

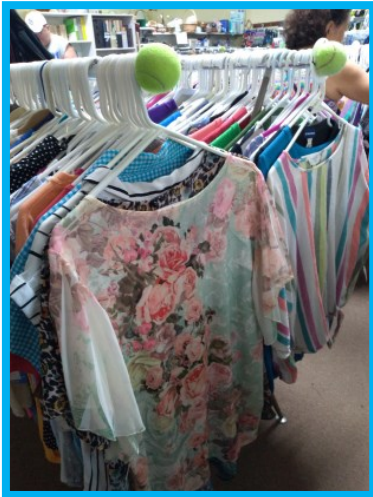
Currently, the Thrift Shops are looking for several more volunteers to help staff the sales floors and to process donations. Please see a shop staff member for information on how to join this essential team.

MONDAYS 8am—12pm
Donations only

Wednesday & Saturday 8am—12pm
Both Sales & Donations



See our full page ad for special July pricing dates and merchandise!



1st and 3rd Week Specials

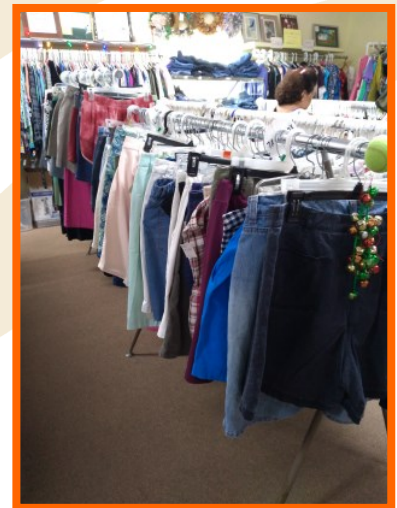
*All men's shirts, women's blouses, tops
and bathing suits*

*Large selection of gently used clothing
Great savings off already low prices
Come early for the best selections*

2nd and 4th Week Specials

*Pants, shorts, and skirts
Men's and women's under-wear
Large selection of lingerie*

*Carefully chosen for highest quality
Come early for the best selections
New choices processed regularly*



Pictures and Wall Art ~ \$1.00 each
Frames ~ \$0.50 each

New Members Class [Pastor Steve Ezra]

If you've been considering church membership or want to know more about what it means to be a member at First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills, please join us for our next **new members class on Sunday, July 14 from 12:00–1:30 p.m. in the Crusaders Classroom (down the hallway from Cooper Hall)**. Lunch will be provided for everyone. Whether you are transferring your membership from another church or you haven't been a member of a church before, this class is for you!

**Please mark your calendar for
Sunday, July 14th
from 12:00—1:30pm**

To sign up, please call the church office at 813-782-5645 or email our Office Manager, Teresia Gale, at tgale@fmcz.org. You can take the next step on your spiritual journey by becoming an official member of our church family! The class will be held after our worship services beginning at 12:00 pm on Sunday, July 14th.



**We'll receive our new members at
both worship services on July 21st.**

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Edwinola Assisted Living Devotional Services

*New Fall Outreach Ministry
Beginning In August*

Several members of our church family will be providing regular devotional services at the Elevated Estates (Edwinola) Assisted Living in Dade City on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 2 p.m. beginning on Sunday, August 18th. Services will include praise and prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and a spiritual message.

If you're interested in joining this group, please contact Roz Hill at 443-834-8621.



Trustees Work Day Saturday, July 20th, 8:00am—12:00pm

Our Board of Trustees is planning for a campus-wide work day to address a number of maintenance and repair tasks both inside and out including cleaning, painting, landscaping, and small repair projects. You'll have noticed signs of many ongoing improvement and growth projects as trustees and volunteers work behind the scenes as good stewards of the properties entrusted to our care.

This work day will give all members an opportunity to contribute their skills and a morning's work toward crossing as many items as possible off our TO-DO list. Volunteers meet in Cooper Hall to start.



Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

Our sewing program allows us to lend a hand to communities in need all over the world. The items created by Project Others add a personal touch to our outreach efforts, that help create a sense of community and healing through practical, hand-crafted items. Currently, the members are working on blouse protectors, arm chair covers, lap quilts for children and adults, and ditty bags to donate to local schools and care facilities

Sewing Sessions every Friday 8:00 am – 11:00 am in Cooper Hall

Pat Bailey Awarded Special Recognition Pin

At a recent Project Others gathering, long time member, Pat Bailey received this special recognition from Phyllis Blanchard of the United Women in Faith for her many years of dedicated service to our church missions and outreach projects. Pat's ongoing contributions of time and talents helps to illustrate the practical application of *Loving Extravagantly*. Thank you, Pat!



Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Milligan]

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone in the congregation for your tremendous support in raising funds towards the upcoming mission trip to Cuba. We are now **over halfway to our fundraising goal for the trip!** We will know more exact costs as we approach the trip. The cost for food and transportation are difficult to determine as the scarcity of resources in that country is at humanitarian crisis levels.

The purpose of the trip is to build connections with the church and fellowship together. The exact schedule and agenda for the trip will be set by the Cuban pastor. There may be some work projects with which the pastor will request the team's assistance during the mission visit.



The group is planning to leave on January 30 and return on February 6. All team members are currently working on the paperwork for their Visas and insurance to prepare for the legal aspects of traveling to our sister church. As we get closer to potential departure dates, we will announce a list of items they plan to bring to Cuba to share with the congregation there.

Again, we thank you for your continued and generous support through both prayer and financial donations. **Note:** that due to the Independence Day observance, we will not hold a bake sale for July but will resume the 2nd Sunday in August.

CUBA SISTER CHURCH [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

Armancio Rodriguez Methodist church is located in the small town of Amancio in Cuba's Las Tunas Province in the southeastern part of Cuba.

First Methodist of Zephyrhills entered into a sister church covenant relationship with Amancio over twenty years ago. Both churches have pledged to pray for each other, share information, culture and fellowship. God is working mightily in Cuba and it is a blessing and joy for us at First Methodist, to be a part of it, through our relationship with Amancio



A street in the town of Amancio



Armancio Rodriguez Youth Ministry



Armancio Rodriguez Methodist Church



Amancio Parsonage Next to Church

July Monthly Mission [Sunday Speaker 07/14 ~ Tana Day]

Our July mission focus is the same as June, our Food Pantry, which continues to be an important part of our church's outreach ministry.

Though summer is not a time that is typically thought of as a 'donation' time, the need does not stop based on the date. Volunteers provide the work, from helping fill the bags to distributing them. During the distribution week, our volunteers get to know the people that come and are often able to lend a much-needed listening ear. We have compiled a list of additional local resources, which is often shared by the volunteers when asked about other services. Each of our volunteers provide a vital piece to the mission, not just in sorting and packing groceries and goods, but in reaching out face to face with those in need in our local community.



If a family is unable to collect their food during distribution week, there is an option to fill out a form allowing someone else to pick it up for them. There are several individuals using that option, including one lady who picks up food for ten families, and four children that collect food for their parents. Finally, when there is an emergency need, families can receive a bag of food by presenting ID at the church office when it is open. In any given month that number ranges as high as 15 to 20 families.

Any and all pantry donations to the Food Pantry are sincerely appreciated and help allow this ministry to continue and expand. Thank you for your generous giving.



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

Parish Nurses [Team Leader ~ Druann Briggs]

No Blood Pressure Checks scheduled for July

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR UPDATES



Be Ready **HURRICANE** **PREPAREDNESS** **Stay Safe**

What are some “special needs”?

- Wheelchairs, or walkers
- Special bed, chair, or toilet
- Health sustaining equipment like oxygen or tube feeding
- Daily medical or care support
- Unique transportation needs

If you or a loved one has **special needs** this storm season, be sure to take them into account when developing your hurricane safety plans. Special needs will add a measurable level of complexity to your safety plans!

Register With Your County Emergency Management Agency--Pasco County, like other counties in Florida, are required to voluntarily register people who need evacuation assistance in the event of an emergency such as a hurricane. **In an evacuation, appropriate vehicles will be sent to transport pre-registered county residents to a public shelter, special needs unit, or hospital.** Transportation will not be provided to private destinations such as a relative's home. If your special needs require that you go to a special needs shelter or hospital, consult with your physician now about the need for a signed authorization letter. Prior planning is key to weathering severe storms safely and healthfully.

Special Needs Registration

is required each year. Call Pasco County Emergency Management
727-847-8137

For preparedness tips you can visit their website at
pascocountyfl.net
or click this link to download the
[2024 Disaster Preparedness Guide](#)
in PDF format.

MAKE A DISASTER PREPAREDNESS NOTEBOOK

Include the following information and keep it handy always:

- Your vital information such as name, address, phone, SS#
- Contact information for friends and relatives to contact
- Medical providers' names and contact information
- Insurance papers
- Note what arrangements you have in place for your pets in case of evacuation
- Notes on necessary medications and critical equipment

Stephen Ministry [Team Leader ~ Dave Hill]

Stephen Ministers are laypeople, Christian men and women trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, terminal or chronic illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. If you find yourself in a difficult time of life, please know we have trained Stephen Ministers who are here to walk with you through any place or time of need.



Alcoholics Anonymous

AA Meets on Fridays at 4:00 p.m. in the Truthseekers Room.
Please enter through the back door of Cooper Hall, on 6th Avenue
between 10th and 11th Streets; (a sign will be there).
For more information contact the Church Office, 813-782-5645.





Al-Anon is again meeting here at First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills.
Fridays, 6:30 - 8:00pm, in the Truthseekers Room.
This group is for family and friends of alcoholics.
*Please enter through the back door of Cooper Hall, on 6th Avenue
between 10th and 11th Streets; (a sign will be there).*
For more information contact the Church Office, 813-782-5645.

Adult Children of Alcoholics

ACA holds weekly meeting on **Monday evenings at 6 pm in the Parlor,
Cooper Hall adjacent to our Chapel!**

(From 10th Street, enter through the white gate into the courtyard,
and go to the double doors)

ACA is an international fellowship of healing from past traumas as a child
and growing through the pain to become a happy and content adult!



SPECIAL EVENTS: Information and Entertainment

YOUNG AT HEART PRESENTATIONS [Team Leader: Harry Kehr]



Agape Flights presenter to
be announced

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

**Thursday, July 18th
11:30am—1:00pm**

Cooper Hall

Topic: Agape Flights

Presentation includes a
question and segment.



ADMISSION:

**ONE COVERED
DISH OF
YOUR CHOICE**

So Many Ways to Serve [Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes, and talents]

Regardless of your skill set, talents, or interests,
there is always a way for you to become involved in
directly supporting the ministries of the church in
making disciples for Christ. Whether its swinging a
hammer, painting a wall, patching a hole, giving an
other church member your undivided attention, or
lending a supportive arm, your actions help to move
forward the business of our church.

If you are uncertain how to serve, click on the form
below, fill it out, and return it to the church office. A
team leader will contact you to help you activate!

[MINISTRY AND GROUP INTEREST FORM](#)



Close Up [Agape Flights] – Information provided by agapeflights.com

Agape Flights was founded by Keith and Clara Starkey on October 24, 1980. In the words of Clara Starkey, “God laid it on our hearts to buy an aircraft to fly supplies into Haiti.” They chose the Greek word for love, AGAPE (the unconditional love He has for each of us) to describe their mission and their ministry.

On November 15, 1980, Agape’s inaugural flight left the Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, bound for Cap Haitien, Haiti. The small Cessna 411 was loaded with donated emergency supplies and mail for about 25 missionary families. Today, Agape Flights serves as a lifeline from family, friends, and supporters to more than 300 missionary families in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas.

Agape Flights is a faith-based organization. Not the faith that just says, “Yes, I believe,” but the kind of faith that leads to action. The kind of faith that moves two retired farmers from Ohio to Bradenton, Florida, nudges them to mortgage their home to buy an aircraft (which they didn’t know how to fly or maintain by the way), and begin flying supplies and mail to missionaries in Haiti. Keith and Clara Starkey founded Agape Flights on radical faith and love, and today, 40 years later, their legacy of love and faith flies on week after week, serving 300 missionary affiliates throughout Haiti, the Bahamas, and the Dominican Republic...impacting millions.

A love of God. A love of people. A love to serve. Keith and Clara saw firsthand the transformative power of the love and care of Christ as they worked alongside missionaries in Haiti. That is why they stepped out in faith, bought an aircraft, turned their home into a mail and cargo center and chose the name “Agape” (God’s unconditional love) for this Christian aviation ministry.

Be sure to join us on **Thursday, July 18th**, for an informative and interesting presentation on the missions and activities of this critical area mission, told by those who are working first hand to bring care, comfort and Christian love into areas of need all around the Caribbean.

Young at Heart Luncheon, 11:30am—1:00pm.

Admission—one covered dish of your choice.



MEMBER HAPPENINGS: Monthly News

THOSE WHO SERVE

Budurka, Michael, Drill SGT, US Army, Fort Monroe, GA, grandson of Bob and Barb Stankiewicz
Clark, Matthew, 1ST LT. Army, Ft. Drum, N.Y., Grandson of Jack & Louise Smith
Cotton, Collin, J., YNSSA, US Navy, son of Richard & Julie Cotton
Daniels, Clay, Major, US Army, Ft. Bragg, Grandson of Ed Fisher
Dilks, Alayna, US Army, Joint Base Lewis McChord, WA, Granddaughter of Carolyn Dilks
Hill, Nathaniel, Colorado National Guard, Son of David Hill
Hunter Hollaway, Army National Guard, Great Nephew of Lori Hollaway
Hurley, Luka, MSGT., Grandson of Gordon & Norma Hurley (Omaha, NE)
Kramer, Hunter, LT., Army MP, Fort Lewis-McChord, WA
Lenz, Alexander, MM3, Navy, Norfolk, Va., Grandson of Richard & Linda Bice
Monteira, Jared, U.S. Coast Guard, Grandson of Debbie Huffert
Mueller, Hannah, US Army, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Daughter of Lorraine & Tom Mueller
Nipp, John, Captain, USAF, Mississippi, Brother of Bob Nipp
Noel, Tim, MSSGT., Air National Guard, Japan, Son-in-Law of Ann Crawford
Parks, Andrew, Senior Airman, US Air Force, South Korea, grandson of Bob and Barb Stankiewicz
Shoup, Justin, Deployed
Tindall, Tyler, US Army Specialist, Texas, Grandson of Ed Fisher
Wagner, Jeff, CAPT., USAF, Colorado, Nephew of Elton & Pat Wagner
White, Darrel, 1ST SGT. Army, Texas, Nephew of Gerald & Virginia Swank
Williams, Andrew, Lt. COL. USAF, grandson of Bob & Barbara Williams

REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Monique Ferraro	7/16	Grace Smith
7/1	Suzanne Morgan	7/16	Barbara Stankiewicz
7/2	Pat Bailey	7/18	Blake Donaldson
7/2	Orville Bowers	7/20	Ann Hazlewood
7/5	Marjorie Austin	7/21	Evelyn Perez
7/5	Carol Dean	7/23	Denise Barnes
7/5	Ellen Garvansites	7/25	Kay Hadley
7/6	Susan Phillips	7/29	Greg Brooks
7/7	Julie Cotton	7/29	Glenn Burton
7/9	Kevin Bjorkner	7/30	Tom Caldwell
7/10	Erica Bice	7/30	Janice Parsley
7/10	Scott Stewart	7/31	Dorothy Lundeen
7/10	Phyllis Wisor		
7/11	Shay Johnson		
7/12	Don Freiermuth		
7/12	Linda Phelps		
7/15	Zachary Sheffich		
7/15	Glenda Wilson		
7/16	Nancy Brooks		

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO ALL!**

ANNIVERSARIES

7/03	Ella Mae and Robert Packard
7/03	Lin and Jack Weitzel
7/07	Barb and Tom Burgmeier
7/12	Dan and Ilene Tacker
7/17	David and Karen Harwell
7/20	Pam and Danny Rios



NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING

For all our friends, family, and church members who are in long term care facilities we keep them in our prayers and our hearts that they always remain a vital part of who we are as a church family and are never far away from our thoughts.

AMERICAN HOUSE ~ 38130 Pretty Pond Rd., Zephyrhills

Lyden and Sue Green Apt 333
Neal Slingerland Apt 207

EDWINOLA ~ 14235 Edwinola Way, Dade City, FL

Peggy Fetch
Beulah Zeller

HEARTLAND ~ 38220 Henry St., Zephyrhills, FL

Ginger Shaeffer Room 313B

ROSECASTLE OF ZEPHYRHILLS ~ 37411 Eiland Blvd., Zephyrhills, FL

Roberta Hubbart

SOLARIS ~ 7350 Dairy Rd., Zephyrhills, FL

Shirley Force Washington Unit

SOLARIS ~ Zephyr Park, Zephyrhills, FL

ZEPHYR HAVEN MEMORY UNIT ~ 38250 A Ave., Zephyrhills, FL

Shirley Griffin

AT HOME [with daughter]

Dora Burnside



Liberty, Fraternity, and Service given freely are the things we fought for..

STAFF AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONTACTS

Church Web Address

www.fmcz.org

Staff Team Email Addresses

(for staff with church emails)

Church Office

info@fmcz.org

Karen Ezra, Director of Family Ministries

kezra@fmcz.org

Carol Runyon, Assistant Director of Family Ministries

crunyon@fmcz.org

Polly Adwell, Nursery Coordinator

padwell@fmcz.org

Miriam Ezra, Choir Director

mezra@fmcz.org

Steve Ezra, Senior Pastor

sezra@fmcz.org

Carol Freiermuth, Financial Secretary

cfreiermuth@fmcz.org

Eric Gale, Contemporary Worship Leader

egale@fmcz.org

Teresa Gale, Office Manager

tgale@fmcz.org

Tom Gale, Communications Director

tjgale@fmcz.org

Peter Jordan, Treasurer

pjordan@fmcz.org

Todd Kramer, Technical Director

tkramer@fmcz.org

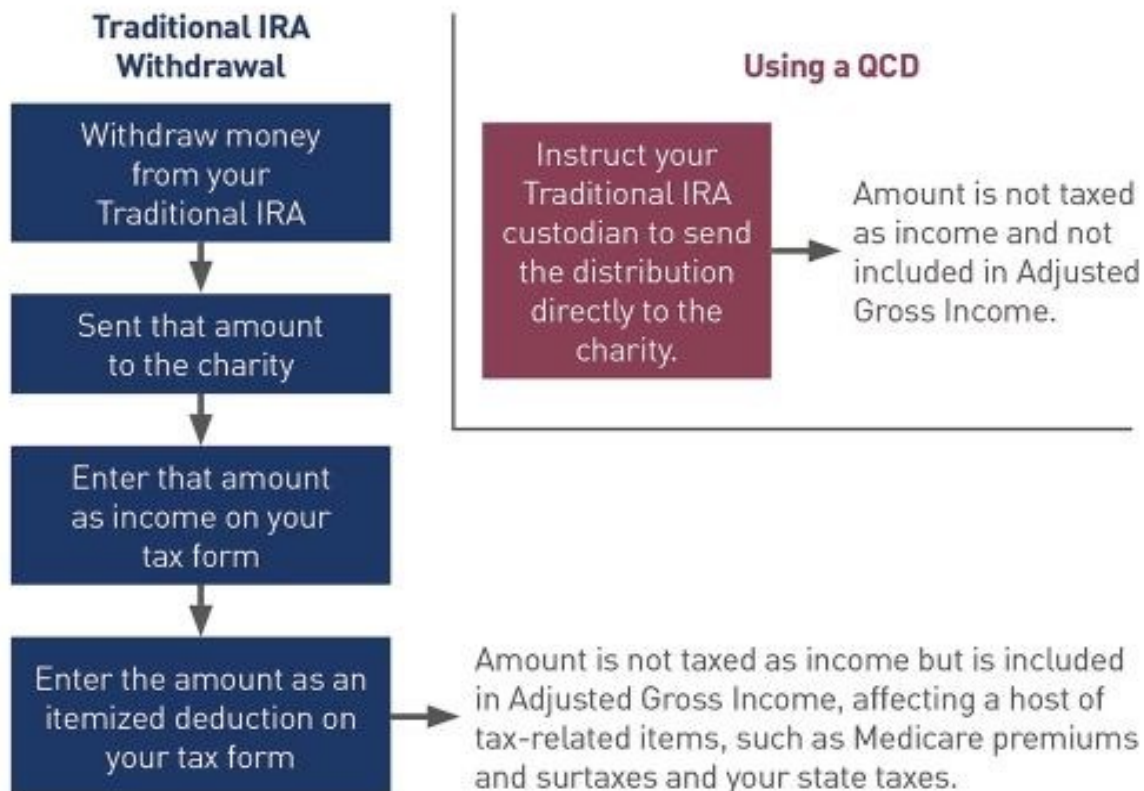
GIVING BACK [RMDs and Qualified Charitable Donations]

We make many investments in our lives, perhaps one of the most significant is the investment we make in our spiritual life and community. Whether we give of our talents, our energies, our time, or our financial resources, when we give back, we invest in the practical application of our faith. Investment is particularly important now that our property assets are no longer held in trust by a larger organization but have been transferred directly to our local church stewardship.

For most of us, our monetary donations are in the forms of electronic tithes, envelopes, or cash put into the Sunday offering plate, as that is what we can afford. But for some who may be in a different place in life, there are other practical ways to provide financial support to our church while gaining direct tax advantages. For those with qualified retirement accounts who, because of age, must take their REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION each year, that money comes with a tax liability. Those not needing their distribution for regular living expenses often look for ways to turn that excess income into a charitable donation in a way that decreases their tax obligations.

The QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DONATION allows that income to be directly donated to any qualified 501(c)(3) organization, like First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills, without adding to the donor's tax burden for that year. There are limitations and exclusions, of course, so it is always best to work through a professional financial advisor to set this up. But the good news is that a well defined path is already in place for converting excess retirement income into a tax exempt donation that will go directly to work supporting your charitable intentions.

QCD Versus Traditional IRA Withdrawal



Source: PNC