

# The Messenger

## October 2023

First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills  
38635 Fifth Avenue  
Zephyrhills, FL 33542  
813-782-5645



"I alone cannot change the world,  
but I can cast a stone across the waters  
to create many ripples"

Mother Teresa

**During the month of October**  
**help support our church *Food Pantry!***  
**by purchasing a reusable bag for \$2.99.**  
**For every bag sold our *Food Pantry* will receive \$1.**  
**Offer valid only at the Winn Dixie located in**  
**Oak View Plaza**  
**38901 County Road 54 East, Zephyrhills.**

An advertisement for the Winn-Dixie Community Bag. On the left is a white reusable bag with red accents and various logos, including "This bag gives back a \$1 donation to a local non-profit", "Winn-Dixie", "local veggies", "perfectly picked produce", "HAPPY", "SAY YES TO THE BEST", "little things every day", and "the freshest catch". To the left of the bag are three small pumpkins. To the right is the Winn-Dixie logo and three black bat silhouettes. Below the logo, the text reads: "For the month of *October*, every purchase of this \$2.99 reusable Community Bag at our designated Winn-Dixie gives us \$1 to support our community. And you'll have the best trick-or-treating bag EVER!"

**Winn-Dixie**

For the month of *October*, every purchase of this \$2.99 reusable Community Bag at our designated Winn-Dixie gives us \$1 to support our community.

**And you'll have the best trick-or-treating bag EVER!**





## Children's Church 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. services!

During our 9:30 a.m. contemporary worship services each Sunday, children age 6 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be dismissed to Children's Church approximately midway through the worship service. There will be someone in the front right corner of the sanctuary to take the children to our newly renovated Church's Church room, across from our Nursery (through Cooper Hall).

Parents can pick them up after the worship service. Children - infant through 5-years-old will continue to be welcomed into our Nursery during the entire hour of worship. Questions? Wanna help with children's ministries? Contact our Interim Director of Children's Ministries Karen Ezra at [childrensdir@fumczhills.org](mailto:childrensdir@fumczhills.org).

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## Calling All Youth and Children Actors!

We are looking for youth and children who would be excited to take part in a small play to be performed at both services on December 10<sup>th</sup>. There are speaking and non-speaking parts. Of course, there will be Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds, and many other roles to fill!

Come and join in this seasonal fun!

Please email Karen Ezra at [childrensdir@fumczhills.org](mailto:childrensdir@fumczhills.org) for more information.



## Youth Ministry

One Sunday a month

Come grow in Faith and Friendship and Fun!

4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

in Cooper Hall.

(Grade 6 thru 12)

Join us!

## Pumpkin Carving Contest and Chili Cook Off

\$5/person or \$10/family  
for dinner and a pumpkin

Pick up a flyer in Cooper Hall or  
the Narthex, fill it out,  
and place in the basket provided or  
e-mail to [childrensdir@fumczhills.org](mailto:childrensdir@fumczhills.org)

**First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills**





**Young at Heart!**  
**Seniors' Luncheon**  
**Thursday, October 19th, 11:30a.m.-1:00p.m.**  
**in Cooper Hall**

**Admission: Bring your favorite covered dish**  
**Guest speaker: Rich Vogel, Director**  
**Zephyrhills FMC Emmaus**  
**Q & A**

## **Tops** **(Take Off Pounds Sensibly)**

**New schedule began Thursday, August 3rd.**  
**Now at a new time, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**  
**TOPS will meet in the Crusader's room.**  
**Please enter through the 6th avenue door,**  
**located close to the northeast corner of Cooper Hall.**  
**Want to know more?**  
**Click on the link below to visit the TOPS website.**  
**<https://www.tops.org/tops/TOPS/FindAMeeting.aspx>**



## Mission of the Month of October Zephyrhills Pregnancy Center

The Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills is our mission focus for October.

It is a local faith-based ministry that believes in the sanctity of life for all who come through their doors. The center is available to counsel individuals to make wise decisions for themselves and their families.

With a network of resources, they are dedicated to equip, empower and support the women and children who seek help at our facility.

Unlike other Pregnancy Care Centers, they do not sever the ties with the mothers when the child reaches the age of one year. Their goal is to help these young families become contributing members to the community.

The center accomplishes this goal by offering life-skill classes, Bible study (in both English and Spanish) and individual mentoring. By attending these classes the clients can earn "baby bucks" which they can use to purchase supplies in their Baby Store.

The Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit and they survive on donations from churches and individuals. They employ only one staff member and rely heavily on their volunteer support staff.

Please remember this local ministry with your prayers and donations.  
Please mark donations for the Pregnancy Care Center.

Thank you.





## Wednesday Night Refuel is back!

**Now through November 8th  
10 weeks of family, faith and fellowship!**

**Classes begin at 6:45 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.**

**Dinner is served at 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**Meals are \$10 for family or  
\$5 for individual**

**Come grow with us!**

## Truthseekers'

The Truthseekers' Sunday School class is starting a new 5 week study called **Pray Yet: A Study of Habakkuk** by Mark Scott. Habakkuk's job was to prepare God's people for Babylonian captivity. Mark Scott explains how we can maintain faith in God when the world seems to be falling apart. The key to this faith for the people entering captivity is the same for us today: to PRAY YET.

We began this new study on Sunday September 10th. We meet in the Truthseekers' room located in Cooper Hall from 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

All are welcome to join us!

Bobbie Crosby

**John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."**





## **AFTER IDALIA – BOOK DONATION DRIVE to support Cedar Key Library**

**The coastal community of Cedar Key suffered major damage early Wednesday morning, August 30 when Hurricane Idalia made landfall as a Cat 3 storm just 60 miles north.**

**Businesses and community services are slowly being rebuilt by tenacious and resilient community members and volunteers. Storm surge did major damage to the Cedar Key Library which may take months to rebuild back to its normal services.**

**In the meantime, Thomas Gale will be collecting donations of GENTLY USED hardback and trade size paperbacks (no mass market paperbacks) to help restock their shelves and replace books lost in the storm.**

**All subjects accepted. Fiction is always preferred.**

**Please no textbooks, old library books, or ones in poor condition. Book collection will continue until the library is ready to receive them. Questions please contact [galeforceart@gmail.com](mailto:galeforceart@gmail.com)**





## **Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting**

**Are you having trouble staying away from a drink?**

**Join us on Fridays at 4:00 p.m.**

**In the Crusader's Room**

**Park on 6th Avenue**

**Between 10th & 11th Avenue**

**The only requirement for membership is  
A desire to stop drinking.**



## **Attention Winter Visitors**

If you are a winter visitor of our church and receive mail from us, we would appreciate your calling the church office (813) 782-5645 and letting us know when you return north for the summer and give us your summer mailing address as well as your expected date of return.

This is an attempt to keep you up-to-date as to things happening here, as well as to cut down on the amount of mail being returned.

Thank you,  
Membership Committee



## Church Campus and Facilities Maintenance Request Process

If you are participating in a ministry event or activity on campus and notice a campus or facilities problem that needs addressed, please let your ministry leader know. If it's not an emergency, the ministry leader will fill out a Work Order form (available [online](#) or in the church office) so the problem can be addressed. If it's an emergency problem (water leak, etc.) and it happens during regular church office hours of Mondays through Thursdays 9:00am – 2:00pm, the ministry leader will let the office staff know as soon as possible so they can address it. If the emergency problem happens outside of regular church office hours, all ministry leaders have a telephone number so they can reach the on-call Trustee to handle the emergency. We appreciate your assistance in helping us stay on top of campus and facilities maintenance!

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### *United Women in Faith's Autumn Gathering*

Let's celebrate the harvest season!  
Wear your finest hat and gloves and we'll serve tea, sandwiches, and cakes.

Proceeds to go to United Women in Faith Projects and Pledge Fund

When: Saturday October 28, 2023 from 1 to 3pm  
Where: Methodist Church 38635 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Zephyrhills  
Cooper Hall Dining Room

Cost: \$10



## Results of Sunday's Church Conference: Realignment to the Global Methodist Church

On Sunday, September 17, our church members voted 93.75% to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church and subsequently voted 100% to affiliate to the Global Methodist Church. Our denominational realignment will become effective at the end of 2023. Though it was a momentous occasion, the atmosphere was friendly and peaceful, and I have deep gratitude for Rev. Dr. David Allen, our District Superintendent, and Marissa Carnevale, the Senior Administrative Assistant for our district. They led our Church Conference gracefully and efficiently.

I am also deeply grateful for our church leaders and members who have been prayerfully considering the most fitting denominational affiliation for our church for three years now. Living through uncertainty is challenging. With Sunday's vote offering us overwhelming clarity on the best denominational alignment for our church family, we can now move onward and upward, joining God on a journey of bringing new life, reconciliation, and the presence of Christ to all people, and helping each person reflect the character of Christ.

We'll be working over the next few months to make the necessary legal and administrative changes to make this denominational realignment a reality, and we'll have a big church-wide celebration in early 2024 to commemorate realigning to the Global Methodist Church. Our new name is our pre-1968 name: ***First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills***. You'll eventually notice changes in our logo, signage, and other aspects of our "church brand." But when it comes to our ministries, our worship services, our missions partnerships, and our church leadership, we don't foresee dramatic changes—at least, not related to becoming part of the Global Methodist Church. Any changes in ministries will come as we keep discerning how to get better in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. These changes would have happened regardless of denominational alignment. We're always striving to get better at fulfilling our church's mission!

For those of you who are disappointed with the results of the vote, I know it's discouraging to feel like you're on the losing side of a vote or that your perspectives are a minority point-of-view. But I assure you that you are still loved and welcomed here at First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills! We have always had and always will have people in our church family who disagree over certain aspects of the Christian life. As long as we keep Christ at the center of our lives, there will always be room at His table for all His people.

To learn more about the Global Methodist Church, visit [www.globalmethodist.org](http://www.globalmethodist.org). It is a rapidly growing worldwide denomination operating in all 50 states with over 3,200 local churches and two active bishops so far. It offers much greater clarity and unity around who we are and what we believe than what we've experienced as United Methodists for decades. Our church will become part of the South-Central district, one of four districts in the Florida Conference of the Global Methodist Church. The key thing to know is that by becoming part of the Global Methodist Church, we can remain as we have been: Methodist Christians devoted to historic Christianity with a high view of Scripture and the pursuit of holiness of heart and life in partnership with Christians of all denominational traditions.

It's an honor for me to serve as the appointed pastor of First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills, and though God never promises tomorrow (Proverbs 27:1), I hope and pray to be able to serve the wonderful people of this church for a long time!

Onward and upward,  
Pastor Steve



## October 2023 - Project Others

Project Others is looking forward to a busy Fall in preparation for Distribution Day the first week of December. We extend the opportunity to our congregation to help collect items for our homemade Christmas stocking project and the assemblage of health kits for the homeless.

### Health Kit items include:

1 Hand Towel  
1 Washcloth  
Travel size: soap, shampoo & conditioner  
1 medium comb  
Toothpaste  
1 new, packaged toothbrush  
Disposable razor

### Stocking Stuffer Examples:

Small toys  
Small reading books (Bible stories)  
Thin coloring books (Biblical ones are great)  
Small boxes crayons (16 or 24 count)  
Jump Ropes  
Small rubber balls  
Action figures  
Cars & Trucks  
Small stuffed animals  
Small Dolls

**REMEMBER ALL ITEMS NEED TO FIT IN A 5" WIDE STOCKING!**

There will be a box in Cooper Hall during the months of October & November for your donations.

Donations may be left on Fridays between 8 & 11 am in Cooper Hall or at the church office (Mon–Thurs 9-2).

All donations will be a blessing to those receiving.

Thanks to all of you for helping!

The Project Others Team

# Pray for our Military



## Proudly Serving Our Country

**Budurka, Michael**, Staff SGT, US Army, Hawaii, grandson of Bob and Barb Stankiewicz

**Clark, Matthew**, 1ST LT. Army, Ft. Drum, N.Y., Grandson of Jack & Louise Smith

**Daniels, Clay**, Major, US Army, Ft. Bragg, Grandson of Ed Fisher

**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)

**Monteira, Jared** U.S. Coast Guard, Grandson of Debbie Huffert

**Lenz, Alexander**, MM3, Navy, Norfolk, Va., Grandson of Richard & Linda Bice

**Mueller, Hannah**, US Army, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, Daughter of Lorraine & Tom Mueller

**Noel, Tim**, MSSGT., Air National Guard, Japan, Son-in-Law of Ann Crawford

**Parks, Andrew**, Senior Airman, US Air Force, Tucson, AZ, 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**, 1<sup>ST</sup> SGT. Army, Texas, Nephew of Gerald & Virginia Swank

**Williams, Andrew**, Lt. COL. USAF, grandson of Bob & Barbara Williams

ALF AND LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES (FUMC MEMBERS)

AMERICAN HOUSE 38130 Pretty Pond Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Neal Slingerland Apt. 207  
Ruth Palmer Apt. 334  
Lyden & Sue Green Apt. 333  
Pat Meelheim Apt 330

EDWINOLA 14235 Edwinola Way, Dade City, FL 33523

Peggy Fetch  
Beulah Zeller

HEARTLAND 38220 Henry St., Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Ginger Shaeffer Room 313B

ROSECASTLE OF ZEPHYRHILLS, 37411 Eiland Blvd., Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Roberta Hubbart

WESTBROOK MANOR 6701 DAIRY Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Barbara McCarthy Room A20

ADVENT HEALTH CARE CENTER NORTH 7350 Dairy Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Shirley Force

ADVENT HEALTH CARE SOUTH 38250 A Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Viva Rich Room 3B

POND'S EDGE ALF 7952 Pond's Edge Ln., Zephyrhills, FL 33540

Lou Mathews Room 3



## BIRTHDAYS

2- Elisabeth Ezra Jenkins	13- John Kennard
3- Charles Flanagan	13- Peggy Lare
4- Shirley Carlson	13- Louella Mathews
4- John Gaines	15- Eddie Gionet
4- Melinda (Lin) Weitzel	15- James Rich
5- Nichelle Anouar	16- Mark Mann
5- Lynn Jeffries	17- Chandler Nipp
5- Karen Laukat	18- Linda Allain
7- Trudy Adams	18- Roger Cole
7- Henry (Bud) Sykes	19- Susan Gionet
7- Johanna Theel	19- Joyce Olson
7- Jim Wencil	20- Garrett Reutimann
8- Maryel Kellogg	22- Dawn Harrison
9- Jerry Wymore	22- David Hill
11- Nancy Bowers	24- Charles (Jack) Weitzel
11- Patricia Travers	25- Richard Cotton
12- Sandra Newman	26- Geneva Dunford
12- Faith Petersen	29- Joan Wall
	30- Richard Gottschalk



## ANNIVERSARIES

3- Jerry & Tresea Wymore	23- Irl & Mary Crook
6- Robert & Carol Dean	24- Kenneth & Connie Stuby
6- Eric & Sarah Gale	26- David & Carol Freiermuth
17- Dave Houghtalen	30- Joseph & Wanda Rakocy
	31- Jim & Joanne Martin