

# The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH  
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —  
a Global Methodist Family

*Independent  
Together*

*July 2025*

*In this issue: new monthly feature, Salvation's Rock Praise Playlist ~ page 9*

38635 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

Church Office: (813) 782-5645

[www.fmcz.org](http://www.fmcz.org) / [info@fmcz.org](mailto: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***



- |                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| A. Truthseeker's Room | E. Kitchen    |
| B. Crusader's Room    | F. Rest Rooms |
| C. Nursery            | G. Choir Room |
| D. Children's Church  |               |



## July 2025 Worship Services

### Worship Themes

For the first two weeks of July, sermon themes will be stand-alone subjects. The third Sunday will mark the beginning of a new four-part series that will extend into August. Titled, "All In" this series focuses on 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." This series will then "set up" the following series for the rest of fall, a deep dive into each of the Ten Commandments.

### Sunday, July 6: Communion Sunday

*"Ripples of Generosity – Waves of Grace " Acts 4:32-37 (NIV)*

*"Believers felt that what they owned was not their own so they shared freely."*

### Sunday, July 13:

*"The Spirit In You" Romans 8:9-17 (The VOICE Translation)*

*"Receive the Spirit and be welcomed into God's own family"*

### Sunday, July 20:

*All In – "God Is One" Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV)*

*"Once we know that Yahweh is the one true God - our God, then we can be 'all in' with our acceptance of his will and devotion to his Word "*

Invitation to Salvation: New Members Class in Crusaders Room after worship services (see page 10)

### Sunday, July 27: Hawaiian Shirt Sunday for all!

*All In – "All Your Heart" Deuteronomy 6:5a (NIV)*

*"Loving God means devoting your thoughts, choices, and intentions fully to him."*

New Members received at both worship services.

## 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**

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## New Drum Set for Salvation's Rock

Anyone who attends the 9:30 Contemporary Service on Sundays knows that a key musical component in most every song is percussion. While Salvation's Rock, led by Eric Gale, explores an array of different contemporary stylings in their song sets, percussion is a key to providing the overall feel of Contemporary Christian Music. While the process has been a long one coming, we are so thankful to announce that a new electronic drum set has now been purchased thanks to the extraordinary blessings of three different donations from members of our church family, earmarked specifically for the percussion upgrade. The various components are now arriving and Eric hopes to be able to install and "tune in" the full set before the summer ends. The whole band is so thankful for the generosity of its donors and looks forward to raising up new songs and ever more voices to the Lord! His Hand is truly everywhere.



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## Sunday Study and Discussion Groups

Weekly study groups offer adult Bible study each Sunday morning through 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 through the topics begun in their June discussions. Facilitated by Jeanne Narum, the group is studying Paul's letters to the Corinthians, as they focus on the unity of the church community by celebrating our diversity and working toward mutual goals and understanding. We look at what it means to be one body in Christ. All are welcome to join and share in the discussions and insights.

**Truthseekers Class** continues its unit by Mark Batterson titled, "The Grave Robber." It is on the seven miracles of Jesus as told in the gospel of John.

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## Technical Support Services [Team Leader ~ Todd Kramer]

Ministry Focus: Running and mixing live audio and/or computer presentations. Using computers and presentation technology to help form and present worship services and engage our audiences. To join, contact the Technical Director at [tkramer@fmcz.org](mailto:tkramer@fmcz.org)

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## Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]

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

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

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

The Sunday Café is currently looking for volunteers to help with food and drink set ups for an 8:30 - 11:00am time slot and an 11:00am - 12:00pm time slot. Anyone interested should speak with Michelle Hill during Sunday serving times.





## 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](mailto:crunyon@fmcz.org)



- 7/06 **Stars & Stripes** – Learn about the Stars in the Bible – wear your patriotic Red, White & Blue
- 7/13 **Rock of Ages** – Learn about the many songs David gave us in the Book of Psalms, wear your favorite Rock T-shirt
- 7/20 **MARVEL at His Wonders** – Discover the Wonders in the Bible & wear your favorite Marvel character T-shirt
- 7/27 **Hawaiian Luau** – A Luau is a special celebration – Wear your Hawaiian shirt & Celebrate as we worship our Lord.

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 Next Waves Kids and Youth Ministries. 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". Last month's Wonder Junction VBS proved to be a huge success both in attendance and accomplishment. Watch our website for the VBS Photo Gallery coming soon.

#### July Youth Lesson Plan ~ Unit 5 continues through the summer

- |                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| July 06 ~ Lesson 45: | Topic - Joseph Becomes a Slave       |
| July 13 ~ Lesson 46: | Topic - God Blesses Joseph           |
| July 20 ~ Lesson 47: | Topic - Joseph Rises to Power        |
| July 27 ~ Lesson 48: | Topic - Joseph Forgives His Brothers |

#### Family Ministries Movie Night

Mark your calendars for **Tuesday, July 22nd for the Summer**

**Family Ministries Movie Night.** Please join us in Cooper Hall from 6:00 - 8:00pm for a special showing of the animated movie, Prince of Egypt. The film was produced and distributed by DreamWorks Studios and is a retelling of the Book of Exodus, following the life of Moses. The evening's fun includes free movie snacks and \$2.00 hot dog & chip special.



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## 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](mailto: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. See our Spotlight feature on page 9 for more details about this long-serving and vital ministry of prayer warriors. This group is always open to engage new members who look to serve through prayer and small group interaction.



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

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## 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. **This month's service will be held on July 20th.** Contact Roz Hill for more information, 443-834-8621.

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## Invitation Stations [Narthex and Cooper Hall]

Spread the word about the many blessings our church offers and extend your hand in invitation! Invitation Stations are in Cooper Hall and the Narthex; our pocket-sized invitation cards offer a perfect way to actively get the message out 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!"



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## 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 in September. 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](mailto:rozzie1944@gmail.com).

### Planning Meetings for September 13th Emmaus Gathering

Monday, July 21st. 2:00pm Crusaders Room

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

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





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## United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]



Updates From Phyllis Blanchard:

After Day 4 of Vacation Bible School, 14 happy faces greeted me for lunch at ABC PIZZA in Zephyrhills.

We shared baby pictures and sang Happy birthday to our Lyn whose birthday is tomorrow. We ate the most luscious Greek salads and listened to The VBS story about Calamity Mack and Jill's rise and fall.

Our next lunch is at 11:30am at Tina & Joe's Café, at 38537 5th Ave in Zephyrhills Thursday, July 10th.



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## Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

The Project Others Team invites everyone to make a stop at the Ministry Bulletin Board when you're next in Cooper Hall. The team has assembled a treasure trove of photos from years of loving hands-on work by Ministry members. This dedicated group of superb fabric crafters and quilters has quietly assembled an impressive array of hand-made items to be donated to organizations and care projects all around the eastern Pasco area and beyond. Care and comfort bundles, holiday stockings and bags, and items made specifically for the physical and emotional comfort of those who may be bed or chair confined, the output of this ministry continues unabated with no slacking in sight.



Pictures are worth many words and these photos tell a full and inspiring story about the many women behind the Friday morning labors that have done and continue to do so much good. Stop by the board and spend some time enjoying these memories; then come to Cooper Hall and join in making more!

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 West

## 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."*  
Matthew 25:23

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

Anonymous

**Food Pantry Distribution Days are July 14, 15, and 16**  
**THIS MONTH'S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS JULY 20TH**

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

#### Christmas in July Sale

**Wednesday, July 23rd & Saturday, July 26th**

In Main building:

**ALL Regular priced items 1/2 off**

**Discounts taken on Red Line and Clearance items**

In Annex:

**Christmas Items- fill a bag for \$5.00!!**

#### Regularly Featured In the Annex

Furniture and a wide variety of larger home goods

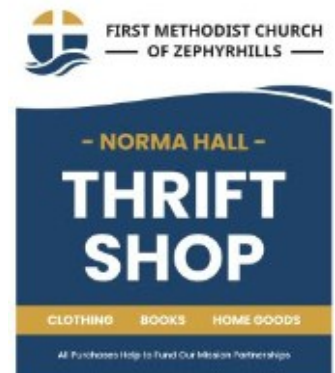
#### Regularly Featured In the Main Shop

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**





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## Spotlight < Salvation's Rock ~ Praise Playlist [submitted by Eric Gale]



Welcome to the first installment of 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 will continue to be 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.

My song of choice this month would be Home by Forrest Frank. I really enjoy the variety of musical sounds and changes. The song goes from a very relaxed sound to acoustic and then the chorus hits home (no pun intended) with a big choir sound. When I close my eyes I can visualize someone walking up a hill through the trials and chaos of life to the understanding and clarity coming in through the chorus saying "I'm finally home".

With my wife and I expecting a little one any day now, the welcome home has so many different emotions tied to this song; with not just welcoming our little girl into the world, but also her becoming a part of God's world. I hope you get the opportunity to give this song a listen. Come find me after service and I'd love to hear your thoughts. Till then, we'll be praising on repeat!

Listen here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTpgQpTrYYI>

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## Long Term Prayer List [For June, July, and 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, Michele Devine, Jim Elliot, Larry Gower, Randy Hall, Gary McLean, Terri Stanley, Trisha Stevens, Roxanne Young.

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## Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Milligan]

July's Mission of the Month is Residing Hope, the renamed Florida Methodist Orphanage in Enterprise, Florida, begun in 1908 with the mission, *"to found a noble Christian institution for the relief, education and training of destitute, fatherless and motherless children, who may look to us for help."* In the 117 years since then, this organization has continued to grow and adapt to the changing needs of its charges, diversifying its ministries to include a foster care component, therapeutic residential care, independent living assistance, Montessori education, and outpatient counseling services across a number of Florida counties. All this has been regularly fueled by donations from Methodist Churches' 5th Sunday Collections and special donation drives throughout our state.

On Sunday, July 6th, Residing Hope's Director of Church Relations, Brian Carr will be speaking at both services about the organization's vital work.



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

Please visit the special website gallery documenting our mission team's 2025 trip to Cuba: <https://fmcz.org/missions/cuba-mission-trip-2025/>

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## Spotlight < New Members Class Now Forming

Our next new members class will be on **Sunday, July 20 at 12:00 noon in the Crusaders classroom**. If you've ever considering formally joining or transferring to our church family, this is the class for you! We'll learn more about who we are, where we've come from, what we believe, and where we are going as a church, and learn about our connection as part of the growing Global Methodist Church. **Lunch will be included** in this 90-minute class (12:00-1:30pm). To sign up, please email [info@fmcz.org](mailto:info@fmcz.org) with your contact information, use the form on our web page here: <https://fmcz.org/grow/new-members-class-july-2025/> or call the church office.



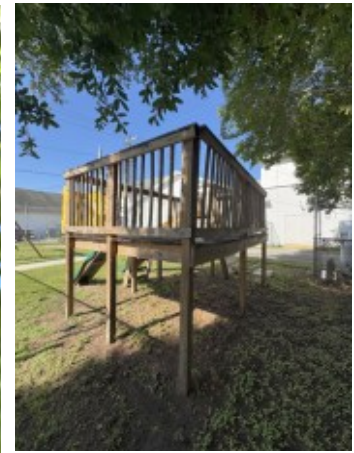
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## Spotlight < Family Ministries to Replace Old Playground Equipment



Over this summer, our Family Ministries program will be tearing down the old existing playground climbing structures with the plan to raise enough money to purchase a new set by the time our children return to school in the fall. As we all know, Florida weather is particularly hard on outdoor furniture and playground gear, and our existing set is now to the point of being dangerous for anyone using it. While the swing set is still in usable condition, the climbing structures are beyond a cursory repair. In addition, we would like to landscape the fenced in play area with soft, children-friendly mulch made specifically for playgrounds and their environs. Proceeds from June's Soup Luncheon jumpstarted the purchase fund and the ministry hopes to collect enough other donations to complete the purchase before fall. If you would like

to give to this project, please contact Karen Ezra at [kezra@fmcz.org](mailto:kezra@fmcz.org) or go to the Vanco website and designate a gift to "Playground Gear". Thanks for helping our FMCZ kids PLAY NICE!



As part of this project, Karen Ezra, our Director of Family Ministries, will be coordinating the tear down of the existing climbing structure. Some of this structure has already been taken down and removed. If you would like to provide hands-on assistance removing the remainder, please contact Karen at [kezra@fmcz.org](mailto:kezra@fmcz.org)

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## 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.



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## Summer Wednesday Evening Study Group [Team Leader ~ Pastor Steve Ezra]

**Wednesday Nights This Summer**  
**A new 6-week study group**  
**from the book by Mark Mittelberg,**  
**guided by Pastor Steve Ezra.**

As disciples of Christ, we are called to share the good word but few of us are naturally comfortable with evangelism. **Contagious Faith** will prepare you to share God's love with others in a way that's fully authentic, comfortable, and impactful.

**July 16th through August 20th**  
**6:45 - 8:00pm**  
**Education Building**  
**Book required for group participation**



Reserve your spot here:

<https://fmcz.org/grow/contagious-faith-2025/>

Or sign up in the church office

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

Faith Responders continues to coordinate and manage multiple volunteer groups to complete hands-on repair and disaster restoration projects throughout Central Florida, including Zephyrhills, Dade City, and Ridge Manor. FMCZ is an active volunteer base for work being done in our area and members of our church family are encouraged to participate according to your skills and abilities. Visit our web page to find current volunteer opportunities: <https://fmcz.org/missions/faith-responders-spring-2025/>

Our campus hosting of volunteer groups is on the rise with the arrival of optimal summer weather and school vacation schedules. June 25 through 29, FMCZ hosted a group of 25 youth volunteers from the Tallahassee area, here to work on properties along and around the Withlacoochee River. They spent their days at project sites, then traveled back to the FMCZ campus each evening for meals and sleep, also attending our 9:30 worship service on Sunday. Again in early July, another group of young volunteers will be using FMCZ campus as their project base camp, supervised by the Faith Responder coordinators.

At the start of this particular project, five houses were slated to be repaired. As of this writing, three have been completed and a fourth has been started. The fifth and final is expected to be completed before the end of the summer.

### What can YOU do to help?

- Start a Faith Responders volunteer team in your church or area
- Sign up to serve on a response crew, phone volunteer
- Partner with your church to be trained and mobilized
- Join our prayer ministry or provide a prayer quilt
- Or give to help us deploy, respond, and support when help is needed





## 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

Next Big Red Bus Blood Drive ~ July 20th in front of Sanctuary, 9:00 - 11:00am

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES



*Be Ready*  
**HURRICANE  
PREPAREDNESS**  
*Stay Safe*



If you or a loved one has **special needs** this storm season, be sure to take them into account when developing your hurricane safety plans. Special needs will add a measurable level of complexity to your safety plans! What exactly are “special needs” in this context? They may include but not be confined to the following: requiring wheelchairs, or walkers for mobility, regularly using a special bed, chair, or toilet, needing health sustaining equipment like oxygen or tube feeding on an on-going basis, or requiring daily medical or care support by a family member or third party provider. Any of these elements will make your storm preparations more complex and should be considered as a central part of your plans.

**Register With Your County Emergency Management Agency** -- Pasco County, like other counties in Florida, are required to voluntarily register people who need evacuation assistance in the event of an emergency such as a hurricane. **In an evacuation, appropriate vehicles will be sent to transport pre-registered county residents to a public shelter, special needs unit, or hospital. Transportation will not be provided to private destinations such as a relative's home.** If your special needs require that you go to a special needs shelter or hospital, consult with your physician now about the need for a signed authorization letter. Be certain you have all fresh supplies and medicines in your storm pack to be ready when needed. Prior planning is key to weathering severe storms safely.

### Special Needs Registration

is required each year. Call Pasco County  
Emergency Management  
at **727-847-8137**

For preparedness tips you can click this  
link to download the [2024 Disaster  
Preparedness Guide](#) in PDF format. For  
other information about storm safety  
and preparation you can go to: [https://  
www.myfloridacfo.com/division/  
consumers/storm](https://www.myfloridacfo.com/division/consumers/storm)

### MAKE A DISASTER PREPAREDNESS NOTEBOOK

Include the following information and keep it handy .

- Your vital information such as name, address, phone, SS#
- Contact information for friends and relatives to contact
- Medical providers' names and contact information
- Insurance papers
- Note what arrangements you have in place for your pets in case of evacuation
- Notes on necessary medications and critical equipment

## Support Groups On Our Campus

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### 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 < Vacation Bible School – Wonder Junction

In June, FMCZ Family and Kids Ministries held a western themed VBS experience titled, “Wonder Junction”. Karen, Carol, and Polly assembled a posse full of volunteers who went through background checks and child protection training in order to ensure the integrity and professionalism of this child-focused, Christ centered summer program. Our church family was blessed with a substantial increase in attendance over last year and the year before. The children began and ended each day together in the sanctuary for skits, songs, and group lessons, after which they broke out into their relevant groups to enjoy the structured activities and play planned out for each session. Using most all available space in Cooper Hall and the Education Building, the cow boys and girls enjoyed various stops for arts and crafts, science experiments, singing and Bible verses, directed play, and even tasty snacking. VBS continues to be a vital part of growing our community, offering children a safe and church-centered summer experience. See our 2025 VBS Photo Gallery on our website here: <https://fmcz.org/gallery/vacation-bible-school-2025-wonder-junction/> Next year’s VBS theme has already been chosen and will be set in beautiful, historically rich Ireland. Planning has started! The countdown has begun. Next stop, the Emerald Isle; June 2026! Watch our website for details.





## SPECIAL EVENTS: Information, Fellowship, Music

### Young At Heart Presentations [Team Leader ~ Harry Kehr]



Speaker:  
Brian Vitkauskas  
Resident Director, Dade City

#### YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

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

**Presentation:**  
**Loving Hands Ministry**

Q and A segment  
after presentation



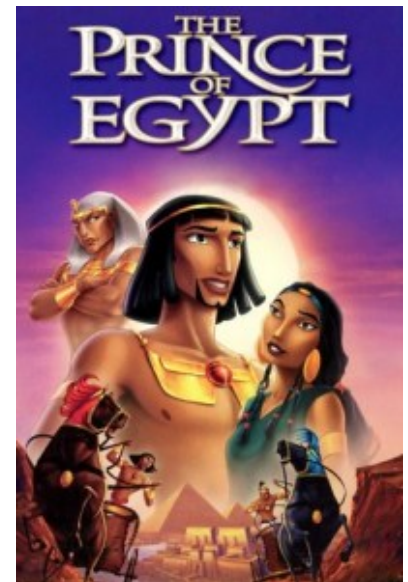
**ADMISSION: BRING  
ONE COVERED DISH  
OF YOUR CHOICE TO  
SHARE.**

### Family Ministries Movie Night [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra]

July 22nd, 6:00 to 8:00pm in Cooper Hall. Bring a blanket or beach chair and enjoy this free movie and snacks in a family-friendly outing.

Comments by Roger Ebert in his review of 1998's Prince of Egypt:

- What it proves above all is that animation frees the imagination from the shackles of gravity and reality, and allows a story to soar as it will. If de Mille had seen this film, he would have gone back to the drawing board.
- "The Prince of Egypt" is one of the best-looking animated films ever made. This is a film that shows animation growing up and embracing more complex themes, instead of chaining itself in the category of children's entertainment.
- The more movies I see, the more grateful I am for new films that go to the trouble of creating astonishing new images. "The Prince of Egypt" is the same kind of film. It addresses a different place in the moviegoer's mind, one where vision, imagination and dream are just barely held in rein by the story. One imagines de Mille had a film like this in his mind, before he had to reduce it to reality.



**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

Countries, communities, congregations, and families all share the curious characteristic of being an amalgamation of unique, independent individuals that comes together, bound by common goals and aspirations. As individuals we crave that independence, and yet historically we continue to make social group structures that challenge us to put responsibility, team work, and community over self. It is a central metaphor of our Christian beliefs that we act, not alone, but as separate parts of a single body, directed by our shared beliefs to live lives in which we are never truly independent but rather interdependent. As we celebrate our national independence, this church family also recognizes our new roles in a global ministry that asks of us, not what we can do for ourselves but rather what we can do for and with each other. In the modern world of ME, members of the Global Methodist Church are called to be WE; distinct, individual, and unique parts of the ONE Body of Christ where we can grow to be truly independent yet find salvation together.



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### Summer Break Spot [Federally Funded Summer Meals for Kids]



The very fact that there are so many active food assistance ministries and organizations in our area tells us how prevalent food insecurity is in our contemporary society and, more importantly, right in our own neighborhoods. This underscores the importance of our own Community Food Pantry in providing some relief locally, but so much more is needed to bridge that food gap. Thankfully, there is an active, federally-funded program that provides breakfasts and lunches to all kids under the age of

18 simply by showing up at distribution spots at designated times. Zephyrhills alone has several of these spots that are open five days a week (in many cases). Parents in need should know that daily help is here without a single string attached. Distribution places and schedules can be found here simply by entering our local zip code: <https://www.summerbreakspot.org/find-location/>

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### Did You Know? [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected]

- We are in a long-term process of developing a truly active and interactive website with which to serve our congregation and our church ministries. While we may not have a dedicated, paid staff to organize and update all aspects of our electronic home pages, we are making significant headway into making a site that is useful and engaging. If you have suggestions about how our web presence can work better for you, please feel free to share them at [tigale@fmcz.org](mailto:tigale@fmcz.org)
- 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 building photo galleries that document some of the many events, and activities taking place on and around our campus. If you are a part of an active group, be sure to take some photos and send them to [tigale@fmcz.org](mailto:tigale@fmcz.org) for inclusion. Remember to ask your group members for permission to use their images publicly.

## 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., YNSSA, 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  
Monteira, 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, 1<sup>ST</sup> 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**

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

07/01	Suzanne Morgan	07/21	Evelyn Perez
07/02	Pat Bailey	07/23	Denise Barnes
07/02	Orville Bowers	07/25	Kay Hadley
07/05	Ellen Garvansites	07/29	Greg Brooks
07/07	Julie Cotton	07/29	Glenn Burton
07/08	April Britton	07/30	Tom Caldwell
07/09	Kevin Bjorkner	07/30	Janice Parsley
07/10	Erica Bice	07/31	Dorothy Lundeen
07/10	Scott Stewart		
07/10	Phyllis Wisor		
07/11	Shay Johnson		
07/12	Don Freiermuth		
07/12	Linda Phelps		
07/15	Zachary Sheffich		
07/16	Nancy Brooks		
07/16	Grace Smith		
07/16	Barbara Stankiewicz		
07/18	Blake Donaldson		
07/20	Ann Hazlewood		

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

### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

07/03	Ella Mae and Robert Packard
07/07	Tom and Barb Burgmeier
07/17	David and Karen Harwell





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## Spotlight < Prayer and Praise Team [team Leader: Connie Norton]



### STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

The Prayer and Praise group of First Methodist Church maintains a SHORT TERM prayer list that covers immediate ailments and personal issues. We also maintain a LONG TERM prayer list that covers lengthier or even terminal sickness, and personal issues of longer duration.

Generally, those undergoing surgeries or heart issues can be kept on the short term list for up to 8 weeks and those experiencing less complex medical issues like broken bones or falls, can expect to be on the list for up to 6 weeks. For issues longer than 8 weeks, the individual may be moved to the long term list, updated for each month's Messenger.

Requestors need to provide the person's name, mailing address, (for the group to send a card), and to state that the prayer recipient has given permission to be placed on the list. Remember that as our lists are made public through our media points, the Prayer group seriously guards the privacy of those asking for our prayers. All information shared with the group is always kept in strict confidence. Anyone can request prayers for themselves or a loved one by contacting the church office, email the office at [info@fmcz.org](mailto:info@fmcz.org), fill out a CONNECT CARD on Sunday and give to an usher, or contact Connie Norton at [CNORTON40@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:CNORTON40@tampabay.rr.com). Prayer requests can also be made via our website here: <https://fmcz.org/prayer/> If possible, each requestor should provide a contact number or email for follow-up purposes.

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## 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**

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

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## Staff and Organizational Contacts

### **Church Web Address**

[www.fmcz.org](http://www.fmcz.org)

### **Staff Team Email Addresses**

*(for staff with church emails)*

Church Office

[info@fmcz.org](mailto:info@fmcz.org)

Karen Ezra, Director of Family Ministries

[kezra@fmcz.org](mailto:kezra@fmcz.org)

Carol Runyon, Assistant Director of Family Ministries

[crunyon@fmcz.org](mailto:crunyon@fmcz.org)

Polly Adwell, Nursery Coordinator

[padwell@fmcz.org](mailto:padwell@fmcz.org)

Miriam Ezra, Choir Director

[mezra@fmcz.org](mailto:mezra@fmcz.org)

Steve Ezra, Senior Pastor

[sezra@fmcz.org](mailto:sezra@fmcz.org)

Carol Freiermuth, Financial Secretary

[cfreiermuth@fmcz.org](mailto:cfreiermuth@fmcz.org)

Eric Gale, Contemporary Worship Leader

[egale@fmcz.org](mailto:egale@fmcz.org)

Teresia Gale, Office Manager

[tgale@fmcz.org](mailto:tgale@fmcz.org)

Tom Gale, Communications Director

[tigale@fmcz.org](mailto:tigale@fmcz.org)

Peter Jordan, Treasurer

[pjordan@fmcz.org](mailto:pjordan@fmcz.org)

Todd Kramer, Technical Director

[tkramer@fmcz.org](mailto: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. Tithing is a time-honored way for individuals and families to budget their fiscal resources in order to be good stewards of their daily living, their personal spiritual lives, and the ministries and functions of their church family.



FMCZ would like your giving experience to be as easy and convenient as possible, providing a variety of giving paths. Along with our time-honored in-service collections each Sunday, anyone can give confidently and securely using our website giving page, managed by Vanco Donation Services serving faith organizations, community non-profits, and schools nation-wide. As we noted elsewhere recently, Vanco released their own secure mobile app for members who prefer to donate directly from their cell phones. The app allows the same variety of giving options as the web-based site with the added convenience of a phone-based application. Go to your favorite app store and download the Vanco app where you see the Vanco symbol. Find FMCZ by entering our zip code. Log into your established account or easily create one. It's simple!

Set up or change your Vanco account from your computer, tablet, or phone: Use this link to start: [Vanco FMCZ Home Page](#) .

Download the Vanco phone app from either of the two sites on the right.

