

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

Great Expectations



December 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–12:00pm 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.

Sanctuary Mother's Room

Read about our accommodations just for new mothers. Page 4 of this publication.

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 | |



December Worship Services

Sunday, December 01: Communion Sunday – First Sunday of Advent

Expectations: "Expect God's Timing" Luke 1:5-25

"God's timing is not our timing."

Sunday, December 08: Mission Sunday – Second Sunday of Advent

Expectations: "Expect God's Miracles" Luke 1:26-38

"Miracles are still possible; for nothing is impossible with God."

Sunday, December 15: Third Sunday of Advent

Expectations: "Expect God's Message" Luke 2:8-20

"God uses ordinary people for extraordinary purposes."

Sunday, December 22: Choral Cantata – Fourth Sunday of Advent

Expectations: "Expect God's Dependability" Matthew 1:18-25

"God's promises will be fulfilled."

Tuesday, December 24: Christmas Eve – 6:00pm Contemporary, 8:00pm Traditional

Expectations: "Expect a Savior" John 1:1-18

"Accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. Receive the free gift!"

Sunday, December 29: Fifth Sunday – Special Mission Collection

One Blended Service at 10:00am, leaning to Traditional style

"Sermon theme to be announced."

WORSHIP: Witnessing Boldly

Music Ministry Are you interested in joining a music group? Fill out a Ministry Interest Form on our website and bring it to the church office!

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

God often works in mysterious and unexpected ways to accomplish His purposes. The Christmas story is filled with examples of this. From angelic visitations to miraculous births to fulfilling prophecy, God orchestrated humanity's redemption through the birth of Jesus, God the Son. But the way He accomplished this was completely **unexpected!** God is not restricted by our human limitations or expectations. He will always accomplish His purposes, often in extraordinary and miraculous ways.

What are **you** expecting from God in your life? What is something you wouldn't expect God could do or would do in your life? Do you have low expectations of God or are your expectations high? Is anything impossible for Him? Do you have enough faith to believe God can and will fulfill His promises in you and for you?

Submitted by Pastor Steve

Sanctuary Mother's Room

Mothers of very young children, please check out our refurbished Sanctuary Mother's Room, especially furnished to provide a comfortable and practical environment for private on-the-spot childcare needs through all Sanctuary services and events. Thanks to our technical support team, we now offer live streaming of our services in the Mother's Room via a wall-mounted flat screen television. Stay connected to the service and the day's message even if you need to be away from the main sanctuary. During December, the room can be accessed from the right side portico door due to our Christmas tree.

Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]

With friendly faces, welcoming voices, and engaging personalities, our Sunday greeters rank high in visitor surveys returned to us. This positive first impression is how we help make more Disciples of Christ! Please fill out a Ministry Interest Form if you are interested in joining this team. [Ministry Interest Form](#)

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 and online streams impacts how much and how well we engage those who may be looking for a church home. Currently, this team is actively looking for new volunteer members. Training can be provided. Fill out a Ministry Interest Form if you would like to join this important team. [Ministry Interest Form](#)

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

The Sunday Morning Café is located in Cooper Hall east from 9:00 am until 11:00 am every Sunday. Enter through the side door facing the sanctuary which also leads to the Education Building. Join us as we greet the day with coffee and fellowship! It's a great time to meet or make friends, share viewpoints, or prepare to join in a Sunday Bible Study class.



MINISTRIES: Making Disciples for Christ

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

Currently Children's Church (grades K - 5) and Youth Group (grades 6 - 12) continue to share a parallel multi-lesson Sunday School plan developed by the same folks who brought the Great Jungle Journey to our campus for Vacation Bible School this past summer. Each lesson works with strategic bible based themes using detailed lesson plans, printables, and fun learning opportunities. Units are usually 10 weeks long, interspersed with occasional special Sunday events.

December's themes continue to build on this summer's VBS Great Jungle Journey, traveling through creation and the impacts of Genesis on today's world.



12/01 - Lesson 15: Creation: Adam and Eve

12/08 - Lesson 16: Dinosaurs and Dragons

12/15 - Special Theme: Christmas

12/22 - Special Theme: Christmas Party

12/29 - No Children or Youth Sunday School

Bring your children and youth to Sunday Service from where they will be dismissed to the Cooper Hall Education Building for their own prayerful fun and bible-based activities led by Carol and Karen. Children meet in the Children's Ministry Room and Youth meet in the Chapel Classroom.

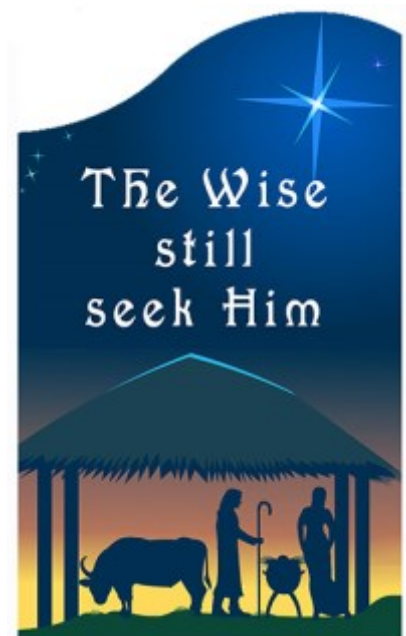
Youth and Family Ministries [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra]

The annual Zephyrhills Christmas Celebration will be Saturday, December 7th with a parade starting at 7:00pm. As part of this year's celebration, FMCZ is opening the sanctuary to visitors from 4:00 - 7:00pm with special holiday activities inside. In front, our Youth Program will have a holiday booth selling baked goods, walking tacos, handing out Family Ministry information, and holding a raffle. Booth hours will be 4:00 - 8:00pm



On Sunday, December 15th, the Youth Program will host a Fundraiser Breakfast in Cooper Hall to support of their planned trip to Orlando for the 2025 "Rock the Universe" concert. The funds collected will help pay costs of

admission tickets, accommodations, and food for the two day event. Menu will include biscuits and gravy and fresh cinnamon rolls.



Spotlight < Holiday Happenings

[See more holiday news on pages 16 and

Christmas Ornaments

On the strength of last season's gratifying response, these beautiful, hand-crafted Christmas Ornaments by Thelma Diekfuss will be offered once again for this year's holiday drive instead of poinsettias.

Each personalized ornament will be available for a \$5.00 donation and this year's designated fund is "property preservation", which is focused on storm repairs and some high priority maintenance projects. There will be envelopes in the pews for collection and your order may be made either **"in memory of"** or **"in honor of"**. Deadline to order will be Sunday, December 15th.

Ornaments will be displayed on the Christmas tree in the church lobby on Sunday, December 22nd and can be picked up between then and our two Christmas Eve services.



ANGEL TREE

Our church will be sponsoring 25 students from Raymond B Stewart Middle School this year for Christmas Angel Tree. The tree will be in Cooper Hall near the hallway to the classrooms. Angel tags will be on the tree starting Sunday, December 1st. Each paper ornament and item listed was requested by the student. Pick one or more tags and purchase the gift or gifts (limit \$20 or less). Return **unwrapped** gifts with the ornament tags to Cooper Hall by noon on Sunday, December 15th. *Thank you!*



Praise and Prayer Group [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]



Every Tuesday Morning 9:00am
Truthseekers Classroom Education Building

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

Our weekly prayer lists in the Sunday bulletin and e-Blast are the dedicated work of our prayer team, who personalize the needs of each name you see on these lists with the power of group prayer.

Edwinola Outreach Devotional Services

Assisted Living Outreach Ministry

Several members of our church family are providing on-going devotional services at the Elevated Estates (Edwinola) Assisted Living in Dade City on the **3rd Sunday of each month** at 2:00pm. Services include praise and prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and a spiritual message. This month's service will be held on **December 15th**. *Contact Roz Hill for more information, 443-834-8621.*



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



A Reflection:

At the last 4th Day group meeting, Roz Hill gave a talk about miracles or "God Winks". People around me talk about how God is dead. I disagree.

Several years ago, I was stationed in the Air Force at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska. I got the opportunity to take some classes; they were in Biloxi, Mississippi. My classes went without a hitch and when I called home to let Larry, Laura, and Joe know I'd be home that coming weekend, Joe began to cry. His school music program was coming up and he'd worked SO hard on his part! So, I promised him I'd be home to see him on stage.

The last day of classes came. I graduated with honors, and because I'd done so well, I was invited to a tea. I would be able to leave by noon, so I accepted. As happens, the main speaker was delayed. My own departure was delayed. I left at 5. I could make it to Joe's program...I'd just have to drive straight for the 15 hours it would take.

I made it through Mississippi to Memphis without any troubles. It was sure dark through Arkansas and to Kansas City. Only 4 hours to go, but I was SO tired! I don't remember falling asleep but I woke with my car moving toward a wall. Had I hit it, well, there'd have been tears. God must've held me in his arms while I slept. I'll never know for how long. There was no traffic around, so I pulled to the side of the road and I slept an hour. When I woke, I was refreshed and started on my way again.

I arrived at Joe's school just as his program started. He was dressed as a white bunny. His dad had fashioned bunny ears for him from pipe cleaners, and he hopped across the stage stopping to sniff the flowers, pet the butterflies, and tweet at the song birds. I saw it all! Thank you Lord!

That's my God Wink. What's yours?

Submitted by: Phyllis Blanchard, Walk to Emmaus attendee

Walk to Emmaus Monthly Meetings for those who have completed a Walk are held on the first Thursday of each month in the Crusaders Room at 6:30 p.m. This month's meeting is on December 5th. For more information, contact Roz or Dave Hill at 443-834-8621.

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

Adult Studies and Classes [Wednesday Night Refuel]

Due to multiple cancellations necessitated by back to back hurricanes, Wednesday Night Refuel was forced to cut it's fall schedule short and reboot its classes for a spring session free of major storm threat starting on January 15, 2025. Each class will be reformulating the best way to proceed, with some starting again from the beginning, and others continuing where they left off after review sessions. Please look to January publications for updates on each class. This spring series will offer 12 meeting weeks with a break for Ash Wednesday on March 5th.

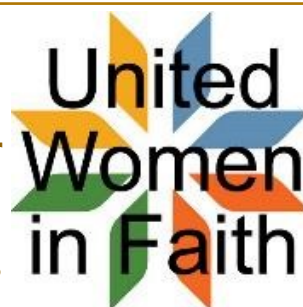


Meanwhile if you are looking to continue the benefits of regular discussion and studies on faith, spirit, and discernment found in the Wednesday groups, our regular weekly study groups offer adult bible study each Sunday morning between services. Choose from the Crusaders group from 9:30 - 10:30am and the Truthseekers group from 11:00am - 12:00pm. Each group has its own unique curriculum and make up, with study focus and themes changing regularly. Stop by the Education Building each Sunday and be welcomed into the conversations.

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Instead of the regular second Thursday meeting from 12:00 - 2:00pm, The United Women in Faith will be hosting their annual **Christmas Dinner** held on that same Thursday, **December 12th** from 5:30 to 8:00pm in Cooper Hall. We are inviting everyone to join us for this spirit filled seasonal celebration. Tickets are \$15 and we'll feature **Margareta Romo's Dancers** for the meal's entertainment. The holiday meal will be catered by the Fresh Country Café and we have asked our own Judy Peavey to bake her fantastic rolls for the occasion.

Tickets are now on sale. Members of the UWF are on campus during each Sunday service and will be happy to help you secure your reservations. With such great food and vibrant local entertainment, we expect the available tickets to go quickly so be sure to purchase early and claim your seat at the table.



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 personal 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.

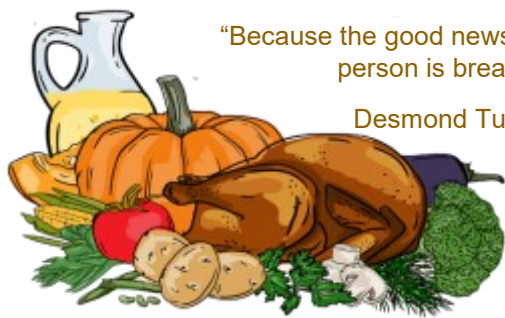
Next Circle meeting ~ Monday, December 2nd, 12:00pm—2:00pm in the Truthseekers Room

MISSIONS: Community Outreach

Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]

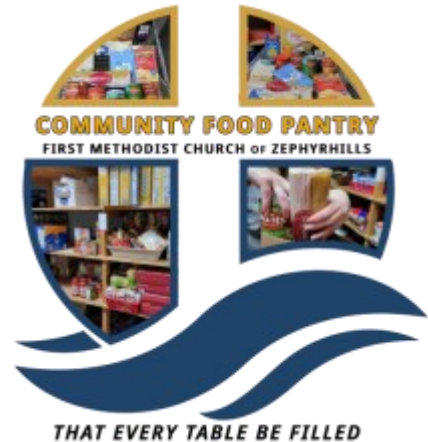
December is traditionally one of the happiest months of the year and yet it's also one of the most stressful times as families balance their ability to provide food and holiday gifts with bills and regular ongoing needs. To help resolve this dilemma we are providing stockings for the children sponsored by the Project Others which will include special small gifts and needed items along with hot chocolate and candy canes in each bag distributed. Help us make this a joyful holiday and continue the healing process from recent storm related crises.

This month our current need is for pantry staples such as saltine crackers and canned pork and beans.



"Because the good news to a hungry person is bread."

Desmond Tutu



2025 Distribution Days

Jan 13, 14, 15	July 14, 15, 16
Feb 10, 11, 12	Aug 11, 12, 13
Mar 10, 11, 12	Sep 8, 9, 10
Apr 14, 15, 16	Oct 13, 14, 15
May 12, 13, 14	Nov 10, 11, 12
Jun 9, 10, 11	Dec 8, 9, 10

Food Pantry Distribution Days are December 9, 10, and 11.
THIS MONTH'S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS December 15.

Thrift Shop [Team Leaders ~ Lyn Sears, Main Shop; Terry Dutkiewicz, Annex]



Who Are Our Customers? *Submitted by Nancy Raia at Thrift Store*

Folks from all walks of life and circumstance look for bargains, but often those who regularly support both Thrift Shop and Annex are our own friends and neighbors who are trying to maximize their home budgets while supporting good works in their local community. Like this little boy and his parents who come in Thrift Store regularly, looking earnestly for just the right purchase. He makes himself at home, sitting on the floor and quietly entertaining himself with a basket of toys while his Mom and Dad shop. Whatever he gets out he always cleans up. He is happy, well behaved, and totally at home in our shops. Our carefully sorted goods are ones anyone would be happy to own and our shops are always welcoming. Find your perfect purchase and enjoy family-friendly shopping.



MONDAYS 8am–12pm
Donations only

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

Reverse Advent Calendar

FMCZ Food Pantry/Commission on Missions

*This Advent season, FMCZ Commission on Missions and our Food Pantry are partnering for a Reverse Advent Calendar. Instead of a month of receiving small gifts, this calendar instead encourages a month of GIVING, one food item each day. Collect your gifts in box or bag throughout Advent and bring them to the church on **Sunday, 12/22** for a special collection.*



December 1 – 10 to 12 oz. box of cereal

December 2 – small jar of peanut butter

December 3 – stuffing mix

December 4 – boxed potatoes

December 5 – macaroni and cheese

December 6 – canned fruit

December 7 – canned tomatoes

December 8 – canned tuna

December 9 – dessert mix

December 10 – small jar applesauce

December 11 – canned sweet potatoes

December 12 – cranberry sauce

December 13 – canned cream soup

December 14 – box of crackers

December 15 – 1 lb. package of rice

December 16 – small jar jelly

December 17 – 1 lb. package of pasta

December 18 – canned spaghetti sauce

December 19 – chicken noodle soup

December 20 – tomato soup

December 21 – canned corn

COLLECTION DAY December 22 – can mixed vegetables

December 23 – canned carrots

December 24 – canned green beans



Adapted from :
PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM



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.

December Meetings in Cooper Hall

11/29 ~ 8:00 - 11:00am Regular meeting
12/08 ~ 8:00 - 11:00am Regular meeting
12/13 ~ 7:00 - 11:00am Packing and Distribution
12/20 ~ Christmas Gathering (time and place TBA)
12/27 ~ No meeting
01/03/2025 ~ 8:00 - 11:00 am Begin new year of regular meetings in Cooper Hall



Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Milligan]



The Gideons International

Gideons International has placed or distributed more than 2.5 billion Bibles in more than a hundred languages in over 200 countries, territories, and possessions around the world. They place Bibles in hotels, medical facilities, prisons, and shelters. They

also distribute New Testaments to students, inmates, military, police, firefighters, nurses, EMTs and others they encounter through their daily life. The Gideon Bible app is available for free on iPhone and Android phones in over 1,700 languages and dialects including voice.

Members pay dues and contribute funds to cover all administrative costs for the group, so that all donations can be used for the printing and distribution of God's Word throughout the world. Donations can be mailed to Gideons International, East Pasco Gideons Camp, P.O. Box 1105, Zephyrhills, FL 33539 or online at www.gideons.org



Cuba Sister Church 2025 Mission Trip - Update

Throughout December the Commission on Missions will continue collecting hygiene and personal care items for the upcoming trip to Cuba. There is a collection box set up in Cooper hall for the following most needed items: toothpaste, toothbrushes, full size bar soap (please no bottled bath washes), plastic adhesive bandages, deodorant, and mosquito repellent (including wipes).

Stephen Ministry [Team Leader ~ Dave Hill]

New Steven Ministry Class to Begin January 2025

Classes begin mid-January and will be held one day per week for 2 and 1/2 hours for a total of 50 hours.

Please call Dave Hill at 410-409-9132 for more information.



Young at Heart Thanksgiving Luncheon [11-21-2024 - photos submitted by Greg Peavey]



Always a festive time, this year's holiday luncheon was particularly well received in light of how difficult the fall storms proved to be for many locally. This was a time to be grateful for so many simple blessings!



FMCZ Thrift Shop and Annex - Holiday Hours

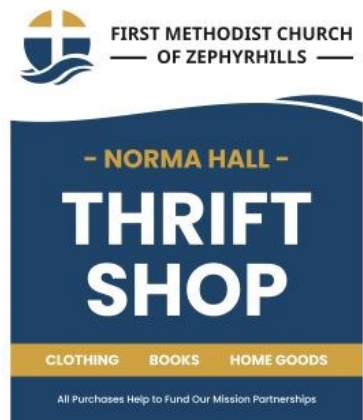
December 2 through 21 ~ Regular Hours: 8:00am - 12pm Mondays [donations only] Wednesday and Saturday [shops open and donations welcome]

Week of Christmas ~ open Tuesday, December 24 and Saturday, December 28th

Week of New Years ~ open Tuesday, December 31 and Saturday, January 4th.



Seasonal special
1/2 off all items
Dec. 28th thru Jan. 4th



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

Parish Nurses [Team Leader ~ Druann Briggs RN]

Next Blood Pressure Checks, Sunday 12/15, 10:30 - 11:00am



PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES

Is the Grinch Stealing Your Christmas?

Handling Holiday Stress

Finding new perspectives on this Christmas season can help to recenter our expectations, goals, and priorities so that we can rediscover the joy and peace that was given to us through Christ's humble birth so long ago.



Do you remember the popular movie, *The Grinch Who Stole Christmas*? The Grinch observed the people of Whoville happily preparing for Christmas. He decided to go down to their village and steal their joy. Many Grinches threaten to steal our joy and peace at Christmastime. We think we are buying just the right gift for someone, but it receives a cool reception. The rush of the season, long lines, and slow traffic replace our joy with frustration. Some relatives try our patience. After the season passes, unmet expectations dampen our spirit and the holiday blues move in. With the arrival of the New Year, we are relieved the Christmas stress has passed instead of being refreshed by the promise of Christ. More than we would like to admit, we allow the stress of the Christmas season to be the Grinch that comes into our hearts to steal our joy. However, with a revived perspective, God can give us a transformed heart so that our circumstances don't dictate our attitude. The new perspective we need is this

G.R.I.N.C.H. God Reached Into the world Now Christ brings Hope

WAYS TO RECENTER PERSPECTIVE TO FIND THE PEACE AND JOY OF CHRISTMAS

- **Listen** - Inaugurate the season by treating yourself to a CD or ONLINE music of Christmas classics, not songs of White Christmas or Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire, but great hymns such as Joy to the World or Angels from the Realms of Glory.
- **Read** - Open up the Bible to the Gospel of Luke and read the familiar story with new eyes. Remember Mary's story as you encounter aggravating people and circumstances over the holidays .
- **Reduce** - Do you really need to throw a Christmas party in your home, host the school party, bake cookies, decorate like Martha Stewart, send cards, or buy multiple gifts? Give yourself permission to decline an invitation, buy rather than bake cookies, or skip the Christmas cards so that you can maintain room in your heart for worship.
- **Adjust** - Set expectations to match your reality. Life doesn't turn out perfect and neither does the holiday season.. As you experience disappointment around you, keep in mind that Christ entered into a broken world to bring healing and peace. Though you can't change others, ask God to work in your heart so that you can exemplify His love, joy, peace, and patience to the hurting world surrounding you.

Support Groups On Our Campus

GriefShare

After a lengthy absence through and after the Covid crisis, a new GriefShare grief recovery group will be meeting on our campus beginning September 4th.



This 13 week session will feature a video seminar, group discussion, and personal workbook designed to create a safe and comforting place where anyone recovering from significant loss can find support, direction, and guidance on how to make it through the challenges inherent in the grieving process.

Meeting Information:

Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:30pm

September 4th through December 4th, 2024

Truthseekers Classroom - Education Building in Cooper Hall



For information, contact Gaynell Jeffries at: eldis.jeffries@gmail.com or pick up a flyer in the sanctuary lobby. You can register directly at <https://www.griefshare.org/findagroup>



Al-Anon meets regularly here on the FMCZ campus.

Fridays, 6:30 - 8:00pm, 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 a mutual support program for people whose lives have been affected by someone else's drinking. By sharing common experiences and applying the Al-Anon principles, families and friends of alcoholics can bring positive changes to their individual situations.

Overeaters Anonymous will begin meeting regularly on our campus starting September 4th, 2024

1:30 - 2:30pm every Wednesday

in the Chapel Classroom, Education Building of Cooper Hall

For more information contact the Church Office, 813-782-5645.

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) is a community of people who support each other in order to recover from compulsive eating and food behaviors.

OA welcomes everyone who feels they have a problem with food.



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.

Alcoholics Anonymous is fellowship of people who utilize the 12-step program to achieve sobriety and support others who share that path.

TOPS Meetings

Every Thursday morning 10:00am - 12:00pm

Truthseekers Classroom, Education Building of Cooper Hall

For more information contact the Church Office, 813-782-5645.

Founded in 1948, TOPS is the first of its kind noncommercial weight-loss support group, with ties to the medical community and thousands of chapters in the U.S. and Canada.



Campus News [FMCZ Trustees]



A photo, found recently on the web caught my interest. Dated May 17, 1963, the black and white image showed our sanctuary in the midst of being built, with its steeple still on the ground nearby, surrounded by metal and wood scaffolding. The photo is attributed to Mrs. William Enyart, wife of a local bakery owner.

Sixty years later, the photo at left demonstrates the lasting legacy that construction has left, not just to our church family, but to the city of Zephyrhills at large. To many, ours is "the big, beautiful white church in the middle of the city." Whether they join us within, or simply see our house in passing, the force of that legacy continues to reach out and perhaps bring them closer to becoming their own disciples for Christ.

This year's Open House on December 7th, is our invitation for our neighbors to look beyond the façade and come to know that a church is so much more than bricks.

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 (and perhaps a friend or a family member) to become involved directly supporting the many ministries of the church in helping to make disciples for Christ. Whether it's swinging a hammer, painting a wall, patching a hole, giving another church member your undivided attention, or lending a supportive arm, your actions help to move forward the very human 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](#)



SPECIAL EVENTS: Information and Fellowship

Young At Heart Presentations [Team Leader: Harry Kehr]

SENIOR LUNCHEON ~ CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, December 19th

11:30am—1:00pm

Cooper Hall



Fried Chicken Entree with a Side Dish Smorgasbord

Everyone brings a side dish or dessert!

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays, sharing the joy of the season with old friends while making new ones!

Afternoon festivities include a holiday musical program presented by the First Methodist Church Handbell Choir performing a medley of time honored Christmas carols, members of the Chancel Choir performing seasonal vocal solos, and holiday favorites performed on piano.

The atmosphere will be happy and bright. The food will be warm, delicious, and delightfully diverse. The friendly conversation and fellowship will be inviting and joyful. All the makings of a grand holiday gathering.

**ADMISSION: BRING
YOUR FAVORITE
HOLIDAY SIDE DISH TO
SHARE.**



Holiday Open House [Saturday, December 7th, 4:00 – 7:00pm]

Please join us on Saturday, December 7th as we open up our beautifully decorated sanctuary to the public to help kick off the annual Zephyrhills Christmas Celebration up and down 5th Avenue. Featuring live musical sets by Salvation's Rock, holiday hymns and carols, a special photo corner inside with our Christmas tree, a parade booth out front with our Family Ministry team, and a fitting atmosphere of peace, joy, and fellowship. Enjoy casual time with other FMCZ members and welcome our neighbors into the special place where we come to worship. Start your holiday season with warm welcomes to the town we call home. Then stroll downtown to enjoy the annual Festival of Lights where you'll find food trucks, craft vendors, live music, and a good old-fashioned Christmas Parade. It's a time to open arms as we open our house.



MEMBER HAPPENINGS: Monthly News

Budurka, Michael, Drill SGT, US Army, Fort Moore, 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
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
Noel, Tim, MSSGT., Air National Guard, Japan, Son-in-Law of Ann Crawford
Parks, Andrew, Staff SGT, US Air Force, Shaw AFB, SC, grandson of Bob and Barb Stankiewicz
Shoup, Justin, Deployed
Tindall, Tyler, US Army Specialist, Texas, Grandson of Ed Fisher
White, Darrel, 1ST SGT. Army, Texas, Nephew of Gerald & Virginia Swank
Williams, Andrew, Lt. COL. US Air Force, grandson of Bob & Barbara Williams

REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/4 Karen Sante
12/8 David Freiermuth
12/8 Emily Keene
12/10 Shirley DeBoe
12/11 Linda Bigelow
12/11 Donald Freiermuth
12/11 Quintin Smith
12/13 Marion Post
12/16 Karen Groves
12/16 Charles Pedigo
12/20 Barbara Gottschalk
12/20 George Marcellus
12/20 Rex Milligan
12/21 Dave Houghtalen
12/23 Barbara Salmond
12/23 Debbie Williams
12/24 Donald Cox
12/24 Kathy Meyer
12/24 Tom Sharp
12/27 Norma Hammond

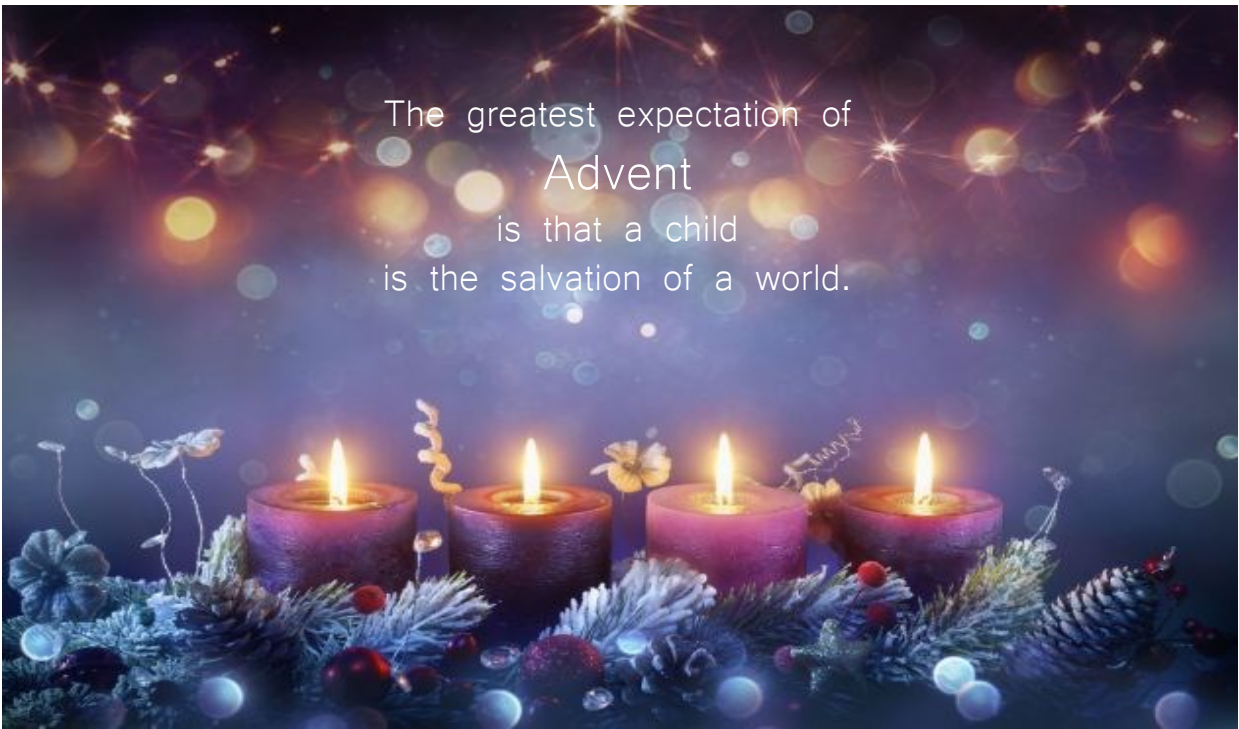
12/28 Mary Fuller
12/28 Sue Green
12/28 Mary Nutt
12/31 Gary J. Ashline
12/31 Bobby Theel

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/3 Eugene and Pamela Williams
12/17 Kurt and Cheryl Bjorkner
12/20 Ken and Karen Emery
12/27 Dennis and Mary Nutt
12/31 Doyle and Mirtza Springfield



*"We reflect on the past and look forward to the future
but the best life is always lived in today."*



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 318-400-2291

Lyden and Sue Green Apt 333
Neal Slingerland Apt 207

EDWINOLA ~ 14235 Edwinola Way, Dade City 800-352-6500

Peggy Fetch
Beulah Zeller

Zephyr Haven Memory Unit ~ 38250 A Avenue Henry St., Zephyrhills, FL

Shirley Griffin

ROSECASTLE OF ZEPHYRHILLS ~ 7411 Eiland Blvd., Zephyrhills 813-782-8100

Roberta Hubbart

SOLARIS NORTH ~ 7350 Dairy Rd., Zephyrhills 813-788-4300

Shirley Force Washington Unit

SOLARIS SOUTH ~ Zephyr Park, 38250 A Ave, Zephyrhills 813-782-5508

Luci Knepper

HILLSIDE REHAB CENTER ~ 38220 Henry Dr, Zephyrhills 813-715-1749

Ginger Shaeffer Rm 313B
Terri Stanley
Harry Howell Rm 113B

AT HOME ~ 37326 Rutledge St., Zephyrhills 813-783-6608

Joan Donaldson

Staff and Organizational Contacts

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www.fmcz.org

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(for staff with church emails)

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Peter Jordan, Treasurer

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Todd Kramer, Technical Director

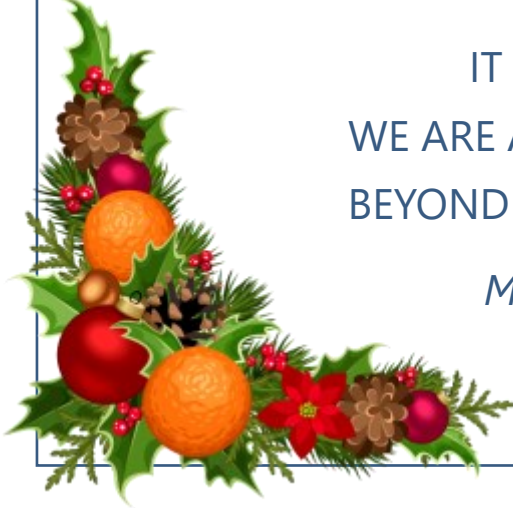
tkramer@fmcz.org




GIVING BACK



ALL WE TRULY HAVE TO GIVE
IS THE LEGACY
WE BUILD EVERY DAY.



IT IS THE ONE SURE WAY
WE ARE ABLE TO TOUCH THE WORLD
BEYOND OURSELVES AND OUR DAYS.



*May you find peace, joy,
and blessings this
holiday season.*