

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

Onboarding

August 2025

In this issue: ~ Meet Our New Members: page 14

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. See page 4 of this publication.

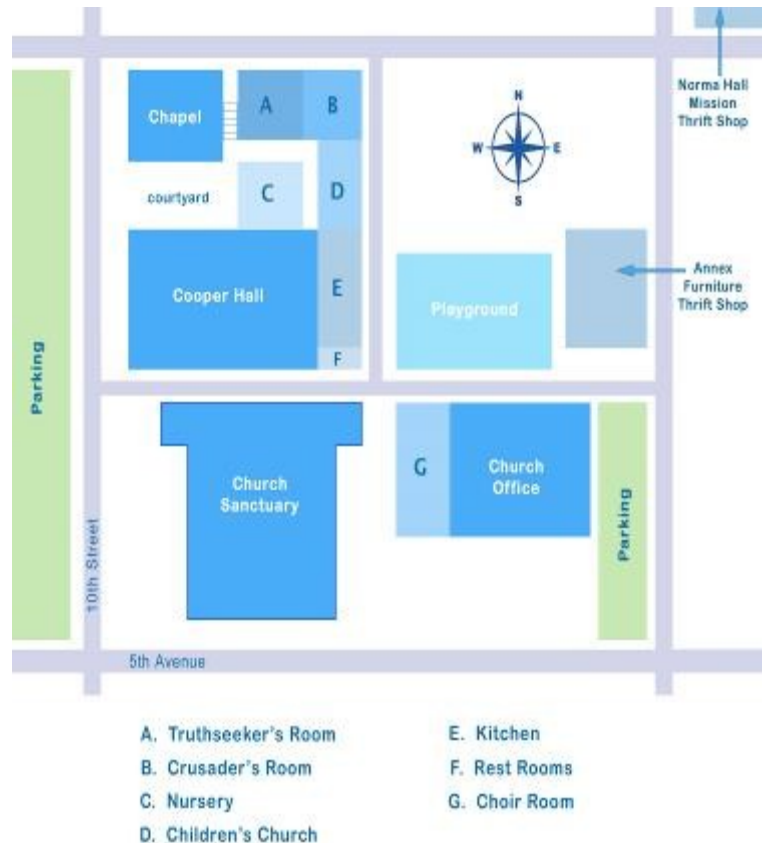
Restrooms

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



August 2025 Worship Services

Worship Themes

August continues with, "All In", the series about what Jesus called, "The Greatest Commandment" found in Deuteronomy 6:4-5 which is "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."

Sunday, August 3: Communion Sunday

All In – "All Your Soul" Deuteronomy 6:5b (NIV)

"In Biblical context, one's soul embraces the whole of your spiritual and physical self."

Sunday, August 10: Missions Celebration

All In – "All Your Strength" Deuteronomy 6:5c (NIV)

"Loving God encompasses all the many resources we have to give - to our fullest extent."

Sunday, August 17:

EMOTIONS – "Where is God When It Hurts?" Luke 7:11-16 (NIV)

"Jesus is shown in the Bible not just as an impartial or aloof observer, but as someone who saw through the lens of empathy, compassion, and engagement."

Sunday, August 24:

EMOTIONS – "Finding Relief from Anxiety" Mark 14:32-36 (NIV)

"On-going feelings of anxiety are signs that it's time to put your feelings into prayer."

Sunday, August 31: Fifth Sunday

EMOTIONS – "Angry Like Jesus" Matthew 21:12-17 (NIV)

"Being angry isn't a sin, but can quickly lead to sinful behavior if not tempered by the example that Jesus himself set of how strong emotion can still honor God."

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 for both choirs: 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

Sanctuary Mothers' Room

Mothers of very young children, don't forget our Sanctuary Mothers' Room, especially furnished to provide a quiet, 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 space. Stay connected to the service and the day's message even if you need to be away from the main sanctuary.



Sunday Study and Discussion Groups

Weekly study groups offer adult Bible study each Sunday morning in the Education Building Classrooms through Cooper Hall East.

Crusaders from 9:30 - 10:30am Truthseekers from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Crusaders Class: Facilitated by Jeanne Narum, this class finishes the summer quarter in August by studying Paul's words to the Corinthians regarding the Holy Spirit in their lives (and ours, too!)

Truthseekers Class: The World of the End....How Jesus' Prophecy Shapes Our Priorities. This is a 9 week study of the end times we are seeing currently (Matthew:24) and how we can be ready for the challenges we may face. This is a presentation by Dr. David Jeremiah via DVD viewing and a discussion following each presentation (no book required or homework). All are welcome and encouraged to participate in an active, thought-provoking dialogue. This study will begin on August 17 following the conclusion of the current study by Mark Batterson.

Technical Support Services [Team Leader ~ Todd Kramer]

Ministry Focus: Operating audio equipment and video presentation equipment to help form and present worship services and engage our audiences. Both Sunday services have their own unique sound and projection needs each week along with livestreaming to the web. For more details, contact the Technical Director at tkramer@fmcz.org



Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]

Everyone is welcome at the Big White Church on 5th Avenue! Our greeters and ushers create the first impressions of welcome to all visitors at worship services and events. Team members also help to maintain and set worship elements and collect tithes and gifts during services. Engaging all visitors is the first step in building our congregation. Fill out a [Ministry Interest Form](#) or speak to an usher if you would like to be a part of this vital team.



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

The Sunday Morning Café is located in Cooper Hall East from 9:00 - 11:00 am every Sunday before and between worship services.

The Sunday Café offers a casual atmosphere of simple breakfast snacks, refreshing morning drinks, and good fellowship. Start your Sunday with good friends and good conversation. So you don't miss anything, our sanctuary is livestreamed in real time during services.



MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

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

Children's Church (grades K - 5) continues in their Summer Sunday School series of special themes and activities through August 10th. Questions? Contact Carol Runyon at: crunyon@fmcz.org



8/03 **Tame the Wild Side** – Taming the Tongue – wear your favorite jungle print.

8/10 **Camping on His Word** – Staking out quality time for God, wear your favorite camp gear.

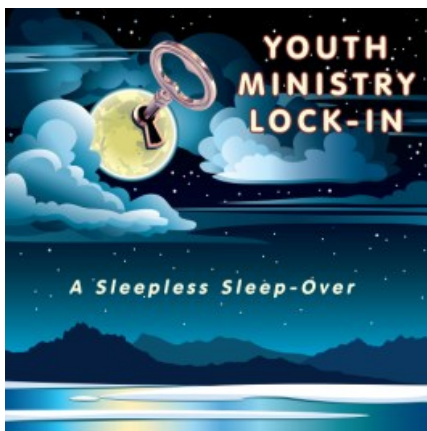
Bring your children and youth to Sunday Service from where they will be dismissed to the Cooper Hall Education Building for their own prayerful fun and Bible-based activities with Next Waves Kids and Youth Ministries. Children meet in the Children's Ministry Room down the main hallway of the Education wing 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".

August Youth Lesson Plan Unit 5 continues through the summer

August 03 ~ Lesson 49:	Topic - Israel's Blessing
August 10 ~ Lesson 51:	Topic - God Protects Moses
August 17 ~ Lesson 52:	Topic - God Calls Moses
August 24 ~ Lesson 53:	Topic - God Displays His Power
August 31 ~ Lesson 54	Topic - God Sends the Final Plague



Youth Campus Lock-In Night ~ Cooper Hall

Monday, August 4th arrival on campus at 7:00pm

Tuesday, August 5th pick up from campus 8:00am

FMCZ Youth are welcome to arrive at Cooper Hall at 7 pm. We will have pizza and snacks along with games and midnight karaoke. Those who are able to stay up will go look at the sunrise from the parking lot. All students must be picked up by 8:00am the morning of the 5th. Bring your friends and come do an all-nighter at the church. A signed and notarized permission form is needed for all students. See Karen Ezra for more details.

Prayer and Praise [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 lifted in prayer. The team also asks that requestors provide complete contact information in order for a group member to follow up with phone calls or cards. This group is always open to engage new members who look to serve through prayer and caring small group interaction.



PRAYER = Praise ~ Remembering ~ Asking ~ Yielding ~ Expecting ~ Receiving



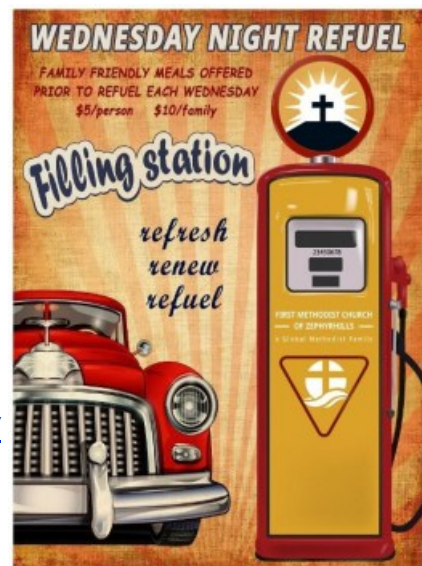
FMCZ Outreach Devotional Services

Regular devotional services are held 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. Team members are asked to arrive on site by 2:00pm. **This month's service will be held on August 17th.** Contact Roz Hill for more information, 443-834-8621.

Wednesday Night Refuel [Returning Fall 2025]

Wednesday Night Refuel dinners and classes will return to campus for a new ten week session beginning September 3rd and ending on November 5th. The schedule of classes is still being finalized, but will include a wide variety of general adult-oriented Bible and discipleship studies, a new class focused on younger adults in their 20's, 30's, and 40's, a deep dive into an Old Testament book, a study about Heaven from a Biblical perspective, as well as new studies for Youth, and a video-based discussion group for men.

You can find information on our web page, <https://fmcz.org/grow/wednesday-refuel-fall-2025/> which will be updated as details are set. You will be able to sign up for any of the classes from this page as soon as the **Refuel Sign Up Form** is posted.



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

Regular Emmaus reunion meetings, for those who have been on the Walk, are generally held on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30pm in the Crusader's classroom. The group traditionally does not meet during June, July, and August. The regular meetings will return on **Thursday, September 4th at 6:30pm**. Until then, if you have any questions about this ministry group or its gatherings, you may contact Roz Hill at 443-834-8621 or by email at rozzie1944@gmail.com.



Planning Meeting for September 13th Emmaus Gathering

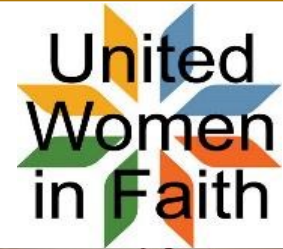
Monday, August 25th. 2:00pm Crusaders Room

Please RSVP by email to Roz Hill if you will be attending.

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Updates From Phyllis Blanchard:

Lunch on the second Thursday of July with our United Women in Faith Unit members was so fun! 11 smiling faces greeted us from across the table at Tina & Joe's Cafe. Love you Ladies!! We made quite a lively bunch!

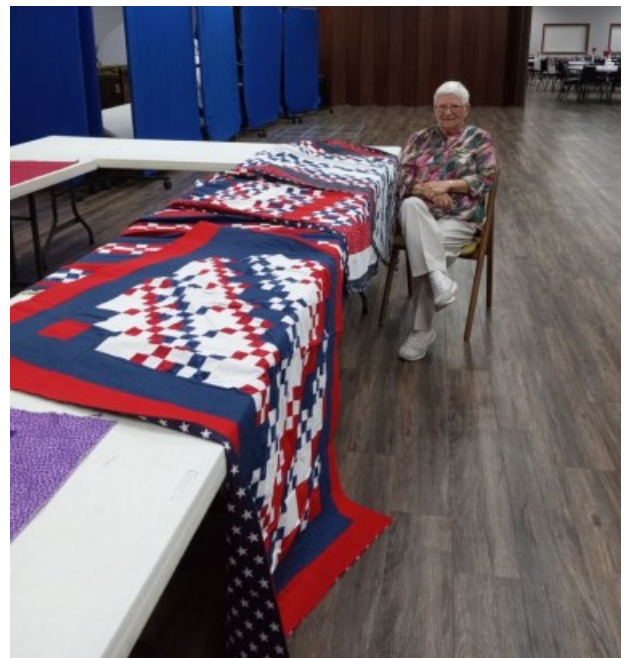


In Other News: We have a "field trip" to Dogs Inc. (formerly Southeastern Guide Dogs) August 14th. We'll leave the Parking Lot about 8:30am and stop for a fun meal on our way back. The trip to visit the training kennels is open to anyone who'd like to go, we'll take wheel chairs, canes, and walkers, and we'll charge enough to cover fuel and a donation to the kennel/campus. (I'm still working on that part \$\$). A little walking will be required, but Dogs Inc. will 'bus' us thru the tour and we'll be able to meet and hug 'students'. I'll need RSVPs by August 11th to ensure we have drivers. I'll be making my regular reminder calls the first week of August. Anyone not on my list will need to call me at 712-830-5196 to reserve one of our 15 seats before the 11th.

Further Ahead: We've got a Meals around the World dinner November 22nd, our annual Christmas dinner December 11th, and a Christmas Cookie Sale in Cooper Hall before and after church December 14th.

Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

The Project Others Team creates many useful and beautiful items of comfort and care for those in our area communities who may need to be reminded of the warm and loving embrace that our Heavenly Father provides to us always. Project member, Sandy Wyman is pictured here on right with some of the lovely and patriotic quilts that she makes for our local veterans in need. Thank you, Sandy, for sharing God's love and faithfulness through your very special gifts. You, and other team members, remind us all that there are so many ways to reach out Christ's hands to those in need.



THE PROJECT OTHERS TEAM (813)713 - 4119

Meeting faithfully for hand crafts,
fellowship, and prayer

Every Friday morning, 8:00 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall

MISSIONS: Community Outreach

Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]



"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."



"Food donation empowers all people to be agents of positive change in their own communities."

Anonymous

Food Pantry Distribution Days are August 11, 12, and 13
THIS MONTH'S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS AUGUST 17TH

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

New Fall decor and holiday decorations are now on the shelves!!
Fall holiday tees are also hanging on the racks!!
Stock up on some fabulous buys and support the Thrift store's ministries.
Come visit the Christmas store in the Annex for all your holiday needs.

Regularly Featured In the Annex

Furniture and a wide variety of larger home goods

Regularly Featured In the Main Shop

Clothing, books, and smaller home goods and decor

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

Mondays 8am–12pm
Donations only

Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am–12pm
Both Sales & Donations



Spotlight < Salvation's Rock ~ Praise Song Playlist



Welcome to Praise Playlist, a new monthly feature where one of the Salvation's Rock members will suggest a song that they think should be added to your own Worship Playlist. The band's service song sets for each Sunday are now announced in the weekly eBlasts, but these are additional Contemporary Christian tunes that band members feel especially drawn to as they choose weekly music, even if they are not in our music library or available to play at worship service. This month's song is suggested by Sarah Gale, one of the band's principal vocalists.

Sarah writes, "The song I chose is **Hide Myself In You by Loop Worship & Rochelle Burlock**"

"I chose this song to spotlight because it is my go-to choice when I am struggling through hard times. It is a reminder that sometimes, answers from God take time and to not let fear and anxiety take over but to continue having faith that God will answer in His time. He is our refuge and he will pull us through our trials. I'd love to hear your thoughts on this song!"

Listen here:

[Hide Myself In You by Loop Worship and Rochelle Burlock](#)



Long Term Prayer List [For August 2025]

Along with the weekly list of those connected to our congregation in need of prayer support, our team of prayer warriors maintains 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 team asks all church family members to keep these individuals in your own prayers as well throughout the summer. As Jesus reminded us, "Ask, using my name, and you will receive."

Gary Bridges, Chloe Budge, Michele Devine, Richard Dreyer, Jim Elliot, Larry Gower, Randy Hall, Gary McLean, Steven Noh, Terri Stanley, Trisha Stevens, Roxanne Young. [updated 7-28-2025]

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Milligan]

Update From Kay Milligan

As Pastor Steve spoke of in the Money Problem sermon series in June, we receive joy in recognizing and assisting to fill the needs of others. I hope this report gives all of you great joy to know how generously you have given throughout this year to our Mission of the Month focus. Among other missions, you gave \$831 to Sunrise of Pasco County, \$929 to Bridging Freedom of Tampa (human trafficking safe house), \$3320 to our Cuban sister church, \$735 to the Zephyrhills Pregnancy Care Center and \$2516 to our Food Pantry. It costs \$1000 to \$1500 per month to fund our pantry, some of the cost being covered by direct donations of food and personal hygiene items. These ministries are able to help so many of His children in their difficult times of need due to your abundant and cheerful giving. Thank you all for your blessings to these ministries. **In August, we once again lift up our own Community Food Pantry as our spotlight Mission of the Month, working hard to bridge the hunger gap in our own neighborhoods, through the strength of our own hands and hearts.**

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

Don't forget to visit our special website gallery documenting the mission team's February 2025 trip to Cuba: <https://fmcz.org/missions/cuba-mission-trip-2025/>

Spotlight < Residing Hope Recognition [5th Sundays and Monthly Missions]

On Sunday, July 6th, guest speaker, Rev. Brian Carr, Director of Church Relations for Residing Hope Methodist Children's Home, presented Sandy Coon, our congregation's 5th Sunday Mission Leader, with the certificate of appreciation shown below. The generosity of the members of this church is the fuel that powers the extraordinary level of care provided to Florida's children in need by this 117 year old organization. Read about the good work your gifts make possible: <https://residinghope.org/>



Spotlight < Campus Repairs and Upgrades [FMCZ Trustees]

The stewardship of our campus complex is never complete as our dedicated board of trustees will quickly concede. Recently, the air conditioning in Cooper Hall received a deep diagnostic review and some inspired repairs that fixed much of the temperature issues that have characterized the building for several seasons. This without the need to invest in a completely new system, as was the concern. Other recent Cooper Hall projects included updating the kitchen grease traps to meet changing city requirements, repairing our ice machine, replacing worn out kitchen equipment, and performing all those small but vital repairs that seem to always be in an endless waiting line.

You may also notice that our campus grounds continue to have their beds watered, tended and replanted with new, locally appropriate perennials that add color and visual variety to the campus shrubs and ground-covers. We all feel how hot and dry this summer has been, so it is a blessing to have our grounds remain looking fresh and vibrant despite the extremes of our weather.

Supported by the Moving Forward fund, we are continuing the extensive rebranding process with the design and production of new exterior building signs to replace the old black and white block letter signs. Sign installation will begin in the next several weeks and plans are being drawn up for two exterior pedestal maps that will direct visitors around our campus. The slat-board panel inside our west corner monument sign will soon be replaced with a new metal insert sporting our logo and color scheme.

These and many other repairs and improvements are being accomplished through the dedication and drive of both volunteers and part-time staff members. With everyone's help and stewardship (even with small things like turning off lights and locking doors), our campus will always put its best foot forward in both appearance and practical service.



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 information.



In May of this year, we commissioned three new Stephen Ministers who completed a very intense fifty hour course on how to provide confidential, faith-centered care to those in crisis. A new class will be forming in January 2026. Anyone interested in joining this important service ministry, please contact Dave Hill now to reserve a spot in the class.

Faith Responders Local Update [From Rev. Laura Lambert , Executive Director]

Our Faith Responders team has spent the past several days in Texas, offering emotional and spiritual care to families devastated by the historic flooding along the Guadalupe, Concho and San Saba Rivers.

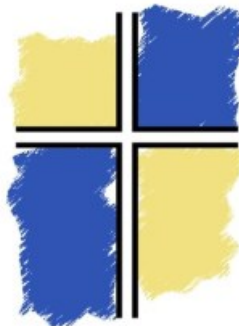
We've visited communities in Menard, Paint Rock, San Angelo, and San Saba, all towns deeply impacted by floodwaters that overtook homes, cars, and entire neighborhoods. The destruction is overwhelming, but the strength and faith of the people we've met is humbling.

In Paint Rock, Pastor Terry and his wife had to wade through knee-deep water to reach higher ground after their home was overtaken. In Menard, we spent time with the Methodist church, encouraging their leaders as they continue to serve a hurting community. In San Angelo, pastors welcomed us with joyful hearts, even as their towns face ongoing cleanup and heartbreak. And in San Saba, we witnessed the quiet strength of church and community volunteers working through the wreckage left behind while families piece their lives back together.

Yesterday we were joined by three volunteers from the Tyler, Texas area - Pastor Dan, Pastor Chris and Manny. They went along side work crews and assessors, and walked the streets praying with survivors, listening to their stories and sharing God's grace. As Pastor Dan shared at the end of the evening... *"I know what we are doing is making a difference in the lives of the survivors, but the opportunity to stand along side them and pray has transformed and changed me".*

And we're not done. Today, our team continues on to Kerrville, where we will meet up with Pastor Colleen who has been out each day praying with survivors, volunteers, and rescue workers sharing God's love and the light of Christ. We go filled with faith and purpose to help, to listen, to pray, and to remind people that they are not alone. God is present and there is a plan and future for each one.

Across every stop, our goal is simple: to be a source of God's peace and presence in the aftermath. The heartache is real, but so is the hope.



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

Faith Community Nursing [Team Leader ~ Druann Briggs, RN 813-420-7919]

Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ August 17th ~ 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall


PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES

Back-to-School Health: Tips for Parents


School can put pressure on children and parents. As a parent, you may worry about things like your child's academic performance, health and relationships with other students and teachers. And while you can't keep an eye on your child at school, you can encourage healthy habits starting at a young age.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL HEALTH: 4 TIPS FOR PARENTS

Tip One: Focus on Your Child's Nutrition




17% of youth aged two to 19 in the United States are obese




40% of total daily calories for two to 18 year olds are empty calories from added sugars and solid fats

IF YOU HAVE A PICKY EATER:


- Continue introducing new foods
- Be a role model for a healthy diet
- Don't use food as a reward




Tip Two: Know the Risks Your School-Aged Child May Face




HEAD LICE
The most common way to get head lice is by head-to-head contact that often happens during play time, sport activities and sleepovers.



SCOLIOSIS
Watch for uneven shoulders or hips, and make sure your child gets regular scoliosis checkups. Early diagnosis is key.




BULLYING
Only 17% of children seek help after being bullied. Don't miss the early signs: changes in behavior, academic problems, anxiety, depression and self-harm.




POOR VISION
Squinting, tilting the head and holding handheld devices too closely are just some of the signs your child may have a vision problem.


Tip Three: Make Sleep a Priority



Children (and adults!) lose sleep due to **OVERUSE** of digital devices



Sleep is **EQUALLY** as important as diet and exercise



Most healthy children need **EIGHT TO 10 HOURS** of sleep each night

ESTABLISH A SLEEP RITUAL:


- Put away electronic devices at least one hour before bedtime
- Avoid exercise, a warm bath or a hot shower shortly before bed
- Encourage children to read a book before bedtime
- A light snack before bed can be beneficial, but avoid caffeine

Tip Four: Be a Partner in Your Child's Education, Health and Wellness

Start the conversation by talking to teachers about your child's:

- Likes and dislikes
- Strengths and struggles
- Preferred learning styles
- Any other issues that may affect them at school

SOURCES:
Johns Hopkins Medicine pediatric division; Vanderbilt University; pediatric dermatologist; Bernard Cohen; pediatric ophthalmologist; Elizabeth Collins; professor of orthopedic surgery; Paul Springer; Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion; U.S. Department of Justice; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; U.S. Census Bureau; 2011; Pew Research Center; International Food Information Council Foundation; School Nutrition Association



Download this entire info-graphic at the link below:

[Johns Hopkins Tips for Parents](#)

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.



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.



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.

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!



Bob Bailey



Lynn Cox



Donnie Iwaniec



Cheryl Wilson



Bob Wilson *



Debbie Adams



Gary Adams



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

New Members Presentations
Sunday, July 27, 2025
"Aloha!"

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Information, Fellowship, Music

Young At Heart Presentations [Team Leader ~ Harry Kehr]



Speaker:
Llanivi Ortega
Zephyrhills Office

YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

**Thursday, August 21st
11:30am—1:00pm
Cooper Hall**

**Presentation:
Home Instead
Senior in-Home Services**

Q and A segment
after presentation



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

Join us in welcoming our neighbors

Back to School Pancake Breakfast

**Sunday, August 10th
9:00am - 12:00Noon**

**First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills
in Cooper Event Hall**

Start School With a Good Breakfast

Pancakes for all ★ Free school supplies for kids! ★ www.fmcz.org

Making Disciples of Christ - *"Through our ministries, we desire to share the whole counsel of God with all peoples and to advance the presence and fulfillment of the Kingdom of God in every part of the world and at all levels of societies and cultures. The Global Methodist Church is committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the inspiration and authority of the Scriptures, and the work of the Holy Spirit in conveying God's truth and grace to all people."*

Whether we are singing in a choir or band on Sunday, packing food bags to distribute to those in need, answering telephones, greeting visitors, cleaning class and office rooms, preparing food for special events, repairing a broken door handle or a leaking faucet, sweeping a sidewalk, or leading a study class; we are working to a deeper purpose than our outward activities show. Every member of FMCZ is part of an active Christian culture, committed to the service of others and the sharing of God's word with the world around us. Evangelism happens every time we reach beyond ourselves.

SPECIAL NOTES: Information and Fellowship

THIS MONTH'S COVER: The term, "on-boarding" has its origins in the corporate world of the 1970's as the horribly impersonal "organizational socialization". It referred to the process of familiarizing and integrating new members with the finer details of the company they are about to join. Thankfully, the term evolved to acquire a more inviting feel with overtones of being welcomed aboard a ship or plane and becoming familiarized with the promises and expectations of the journey ahead. At its best, on-boarding is a social welcome mat, the act of greeting just prior to that step through the open door. As such, it becomes perhaps the most important process in a company's new-hire policies and sets much of the tone for the social environment to come. Churches, as social organizations, on-board also. Our doors open to visitors and prospective members each Sunday, and how we, as a family, communicate that greeting can often be the defining element on whether a visitor chooses to stay or moves on to another congregation. The Big White Church is a "ship" with room for many more guests and regular passengers. How we "on-board" as a congregation, helps determine which they will be.

Fifth Sunday Special [FMCZ Family Ministries ~ Organized by Miriam Ezra]



Did You Know? [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected]

- On our home page (<https://www.fmcz.org>) you will find active links to various pages of current interest. These links will change and update as often as needed so always check this page for new links of interest.
- We are currently moving most of our registration and sign-up activities to online, electronic forms. Active links to sign-up forms will always be provided in the Messenger or eBlast. The links will also be posted on the home page as they become live.
- We are currently building photo galleries that document some of the many events, and activities taking place on and around our campus. But often, events remain undocumented because the ministry or event coordinators are busy, well, . . .coordinating! and not on documenting. If you have taken personal photos of recent events you can share them to the communications desk at tjgale@fmcz.org for inclusion in the web-based galleries we are building. And if you love taking photos, please talk to the communications director about ongoing campus photo projects!

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

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

08/01 Miriam Ezra	08/19 April Conolly
08/01 Anne Mester	08/19 Eric Gale
08/02 Larry Crawn	08/19 Karen Harwell
08/03 Roxanne Bricker-Geisenheimer	08/20 Aria Adwell
08/03 Robert Harrell	08/20 Karen Ezra
08/03 Patty Thompson	08/20 David Harwell
08/04 Richard Briggs	08/21 Ray Lambert
08/04 Cot Cross	08/22 Alexandra Harwell
08/05 Marsha Dulier	08/22 Wanda Rakocy
08/05 Debra Gregory	08/23 Peggy Kunkel
08/05 Wes Lonnquist	08/24 Cathy Gano
08/05 Teresa Stewart	08/24 Gary Hartman
08/06 Cassandra Abernathy	08/24 Barb Stein
08/06 Suzanne Springfield	08/24 Robin Williams
08/07 Marian Kay Crawn	08/25 Lois Hall
08/07 Irl Crook	08/25 Pamela Manapat
08/10 Ann Beal	08/26 Pamela Williams
08/11 Christopher Ferraro	08/27 Sally Bair
08/14 Gaynell Jeffries	08/27 Terri Kramer
08/16 George Rood	08/29 Dora Kenzie Burnside
08/17 Carole Oesch	08/29 Beth Smock
08/18 Pamela Kennard	08/30 Tana Day
08/18 Claire Mullen	08/30 Dale Smock
08/18 Sam Sager	08/31 Charles Parker

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

08/02	Cot and Kathy Cady Cross
08/08	Barbara and John Sheldon
08/09	Joan and Robert Gaskill
08/10	Dale and Beth Smock
08/18	David and Roz Hill
08/21	Terri and Todd Palmer
08/23	Sami and Henry (Bud) Sykes
08/25	Larry and Marian Kay Crawn
08/25	Donna and Sam Sager
08/28	Dewey and Sandy Coon
08/30	Greg and Nancy Brooks



Spotlight < Home Instead [August Young at Heart Presentation]

Home Instead is a national senior care company with thousands of locally run franchise units that offer many levels of professional senior care at the homes of their clients. **According to their website:**

Home care – also called senior care and in-home caregiving – is a service provided by your local Home Instead offices that regularly sends a Care Professional to a person's home or care community to help them accomplish activities of daily living, such as bathing, doing the laundry and meal preparation. The company provides individualized care plans with one-on-one



attention, helping older adults maintain their independence and dignity as they age. Care Pros can also offer the vital companionship needed to prevent loneliness and isolation, helping older adults to get the appropriate care services they need while staying in the home they know and love.

A professional Care Pro can help older adults or those with chronic health conditions complete all kinds of routine activities, such as bathing, dressing, cooking, and housework to make daily life easier and safer. Care Pros can also help family members by delivering expert care that gives everyone peace-of-mind and relieves any feelings of caregiving being “burdensome.” A Care Pro also may enjoy one on one socializing by chatting, engaging in activities like puzzles or crafts and listening to music.

<https://www.homeinstead.com/home-care/usa/fl/wesley-chapel-zephyrhills-dade-city/755/>

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
Joan Donaldson

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

Ira Crook Room 207

COMMUNITY CARE CENTER~ 2202 W Oak Ave, Plant City, FL 33563 813-754-3761

Fay Kingery

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

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

We make many investments in our lives, perhaps one of the most significant is the one 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. As Methodists and members of the Global Methodist Family we are charged to make disciples of Christ by our examples in words and actions. First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills has a long and proud history of direct support for a wide array of local ministries and missions, generously giving to help fill the many needs we see, both large and small. Below is just a small sampling of ways our church members have worked to directly contribute to making lives around us better and sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

Foremost in our investment strategies should be the stewardship of the blessings we ourselves have received; the beautiful sanctuary and campus that directly supports so many charitable activities. Donations to the many active repair and upgrade projects can be made on our Vanco site through BUILDING FUND / PROPERTY PRESERVATION. [VANCO ONLINE - First Methodist Church/Home](#)



Our church committee, the Commission on Missions, is a dedicated group of FMCZ members who meet monthly to review, debate, and choose monthly recipients of charitable investment. The Commission highlights a different "Mission of the Month", but their contributions behind the scenes extend far beyond these twelve annual recipients. See the feature on page 9.



Throughout the month of June 2025, the FMCZ Scholarship Fund accepted applications from qualified church members for assistance towards some of the many expenses students encounter while pursuing their degrees or training. This year the committee is pleased to announce that it provided three awards of \$3,000 each to deserving young scholars in support of their further education.



The Pasco Schools ABC program is designed to provide support to students and their families that are experiencing economic hardship or are in an immediate family crisis. Standing for "Assist, Believe, and Care" the program is an integral part of every Pasco County school. FMCZ has directly supported this program in ten of our nearby neighborhood schools. School starts 8/11!



AMVETS (national veterans service organization) Post 550 in Zephyrhills offers a little publicized food assistance program to all veterans in our area once a week. Unlike many area food banks, the program is able to offer refrigerated food assistance as well as canned and boxed food items. This program is one of many that the proceeds from our Norma Hall Thrift Stores go to support.



Sunrise of Pasco is a local advocacy organization for county residents who have been impacted by domestic or sexual abuse. The program provides counseling, case management, and support groups for individuals of all ages, completely free of charge. It also provides legal assistance and education with the goal to end domestic violence while supporting those struggling through its effects.



A large part of the work of our campus-based ministries is to support these and many more local charitable and care-focused organizations, over forty different groups and mission projects. When you support our church programs, you are extending the helping hand and love of Christ beyond the activities you see and impacting our community for a good that reaches far into the future.