

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

Flowering Anew

April 2025

*In this issue:
Easter Week Service Schedule ~ 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.

Sanctuary Mothers' Room

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

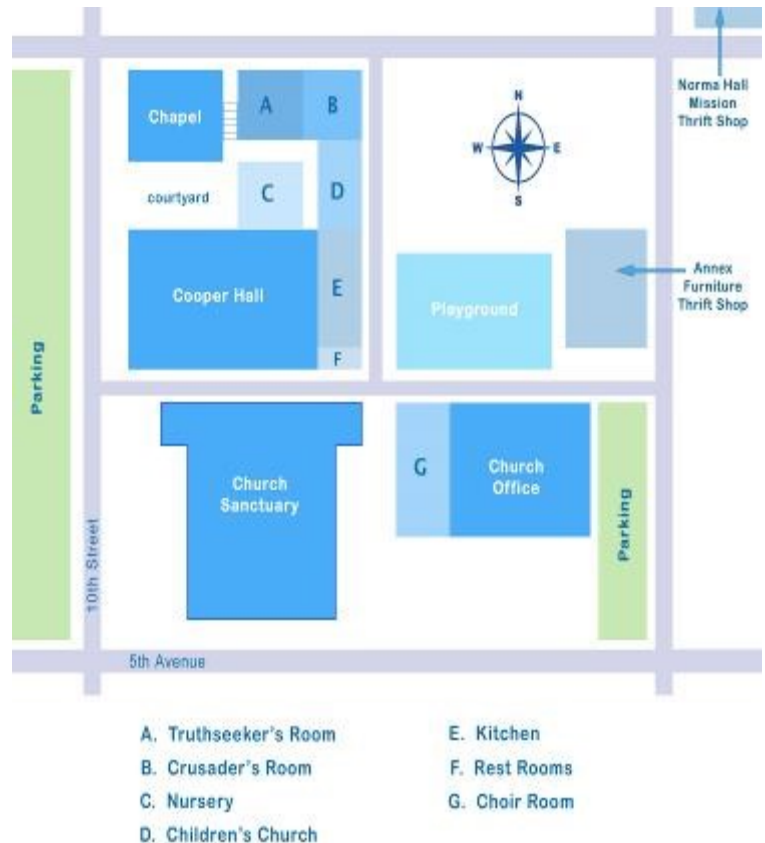
Restrooms

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



April 2025 Worship Services

Worship Series: You Won't Believe What Jesus Said! (Based on The Sermon on the Mount)

Contrary to popular beliefs, in fulfilling the Law, Jesus RAISED the bar on expected attitudes and behaviors of God's people! If people actually read what Jesus said and taught, many would honestly be shocked. This series explores what Jesus REALLY said on various topics in his world-changing sermon.

Sunday, April 6: Communion Sunday

Jesus Said What? "About Judging Others" Matthew 7:1-12

"Whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them."

Sunday, April 13: Mission Celebration [Palm Sunday - Passion Musical Drama]

Jesus Said What? "About Who Gets Into Heaven" Matthew 7:13-29

"We reach heaven not by trying harder but by training harder."

Note: Palm Sunday begins Holy Week and the narrative of the Passion and Death of Jesus. Special worship services will be held on Holy Thursday and Good Friday in the Sanctuary, both beginning at 6:30pm.

Sunday, April 20: Easter Sunday

"You Won't Believe What Jesus Did" 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

"The Resurrection and its implications; from this point we are all changed."

Note: Egg Hunts for the children will be held after each service in the campus courtyard. The traditional cross of flowers will be decorated on the 10th street side of the sanctuary.

Sunday, April 27:

This Sunday marks the beginning of a new sermon series still under development. Watch our upcoming eBlasts for updates on this next exploration into how the Word of God intersects with our daily lives.

WORSHIP: Witnessing Boldly

Music Ministry Our Music Ministry groups are always open to welcoming new members! If you are interested in serving through music, talk to a group member!

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

Music Worship Leader: Eric Gale

Practice Schedule: Thursdays - 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

Sunday Study and Discussion Groups

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.

Crusaders Class continues their study of the **Beatitudes from the Book of Matthew** through the month of April. Each week a gospel story will be included, offering an illustration of how the beatitude functions. Everyone is welcome to join in questions, discussions, and study.

Truthseekers Class will take a brief hiatus for the first few weeks of April due to the busyness of this Easter season. The class will start back up on April 27th with the final installment of **EASTER** by J.D. Greear on RightNow Media. May will begin a fascinating new study to be announced soon.

Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]

With friendly faces, welcoming voices, and engaging personalities, our Sunday greeters rank high in visitor surveys. This positive first impression is how our church helps make more Disciples of Christ and welcome potential new members! We carefully read and review all CONNECT CARDS that are returned to us and often the most positive comments are made about how warmly both staff and church members welcome first time visitors! Remember that every welcoming smile and greeting helps to open a new path to Christ. Fill out a [Ministry Interest Form](#) if you would like to be a part of this impactful Sunday team.

Technical Support Services [Team Leader ~ Todd Kramer]

Activities include live audio and projection control, streaming video control, and audio/video set up each Sunday. The quality of our live services and online streams impacts how much and how well we engage those who are looking for a church home, especially in this day and age of electronic media. This team is actively looking for several new volunteer members to help run the audio board and slide presentations. No experience needed! Training can be provided.

Contact our Technical Director at tkramer@fmcz.org

Sanctuary Mothers' Room [To the Right Side of Altar Stage Through Door]

Mothers of very young children, please check out our refurbished Sanctuary Mothers' Room which is especially furnished to provide a comfortable and practical environment for private, on-the-spot childcare needs through all Sanctuary services and events. Stay connected to the service and the day's message even if you need to be away from the main sanctuary. Live streaming is provided

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

The Sunday Morning Café is located in Cooper Hall
9:00 am until 11:00 am every Sunday.
Before and Between Services

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 view-points, or prepare to join in a Sunday Bible Study class. While our days may be busy and full of activities, this is a great opportunity to sit, relax, and just see who walks in and walks up to make your day complete!



MINISTRIES: Making Disciples for Christ

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

Children's Church (grades K - 5) continues through April with themes from Genesis using the curriculum entitled, "What's in the Bible With Buck Denver" that was developed by Veggie Tales creator, Phil Vischer.



In the meantime, our Children's and Youth ministries will BOTH be sporting new logos, using the same design formats but with differentiating colors and titles, in much of their print and promotional materials. The new branding aligns with our church-wide brand concept while providing these two integral ministries recognizable identities of their own.

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]

Youth Sunday School curriculum continues to explore themes from Genesis with tie-ins to other key passages in both the Old and New Testaments, using material from "Answers in Genesis". This summer will see a new and exciting Vacation Bible School experience, from the team that developed The Great Jungle Journey, with brand new Bible-based adventures, activities, and learning. See our VBS feature on page 9!

April Youth Lesson Plan ~ Unit 3 continues

April 6 ~ Lesson 32:	Topic - Job's Suffering
April 13 ~ Lesson 33:	Topic - God Calls Abram
April 20 ~ Lesson 34:	Topic - Abram and Lot
April 27 ~ Lesson 35:	Topic - Sodom and Gomorrah



Children and Youth to Take Parts in Palm Sunday's Passion Music Drama

Along with members of the Chancel Choir, the Children and Youth Ministries will play central roles in the retelling of the Passion and Death of Christ in the music drama from the cantata, "How Great Thou Art", by David Clydesdale. It will be presented during the 11:00am service on Palm Sunday.

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 that requestors provide complete contact information in order for the team to follow up with phone calls or cards. Every Sunday, the weekly prayer list appears as an insert in the bulletin, in the e-Blast, and as part of the Announcement reels projected on the sanctuary screens. As you see these names, please remember to say a quiet prayer for their individual needs.

FMCZ Outreach Devotional Services

Several members of our FMCZ church family are providing regular devotional services at American House Assisted Living Community on the **3rd Sunday of each month at 2:30pm**. Each Sunday service includes praise, prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and a message. This month's service will be held on **April 27th due to Easter**. Contact Roz Hill for more information, 443-834-8621.



Invitation Stations [Narthex and Cooper Hall]



Spread the word about the many blessings our church offers and extend your hand in invitation! Now available at Invitation Stations in Cooper Hall and the Narthex, pocket-sized invitation cards offer a perfect way to actively get the message out into our area communities and open doors to potential visitors who may be looking for a new church home. Help our membership grow by keeping a few of these cards in your pocket or purse to hand out any time you say, "Hi! We're the Big White Church on 5th Avenue!"

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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At our recent Emmaus Gathering, we talked about how blessed we are. We have 4 pilgrims who attended the Heart of Florida Walk to Emmaus March 20th and 27th and we are excited to see how the experience affects them. I know my walk lifted my heart and assured me that God forgives.

Michelle's lesson was about the impact Paul had on his trip to Rome to be sentenced. The ship that was carrying 276 souls, along with Paul, was wrecked and the natives on the Island of Malta rescued them and cared for them until a second ship could be dispatched. While on Malta, and awaiting a sentence of the most horrible kind, Paul was bitten by a viper while gathering wood for a fire. He should have, at least, lost the use of his hand and arm, but God protected him. While there, Paul healed the Chief Man of the Island, Publius who had fallen ill, came to be healed and listened to the message Paul shared. Through Divine Protection and the Gospel Message, listeners were transformed and healed. This experience can be for you, too.

DeColores! Phyllis Blanchard



Adult Studies and Classes [Wednesday Night Refuel]



Refuel Family Meal Entrees for April

04/02 ~ Chicken Pot Pie; **04/09** ~ Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce. All entrees are served with a side, bread, drinks, and dessert. Dinners served 5:45 to 6:30pm in Cooper Hall. \$5 per person and \$10 per family.

"The Chosen" watch group will continue to the finale of **Season 3** using the updated schedule below. Note that the last three episodes of the series will be shown after **Refuel** has finished in April.

Season 3 Episode 4 ~ Wed, 4/02, 5:45pm Episode 5 ~ Wed, 4/09, 5:45pm
Episode 6 ~ Wed, 4/16, 6:00pm Episode 7 ~ Wed, 4/23, 6:00pm
Episode 8 ~ Wed, 4/30, 6:00pm - Season Three Finale

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Report from March:

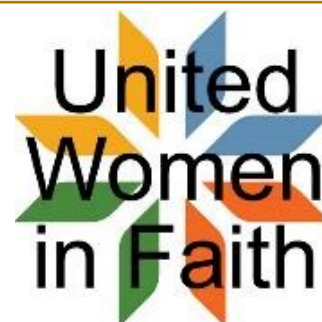
What a great time we had Saturday the 22nd of March! Tables were decorated, 1920s music played in the background, and excited chatter filled Cooper Hall.

We filled our plates with sandwiches - tuna, chicken, grilled cheese, and BLTs; and our bowls with chicken noodle, chicken rice, broccoli and cheese, and tomato bisque soups.

Then. . . Lights! Action! Camera! Well, no lights and no camera, but Ann announced it was time for the show! Laughs, microphone switching, and sharing filled the "stage" behind the curtain as we portrayed a twist on "The Prodigal" as if it were being aired on an old time radio in a snug old time sitting room.

I had a wonderful time! I hope you did, too!

Phyllis Blanchard, Producer
An Old Time Radio Play



**Next UWF meeting ~ Thursday, April 10th, 12:00pm—2:00pm
in the Truthseekers Room**

Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]



The beautiful quilt work shown above is just a small sample of the colorful and practical hand crafting produced by the members of this ministry. Project Others meets every Friday, 8:00 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall West. Come share your skills or come to learn brand new ones while you serve!

MISSIONS: Community Outreach

Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]

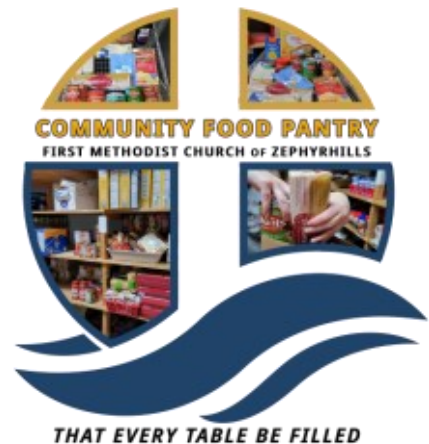
Set-up items needed:

- * 10 – 12 oz. box cereal
- * 1 lb. bags of rice
- * canned spaghetti sauce
- * pork & beans
- * small peanut butter
- * canned tuna
- * 1 lb. bags spaghetti
- * saltine crackers
- * mashed potatoes
- * mac & cheese
- * canned vegetable
- * jelly
- * dry milk
- * ramen noodles

Other items needed:

- * toiletries of any kind – toilet paper, wipes, shampoo, soap, razors, toothpaste, lotion, feminine products, and large adult diapers
- * dry pet food
- * baby items – diapers, wipes
- * any other food/drink items

Our focus needs for April include cereal and canned spaghetti sauce. **Without your donations, our food pantry would not be able to serve the many food vulnerable individuals and families living in our local community.** Cash donations are used to purchase food items for the regular pantry set-ups.



Food Pantry Distribution Days are April 14, 15, and 16.
THIS MONTH'S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS APRIL 20th.

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



Featured In the Annex

Furniture and a wide variety of larger home goods

Featured In the Main Shop

Clothing, books, and smaller home goods and decor

All at low prices!!

Ask a floor volunteer about any special sales of the day

Remember that the proceeds from all sales go directly into the ministry work of our church.

MONDAYS 8am–12pm

Donations only

Wednesday & Saturday 8am–12pm

Both Sales & Donations



Vacation Bible School [June 9th through 13th, 9:30am – 12:15pm each day]



The information page for this year's Vacation Bible School is up to steam and ready to welcome all who would like to sign up as volunteers, register their children, or just explore all the themes and contents of this latest VBS Adventure. You will find additional links for registration and volunteering when you check out our web site page at <https://fmcz.org/children/vbs-summer-2025/> This summer will be a grand, western-style adventure with crafts, fellowship, fun, food, discovery, and learning more about God's hand in our world. Reserve your seat soon on the train to WONDER JUNCTION!

Long Term Prayer List [For March, April, and May 2025]

Along with the weekly list of those connected to our congregation in need of prayer support, our team of prayer warriors now has added a special focus on those who are in need over a long period of time; prolonged illness, lengthy recoveries, uncertain circumstances, or protracted personal challenges. The Praise and Prayer team asks all church family members to keep these individuals in your own prayers as well throughout the spring. As Jesus reminded us, "Ask, using my name, and you will receive."

Ellise Braddon, Gary Bridges, Michele Devine, Jim Elliot, Barbara Kehr, Olga Kolonova, Steven Noh, Trisha Stevens, Roxanne Young.

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Milligan]

The April Mission of the Month is our very own Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is a fully self-supporting outreach mission of the church that not only provides food for upwards of 125 families every month, but also provides someone to talk to. Often times people will come and we talk for a time, getting to know them, and listen to their stories. Just last month a woman came at the last minute (we are open 9 - 12, Monday thru Wednesday of the second full week of each month) while we were packing up to put items away. She had moved to Florida from Portland, Oregon for a job. When she got here, the job had been eliminated because the company had lost an important contract. We were able to talk to her, and let her know she was not alone. She got information about our church and hopefully is sitting out in the congregation this Sunday. Every month we provide carts for our regular donation Sunday, the Sunday after our distribution days. Any food (human and pet) or toiletry is gratefully accepted. Please do not contribute opened or expired items, as we are unable to use them.

Cuba Sister Church 2025 Mission Trip [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

The success of this February's mission trip to Amancio Methodist Church, in Cuba, cannot be measured strictly in terms of material support provided to another Christian community. The trip, through the words and pictures provided by the mission team members open our eyes and hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit working where it is most needed. Please visit the special website gallery documenting this trip: <https://fmcz.org/missions/cuba-mission-trip-2025/>

Spotlight < New Members

We are especially blessed to be an actively growing church family with first time visitors joining both our worship services and Sunday fellowship time in Cooper Hall. A number of those recent visitors took the next step and became full members of First Methodist. We welcome each and every one warmly and commit ourselves to them as they have to us!



*Aiden LeVasseur



*Claudia Kikendall



April Britton



Glenn Harmon



Julie Pearson



Theresa Campbell



Melanie McDowell



Jean Allen



Brian and Rose Zembrski
with Isabelle



Sam and Donna Sager

Members designated with an asterisk by their names also received the Sacrament of Baptism on the morning of their membership presentation. We are especially blessed to be witnesses to their path.

Stephen Ministry [Team Leader ~ Dave Hill]

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

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



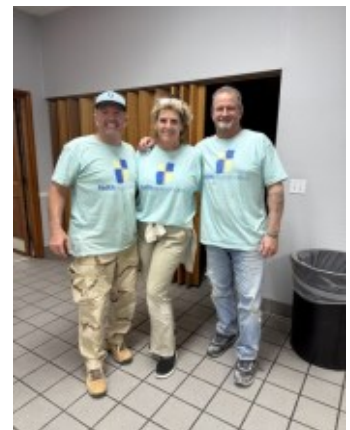
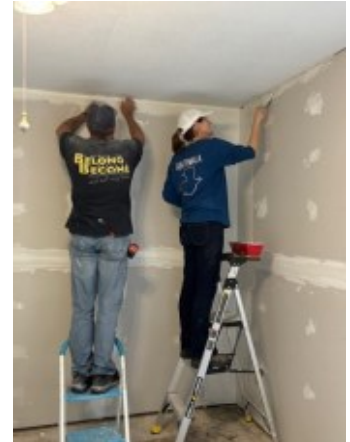
Faith Responders Update [Photos and Text from Laura Lambert]

Last week, we had the incredible opportunity to attend the Volunteer Florida EM Convening, where we reconnected with many of our amazing partners and continued expanding our knowledge in disaster relief efforts and volunteer mobilization. It was inspiring to be surrounded by so many organizations working toward the same mission, helping communities rebuild and recover together.

We also had the privilege of spending time in Ridge Manor, Florida, where one family who has been displaced for over six months due to Hurricane Milton was finally able to return home! Thanks to the incredible support of Georgianna Church and our dedicated volunteers, we helped a family move back into their home, offering them a fresh start and renewed hope. Moments like these remind us why we do this work, because every act of service makes a difference. Click Below to sign up your team:



[Volunteer Now!](#)



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

Parish Nurses [Team Leader ~ Druann Briggs, RN 813-420-7919]

Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ April 13th ~ 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall

Next One Blood Blood Drive ~ April 13th in front of Sanctuary 9:00 - 11:00am



PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES



April 16th

NHDD is an initiative to educate people on the importance of advance care planning. It

encourages individuals to express their wishes regarding healthcare and the need for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be.

GO TO THE WEBSITE BELOW
TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT NHDD

<http://www.nhdd.org/>



Advance Directives are a way to make your healthcare wishes known if you are unable to speak for yourself. They provide a way for you to communicate your wishes to family, friends and healthcare professionals, and to avoid confusion later on when time may be critical, these directives are called **Designation of a Healthcare Surrogate and a Living Will**. Below are several links to help you explore your options.

The Conversation Project The Conversation Project® is a public engagement initiative with a goal that is both simple and transformative: to help everyone talk about their wishes for care through the end of life, so those wishes can be understood and respected. It's time to share the way we want to live through the end of our lives. And it's time to communicate about the kind of care we want and don't want for ourselves. We believe that the place for this to begin is at your kitchen table—not in the intensive care unit—with the people who matter most to us, before it's too late. The Conversation Project offers free tools, guidance, and resources to begin talking with those who matter: <https://theconversationproject.org/>

Project Grace Project Grace offers a free Advance Care Planning Document that is legally valid in states that do not require forms to be notarized. You can download a free copy in PDF format at: <https://www.floridahospices.org/advanceD/ProjectGrace.pdf> or call 877-99G-RACE to order a copy.

Aging With Dignity (Five Wishes) The *Five Wishes* document helps individuals express their care options and preferences. The advance directive meets the legal requirements in most states and is available in 20 languages for a nominal fee. [Order online here](#) in paper format or choose a digital format for a slightly higher fee. You can also call 850.681.2010.

Organ Donation Choices: <https://www.organdonor.gov/> or www.donatelife.net

CALL OR TEXT DRUANN BRIGGS RN, 813-420-7919, THE PARISH NURSE, FOR ASSISTANCE WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE, OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AND LEAVE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.

Support Groups On Our Campus

Adult Children of Alcoholics and Family Dysfunction

Wednesdays from 12:00 - 1:00pm in the Chapel Parlor.

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

ACA is a 12-step international fellowship of healing from past traumas as a child and growing through the pain to become a happy and content adult! The program focuses on emotional sobriety for those affected by dysfunctional families, whether alcohol is involved or not.



**Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:30pm
Spring 2025 13-week session**



Truthseekers Classroom - Education Building in
Cooper Hall

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. For information, contact group coordinator, 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> **This current session ends on April 9th.**



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 meets weekly on our campus

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.



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 a 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

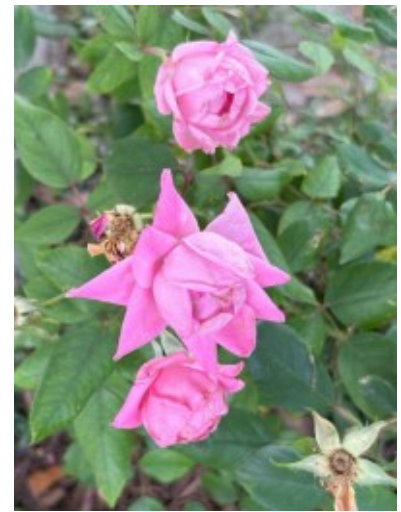
For more information contact the Church Office, 813-782-5645.

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] Courtyard Beautification

Thanks entirely to the volunteer efforts of one of our members, Tom Caldwell, the courtyard between Cooper Hall and the Chapel has received a colorful landscaping upgrade just in time for spring and our annual Easter Sunday egg hunts. Stroll by the courtyard and enjoy the new plantings.



In other campus-related news, we recognize that the buildings and rooms at FMCZ are seeing a significant increase of use from expanding ministries, groups, and church activities. We ask that all members be extra diligent in helping us keep our operating costs down and security up by turning off lights, turning down AC after use, and making sure that all doors are locked on your way out. We can all share in the good stewardship of this beautiful and active church campus. Thank you!

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

Counting Team Volunteer Needed

Our Counting Team needs one more volunteer! This team counts and records tithes and offerings from the Sunday worship services. They meet on Monday mornings 8:00 to 10:30am (except for holiday weekends) in the church office, guided by our Financial Secretary. On holiday weekends, they usually meet on Sunday 12:00-2:30pm instead (or whenever the team is available to do their ministry). The ideal volunteer would be available most Monday mornings, though we do have substitutes as needed, and this person would need to pass a background check. If interested, you may contact Carol Freiermuth at cfreiermuth@fmcz.org or Teresia Gale at tgale@fmcz.org. We appreciate your consideration of this very important ministry!



SPECIAL EVENTS: Information, Fellowship, Music

Young At Heart Presentations [Team Leader ~ Harry Kehr]



Planned Speakers:
Carla Armstrong and
Katya Guillaume

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 17th
11:30am—1:00pm
Cooper Hall

Presenter:
Gulfside Hospice

Presentation includes a
question and answer segment.



**ADMISSION: BRING
ONE COVERED DISH
OF YOUR CHOICE TO
SHARE.**



WITNESS THE PATH TOGETHER

HOLY THURSDAY 4/17 at 6:30pm
The Last Supper

GOOD FRIDAY 4/18 at 6:30pm
Passion and Death

EASTER SUNDAY 4/20
9:30am Contemporary
11:00am Traditional
Resurrection

www.fmcz.org

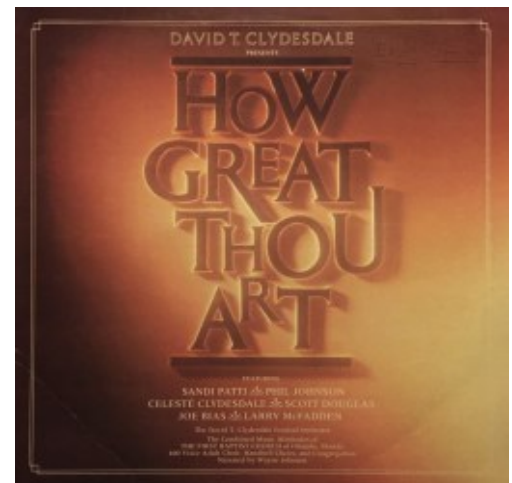


We are The Big White Church on 5th Avenue

Passion Musical Drama [Miriam Ezra, Karen Ezra, and Carol Runyon]

Join us this Palm Sunday, April 13th at the 11:00am Traditional Service for "How Great Thou Art", a passion musical written by David Clydesdale. Our children and youth will be playing roles, along with special appearances and songs by members of our church community, bringing together the traditions of both the Easter cantata and the Passion drama.

Walk with us through Jesus' last days, from the triumphal entry through the gates of Jerusalem to his death on the cross at the top of a hill called Calvary. Observe the start of Easter week as we prepare our hearts and minds for the path that leads us, at last, to the promised salvation. We hope to see you there!"



SPECIAL EVENTS: Information and Fellowship

Soup Extravaganza the 2nd

Sunday, April 6 at 12:00pm in Cooper Hall

A Youth Ministry Fundraiser

Offering a new menu of homemade soups and stews

All for the price of a donation for our Youth activities

Menu Includes:

Moroccan Stew by Judy Peavey * White Chicken Chili by Kay Milligan * Collard Soup by Johanna Theel * Creamy Tomato Basil w/Tortellini by Wanda Rakocy * Jalapeno Chicken Sweet Corn by Corrine Ahrend * Hamburger Soup by Sandy Theus * Southwest Chicken Tortilla by Polly Adwell * Chicken Corn Chowder by Becky Adwell * Mom's Ham and Bean Soup by Karen Ezra



ROLLS AND DESSERT INCLUDED!

EGG HUNTS FOR OUR CHILDREN TO BE HELD AFTER EACH SERVICE ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 20, IN THE CAMPUS COURTYARD OFF 10TH STREET NEXT TO OUR CHAPEL.

PLEASE JOIN IN THE FUN AND EXCITEMENT!



Flowering of the Cross

The "flowering of the cross" is an old Easter tradition where a bare wooden cross, that symbolizes Jesus's death on Good Friday, is decorated with flowers to represent the new life of his resurrection, thus marking the transition from mourning into celebration.

Church members are encouraged to bring fresh cut flowers on Easter morning with which to decorate the bare cross that will be standing out on the sanctuary's west lawn next to the rose garden. Flowers can be store-bought or trimmed from your garden.

Did You Know? [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected]

- The Messenger acts as our church's own internal newspaper, listing times and dates of events, sharing interesting stories and happenings, and connecting our church family with the many activities regularly occurring around our campus. But more than this, the newsletter acts to directly support all of the ministries and groups that use our campus spaces. Ministry leaders can tell their ongoing stories in these pages in order to help define their activities and goals to others, generate interest, promote group membership, and even encourage church members to donate material, time, or money. Providing a fresh insight regularly, keeps your activities interesting and in our readers' minds! The deadline for all Messenger submissions is always the 15th of the previous month. May's submission deadline is April 15th!
- All planned campus-based activities, large or small, must be coordinated through the Office Manager so that rooms and multi-use areas will not be accidentally double-booked. Request your meeting or event by email at tgale@fmcz.org so it can be entered on the master calendar.
- Because our staff is on campus only parttime, it is always best to communicate information in the early part of each week to avoid unnecessary delays!

MEMBER HAPPENINGS: Monthly News

Budurka, Michael, Drill SGT, US Army, Ft. Moore, GA, grandson of Bob & Barb Stankiewicz
 Clark, Matthew, 1ST LT, US Army, Ft. Drum, NY, grandson of Jack & Louise Smith
 Cotton, Collin J., YN SSA, US Navy, son of Richard & Julie Cotton
 Daniels, Clay, Major, US Army, Ft. Bragg, NC, 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, US Army MP, Ft. Lewis-McChord, WA
 Lenz, Alexander, MM3, US Navy, Norfolk, VA., grandson of Richard & Linda Bice
 Monteiro, Jared, U.S. Coast Guard, grandson of Debbie Huffert
 Mueller, Hannah, US Army, Fort Sill, OK, 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 & Barb Stankiewicz
 Shoup, Justin, Deployed
 Tindall, Tyler, US Army Specialist, TX, grandson of Ed Fisher
 White, Darrel, 1ST SGT, US Army, TX, nephew of Gerald & Virginia Swank
 Williams, Andrew, LT COL, US Air Force, grandson of Bob & Barbara Williams

REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/1 Sandy Coon
 04/1 Tamela Davis
 04/1 Brian Zembraski
 04/2 Marcia Wregg
 04/3 Barbara Friedman
 04/3 Patricia Pedigo
 04/3 Mary Spink
 04/3 Conway Theel
 04/4 Mary Kent
 04/4 Devyn Sheffich
 04/4 Coral Voorhees
 04/5 Bruce Cimorelli
 04/6 Kurt Bjorkner
 04/7 Shirley Caudill
 04/8 Theresa Campbell
 04/8 Gary Oesch
 04/8 Eugene Williams Jr.
 04/9 Susan Smith
 04/13 Casey Harrison
 04/14 Robert Packard
 04/15 Alice Hajek
 04/15 Dennis Nutt
 04/15 Barbara Sheldon

04/16 Mary Crook
 04/16 Keith Kunkel
 04/19 James Wregg
 04/20 Steve Shaughnessy
 04/22 Miguel Guillen
 04/23 Kathy Cady Cross
 04/24 Joan Demastrie
 04/24 James Wyman
 04/25 Kari Adams
 04/26 Jean Simpson
 04/27 Shayna Morrell
 04/27 Joanna Smith
 04/29 Teresia Gale
 04/30 Cheryl Bjorkner
 04/30 Frances Mayo

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

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/04 Teresia and Thomas Gale
 04/12 David and Shirley Carlson
 04/14 Dennis and Terry Dutkiewicz
 04/14 Sally and Yoshi Koiso
 04/18 Bruce and Virginia Cimorelli
 04/19 Todd and Terry Kramer
 04/20 Greg and Judy Peavey
 04/21 Allan and Carol Scheckler
 04/24 Tammy and Blake Donaldson
 04/28 Pamela Manapat and Tommy McCormick



Charity Golf Tournament



Pregnancy Care Center Of Zephyrhills

Fundraiser Golf Tournament
April 26th, 2025 at Southport Springs.

Special discounts for Church Foursomes
Registration Deadline: April 19th

Fees include continental breakfast, golf, cart, lunch, awards,
on-course contests and benefits a great cause.

TOURNAMENT SPONSOR	\$3,000
GOLD SPONSOR	\$1,250
SILVER SPONSOR	\$850
BRONZE SPONSOR	\$450
HOLE SPONSOR	\$125
FOURSOME	\$360
INDIVIDUAL	\$100
MEGA VALUE (EACH)	\$25
MEAL ONLY	\$20

EVENT DETAILS

REGISTRATION

7:00AM

Check-in, Practice, Continental
Breakfast

SHOTGUN START

8:00AM

Putting Contest by the Pro Shop

LUNCH & AWARDS

12:30PM



For Info: 813-780-6885

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 352-567-6500

Peggy Fetch Room 703
Beulah Zeller

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

Shirley Griffin

COMPASS ROSE OF ZEPHYRHILLS ~ 37411 Eiland Blvd., Zephyrhills 813-783-8100

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

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

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

Joan Donaldson
Terri Stanley - with Comfort Keepers of Pasco in-home services

Staff and Organizational Contacts

Church Web Address

www.fmcz.org

Staff Team Email Addresses

(for staff with church emails)

Church Office

info@fmcz.org

Karen Ezra, Director of Family Ministries

kezra@fmcz.org

Carol Runyon, Assistant Director of Family Ministries

crunyon@fmcz.org

Polly Adwell, Nursery Coordinator

padwell@fmcz.org

Miriam Ezra, Choir Director

mezra@fmcz.org

Steve Ezra, Senior Pastor

sezra@fmcz.org

Carol Freiermuth, Financial Secretary

cfreiermuth@fmcz.org

Eric Gale, Contemporary Worship Leader

egale@fmcz.org

Teresa Gale, Office Manager

tgale@fmcz.org

Tom Gale, Communications Director

tigale@fmcz.org

Peter Jordan, Treasurer

pjordan@fmcz.org

Todd Kramer, Technical Director

tkramer@fmcz.org

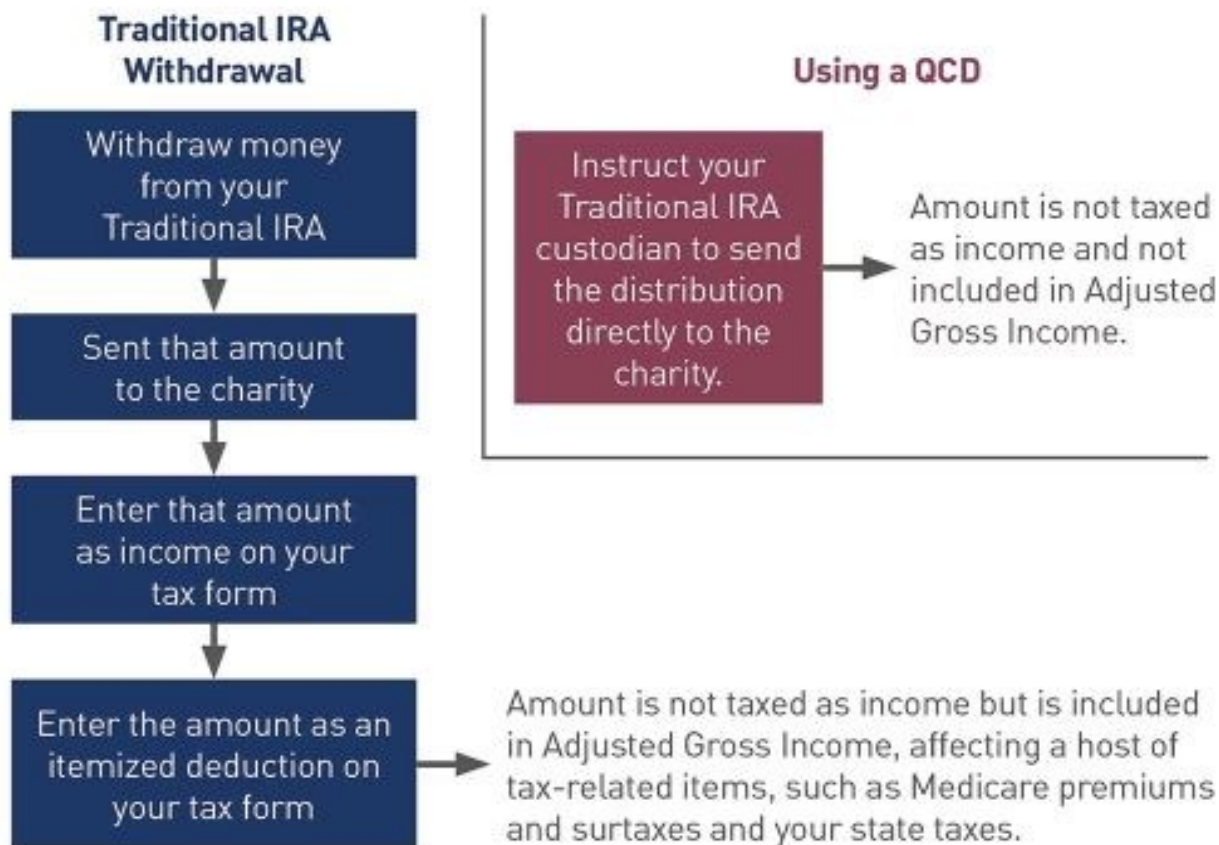
GIVING BACK [RMDs and Qualified Charitable Donations]

We make many investments in our lives, perhaps one of the most significant is the investment we make in our spiritual life and community. Whether we give of our talents, our energies, our time, or our financial resources, when we give back, we invest in the practical application of our faith. Investment is particularly important as our church family and its ministries continue to grow and expand.

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

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

QCD Versus Traditional IRA Withdrawal



Source: PNC