

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

Choosing a Path

February 2025

*In this issue:
Ministry Fair on February 16th ~ See 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.

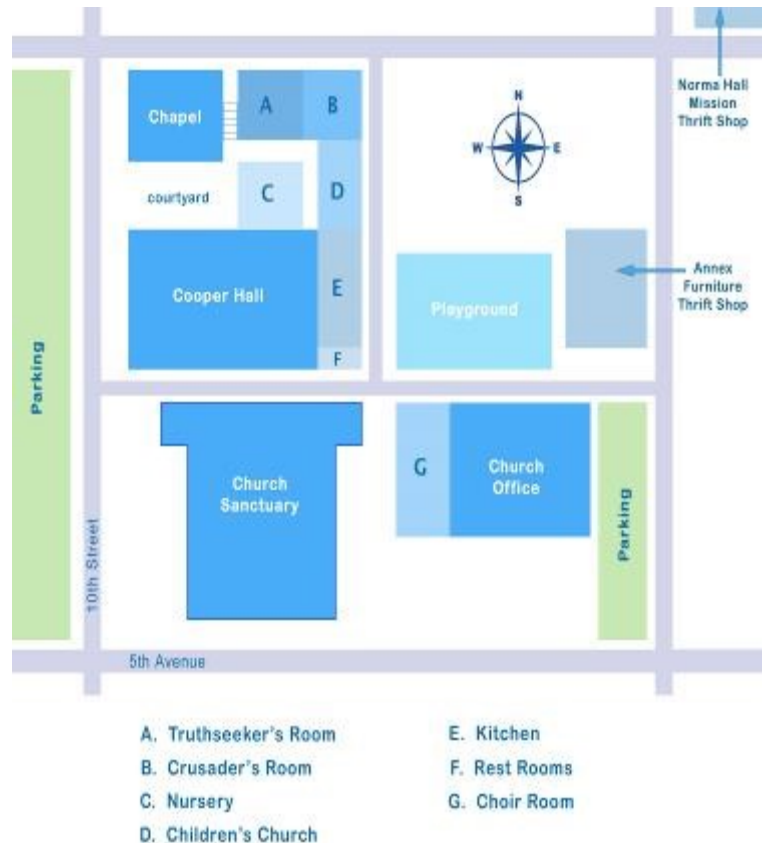
Restrooms

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



February 2025 Worship Services

Worship Series: Four Keys to Peaceful Living The insights in this worship series come from the devotional book *The Imitation of Christ*, written by Thomas à Kempis. He was a German-Dutch Catholic monastic who wrote four booklets between 1418 and 1427, later collected and named: *The Imitation of Christ*. It has become one of the most popular and influential Christian devotional books since its publication. These four keys to peaceful living come from different sections of the book. Though Thomas à Kempis' intended readers were fellow monks, these four principles are valuable for all God's people seeking to recover an inner sense of Shalom (being made whole or complete; feeling fulfilled and thus at peace).

Sunday, February 02: Communion moved to February 9th.

Four Keys to Peaceful Living: "God's Will" John 14:27; Matthew 11:28-30
"Always strive to do God's will rather than your own."

Note: Be sure to include our Cuba Mission Trip members in your prayers at this time.

Sunday, February 09: Communion Sunday

Four Keys to Peaceful Living: "Simplicity and Contentment" Luke 12:13-21
"Always choose to have less rather than more."

Sunday, February 16: Ministry Fair Sunday and Mission Celebration

Four Keys to Peaceful Living: "Submission and Humility" 1 Peter 5:5-6
"Always seek the lowest place and be submissive in all things."

Note: Presidents Day/Washington's Birthday is recognized on Monday, February 17th.

Sunday, February 23:

Four Keys to Peaceful Living: "Embrace God's Path For You" Matthew 6:10
"Always accept God's will even when the way is difficult."

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

Choosing a Path

If January was about opening doors to a new year, this month would naturally allude to what we find on the other side, a road leading away into the world. At least that's what J.R.R. Tolkien imagined in his famous song in "The Hobbit". Roads and paths are curious things and rich sources for metaphor as, at their foundation, they are simply the artifacts of people's comings and goings, solid evidence that someone else had already gone this way. As we step that road from the song, "down from the door where it began", it is not too long at all before we reach a turn-off and then another and countless more decisions that must be made that shape our final journey and ultimate destination. Standing at the door, one cannot tell what branching paths are down the road or what decisions will be made and how our hearts and souls will guide us. Regardless of where we are along our own paths, more of them, usually unseen, always stretch before us and compel us to move forward. A path without branches makes an easy, comfortable trip. One with many, makes an adventure.

Sanctuary Mothers' Room

Mothers of very young children, please check out our refurbished Sanctuary Mothers' Room, especially furnished to provide a comfortable and practical environment for private on-the-spot childcare needs through all Sanctuary services and events. We offer live streaming of our services in the Mothers' Room via a large wall-mounted flat screen television, for easy viewing around the room. Stay connected to the service and the day's message even if you need to be away from the main sanctuary.

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 and welcome potential new members! 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, 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 presentation. Training can be provided. Fill out a form here 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.

While our days may be busy and full of activities, this is a wonderful 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 February with themes from Genesis using the video and activity curriculum entitled, "What's in the Bible With Buck Denver" Volume 1: Genesis, that was developed by Veggie Tales creator, Phil Vischer. It's BIBLE 101 with a twist of Veggie Tales style fun! Talk with Carol for details about the specific themes covered each week this month.



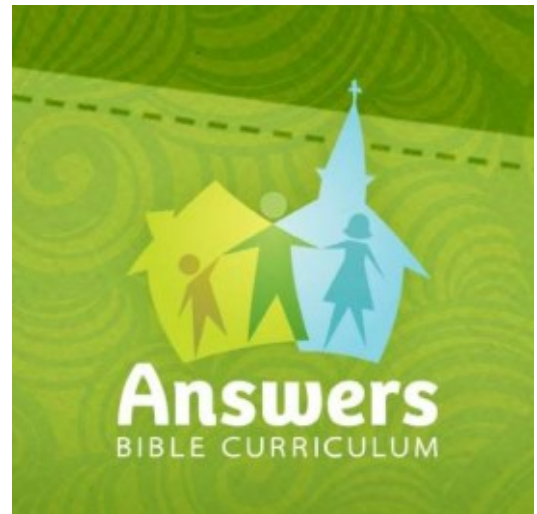
Bring your children and youth to Sunday Service from where they will be dismissed to the Cooper Hall Education Building for their own prayerful fun and Bible-based activities led by Carol and Karen. Children meet in the Children's Ministry Room and Youth meet in the Chapel Classroom.

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, the organization that furnished the basis for last year's VBS. This summer will see a new and exciting VBS experience, from the team that developed The Great Jungle Journey, with brand new Bible-based adventures, activities, and learning.

February Youth Lesson Plan ~ Unit 3

- 02/02: Topic - Cain and Abel
- 02/09: Topic - The Hearts of Man
- 02/16: Topic - Catastrophe - The Flood
- 02/23: Topic - God Saves Noah



SOUP AND STEW SPECTACULAR

On Sunday, January 19th, the FMCZ Youth held a uniquely tasty fundraiser, showcasing ten homemade soups and stews along with rolls, cornbread, drinks, and desserts. Given the uncharacteristic cold, grey weather of the day the event was particularly successful and everyone who attended had a terrific time. For fun, we launched a survey on our website to determine the top THREE favorite soups. The official top three soups, based on our survey, are shown below:



- *1st place
- *2nd place
- *3rd place tie
- *3rd place tie
- *3rd place tie

Spanish Bean Soup - Johanna Theel
7 Onion Soup - Judy Peavey
Japanese Curry over Rice - Miriam Ezra
Chicken and Rice Soup - Karen Ezra
Tortilla Soup - Karen Ezra
Vegetable Soup - Kay Milligan
Chicken Corn Chowder - Grandma Adwell
Hamburger Soup - Sandy Theus
Hearty Tomato Soup - Sandy Coon
Beef Vegetable Soup - Kay Milligan

Thanks to all the soup makers for warming hearts and tummies!

Praise and Prayer Group [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]

Every Tuesday Morning 9:00am
Truthseekers Classroom Education Building



While Connie is recuperating from surgery, prayer requests can be sent to randmpauls@gmail.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.

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**. Each service includes praise and prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and a spiritual message. **This month's service will be held on February 16th. Contact Roz Hill for information, 443-834-8621.**



New Members Class

If you've been considering church membership or want to know more about what it means to be a member at First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills, please join us for our **new members class on Sunday, February 23rd from 12:00-1:30 p.m. in the Crusaders Classroom (down the hallway from Cooper Hall)**. Lunch will be provided for everyone. Whether you are transferring your membership from another church or you haven't been a member of a church before, this class is for you! **To sign up, please call or contact our Office**

Manager, Teresia Gale, at tgale@fmcz.org or call the office at 813-782-5645. New members will be received during both worship services on Sunday, 03/02/25.



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

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

At our regular Emmaus reunion meetings, we sing. Our songs remind us how blessed we are, why, and how we can share those blessings.

Have you seen Jesus, My Lord?

He's here in plain view!

Take a look! Open your eyes!

We'll show him to you.

*His glory is reflected in the sunset --
in the color of the sky mellowing red.*

*It's in the clouds that are suspended like feathers
and in the white foam of the ocean's waves.*

*We can see Jesus in the face of the persecuted and in the faces of a loving family,
in the quiet of the morning and in the pandemonium of a children's birthday party.*

You just have to look -- Not hard -- Just open your eyes, and be reminded of His blessings.

If you haven't been to an Emmaus Retreat yet, please ask any of our members for more information. DeColores, Phyllis Blanchard, Heart of Florida, Walk #37



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

Adult Studies and Classes [Wednesday Night Refuel]



Wednesday Night Refuel is back in full swing every week in Cooper Hall and the Education Building classrooms **running until April 9th** with a break for Ash Wednesday. Classes rebooted in the first two weeks and barring some freak spring weather crisis, it looks like smooth sailing for the next ten weeks. The "Chosen" series watch group began Season Two on the 15th and invites anyone who would like to watch and discuss, to join in freely during regular Refuel class times. Catch the first episodes at home, streaming on their website or The Chosen app then join the group for the rest of Season 2.

Refuel Family Meal Entrees for February: 02/05 ~ Barbeque; 02/12 ~ Shepard's Pie; 02/19 ~ Roast Pork; 02/26 ~ Chicken and Yellow Rice. 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.

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.

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Report from January's UWF meeting:

The United Women in Faith unit met Thursday at noon in Cooper Hall for lunch and fellowship then got to work. I'm so glad to hear the "bug" is passing. There were only one or two absent with a cold this month. We'll miss Margie Nelson at our events, but we know she missed Ozzie so and is happy with him now.

Our dinner in December was a real success! Thank you to all who joined us! I did enjoy watching the little mariposas twirl and twist. Their colorful skirts sure were cute! I hope to see them again.

In February, on the 16th, our unit will participate in the Ministry Fair. We'll staff our table in Cooper Hall from 8:30 to 12:30 to share our purpose and mission with those who ask. We'll even prepare a gift to present visitors! If you'd like to help, tell Phyllis.

In March, our unit will present **An Old Time Radio Show** for your entertainment and serve a dinner of soup and sandwiches about 4 o'clock on **Saturday March 22nd**. We're performing a version of "The Prodigal" and the price for a ticket is \$10. Proceeds will be directed to pay our annual pledge as well as to local projects. Some we've supported in the past are the ABC program at ZHS, Sunrise of Pasco, Meals on Wheels, and Farmworkers Self Help, Inc. If you'd like to lend your talents to our play, let Lyn or Marsha know.

As my bumper sticker reminds me: Life is Good! Share your Blessings! Phyllis Blanchard

Next UWF meeting ~ Thursday, February 13th, 12:00pm—2:00pm in the Truthseekers Room

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, February 3rd, 12:00pm—2:00pm in the Truthseekers Room



MISSIONS: Community Outreach

Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]

Food Pantry continues to support our community with monthly bags of food, including cereal, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, mac and cheese, crackers, canned vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, tuna, mashed potatoes or rice, and dry milk.

Please visit our table at the Ministry Fair on Sunday, February 16th.

Please Note: Because some of the folks who receive food are on bicycles or walking, please avoid donating items in glass jars. This month the special need is for crackers and small jars of peanut butter.



"Never doubt that a small group of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead



Food Pantry Distribution Days are February 10, 11, and 12.
THIS MONTH'S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS February 16th.

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 super 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



Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

2024 Annual Project Distribution

Every year in December, Project Others collects, organizes, and distributes the hand-crafted fruits of the season's labors. This past year, a wide variety of much needed items such as lap throws, wheel chair arm covers, nap quilts, ditty bags, walker bags, and, of course, Christmas stockings were gathered and bagged for distribution to over 21 different community organizations. Please see our full 2024 report on Spotlight, page 10.

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Milligan]



Sadly, the United States is one of the most active sex trafficking countries in the world, and Florida is the 3rd highest state for trafficking in the US. Children between the ages of 12-17 make up a large percentage of those who are trafficked. Many are runaways who are leaving a home where they are already being abused.

Bridging Freedom is a faith based, therapeutic safe home campus community located in Pasco County. It provides long term, comprehensive care

to these young victims in a secure environment. The children, which are all girls up to age 18, live in a home with their own bedrooms and bathrooms and have nurturing residential caretakers.

In addition to education, trafficking survivors receive: Individual therapeutic sessions, health care, substance abuse and anger management counseling as well as learning to deal with grief and loss and learning healthy boundaries. They have equine art and gardening, bi-weekly Bible study, monthly educational field trips and weekly fun outings.

Bridging Freedom is overseen and partially funded by DCF (Department of Children and Families). State funding helps to pay salaries of employees and gives them a stipend for the children. This program counts on donations for everything else.

Currently they have 2 homes open for victims and their goal is to eventually have a lodge and 7 homes so they can offer hope to more children.

If you are able, your financial support is greatly appreciated. You may use the Sunday pew envelopes at offering time; please mark your check note area and envelope "Bridge Freedom". You can also donate through our on-line giving portal. Most of all, please keep these children and the employees in your prayers.

Cuba Sister Church 2025 Mission Trip - Update

As of this writing, our mission team, consisting of Pastor Steve, Karen Laukat, Rex Milligan, Debbie Nonnemaker, and Daniel Ezra will embark on their adventure to our sister church in Cuba on Friday, January 31. Please remember them in your prayers for safe travels there and back, for a very productive and faithful experience in Amancio, and for the strengthening of bonds between our faith communities that serve to support and uplift us all. The team will be in Cuba from January 31st until February 6th. We look forward to sharing the details of their successful mission trip in upcoming publications and through our website and thank all who have supported this mission with your gifts, donations, hands-on help, and prayers.

Spotlight < Project Others

PROJECT OTHERS 2024 REPORT

GIFTS MADE & GIVEN TO OTHERS

170	Children's Nap Quilts
54	Quilted Lap Throws
16	Infant Quilts
54	Clothing Protectors
42	Wheelchair Padded Arm Covers
15	Hand Exercise Grips
166	Children's Ditty Bags
190	Regular Ditty Bags
28	Walker Bags
9	Veterans' Quilted Bed Covers
9	Veterans' Fleece Bed Covers
9	Baby Hats
1	Baby Quilt
2	Crocheted Baby Afghans
1	Baby Fleece Blanket
5	Plastic Bag Crocheted Sleep Mats
42	Health Kits
30	Homemade Christmas Stockings (filled for delivery)
5	Prayer Shawls
264	Prayer Squares

The above list of items went out to Zephyrhills' three elementary schools, Veterans in Tampa & sixteen other agencies in Zephyrhills & Dade City.

The Project Others team is very thankful for God's many blessings this past year. Donations of fabrics & other needed materials continue to arrive. The faithful people continue to come each Friday morning to share in fellowship & plan ways we can make others' lives a little better with our handmade gifts.

We have asked God to send us more talent and more pairs of hands to help in our mission. If you are one whom he is urging to join our mission, please come on Friday morning 8-11 in Cooper Hall or call our leader, Deann Harrington for more info.

The attached picture is of John & Barbara Sheldon, making our gifts delivery to James A. Haley Veterans Home in Tampa.

Thank you all for your continued support of our mission outreach.

We wish you a prosperous & healthy year 2025.



Project Others Volunteer Hours
Logged at Church = 1,302

Additional Volunteer Hours
Logged Individually at Home =
MANY!!!

We welcome all who would like
to join in this ministry.

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.



Wednesday Refuel January Dinner [01-15-2025 - photos submitted by Greg Peavey]

Wednesday Night Refuel classes are held in our Education Building each week beginning at 6:45. But an hour prior to that, Family Dinners are served in Cooper Hall, serving up warming helpings of fellowship along with very affordable hot meals. You don't have to attend a class to enjoy a meal, which is only \$5 per person or \$10 per family. It's hard to imagine a better deal on any Wednesday night than to join us in Cooper Hall.



And, as always, our heartfelt thanks to Judy Peavey and her volunteer staff for preparing all the delicious meals!

Cuba Sister Church Mission Trip [Amancio Rodriguez Methodist Church]

Our sister church is located in the small town of Amancio in Cuba's Las Tunas Province in the south-eastern part of Cuba. As of 2024, the town was cited with a population of about 41,500 people, just slightly larger than Plant City here in Florida. To the south, the town opens up to the Gulf of Guacanayabo.

The town is in the southern part of the what is known as the "Cuban Orient Balcony" roughly translated as the "Gateway to Eastern Cuba". Las Tunas province gets its name from the plentiful, local tuna cactus. The rich countryside here supports sugar cane, rice, plantain, and tobacco farming; not too different in geography and rural lifestyle than our own Central Florida farmland. Our Cuban siblings are closer than we may imagine.



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

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

Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ Sunday 02/16, 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall

Next One Blood Blood Drive ~ February 02, 2025 in front of the Sanctuary



PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES



10 Steps to Lower Triglycerides

Watching your cholesterol is nearly as common nowadays as watching your blood pressure or your weight. But do you watch your triglyceride levels?

Triglycerides are a type of fat that gives you energy. Similar to cholesterol, triglycerides are produced by your liver but can also come from food. Knowing the level of triglycerides circulating in your blood is important because high triglycerides indicate that you may be at increased risk for heart attack and stroke. Here's advice to help reduce your triglyceride levels.

Lose weight. If you're overweight, losing 5 to 10 percent of your body weight will reduce your triglycerides by approximately 20 percent.

Cut the sugar. Individuals whose added sugar intake is less than 10 percent of daily calories have the lowest triglyceride levels. The American Heart Association recommends that only 5 percent of your daily calories come from added sugars.

Stock up on fiber. Instead of consuming sugar and other refined carbohydrates, focus on more fiber-rich foods, such as vegetables, fruits and whole grains.

Limit fructose. Studies have found that consuming too much fructose -- a type of sugar -- leads to high triglycerides. High-fructose corn syrup is a major source of fructose. You can determine whether a food contains sugar or high-fructose corn syrup by reading the ingredients list.

Eat a moderately low-fat diet. You may be surprised to learn that diets that are very low in fat are not as effective at lowering triglycerides as diets moderately low in fat. The American Heart Association recommends that people with high triglycerides get about 25 to 35 percent of their daily calories from fat.

Watch the type of fat you eat. Cut back on saturated fats, which are found in red meat, poultry fat, butter, cheese, milk, and coconut and palm oils, and keep trans fats, found in shortening and stick margarine, to a minimum.

Add omega-3 fatty acids. Fatty fish such as salmon, herring, sardines, lake trout and albacore tuna are abundant in omega-3 fatty acids -- a type of fat that is actually good for you. To reap the benefits, the American Heart Association recommends that you eat fatty fish at least twice a week.

Exercise. If you have high triglycerides, getting at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity most days of the week may lower your triglyceride levels.

Take triglyceride-lowering drugs. If your triglycerides are very high (500 mg/dL or above), your doctor might recommend a medication shown to lower triglycerides, such as fibrates, niacin, omega- or statins.

Proverbs 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."
Through Christ, Druann Briggs RN Parish Nurse Ministry Coordinator 813-420-7919

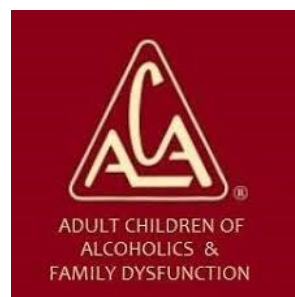
Support Groups On Our Campus

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



GriefShare

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 Gaynell Jeffries at: eldis.jeffries@gmail.com or pick up a flyer in the sanctuary lobby.

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 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

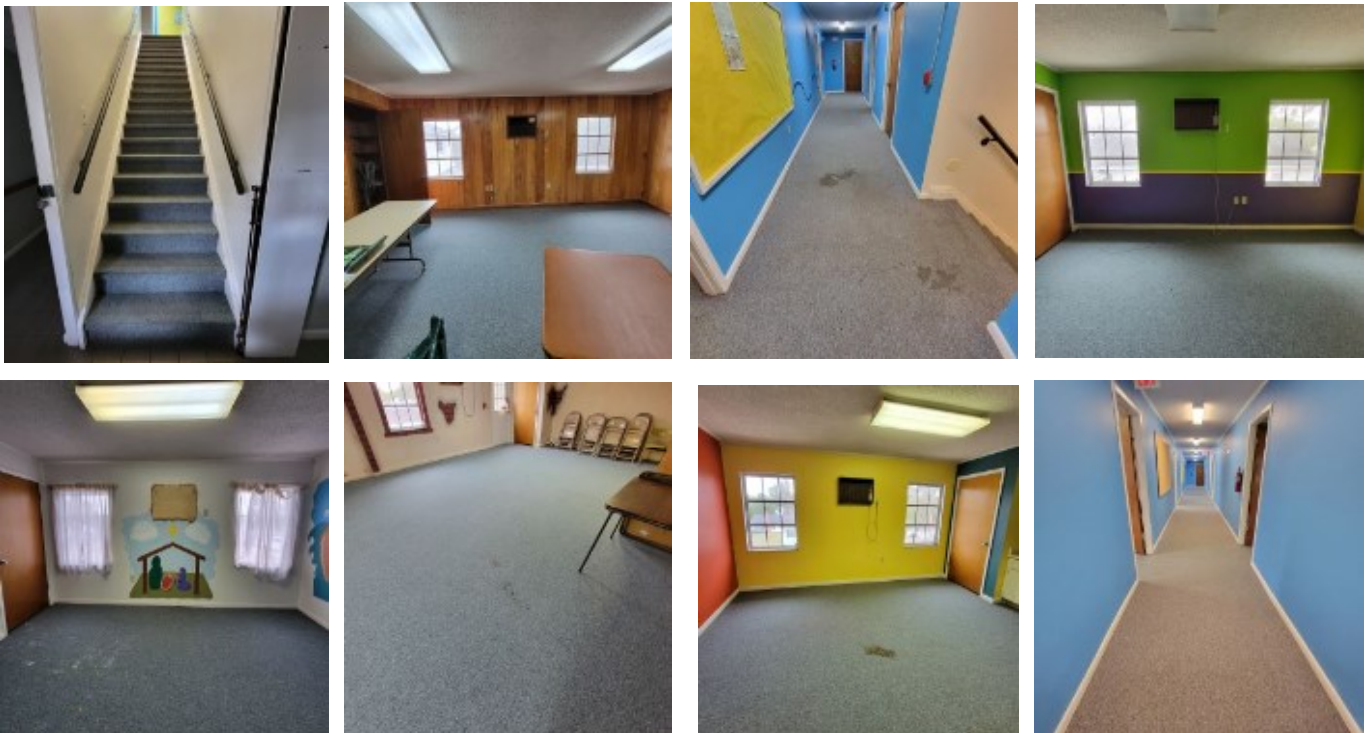
For more information contact the Church Office, 813-782-5645.

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] Faith Responders Hosting

This month we are in the initial stages of a six month partnership with Faith Responders. We will be hosting volunteer recovery teams in some of our long-unused second floor education rooms, which, after much renovation will serve as short-term meeting and planning rooms, team living quarters, and support spaces. Faith Responders is investing directly in the renovations of these rooms which, at the planned conclusion of the project, will have been greatly enhanced for our own local ministry purposes with fresh paint, new and cleaned carpets, new AC units and much more. Truly shared blessings!



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.

2025 offers unparalleled opportunities to contribute your skills and time to a worthy ministry or ministry partnership. The best place to connect to volunteer service is at this year's MINISTRY FAIR on February 16th. Stop by and meet those who can use your special gifts!



SPECIAL EVENTS: Information and Fellowship

Young At Heart Presentations [Team Leader: Harry Kehr]



AdventHealth
Zephyrhills

Planned Speaker:
Amanda McCall
AdventHealth Cardiac Nurse

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 20th
11:30am—1:00pm
Cooper Hall

Presenter:

Amanda McCall
Advent Cardiac Nurse

Presentation includes a
question and answer segment.



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

Ministry Fair [Team leader: Janet Toth]



We have 30 ministries in our church. There are several that deal with food; we have music, crafts, kids and shopping. There are classes for spiritual growth and classes for grief as well as regular fellowship opportunities. If you like to use tools, we have a ministry for that too! There are far too many to list, so come see for yourself!

Meet face to face with ministry and group members who can share their groups' needs and goals, time commitments, and even helpful skills to have. Find out if you might be just the person needed to fulfill the goals of a ministry, or perhaps help one expand into new service directions. Remember that all we do is done through your hands and your hearts! Note: you don't have to be a church member to be involved.

Reach Out With Love - All We Do is by Your Hands

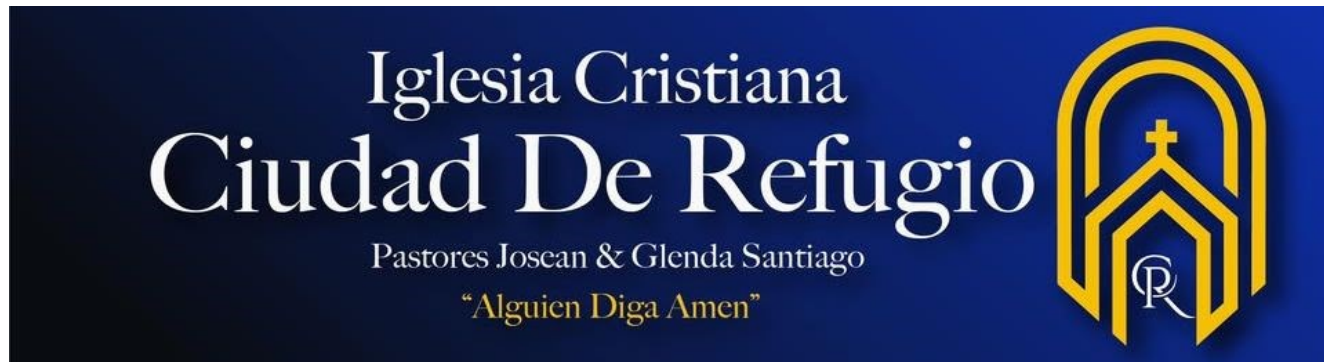
Ministry Fair: Sunday, February 16, 2025
8:30am - 12:30pm in Cooper Hall

What is a Ministry Fair?

It's an opportunity for church members to connect one-on-one with leaders and members of the many active ministries and groups that work on our campus and are supported by our church and each other. The fair format allows all our members to browse through the many opportunities available to serve the church and our local communities and to share our God-gifted talents. Stop by the Fair, speak with representatives of all our service groups and ministries, choose a path that puts your unique gifts to doing Christ's work in our own local communities.

Each ministry will have a table set up with displays to showcase their work along with someone available to explain how God is moving through their ministry and answer any questions you may have. This is a great opportunity for you to discover ways you can contribute to the mission and vision of our church, meet some new people, and have fun in the process. Attendees will also get to vote on the best display! And one lucky attendee will win a lovely gift basket!

Worship Space Partnership



2025 is bringing extraordinary and unexpected opportunities to our congregation to share our many blessings; food for community members in need, financial support for local care organizations, accommodations for disaster recovery teams, and even sharing worship space with a small, dedicated Christian community working to grow in size and spirit.

Beginning February 9th, the **City of Refuge Christian Church**, a small but growing local Spanish-speaking church will be regularly renting facility space on our campus for their own worship services and related activities. Led by **Pastors Josean and Glenda Santiago**, this small spirit-filled congregation has been making-do in spaces ill-suited for worship.

Through a rental partnership with First Methodist, Ciudad De Refugio will be using our Chapel, Chapel Classroom, Parlor, and Courtyard regularly on Sundays from 1:00 to 3:00pm and Tuesdays from 7:30 to 9:30pm. The initial agreement is for six months with the option for both groups to continue the relationship beyond August.

We are truly excited and honored to be able to share our blessings to help Christian brothers and sisters in our community to grow in Christ's spirit and come together in prayer and worship. When we look around our own beautiful sanctuary, we can remember the tiny group of believers that joined together under Reverend Hawley in 1912 without a church, just a desire to praise and worship the Lord here in Zephyrhills. We pray that the Ciudad De Refugio community grows along their own path in the years ahead and adds their own unique blessings to the city we all call home.

Did You Know? [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected]

- The Messenger newsletter is available in electronic form through our weekly eBlasts. Just click on the link located at the top of the eBlast and download the PDF document.
- Our website [fmcz.org] offers a web-based calendar of all our important events and happenings. Go to our home page and scroll down. Click on VIEW ALL EVENTS and our interactive monthly calendar will open up.
- On our calendar, you can click on any event and it will open up with more information about times and locations.
- Our eBlast comes out every Thursday afternoon with weekly news and features of timely interest. Not on our list to receive it? Sign up at the bottom of our Home Page!
- Want to see one of our past worship services? Every service is available to watch on our WORSHIP page. Go to: <https://fmcz.org/worship> and click on the link named PAST SERVICES. Videos are listed chronologically and grouped by sermon themes.

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, 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
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
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 & 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

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

02/1 Jason Phillips
02/1 Sandra Wyman
02/2 Carol Norcross
02/3 Theresa Enkling
02/3 Kay Milligan
02/3 Billy Palmer
02/4 Deanna Calhoun
02/4 Joan Gaskill
02/7 Janet Davis
02/7 Tommy McCormick
02/8 Diane Belles
02/11 Virginia Cimorelli
02/12 Josiah Boggs
02/12 Todd Palmer
02/14 Dennis Dutkiewicz
02/15 Nancy Raia
02/16 Jay Austin
02/17 Pat Fletcher
02/17 Carol Scheckler
02/20 Joanne Harrell
02/20 George Pattison III
02/20 Judy Renault

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

02/04 Druann and Richard Briggs
02/14 Harry and Barbara Kehr
02/15 Charles and Patricia Pedigo
02/24 Nancy and Orville Bowers



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

Welcoming a Newest Member

On Sunday, January 19th at our 11:00am worship service, the newest and youngest member of our congregation was baptized into our church family. Standing for their new daughter, Penny Ember Jenkins, were Stephen and Elisabeth Jenkins. Little Penny was born on December 6th, 2024 in Tampa and was lovingly christened by her grandfather, our own Pastor Steve. What a brilliant addition to both families!



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 Avenue St., Zephyrhills, FL

Shirley Griffin

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

Roberta Hubbard

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
Luci Knepper

TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL ~ 1 Tampa General Cir., Tampa 813-844-7000

Terri Stanley

Staff and Organizational Contacts

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www.fmcz.org

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Peter Jordan, Treasurer

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Todd Kramer, Technical Director

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Giving Back [supporting and expanding the ministries of our church family]

**TRUE PEACE IS FOUND THROUGH
HAVING LESS, NOT MORE.
SHARING YOUR GIFTS AND BLESSINGS FURTHERS
CHRIST'S WORK IN OUR OWN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.**

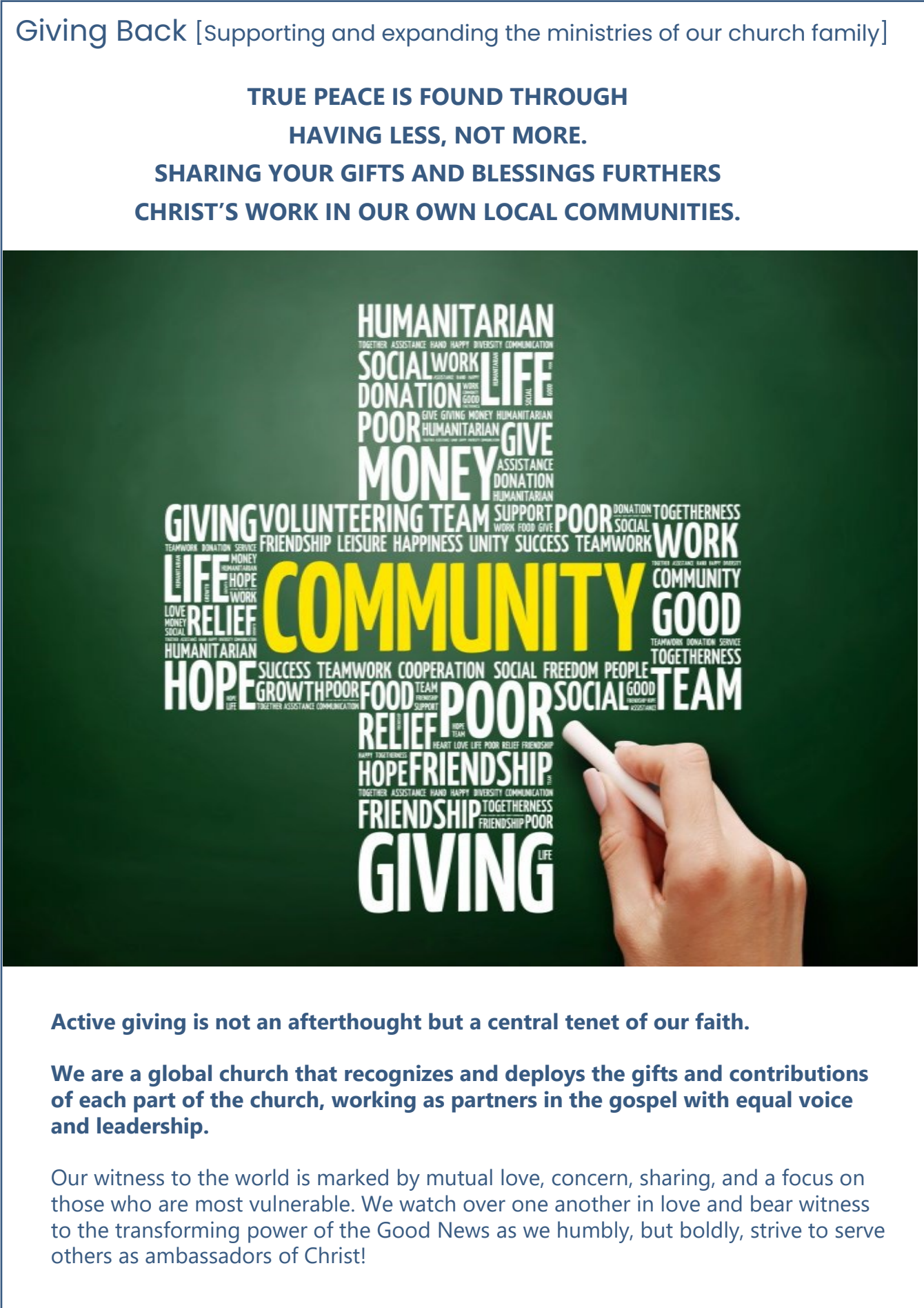
Active giving is not an afterthought but a central tenet of our faith.

We are a global church that recognizes and deploys the gifts and contributions of each part of the church, working as partners in the gospel with equal voice and leadership.

Our witness to the world is marked by mutual love, concern, sharing, and a focus on those who are most vulnerable. We watch over one another in love and bear witness to the transforming power of the Good News as we humbly, but boldly, strive to serve others as ambassadors of Christ!

HAVING LESS, NOT MORE.

CHRIST'S WORK IN OUR OWN LOCAL COMMUNITIES.



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