

The Messenger



**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —**

a Global Methodist Family

*Gearing Up
September 2024*



In This Issue:
Campus Closed for Two Days in
Mid Month. Story on Page 15.

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.

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 | |



September Worship Services

Sunday, September 1: Communion Sunday, Worship Series Concludes

Triple Play Life: "Giving" Matthew 6:19-21; 2 Corinthians 9:10-11

"Earn, Save, and Give"

Sunday, September 8: Mission Sunday (Speakers at both services)

One Another 1 John 4:7-12

God lives in us in love; introduction to church care ministries

Sunday, September 15: New 5-Part Worship Series Begins

Supernatural: "Miracles" Exodus 14:21-22; Colossians 1:15-17

Perspective of miracles in the modern world

Sunday, September 22:

Supernatural: "Prophecy" Amos 5:24; Isaiah 30:12-18; Jeremiah 1:4-19

Invitations to salvation Jeremiah 14:14-16; Isaiah 45:20-22

Sunday, September 29: Fifth Sunday Observance

Supernatural: "Angels and Demons" Colossians 1:16; Luke 24:39;

Knowledge, speculation, and perspective Numbers 22:31

Sunday, October 6: World Communion Sunday,

Supernatural: "Spiritual Warfare" 2 Kings 6:15-23; Genesis 3:15; James 4:7

Renounce spiritual oppression Ephesians 6:10-13

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

September is traditionally a busy month for any organization as we all move from the more relaxed months of summer into days filled with back to school, back to business, and back to a speedier tempo. We begin to gear up with increasing demands on our time and attention and start thinking about the high speed holidays that are beginning to appear around the next turn of the track. It's at this time when race car drivers strategically adjust speed and position, Olympic runners begin to ramp up their muscle reserves, and in a race like Daytona, the last of three stages would begin. It's not the sprint to the finish line; not yet. It's the gear up, the preliminary push, the sharpening of strategy.

Life isn't a race but there are often similarities and this time of year seems to naturally call them to mind. Paces are increasing. Schedules are filling. Life is getting busier and quite a bit more crowded. That's natural too. But as athletes, race car drivers, and the best competitors know, gearing up works best when balanced with a calm, quiet focus that maintains control. Faster and busier? Sure. But with a quiet and focused heart we know that we can finish the race that we wanted to run all along.

Sanctuary Mother's Room

Now open for use is our refurbished Sanctuary Mother's Room, especially furnished with new Moms and parents with infants in mind. Enter the side hallway through the door to the right of the alter rail (as you face the stage) and you will find that this convenience room provides a comfortable and practical environment for private on-the-spot childcare needs through all Sanctuary services and events. **We will continue to expand and refine the amenities and services this room provides. Please let us know how we can best help.**

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 feedback is no accident. Be sure to thank our Sanctuary Support team, when you see them in the lobby, for often being the very first impressions visitors have of our church family. This is how we help make more Disciples for Christ!

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 their presence online impacts how much and how well we engage those who may be looking for a church to attend.

Fill out a Ministry Interest Form if you are interested in joining this important 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]



Currently Children's Church (grades 2 and 3) and Youth Group (middle school) are now sharing 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. September's topics include:

Lesson 2: Attributes of God

Lesson 3: We Can Know God Exists

Lesson 4: The Trinity

Lesson 5: God's Word Guides Us

Lesson 6: God Preserves His Word

Lesson 7: God's Word Is Complete

Lesson 8: Don't Change God's Word

Lesson 9: The Gospel Is Good News

Bring your children and youth to Sunday Service from where they will head to the Cooper Hall Education Building for their own prayerful fun and bible-based activities led by Carol and Karen.

Youth Ministry [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra]

As part of this fall's Wednesday Night Refuel, our Youth Ministry will offer its own study series with the fascinating video series that takes viewers on an adventurous journey through the landscapes and themes of the New Testament. See our Refuel close-up pages for more details on this exciting class.



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 asks requestors to provide complete contact information in order for them to follow up with phone calls or cards.



Edwinola Outreach Devotional Services

*New Fall Outreach Ministry
Continues Through the Fall*

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 2:00pm. Services will include praise and prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and a spiritual message. This month's service will be held on September 15th.

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



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



"What is this thing called "Walk to Emmaus" that folks are talking about?" I had never heard of such a walk until I came to First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills many years ago. It frustrated me when all my questions were answered with, "I really can't tell you" or, "It's a secret". Also, I was told the Emmaus weekend required an invitation. And so.....because I pride myself on being neither cliquish nor clannish, I decided that this "Walk to Emmaus" thing sounded too much like it might be some kind of a secret society. Any kind of secret group had no place in either my life or the life of my church. Therefore, whenever I heard that word "Emmaus" the hackles on the back of my neck would secretly go up. Any manner of discrimination was totally unacceptable to me, and, most especially at my church!

And so...should you, like I, have questions or uncertainties about the retreat, let me share with you what someone finally explained to me, an explanation that triggered my decision to take a chance on this strange-sounding, mysterious retreat.

The reason folks who have taken the walk do not relate details is because there are so many truly wonderful experiences awaiting you, that foreknowledge would only spoil a whole lot of wonderful surprises.

Misunderstanding had kept me from one of the most wonderfully-significant, spiritual experiences of my life. Words fail many folks as they try to explain the love they experienced that weekend, love of Christ and love of fellowman. Some will go so far as to describe the love of that weekend as life changing.

"Walk to Emmaus" is a spiritual walk; it is not a physical one. Also, you need no special invitation. If you feel led to do this just let an Emmaus Alumni know you are interested. We will line up a sponsor for you. The walk lasts 72 hours from a Thursday evening until Sunday afternoon and your sponsor takes care of all details regarding your transportation to and from the retreat location.

Submitted by Roz Hill.

The next Walk to Emmaus Monthly Meeting for those who have completed a Walk will be on Thursday, September 5th in the Crusader's Room at 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Roz Hill at 443-834-8621

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

Adult Studies and Classes

REFUEL HAS RETURNED

Mark your calendars now for the return of our popular series of weekly classes and family friendly meals every Wednesday night this fall.

New classes! New chances to grow, connect, and be involved.

SEPTEMBER 11TH ~ NOVEMBER 13

See our Spotlight Page for more details on the roster of classes to be offered.

Plan now to dive deeper into faith and learning.

WEDNESDAY
NIGHT



REFUEL

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Summer 2024 Wrap Up

Summer 2024 has been a lotta fun. Before our summer break, we had a visit from Margareta Romo from Farmworkers Self Help in Dade City, Margareta received her collar and was ordained in the Lutheran church. ABC Pizza served a baklava as we sang Happy Birthday to our Vice President, Lyn Sears in June and we surprised our own Pat Bailey with a Special Mission Award recognizing for her dedication to our church and our unit. We took a field trip to the Rosa Valdez Educational Center in Tampa on a rainy day in July and had a blast singing along with the children and playing peek a boo and hop scotch. Lunch at the Columbia Restaurant was fabulous and 2 more birthdays were celebrated, this time with flan. August being the end of summer marked our 2nd annual Thank the Teacher BEFORE School Starts luncheon. Submitted by Phyllis Blanchard, President UWF - Zephyrhills



September UWF Unit Meeting

Thursday, September 12th

12:00 - 2:00pm in Cooper Hall

Program will be **Hints on Menu Planning**
from Pasco Meals on Wheels

The presentation offers professional tips for preparing healthy, calorie conscious meals that target many common food preparation challenges for busy couples.

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, September 9th, 12:00pm—2:00pm

Spotlight < “Wednesday Night Refuel”

Discipleship nights begin on September 11th (September 4th for the 12 week viewing of The Chosen, seasons 1 and 2) and run through November 13th. Along with family-friendly meals served from 5:45—6:30pm, each night will host varied opportunities to learn, grow, and share with interesting studies, engaging group discussions, and deeper dives into the forms and functions of our beliefs.

While classes and groups are filling up quickly, and some are filled, you can still sign up using either the printed forms in the church lobby, or our convenient web-based form located here on our website:

<https://fmcz.org/grow/wednesday-refuel-fall-2024/>

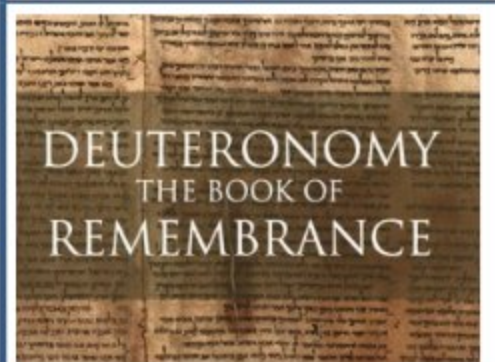
Middle and High School Class – “Bible Backroads”

Using David Stott’s popular and fascinating adventure-based video series, this study takes young folks on a visual and spiritual guided tour through the themes and landscapes of the books of the New Testament. This fall’s ten week refuel series will explore the gospels of Mark and Matthew while experiencing the sights and sounds of the very lands in which these stories take place. This visceral approach allow class members to “feel” these well-known biblical stories as never before.



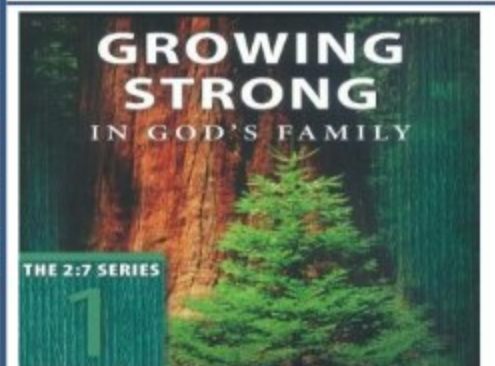
Mixed Adult Class – “Living in the Word”

Take this deep dive into the fifth book of the Bible with study leader, Eugene Williams, a long-time and immensely popular class leader here at First Methodist. Using a wide range of sources, materials, and personal insights, Gene takes the class into this last Old Testament book attributed by many scholars directly to both the written and spoken words of Moses. As the name of the series suggests, the class will also help put this book in a modern context.



Mixed Adult Class – “Growing Strong in God’s Family”

This class is currently at capacity. A small amount of weekly homework is required but well worth your investment! This study, led by Pastor Steve, is designed to help sharpen your regular devotional time so your life in Jesus Christ can be more deeply rooted. *Each participant needs to be present for at least 9 of the 10 weekly group meetings.* The 2:7 Series is a discipleship training curriculum that develops disciples who experience long-term, life-changing results.



Mixed Adult Watch Group ~ “The Chosen” Seasons 1 and 2

Come and See. Beginning September 4th and concluding on November 20th, these video watch sessions will allow participants the chance to see the first two seasons of this acclaimed television series in their entirety. Watch sessions begin each Wednesday at 6:45pm and will include all 16 episodes of seasons one and two. This most successful crowd-funded media project in history personalizes the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and his earliest followers. An impactful, engaging, and deeply moving viewing experience. Facilitated by Roz Hill and Gary Oesch.



Spotlight continues < “Wednesday Night Refuel”

While classes and groups are filling up quickly, and some are filled, you can still sign up using either the printed forms in the church lobby, or our convenient web-based form located here on our website:

<https://fmcz.org/grow/wednesday-refuel-fall-2024/>

Adults with children can attend classes and groups while their young ones enjoy safe, supervised activities right down the hall from our Education Building classrooms. Infants through 5 year olds can meet in our newly renovated Nursery and K through 5th graders can enjoy fun, directed time across the hallway in the Children's Ministry classroom.

Mixed Adult Class – “Sermon on the Mount”

In three chapters of Matthew, Jesus utters some of the most familiar passages in all of Scripture. The “Sermon on the Mount” is a study on blessedness; a reflection on the Lord's Prayer; a dive into religious devotion, money, ambition, and relationships.

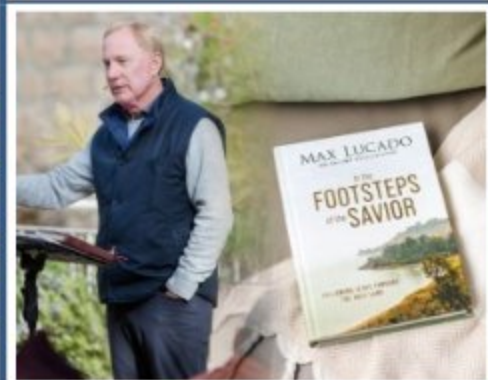
What if we navigated these New Testament chapters as they were originally heard, one cohesive, message, intended to lead us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Jesus?

Led by Virginia Gray, this class will use the video and book series by Jen Wilkin to bring this sermon to life.



Adult Women's Group – “In the Footsteps of the Savior”

In the Footsteps of the Savior is an invitation to come alongside bestselling author and pastor Max Lucado as he shares some key teachings from the Gospels and Acts on the people and places that shaped Jesus' life. Filmed entirely in the Holy Land, Max guides you through events that took place in Israel, weaving together lessons from the impact of following Jesus. Led by Karen Laukat, this group will share a visceral journey that will make the words of the New Testament spring to life.



Adult Men's Group – “Stepping Up”

Using the book and video series by Dennis Rainey, this group will unpack what it means to be a godly, courageous man in today's world. Through engaging stories, expert teaching, humorous vignettes, man-on-the-street interviews, and personal insights, well ministry leaders from all walks of life call every man to become courageous leaders in their own lives, marriages, churches, and communities. Led by Tom Sharp, this class will include video segments and group discussions and is open to all men.



Family Friendly Meals Available

Every Wednesday night in the Refuel series opens with a family-friendly hand prepared meal offered in Cooper Hall along with good company and fellowship. These superb, hot meals cost only \$5 per person or \$10 per family and will be served from 5:45 to 6:30pm.

Start your evening with a good meal and pleasant conversation. Catch up with friends or get to know a new face in the congregation. Bring a neighbor and share in the good news that First Methodist Church is a welcoming place to be.



MISSIONS: Community Outreach

Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]

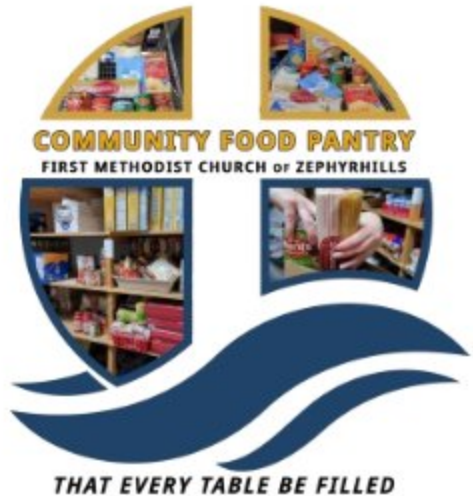


"Because the good news to a hungry person is bread."

Desmond Tutu

"If you cannot feed a hundred people, then just feed one."

Mother Teresa



Your support during our summer months mission focus was tremendous.

*We thank you
for multiplying your blessings
by sharing with those in need of blessings.*

**Food Pantry Distribution Days are September 9th, 10th, and 11th
THIS MONTH'S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS SEPTEMBER 15th**

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



The Norma Hall Thrift Shop and Thrift Shop Annex are both ongoing vital components of our church's 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 team leader or shop staff member for information on how to join this vital and very active team.

**MONDAYS 8am–12pm
Donations only**

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

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

Activities are beginning to ramp up as fall approaches and local schools reopen. With members returning after summer travelings, our roster is expanding to normal levels and production is increasing to meet the needs of the new season. If you love working with your hands and putting your crafts to good, positive use, now is a great time to reach out and discover the satisfaction found in this ministry.

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Millgan]

Our mission of the month for September is the **Caterpillars to Butterflies** program of Dade City that assists foster families. There are quite a few organizations that strive to provide basic necessities for at-risk children. But Caterpillars to Butterflies focuses more on providing resources directly to these foster children so they can flourish.

The program helps children prepare for the school year with brand new shoes and various needed school supplies. They fund after school activities that help build self esteem, such as football, baseball, dance, karate, gymnastics, acting, swimming and volleyball. These athletic opportunities can help the children gain the confidence to rise above their home circumstances. **Caterpillars to Butterflies** is a resource for local foster families that support children in their care with bags, books, toiletries and toys. In December, they host an annual Christmas Carnival that hosts over 400 children with super fun activities for the kids, a visit with Santa, and gifts for all.

Caterpillars to Butterflies aims to help children accomplish goals, explore passions, and to participate in activities that can boost their enjoyment of life. Your prayers and donations can go a long way in helping in the life of our area foster children. Please mark your donations MISSIONS on the memo line. *Submitted by Kay Milligan*



Our next bake sale in support of our 2025 Cuba Mission Trip will be on Sunday September 8th from 9:00 -11:00 am in Cooper Hall. Thank you so much for being such a supportive and giving church!

Spotlight < Project Others

Gearing up for fall includes beginning preparations for the upcoming holidays. Each year, Project Others coordinates with a number of charitable and service organizations to supply them with special items needed for their own seasonal programs. This fall, the group is working with our own Community Food Pantry to make and fill Christmas stockings to distribute in December to Pantry families with children. As always, the Project's goal is to reach out to as many people and fill as many needs as possible with their hand made items.

In this issue, we spotlight just a few of the members of this hard-working group, who not only contribute their time and resources to this worthy undertaking, but often concurrently serve our church family and participate in other ministries and groups as well.

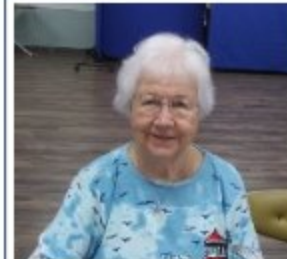
Deann Harrington:

Project Others team leader; co-treasurer for UWF; weekly finance counter; Commission on Missions



Dorothy Lundeen:

Project Others; United Women in Faith, Crusaders Sunday school class



Barbara Sheldon:

Project Others; United Women in Faith, prayer squares and prayer shawls ministries



Michelle Hill:

Project Others; Sunday Morning Café team leader; Stephen Minister; UWF; Walk to Emmaus



Sandy Wyman:

Project Others;



Marsha Dulier:

Project Others; treasurer for United Women in Faith; weekly finance counter; assistant to church treasurer; Walk to Emmaus



Pat Bailey:

Project Others; Miriam Circle; Crusaders Sunday school class; Wednesday Refuel bible study



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

Parish Nurses [Team Leader ~ Druann Briggs RN]

September Blood Pressure Checks, Sunday 9/22, 10:30 - 11:00am

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR UPDATES



About half of all men have PIN by the age of 50

Nearly all forms of prostate cancer start in the cells of the prostate gland and are known as adenocarcinoma. Physicians believe that prostate cancer begins with small changes in the size and shape of the prostate gland cells, a change known as prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN).

While the exact cause of prostate cancer is unknown, certain **risk factors** have been identified that may increase the chance of developing the disease:

Age: Age is the strong factor for developing prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is primarily found in men over age 55, and the average age of diagnosis is 70.3

Race and ethnicity: African-American men are disproportionately affected by prostate cancer, with an incidence rate more than **60 percent higher** than white males.

Genetics: Having a father or brother with prostate cancer **more than doubles** a man's risk of developing the disease.

Weight: Men with a body mass index higher than 32.5 have about a one-third greater risk

There are generally no **signs or symptoms** for early-stage prostate cancer, and some symptoms can be easily mistaken for those of other disorders.

Common symptoms of prostate cancer may include pelvic pain, frequent or painful urination, blood in the urine, painful ejaculation, weight loss, lack of appetite, and bone pain

Medical experts who encourage **regular screening** recommend that all men who have a life expectancy of at least 10 years should be offered the PSA test and DRE annually **beginning at age 50.**

They also recommend offering screening tests earlier to African-American men, and men who have a father or brother with prostate cancer.

If your PSA test or DRE suggests a problem, your doctor will likely refer you to a urologist.

INFORMATIONAL LINKS:

Info@pcf.org

<http://homerunchallenge.org/>

<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/prostatecancer/>

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 indicate your interest by September 13th.

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



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]

Our church trustees are a dedicated group of skilled volunteers who work tirelessly to keep our campus in good repair and, when time and money allow, to update and improve our physical facilities. So much of what we CAN accomplish in our varied missions hinges on the physical health of those means we have to accomplish our work. Builders know that the better their tools the better their work. Our church campus houses much of our missions and ministries so our stewardship of the buildings and grounds directly supports all our efforts.



Church Campus to Close September 16 and 17 for Termite Treatment



The entire FMCZ campus will be closed on Monday, September 16 and Tuesday, September 17 so the sanctuary building can be tented for termite treatment. Due to interconnecting communication lines between the Sanctuary, Office Building, and Cooper Hall, there's a risk that the chemical fog can drift into adjacent buildings, so we are closing our entire campus for those two days. **The Thrift Shop and Thrift Shop Annex will remain open as usual, since they are completely detached.**

All ministries, staff persons, and volunteers will need to work off campus on those two days or reschedule their ministry activities and responsibilities to different days. **No one can access any part of the Sanctuary, Office Building, Cooper Hall, Education Building, or Chapel for the entirety of those two days.** If you need help rescheduling, contact Teresia Gale in the church office immediately so she can check the church calendar: tgale@fmcz.org or 813-782-5645. Sunday, September 15 will be a normal day for worship services in the Sanctuary, and we should be able to reopen the church campus on Wednesday, September 18 so Wednesday Night Refuel should not be impacted.

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 an other 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](#)



Members With Dual Residences

If you are a member who regularly resides in two different states or in-state residences in the course of a year, we would like your help in updating or correcting the contact addresses we currently have on file for you.

Please e-mail our Office Manager at tgale@fmcz.org with the following information:

primary residence (full address and phone)
date range you are regularly in residence there
secondary residence
date range you are regularly in residence here

When the time comes each year to move between your residences, please send us an email at tgale@fmcz.org or give us a quick call at **813-782-5645 ext.110** to let us know that your address has temporarily changed. We will use your updated contact information until we hear from you again.

This helps us greatly to keep you up to date on things happening here on the church campus as well as cut down on the amount of mail being returned to us.

Thank you,
Membership Committee.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Information and Fellowship

Young At Heart Presentations [Team Leader: Harry Kehr]



Planned Speaker:
Geraldyn Fortney
SHINE Program Manager

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 19th
11:30am—1:00pm

Cooper Hall

Topic: Medicare Basics

Presentation includes a
question and answer segment.



ADMISSION:

ONE COVERED
DISH OF
YOUR CHOICE

MEDICARE BASICS

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT DATES
OCTOBER 15TH - DECEMBER 7TH

The Medicare Basics presentation conducted by the SHINE Program will provide information on the basics of Medicare with coverage that falls into four different areas called "Parts" - Medicare Part A, B, C, & D, and what they mean to you.

www.floridashine.org or www.agingcarefl.org



Navigating Medicare



Preventing Medicare Fraud

MEMBER HAPPENINGS: Monthly News

THOSE WHO SERVE

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., YN SSA, 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, US Air Force, Mississippi, Brother of Bob Nipp
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
Wagner, Jeff, CAPT., US Air Force, Colorado, Nephew of Elton & Pat Wagner
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

BIRTHDAYS

9/1 Russell McGinnis	9/13 Lucille Knepper
9/2 Stan Roseman	9/13 Craig Miller
9/2 Nancy Swartz	9/15 Rita Wencel
9/3 Pam Rios	9/16 Josh Smith
9/3 Joey Theel	9/17 Elizabeth Ahrend
9/4 Amanda Wregg	9/18 Druann Briggs
9/5 Paul Bathrick	9/18 Roy Galarneau
9/5 Arlene Mahlke	9/18 David Moore
9/7 Linda Engel	9/19 Yondale LaBarre
9/8 Margo Herring	9/21 Sally Koiso
9/9 Yolande Green	9/22 Emily Morris
9/9 Deanie Weeden	9/23 Fran Ritzheimer
9/10 Roberta Hubbard	9/24 Robin DeVlieg
9/11 Roz Hill	9/24 Daniel Pride
9/11 Joanne Martin	9/26 Nancy Laviano
9/11 Joan Wansor	9/27 Sandy Theus
9/12 Kimberly Perez	9/28 David Cox
9/12 Terri Stanley	
9/13 Shirley Griffin	
9/13 Curtis Hambrick	

ANNIVERSARIES

9/10	John and Sandra Newman
9/10	Floyd and Marian Otto
9/23	Richard and Barbara Gottschalk
9/24	Cathy and George Gano
9/30	Devyn and Zachary Sheffich



Fifth Avenue Blessing Box

When I was out helping to install new signs in our west parking lot, I couldn't help but wonder about the back story of the BLESSING BOX that sits there; a daily reminder of the ongoing needs in our city. Pastor Steve suggested I ask Pastor Nick Deford's wife, Amie about it. This was her reply:

The whole project was given to me by God during our Covid lockdowns in 2020 when I was walking passed the Little Library at the Woman's Club. As I passed, I noticed a box of Frosted Flakes sitting on the books. It was then that I heard God tell me that we needed more Blessing Boxes throughout our town. At this time, the only one was on our own church property on 12th Street. God had pressed upon my heart that maybe that was too far away from the other areas. So I went home from my walk and asked my husband, Pastor Nick, if he would help me reach out to other churches in the area and ask about placing Blessing Boxes on their property. I then reached out to Home Depot where I found out that the store manager had donated to the Blessing Box on 12th street and she met with her team and they donated wood to build five more boxes. I contacted a member of our church, Ben Poe, who drew up plans and built the one that is on your property along with the ones near First Presbyterian, Awake Wesleyan, outside Meals on Wheels, and outside Hatfields. The mission of blessing those in our own community with these boxes for small food pastries spread to Crystal Springs. So the long and short of it is that, thanks to God and a Frosted Flakes box, your pastor heard my story and agreed to have a Blessing Box on your property for those who walk by to take what they need and give what they can.

Blessings to you and yours,
Amie Deford

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 ~ 7411 Eiland Blvd., Zephyrhills, FL

Roberta Hubbard

SOLARIS ~ 7350 Dairy Rd., Zephyrhills, FL

Shirley Force Washington Unit

**SOLARIS ~ Zephyr Park, 38250 A Ave, Zephyrhills, FL **

Joan Donaldson

HILLSIDE HEALTH AND REHAB CENTER ~ 38220 Henry Dr, Zephyrhills, FL

Terri Stanley

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

Shirley Griffin

AT HOME with family

Harry Howell

Staff and Organizational Contacts

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(for staff with church emails)

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Peter Jordan, Treasurer

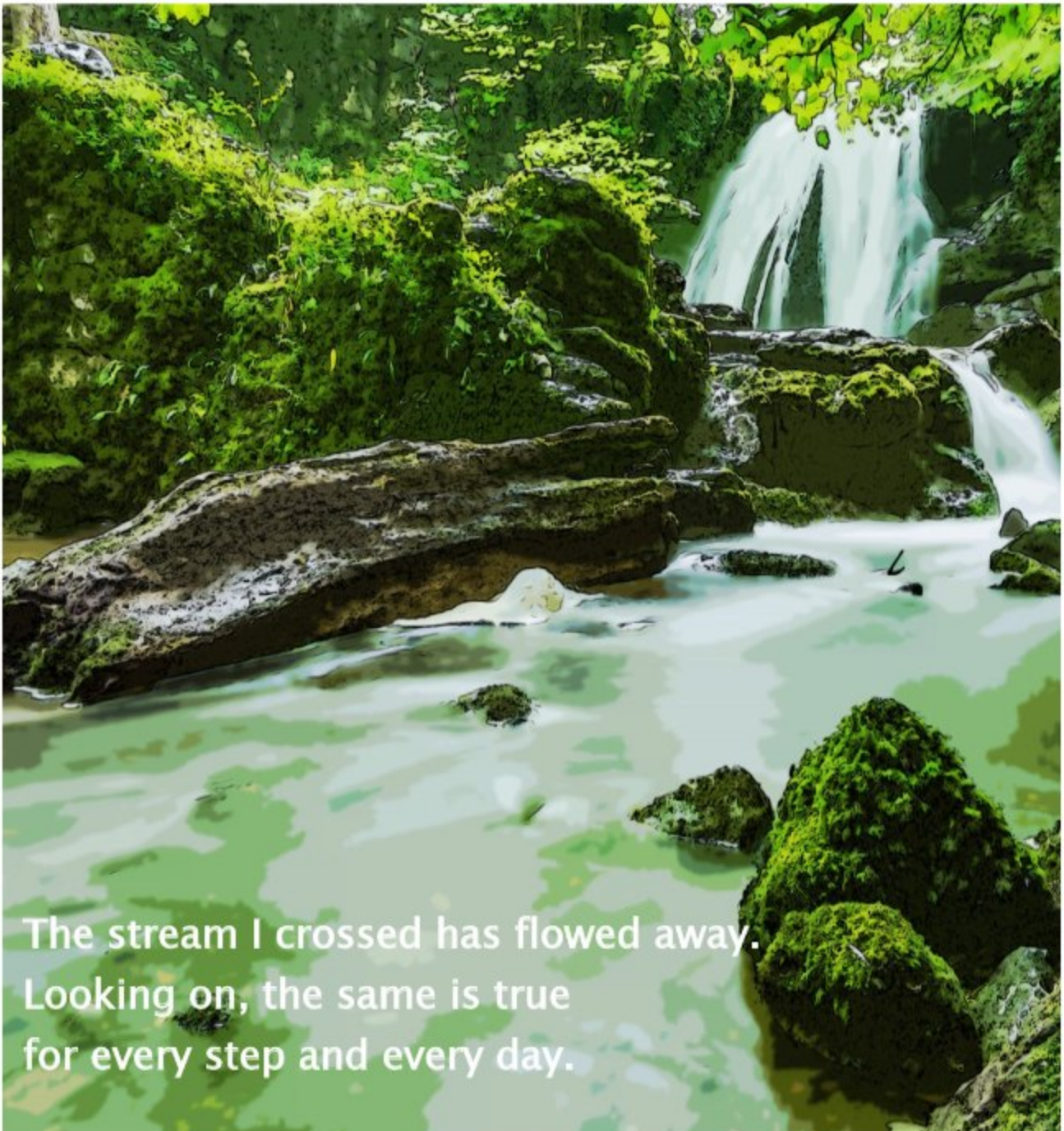
pjordan@fmcz.org

Todd Kramer, Technical Director

tkramer@fmcz.org

Giving Back

Marcus Aurelius was a Roman emperor and Stoic philosopher who lived and ruled around 170 AD. He is known primarily today as one of the “Five Good Emperors” and the author of “Meditations”, a collection of his musings on life. In it, he contends that no one can cross the same river twice because the swiftly flowing water creates a fully different river at every crossing. It’s a powerful metaphor for the ever-changing nature of life around us, but it also makes a vivid point about the nature of giving; that the needs around us will always be swifter than our ability to fill them. In Matthew 26:11, Jesus reminded his disciples that they would always have the poor in need of their help. On this earth there would be no finish line; no point at which to say “We have given enough.” What we do have is another brand new stream we can cross if we are bold enough to step into it once more.



The stream I crossed has flowed away.
Looking on, the same is true
for every step and every day.