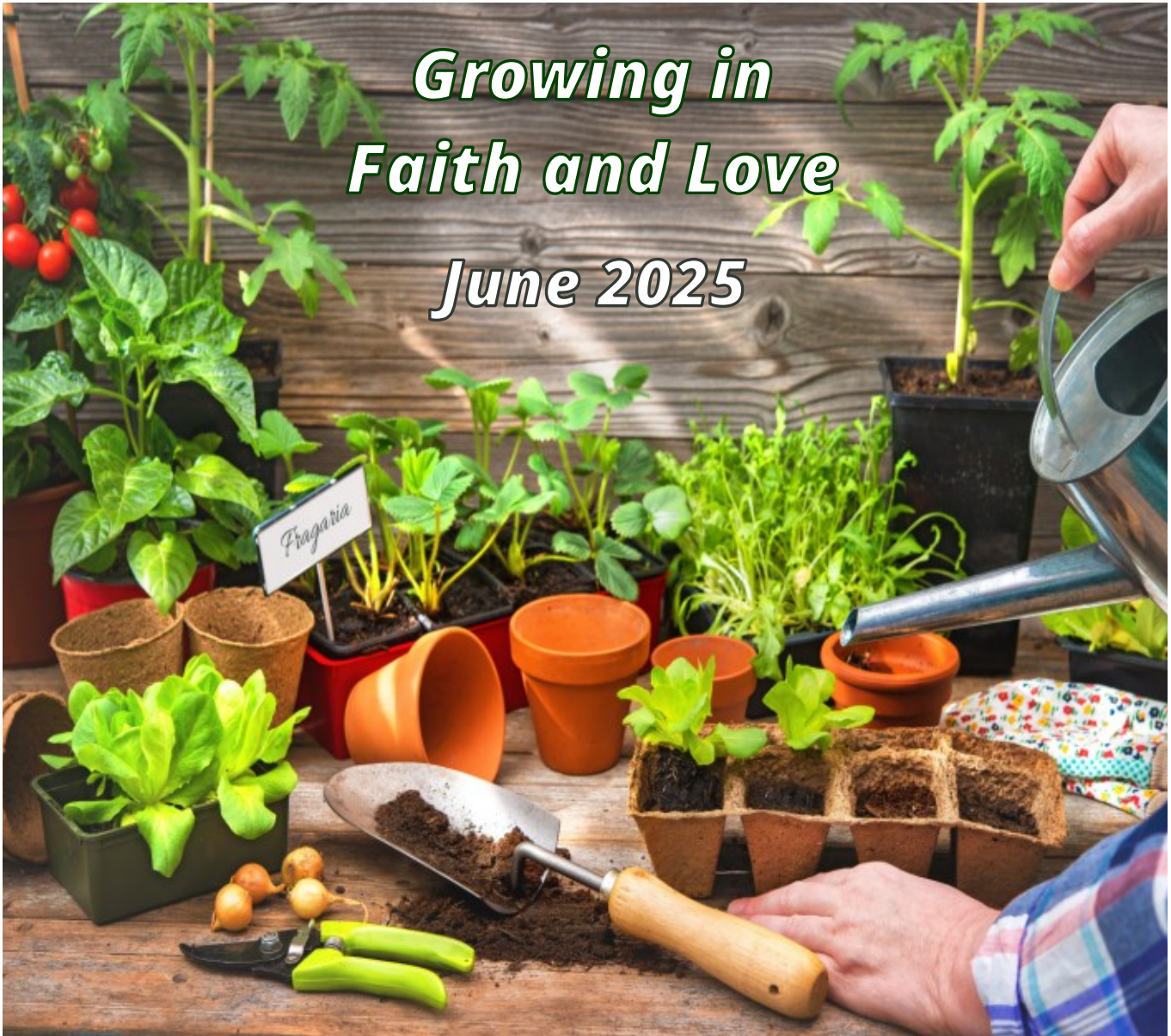


# The Messenger



**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**  
**— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —**  
a Global Methodist Family

***Growing in  
Faith and Love  
June 2025***



*In this issue: Project Others ~ page 7*

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  |               |



## June 2025 Worship Services

### Worship Series: Faith in Daily Practice

Through this month, Pastor Steve will be exploring themes that focus on how our faith can manifest itself in practical applications within daily concerns and activities. Faith isn't just something we focus on one day a week during worship service, but acts as the ethical foundation on which we can build a life that is both Christ-centered and emotionally satisfying.

#### Sunday, June 1: Communion Sunday

*"The Money Problem" Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)*

*"Beware of a lifetime of working for things rather than working for God"*

#### Sunday, June 8: Mission Celebration

*"The Money Solution" Luke 12:13-21 (NIV)*

*"We recognize that money alone is not the root of evil, but the LOVE of money can be."*

#### Sunday, June 15: Vacation Bible School Sunday (combined service at 10:00am)

A Special Presentation With VBS Children and Teens

*"Join the FMCZ Children and Youth Ministries as they share their VBS experiences."*

#### Sunday, June 22:

*"Love is . . ." 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (NIV)*

*"True love is defined, not by words but by positive and sincere actions."*

#### Sunday, June 29: 5th Sunday

*"Hospitality is . . ." Genesis 18:1-8 (NIV)*

*"Faithful hospitality is the ability to treat strangers as you would friends and family."*

## 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



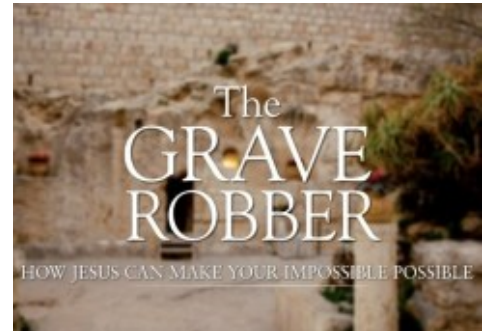
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## Sunday Study and Discussion Groups

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** is facilitating a new study for the month of June. Study leader, Jeanne Narum describes the class; *"During the month of June, the Crusaders Class will be studying Paul's letters to the Corinthians. The letters show us how the Holy Spirit gives us all wisdom, brings us together, and shows us a new way to love!"* All are welcome to join and share in the discussions and insights.

**Truthseekers Class** is starting a new unit by Mark Batterson titled, "The Grave Robber." It is on the seven miracles of Jesus as told in the gospel of John. These seven miracles relate to seven aspects of God. *Please join us as we see how He takes our natural problems and turns them into supernatural miracles.*



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## Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]

Everyone is welcome at the Big White Church on 5th Avenue! That is our invitation to the growing communities around us. Our greeters and ushers put friendly faces and outstretched hands to new folks and families that stop by to check us out every Sunday morning. First impressions do count and contribute directly to the continued growth of our membership. Fill out a Ministry Interest Form or speak to an usher if you would like to be a part of this impactful Sunday team.

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

Do you have some skills running and mixing live audio and/or computer presentations? Would you like to learn how technology can be used to help form and present important narratives? The FMCZ family is always looking to get our faithful stories out to the community and attract new members in. Our most public presence is through Sunday worship services which rely on presentation equipment to engage our audiences. No experience needed! For information, contact the Technical Director at [tkramer@fmcz.org](mailto:tkramer@fmcz.org)

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

Mothers of very young children, stay connected in the Sanctuary Mothers' Room which is specially furnished to provide a comfortable and safe place as needed through all Sanctuary services. With live streaming provided you won't miss a moment of devotion or the day's message even if you need to be away from the main sanctuary.

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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 for Christ

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

**Children's Church** (grades K - 5) continues through May with themes from Genesis using the curriculum entitled, "What's in the Bible With Buck Denver".



June's Vacation Bible School to be held June 9th through 13th all around campus. This year's theme is Wonder Junction and you can follow current developments at our VBS web page <https://fmcz.org/children/vbs-summer-2025/>. Preparations are in high gear for this year's VBS experience. Sunday, June 8th is being set aside for completing all the Junction Activity Stations, organizing resources and materials, and preparing the sanctuary to be the Wonder Junction assembly and dispatch area!

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

### Youth and Family Ministries [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra]

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

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

June 1 ~ Lesson 41:	Topic - Esau Sells His Birthright
June 8 ~ Lesson 42:	Topic - Jacob Steals the Blessing
June 15 ~ No Sunday School - Vacation Bible School Sunday	
June 22 ~ Lesson 43:	Topic - Jacob's Family Grows
June 29 ~ Lesson 44:	Topic - Jacob Returns to Canaan



#### Family Ministries Youth Luncheon and 5th Sunday Special Ice Cream Social

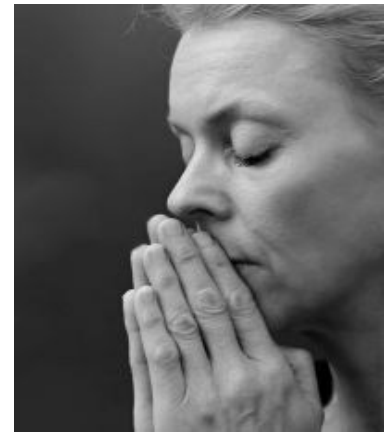
Mark your calendars for **Sunday, June 29th**, our second 5th Sunday for 2025. In Cooper Hall that day from 11:30am - 1:00pm, the **Youth Ministry** will offer a **fund-raising luncheon** in support of their upcoming programs. Directly after, there will be a FREE dessert **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** from 1:00 - 2:30pm as part of the 5th Sunday Specials Series. Please join us for BOTH!

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## Praise and Prayer [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. Your requests can also be made using our sanctuary CONNECT cards. Fill one out and hand it to an usher or put it in the collection plate.



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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 June 15.** 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, you may contact Roz Hill at 443-834-8621 or by email at [rozzie1944@gmail.com](mailto:rozzie1944@gmail.com).

The Walk to Emmaus develops Christian disciples and leaders by inspiring, challenging, and equipping active adult church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, communities and places of work. It also benefits members who are seeking to renew a long-term relationship with God, grow spiritually, or discover firmer spiritual foundations for their lives.

The Walk is based on an annual three-day Christian retreat which usually takes place in the spring and is based on prayer, study, and sacrificial service. Participants are then welcomed to attend regular "reunion meetings" at which to refresh and renew the spiritual path opened by their Walk experience.





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

Updates From Phyllis Blanchard:

Our collection for the Baby Shower at Cornerstone Ministry May 17th helped to fill Lyn's tote. We learned the nursery at Oak Grove Center uses thousands of diapers each year. Our donations will be used to keep tiny tushes clean and dry. Thank you all!

For Mother's Day, we greeted our sisters before church services at 9:30 and 11am on Mothers' Day. I LOVE my sisters and I LOVE flowers and I LOVE pretty hats! I had a great time!

On May 3rd, Verena Ruddnick celebrated her 100th Birthday! Cooper Hall was swinging that day with the sounds of big band music, joyful celebration, and thanks for all who came out to pay such a wonderful tribute to a great lady. How Cool is THAT!?!

Want to know more about goings-on? See the SPOTLIGHT feature on page 10!

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## Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

We have been blessed with new members joining our group recently. God is so good in bringing new people and supplies when needed.

Thank you to the Commission on Missions and our church family for designating us to receive funds for purchase of backing materials. We receive many small pieces of material in donations, but large pieces for backing are always needed.

One of our larger projects is Nap Quilts for all three local elementary schools each year. At year's end the students take their quilt home with them and we make new ones for those coming in. We are always in need of children-friendly materials for this project.

Linda Allain has taken leadership for two of our projects, Christmas Stockings and Health Kits. You will hear more about both this fall. Donations to help these projects will be accepted at any time!

Some members are not able to be present with the group on Friday morning, so they work from home. The attached picture is of Audrey Leach showing Veteran's bedcovers that she will be quilting this summer. Other members pick up materials and bring back finished items for our inventory. "Many hands make light work" is very true among our group!

This morning, I was contacted by a member of our on-line church family. She is a quilter from out of state who wants to make projects for our mission. I am so excited and know that God will help us find a way to make it happen for her and Project Others.

Please feel free to stop in on Friday morning. We stop for devotions and coffee at 9.a.m., come join us. The group is smaller during summer months, but just as busy and dedicated to the mission.



**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

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## MISSIONS: Community Outreach

### Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]

“Food Desert” is a fairly recent term that we often see in and hear used in popular media. It roughly describes areas in cities and rural communities where access to healthy food choices is severely limited by a lack of full-service food stores. A quick glance at a map of Zephyrhills shows that the majority of our city’s grocery merchants are grouped well north of Eiland Blvd and west of the Betmar Community. The alternatives for much of our city’s geographical area consist of convenience-type stores and gas station stores with very limited food selections and a high concentration of snack and highly processed “quick” foods.

The practical result of this is that many people in our town truly lack access to real healthy food choices and must rely instead on choices made for them based solely on where they live and where companies have decided will generate the best return for their investments.

While food pantries like ours cannot directly address the need for greater access to good, fresh, and affordable food, we can help support the underserved of our communities by purchasing and donating healthy, shelf-stable food items to keep our ministry well stocked with better food choices.

The Food Pantry is our Mission of the Month. For a special summer “Treasure Quest” see the SPOTLIGHT on page 14.



*“Food donation empowers individuals to be agents of positive change in their communities.”*

*Anonymous*



**Food Pantry Distribution Days are June 9, 10, and 11**  
**THIS MONTH’S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS JUNE 15.**

### 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

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



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

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

Gary Bridges, Carolyn Brooks Contrada, Michele Devine, Jim Elliot, Barbara Kehr,  
Gary McLean, Steven Noh, Terri Stanley, Trisha Stevens, Roxanne Young.

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

Year at a glance: Our Commission on Missions meets regularly to discuss numerous community mission and ministry efforts and vote to provide funding and/or hands-on assistance where possible. Each year, the Commission develops a calendar of 12 monthly missions to highlight to our members and act as calls to service and giving across the wide range of organizations that are actively meeting the many and varied needs of our local community members.

June: FMCZ Food Pantry  
July: Residing Hope  
August: FMCZ Food Pantry  
September: Faith Responders  
October: Farm Workers' Self-help  
November: ZHS ABC Homeless Advocacy Program  
December: Henderson Settlement

## 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/>

## Spotlight < United Women in Faith



Sisters, Brothers, Friends All!

We ladies stay busy! At our May 8th meeting we welcomed Judy Williams from the ABC (Assist, Believe, Care) Program at ZHS and we listened about success stories like that of the young man, displaced by storms last fall, living in a one room apartment with 25 others, hungry, tired, and worn. Judy found him in the commons area, late for class. She was able to pick him and his family up with assistance from the ABC program. He will graduate with honors this spring and attend college courses in the fall. She let us know his story is not unique, and each time she is able to help a young person, she knows she's doing the Lord's work. Our community is blessed to have people like Judy, Kathy, Ashley, and others to do this hands-on work.

We did a little business next. We appointed a committee to work on updated Bylaws for our unit. We'll take guidance from our State and District leadership and present a new Code of Bylaws for our unit in the fall. We also took care of banking issues -- CD contracts are coming to term and we decided to USE the interest for mission expenses!

November 22nd, Saturday, we're planning a **Meals around the World** dinner offering recipes from the 4 corners of our world - Europe, Asia, South America, and The United States of America! From 4 to 7pm, we'll share dishes from those areas in addition to musical entertainment. Tickets will be \$10, the dinner from 4-7pm, Saturday November 22nd, and proceeds will be donated to the United Women in Faith missions both local and international.

Keeping my Eye on the Prize!

Phyllis Blanchard, President

Zephyrhills United Women in Faith

### HUG O' WAR

I will not play at tug o' war.  
I'd rather play at hug o' war,  
Where everyone hugs  
Instead of tugs,  
Where everyone giggles  
And rolls on the rug,  
Where everyone kisses,  
And everyone grins,  
And everyone cuddles,  
And everyone wins.



---

## 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.



On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, at the Presbyterian church, three members of our Congregation were commissioned as Stephen Ministers. They were introduced to our Congregation on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the 11:00 service.

Welcome to, Lorne Becker, Bob Cartwright, and Susan Smith as the newest Stephen Ministers at First Methodist Church.

Each one has completed a very intense fifty hour course on how to provide confidential, faith-centered care to those in crisis. Contact the church office or Dave Hill at the number above.



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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/>

Hurricane season is just weeks away! June 1st kicks off the 2025 hurricane season and we want to be prepared to respond to those in need. We are calling on churches, volunteers, and communities near and far to unite for **Faith Responders Sunday - June 1st!** This is a day dedicated to honoring the mission of disaster ministries and the hearts that make it possible. As the Body of Christ we are called to offer help in tangible ways, to remember the least and those impacted by tragedy. Whether you've served in the field, prayed over a team, been a phone volunteer or given to support our efforts, you are part of the impact!! We appreciate you! Thank you!

### What can YOU do?

- 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

We can't do it without people like you. Let's build a network of responders who are ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus when disaster strikes.



## SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

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

Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ June 8th ~ 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall

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

#### PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES

The FMCZ nursing team has long been known as the Parish Nurses Ministry despite affiliation and brand changes along the way. Moving forward, we join the numerous groups of faith-based community nursing ministries by updating our ministry name to Faith Community Nursing. The local FCN organization covers most Central Florida counties through the BayCare Health System and supports and recruits faith-based care nurses through special curriculums and collaborations that focus on promoting healthy lifestyles, regular self-surveys, and basic health services at the local church community level. While the name may be changing, the care and services provided remain, as always, committed to your health and well-being.



**The Men's Health Network:** <https://menshealthnetwork.org/> provides a maintenance schedule for men as a reminder of your need to take responsibility for safeguarding your health. Regular checkups and age-appropriate screenings CAN improve your health and reduce premature death and disability. Consult your health care provider about the benefits of earlier screenings, especially if you are a member of a high risk group or have a family history of disease.

**Health Facts:** Men die at higher rates than women from the top 10 causes of death and are the victims of over 92% of workplace deaths. In 1920, women lived, on average, one year longer than men. Now, men, on average, die almost six years earlier than women. (CDC)

**PROSTATE HEALTH:** <http://www.prostatehealthguide.com> If you don't know what your prostate is or what it does, you're certainly not alone: most men don't. But you really should. More than 30 million men suffer from prostate conditions that negatively affect their quality of life. Over 50% of men in their 60s and as many as 90% in their 70s or older have symptoms of an enlarged prostate (BPH). Each year over 230,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and about 30,000 will die of it.

**MENTAL HEALTH:** <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/men-and-mental-health> Depression in men often goes undiagnosed, contributing to the fact that men are four times as likely to commit suicide as women. Researchers are only now beginning to tease apart the various biological and psychosocial factors that may impact mental health. Men are less likely to have received mental health treatment than women in the past year. Recognizing the signs that you or someone you love may have a mental disorder is the first step toward getting treatment. The earlier that treatment begins, the more effective it can be.

## 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 < Food Pantry June Treasure Quest

Wouldn't it be awesome if pirates were more often depicted as benefactors like Robin Hood, rather than scallywags like Captain Blood? Wouldn't it have been awesome if they had earned reputations for helping communities rather than plundering them? What if their treasure chests were filled with food and much needed supplies to be gifted rather than ill-gotten gains, hoarded and hidden? This month the **FMCZ Community Food Pantry** offers everyone a chance to see what that might be like, by hosting a new kind of **Treasure Quest**. Instead of searching for someone else's treasured goods, we are gathering our own trove of food and daily health and hygiene items to be given away freely all summer to those in need. Follow the calendar map below to gather 20 or more items, a treasure a day (or more if you wish!). Then bring them to fill our treasure room to bursting just so we can give it all away to families and folks all around our community. Have fun throughout June with this new take on old pirates; and don't worry, parrots aren't required!

Day 1: Box of macaroni and cheese

Day 2: Small bottle of lotion

Day 3: A spice (i.e. bay leaves, cinnamon, garlic or other common flavoring)

Day 4: Small shampoo

Day 5: Can of green beans

Day 6: Toothbrush/toothpaste

Day 7: Can of pork and beans

Day 8: Soap (hand or body)

Day 9: Can of chicken or tuna

Day 10: Cleaning item, like small bottle of Pine Sol or Fabuloso

Day 11: Small jar of peanut butter

Day 12: Small (even travel size) laundry detergent

Day 13: 10 - 12 oz box of cereal

Day 14: Small (even travel size) deodorant

Day 15: Box of Saltine crackers

Day 16: Toilet paper

Day 17: Mashed potatoes (boxed)

Day 18: Roll of paper towels

Day 19: Can of fruit

Day 20: Can of soup

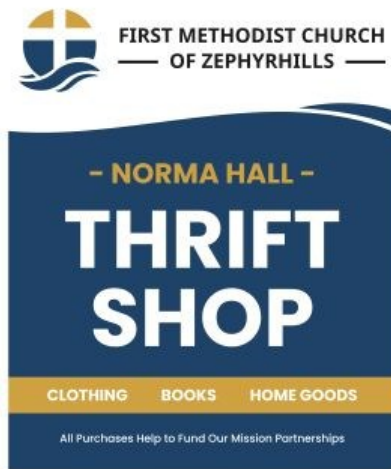
*Items can be collected through the month and brought in on our Sunday Pantry Donation Day on June 15th, or your donation "haul" can be brought into the church office (wrapped up in an oilskin sack perhaps?) at any time during regular business hours. If you cannot gather booty items, you may consider making a donation of spare doubloons on our Vanco giving portal!*





## SPECIAL EVENTS: Information, Fellowship, Music

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



### YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, June 19th  
11:30am—1:00pm  
Cooper Hall

**Presentation:**  
Thrift Shop Fashion Show

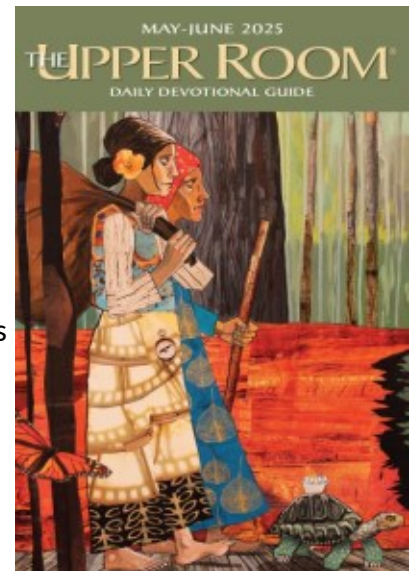


**ADMISSION: BRING  
ONE COVERED DISH  
OF YOUR CHOICE TO  
SHARE.**

### The Upper Room Daily Devotionals Celebrating 90 years of *The Upper Room*

*The Upper Room* is a daily devotional magazine published in more than 35 languages and 100 countries around the world. Begun as a quarterly booklet in 1935, its aim was to offer spiritual comfort and inspiration for believers world-wide who shared a commitment to Christ. The daily meditations are written by readers of the magazine and others who wish to share their faith experiences through writing. Every day, readers of *The Upper Room* around the world read the same story in many different languages and pray the same prayer together.

Copies (regular and large-print) have always been available without charge in the Narthex and church office. However, beginning in June, our cost to purchase the devotionals will be going up. If you donate regularly when you pick up a copy, we thank you! If you haven't, we ask you to consider helping defray the cost of the service and paying it forward to the next person who may be in particular need of the guidance and inspiration this resource has to offer.



**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.

# Iglesia Cristiana Ciudad De Refugio

Pastores Josecan & Glenda Santiago

*"Alguien Diga Amen"*



On Sunday afternoon, May 25th, after their regular worship service in the chapel, members of the City of Refuge church gathered in our courtyard to baptize nine of their members. For Pastor Santiago it was a particularly joyful occasion as he was able to baptize his own grandson in the warm pool waters. We note this moving event with thankfulness for their presence on our campus, and with new inspiration, fueled by their joyful energy, to heed the calling to make new disciples of Christ.



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

- Our Sunday Prayer List Bulletin Insert was designed to be a weekly reminder, not just of our prayer intentions but also of calendar and event information for our members to keep handy. Take the insert home and keep it on your refrigerator door all week to prompt daily prayers for those in need, and act as a digest of worthwhile news and event information.
- Our Sunday livestreams are archived on the website under Past Services. You can find the link on the homepage under the WORSHIP tab. We are in the process of adding picture in picture capability during the livestreams so viewers can follow along with songs and hymns while still seeing what is going on the altar platform. Even if you attend the live services, please take a moment to watch some past services and let us know which format best serves your needs.

## 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  
 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, 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**

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/01 David Carlson	06/20 Janice Gfell
06/01 Connie Norton	06/23 Sarah Smith
06/02 Marian Otto	06/24 Edie Minch
06/03 Carol Gentile	06/24 Rodger Peirce
06/03 Barbara Kehr	06/24 Terry Wilson
06/06 Corinne Ahrend	06/24 Tresea Wymore
06/06 Marjorie Leake	06/26 Dave Allain
06/07 Allan Scheckler	06/26 Tammy Donaldson
06/11 Cliff McDuffie Jr.	06/28 Karen Darland
06/12 Tina Downing	06/30 Marla Martin
06/12 Carol Peirce	
06/13 Heidi Miller	
06/13 Lyn Sears	
06/14 Marlene Mann	
06/14 Kenneth Stuby	
06/15 Jeanne Narum	
06/17 Lois Poole	
06/17 Neal Slingerland	
06/18 Doris Carroll	
06/18 Samuel Surratt III	
06/19 Karen Field	

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

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

06/07 Fay and Karl Kingery
06/08 Gary and Linda Ashline
06/08 Julie and Richard Cotton
06/12 Sue and Lyden Green
06/15 John and Pamela Kennard
06/17 George Pattison III & Beth Wyer
06/21 David and Barbara Friedman
06/21 Rosie and David Moore
06/22 Larry and Vicki Gower
06/24 Miriam Ezra and David Cox





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## Global Methodist Church World News

It is easy, in our country, to forget that across the globe, Christianity often comes in cultural and political conflict with those who do not agree with or accept its faith and foundations. For most of us, those differences amount to little more than some harsh words on the internet or a heated argument to be walked away from. As is made clear by a recent statement by The Assembly of Bishops of The Global Methodist Church, inter-faith violence remains a daily reality in many places around the world. This is particularly true in African nations where state governments cannot or do not act to restrain conflict between those under their care. Much of the current violence in Nigeria, for example, stems from a variety of hostilities between political groups, religious denominations, and a fundamental clash for control of land and populations between Christian and Islamic groups. Most recently, the Assembly of Bishops called attention to a massacre of Christians on May 24, 2025, in Munga Lelau killing 42. The bishops have called on the Nigerian government to act decisively to protect Christians in that state and to provide relief to those who have been displaced by the violence.

Although some details are debated and others still unclear, an article outlining this most recent incident and its background can be found here in the [Christian Daily International](#).

In their statement, the GMC bishops have requested a world-wide response of both prayer and practical support including a special humanitarian offering for those in the very midst of these ongoing struggles. While an on-line donation portal is provided in the bishops' statement, its reliability can not be fully confirmed at this time. Those in our community who would like to donate can do so with confidence by check in the Sunday offering (note as GMC Humanitarian Relief) or through our Vanco portal under "Other Designated - GMC Humanitarian Relief".

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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

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

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

## 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

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Polly Adwell, Nursery Coordinator

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

Miriam Ezra, Choir Director

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Steve Ezra, Senior Pastor

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Carol Freiermuth, Financial Secretary

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Eric Gale, Contemporary Worship Leader

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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:

# First Methodist Church Scholarship Fund

Seeking applications for Scholarship assistance awards

First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills has a Scholarship Fund that is used to provide assistance towards some of the many expenses student's encounter while pursuing their chosen life's dream. These resources may be used for tuition, books, fees, housing, or other school-related expenses as needed. These funds are made available to students:

- who are continuing their education in an accredited Vocational Training Program which awards a Certificate of Proficiency upon completion,
- who are continuing their education in an Associate or Bachelor degree program from an accredited College or University,
- or who are continuing on to receive specialized/intensive training in their chosen career path in a Master or Doctoral level degree program from an accredited College or University.

If you are interested in applying for scholarship assistance from the Church to help you through the 2025-26 school year, please contact the Church office to request an application packet. **Deadline for submission of the application is June 23, 2025.**

Please Note: Award amounts are subject to available funds and the number of applicants. Each applicant must be a member of FMCZ and actively participate in youth activities and/or church activities regularly.

