

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

Please note: Sunday, November 2nd marks the end of Daylight Savings Time. Clocks should be set BACK 1 hour on Saturday night into Standard Time. Enjoy your extra sleep!

Due Season

November 2025

In this issue: Angel Trees return to campus this month. See page 9.

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.

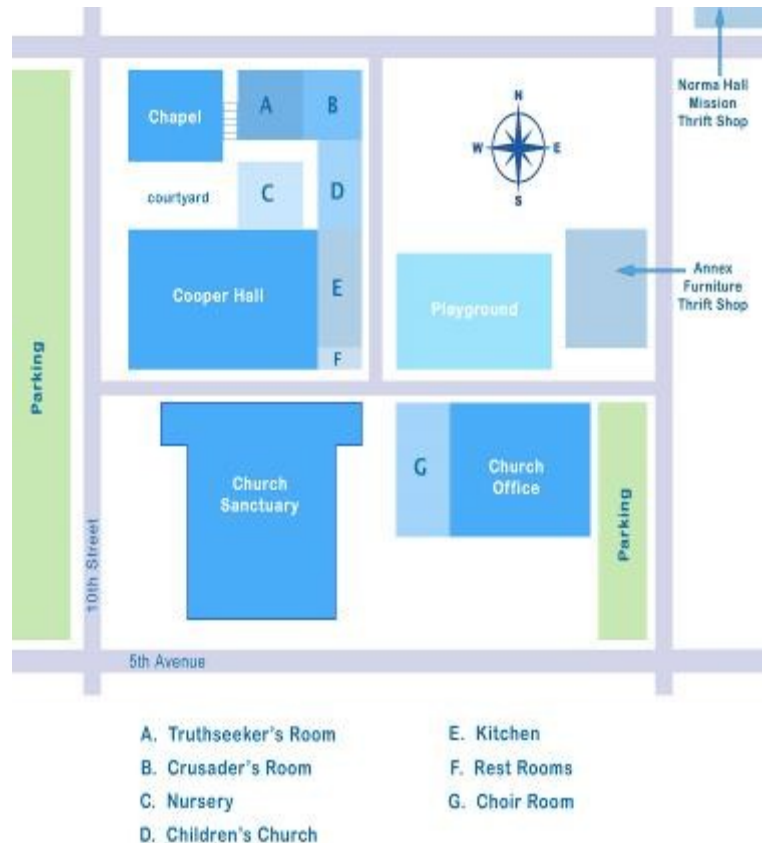
Restrooms

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



November 2025 Worship Services

Worship Themes

November completes the 10 part series reflecting on what it means to build a strong, God-centered family by the principles set down in the Ten Commandments, while navigating the pressures of a modern, rapidly-changing world. This series is using the **New Living Translation** each Sunday for its accessibility and clarity of language.

Sunday, November 02: Communion Sunday

God's Blueprint for Strong Families – "To Have and Have Not", The Eighth Commandment: Exodus 20:15 and Deuteronomy 5:19 (NLV)
"Teaching respect for others' property and cultivating trust in the family."

Sunday, November 09: Missions Celebration

God's Blueprint for Strong Families – "Truth That Builds Up", The Ninth Commandment: Exodus 20:16 and Deuteronomy 5:20 (NLV)
"Encourage honesty and open communication to strengthen trust and emotional safety."

Sunday, November 16:

God's Blueprint for Strong Families – "Learning Contentment", The Tenth Commandment: Exodus 20:17 and Deuteronomy 5:21 (NLV)
"Cultivate gratitude and contentment to avoid jealousy and conflict in the family."

Sunday, November 23:

Leaving a Legacy ~ Psalm 78:1-8 (NIV)
"Pass on the deeds and laws of the Lord so that your children will put their trust in God."

Sunday, November 30: First Week of Advent

My True Love Gave to Me – "Hope", Matthew 3:1-12; Isaiah 64:1-9; and Mark 13:24-37 (NIV)
"Christ's birth gave the world hope that God had not abandoned us. That hope continues today within an increasingly disordered world."

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

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 uses material developed by Cokesbury Methodist publishing house. Crusaders will be studying the 3 sermon epistles of John. They teach us how to love both God and neighbor by showing hospitality.

Truthseekers Class: We are excited to announce that the TRUTHSEEKERS class will begin a new session of Bible study on Sunday, November 16. In this upcoming series, we will be exploring the book of Acts, guided by the insightful study materials of Max Lucado. What to expect from this class:

- In-depth Exploration: Dive deep into the book of Acts, discovering its lessons and relevance for our lives today.
- Guided Study: Benefit from Max Lucado's trusted approach to understanding scripture.
- Community Fellowship: Share insights and encouragement with fellow seekers as we grow together in faith. All are welcome to join us in discovery and discussion.

New Sunday Study Group

In addition to the two existing Sunday study groups, a new Sunday group will start November 2nd and meet from 9:30 - 10:30am in Truthseekers Classroom

How can the 2,000 year old Bible help us live in our world today? How can reading about ancient people help us walk more closely with God? Starting with the book of Luke, this class will work verse by verse, learning how we can be the men and women God calls us to be. Ideal for those new to a close reading of the Bible as well as long-time deep-divers into Scripture. This class will focus on how God's Word is alive and meaningful in ways we may not yet have realized. We will talk, learn and discuss together! Facilitated by Greg Peavey.



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. Join us as we greet the day with coffee and fellowship!



MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

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

Children's Church (grades K - 5) continues with the kids' Bible series, "What's in the Bible?" Moving out of Genesis, the Sunday sessions are exploring more early Old Testament narratives about the Israelites in Canaan.



November Theme Sunday

November 16th -- Be Thankful For Jesus

On each special Sunday planned for our children, we will focus on a Bible verse and include crafts & games associated with the theme. This month's special theme Sunday connects our national day of Thanksgiving with gratitude we exhibit for all the blessings we receive from God.

Questions? Contact Carol Runyon at: crunyon@fmcz.org

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".

November Youth Lesson Plan

Unit 5 continues

Nov. 02 ~ Lesson 64:	Topic - Rahab Helps the Spies
Nov. 09 ~ Lesson 65:	Topic - Israel Crosses the Jordan
Nov. 16 ~ Lesson 66:	Topic - Israel Conquers Jericho
Nov. 23 ~ Lesson 67:	Topic - God Gives the Victory
Nov. 30 ~ Lesson 68:	Topic - Israel Receives a Land

Youth Sunday School is held in the Chapel Classroom and conducted by Karen Ezra and other members of the Ministry Team. Connect with Karen at kezra@fmcz.org to get more information on how your middle and high school children can become a part of this growing group of young believers at our church.



OTHER YOUTH AND CHILDREN NEWS FOR NOVEMBER

Soup Extravaganza: Sunday, November 2nd: 11:30am - 1:00pm in Cooper Hall East

Coordinated by Karen Ezra at kezra@fmcz.org, these popular fundraisers help support the youth ministry's annual trip to Universal Studios in Orlando for Rock The Universe, a unique, weekend-long Christian concert festival and theme park experience.

Youth Scavenger Hunt: Sunday, November 16th, Youth Lunch and Scavenger Hunt 11:00am - 2:00pm starting in Cooper Hall East. The event will also feature hands-on holiday crafting for our seniors.

Prayer and Praise [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]

Every Tuesday Morning 9:00am, Truthseekers Room, Education Building

PRAYER WORKS EVEN WHEN WE CAN'T PERCEIVE ITS ACTIVE MECHANICS!
I encourage us all to wait on God's timing in all situations that we face in life.
What looks like chaos to us could be the perfect scenario for God to BE God.

God is aware of everything we encounter and is aware of every challenging situation we face. God already has a plan for us to resolve it. So, let us be in prayer, be patient, and ask God to bring us transformation.

GOD, PLEASE HELP US TO BE PATIENT IN EVERY SEASON AND TO FOCUS ON YOUR GUIDING PRESENCE.

submitted by Connie Norton



Staff Retirement [Congratulations to George Rood]

After six years of faithful ministry, our church organist George Rood is retiring effective Sunday, November 30. That Sunday will be his last as our church organist. George was hired on August 8, 2019, and has been a tremendous blessing to our church family over the past six years. He has provided a



solid musical foundation for our traditional worship services and many special worship services, first, in partnership with pianist Jeanne Barr and then with Barbara Friedman, our current pianist. He's played at numerous memorial and funeral services on the piano as well as the organ. George has also served in other behind-the-scenes volunteer church ministries, from the church office reception area to the kitchen for Wednesday Night Refuel. He is a beloved member of our church family and will be deeply missed. Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee is planning a retirement celebration for George so we can thank him appropriately. But over the next few weeks, please take moments before or after worship services to personally thank George for his faithful ministry. We are confident that the Lord will continue to use him and bless him as he enters a new season of life in retirement.

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

Thursday, the 2nd day of October, we met in the Crusaders Classroom of Cooper Hall. We're trying something new...asking one of our group to facilitate meetings and another to lead Devotions.

This month, Debbie Nonnemaker volunteered. She did a really good job leading us through our agenda. Plans are in the works, already, for our Spaghetti Supper in January. Dan Schall is nursing his bride through chemo and radiation treatments, so isn't able to travel from his home in Pennsylvania. Several group names and dates were tossed around -- the program (though as yet undecided) will definitely be entertaining and who doesn't love spaghetti and red sauce?

Lorne Becker's devotional focused on prayer. In the Psalm of David (Psalm 31), David lamented on his situation then praised the Lord for showing him the wonders of his unfailing love. His lesson taught that we should not only ask for help in troubled times, but we should also ask for rescue and be thankful when it comes. The possibilities of God's mercies are endless. *DeColores, submitted by Phyllis Blanchard*



Next Men's Walk - September 10-13, 2026 ~ Next Women's Walk - September 17-20, 2026

Please join us! Call Roz or Dave Hill at 443-834-8621 to be referred to an Emmaus sponsor for details.

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Updates From Phyllis Blanchard:

Our unit of United Women in Faith gathered for our monthly meeting on Thursday, October 9th. Even through my scattered thoughts, we had an extremely productive meeting. We now have tickets for our **Meals Around the World ~ November 22nd fundraiser** and we shared recipes that we will be featuring from Chile and Germany, Texas and Italy. This is going to be fun! For \$10, you'll get to try dishes you've only seen on The Cooking Channel. Our ladies have been hitting the library and talking to sons, daughters, and cousins to gather unique and delicious dishes to fill our tables. We have some real CHEFs in our midst! **So mark your calendars for Saturday, November 22nd from 4:00 - 7:00pm in Cooper Hall East. See any UWF member for tickets!**



Lyn's Prayer and Self-Denial program started with the story of the Widow's Pennies. God takes ALL of our contributions, large and small, joins them together and directs them to relieve need. We'll all collect our change for the next month -- maybe with the proceeds we'll feed a child, clothe a mom, or heat a home. This is the time of year for our actions and our hearts to align to make a positive impact on lives beyond our own. The holiday spirit of both Gratitude and Giving grows strong as we head into the festive days before us! As a fun and meaningful holiday activity, we strung Red, Yellow, and Blue beads and joined our work to make garland for an Angel Tree this Christmas.

May the Lord Bless and Keep You while We're Absent, One from the Other.

Other upcoming UWF Events:

A festive Christmas Dinner where everyone's invited (for the price of a \$12 ticket) on December 11th from 5:00 - 8:00pm in Cooper Hall East.

A jolly Christmas Cookie Sale on Sunday, December 14th where you can fill a \$5 or \$10 box with delicious cookies baked by our members (or their daughters or sisters)!

Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

Final Collection of Items for Health Kits and Holiday Cheer Projects

There are just 15 more days to help Project Others with donations to this season's Health Kits and Christmas stockings. We will assemble them this month, ready for early December distribution. Thank you to each of you who help with these projects.

The picture at right shows Mary Fuller, (a winter-time member of FMCZ) displaying some quilt tops, made by Lou Ann (a member of our "on-line" church family). There is no Global Methodist church near this northern area, so Mary introduced Lou Ann to our church on-line. Lou Ann loves to sew & quilt. Her interest led her to join the Project Others team. We are excited to have her working on projects all year to add to the missions we serve.

November is the month when we inventory our year's handiwork. We plan out which agencies can make best use of our inventory. It is exciting to see how much is accomplished in 3 hours each Friday morning with many pairs of hands helping.

God is good. He continues to bring us new hands to help and materials to work with. If you have an interest in our group, please stop in on a Friday morning soon. We do take a short break over Christmas & New Years, to begin again on Jan. 2, 2026.



Questions may be directed to Team Leader, Deann Harrington (813) 713- 4119.

THE PROJECT OTHERS TEAM

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]

Fall Holiday Harvest Collections

Help our Food Pantry fill a plate this holiday season.
As we gather with loved ones and share warm meals,
many in our community will be facing empty cupboards.
Your donation—big or small—can bring comfort, nourishment,
and hope to a neighbor in need.



During the months of October and November, please take some extra time to consider those meal ingredients that are the foundations of many happy holiday tables. The Pantry staff is asking our food donors to focus on providing those holiday staples that will help make Thanksgiving and Christmas meals extra bright with as many traditional elements and flairs as possible. Think about which meal items brighten a holiday table, and please consider donating those! Thank you!

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

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

We are beginning our busy season at the Thrift Store and have some critical areas in which we need volunteers.

- 1) Ladies wear coordinator needed - we are losing our main volunteer in this area in December and need someone to oversee the ladies department. This person needs to be available at least 2 days a week to sort, hang, tag and distribute clothes out on the sales floor. This person needs to work with our other part-time volunteers and give direction and guidance. Someone with retail experience would be ideal. Must be a church member.
- 2) Men's and Children's coordinator - this position can be combined or managed by two people. Must be available at least 2 days a week and also be a church member.

Stop by the Main Thrift Store Mon., Wed., or Sat. from 8 - noon and talk to Lyn or Sandy for details.



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 décor

Mondays 8am–12pm
Donations only
Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am–12pm





Spotlight < Thrift Shop Annex Furniture Request

Due to strong sales over the last few months, our campus Thrift Shop Annex is currently in need of gently used furniture to replenish our stock. Some specific items needed include recliners, love seats, bureaus, and related pieces. Are you are looking to downsize or create some extra space in a room? Consider donating your unwanted furniture items now before the holiday shopping season. If you need assistance in transporting any large donation, please talk to Terry Dutkiewicz for available options.



Don't forget that the Annex's Christmas Shop is stocked with holiday décor, ornaments, plush toys, and other seasonal items. Before you hit the big box stores, stop by the Annex Christmas Shop and save both time and money while you support the many great ministries and missions contributed to by both our Thrift Shops.

Spotlight < Christmas Angel Trees

This season First Methodist Missions will be sponsoring a number of students from Raymond B Stewart Middle School through a Christmas Angel Tree program. Beginning on November 16th, two trees will be set up; one table-top tree in the Narthex and one larger tree in Cooper Hall near the hallway to the classrooms. A school representative will be providing a list of needy students along with their Christmas wishes that will be made into Angel Tags and hung on the trees. To participate, pick one or more tags from the trees and purchase the gift or gifts. As of this writing the suggested price range is \$25 but more details will follow in eBlasts as we approach the program start date. Once purchased, return **unwrapped** gifts with the ornament tags to Cooper Hall or the church office by noon on Sunday, December 7th. From there the program coordinators will deliver your gifts to R.B. Stewart to give to each student. *Thank you for your generosity at this special time of year.*



Spotlight < Salvation's Rock ~ Praise Song Playlist



Welcome to Praise Playlist, a 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 announced in the weekly eBlasts, but this list is for additional Contemporary Christian tunes that band members feel especially drawn to as they choose weekly music, even if the track is not in our music library or available to play at worship service.

This month's song is suggested by Quintin Smith, who plays both guitar and drums with the group. Quintin's choice for November is "Good Plans," written by Jake Espy and Kory Miller. Quintin writes, *"This song has been speaking to me a lot lately. It draws from Psalm 23 — 'The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want... He makes me lie down in green pastures... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.' That passage has been really powerful for me in this season. There's been a lot of change and uncertainty in my life recently, and this song has been a steady reminder that God is in control even when it feels overwhelming. When I choose to trust Him, I can rest in His peace, no matter what's happening around me."*

Listen to it here: ["Good Plans" performed by Red Rocks Worship](#)

Long Term Prayer List [For October 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 month ahead. **As Jesus reminded us, "Ask, using my name, and you will receive."**

Gary Bridges, Chloe Budge, Michele Devine, Joan Donaldson, Richard Dreyer, Jim Elliot, Larry Gower, Randy Hall, Bristol Loftis, Gary McLean, Trisha Stevens, Betsy Strickland, Roxanne Young.

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Kay Milligan]

Zephyrhills High School ABC (Assist Believe Care) Assistance Program is the mission focus for the month of November. There are high school students living in our community who show up to school without adequate food, clothes, or hygiene supplies. For some, the only food they have to eat is what's served in the cafeteria. Others live in homes with no electricity, running water, or adequate plumbing. Some are homeless; sleeping where they can, whether at a friend's, in a car or even outside.

The ABC program, funded through community support is run by Judy Williams. It helps provide basic essential items for students in need, thus enhancing the possibility for their success in school and for a brighter future. The program provides food, clothing, school supplies, hygiene products, and other needs. They host several food drives each year to make food boxes during the holiday school breaks.

Please support these local teens in need with your prayers and donations. Please mark your contribution "FOR ZHS ABC". Thank you for your prayers and support for this vital community program.

submitted by Kay Milligan



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

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

Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ December 7th ~ 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall

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

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES



WHAT IS DIABETES?

People with diabetes either don't make enough insulin (type 1 diabetes, autoimmune disorder) or can't use insulin properly (type 2 diabetes). Insulin allows blood sugar (glucose) to enter cells, where it can be used for energy. When the body doesn't have enough insulin or can't use it effectively, blood sugar builds up in the blood. **High blood sugar levels can lead to heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and amputation of toes, feet, or legs.**

SOME FACTS ABOUT DIABETES

- Diabetes is the 7th leading cause of death in the United States.
- It's the leading cause of kidney failure, lower limb amputation, and adult-onset blindness.
- Risk factors include being overweight, having a family history of type 2 diabetes, being physically active less than three times a week, or having a fasting blood sugar result above 100. Results above 100 is known as pre-diabetes. Above 126 is full on diabetes.
- The rate of new cases of diagnosed diabetes in the United States has begun to fall, but the numbers are still very high. More than 29 million Americans are living with diabetes.

HEALTH COMPLICATIONS FROM DIABETES

- **Heart disease and stroke:** People with diabetes are twice as likely to have heart disease or a stroke as people without diabetes—and at an earlier age.
- **Blindness and other eye problems:** Diabetic retinopathy (damage to blood vessels in the retina), cataracts (clouding of the lens), and glaucoma (increase in fluid pressure in the eye) can all result in vision loss.
- **Kidney disease:** High blood sugar levels can damage the kidneys long before a person has symptoms. Kidney damage can cause chronic kidney disease, which can lead to kidney failure.
- **Amputations:** Diabetes damages blood vessels and nerves, particularly in the feet, and can lead to serious, hard-to-treat infections. Amputation is sometimes necessary to stop the spread of infection.

PREDIABETES: OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

More than a third of American adults—around 86 million—have prediabetes, and 90% of them don't know it. With prediabetes, blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough yet to be diagnosed as diabetes. People with prediabetes have an increased risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

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

Stephen Ministry [Team Leader ~ Dave Hill]



Last month during our two October 19th services, our church commissioned a new Stephen Ministry Leader, Jeanne Narum. Stephen Leaders are laypeople, church staff members, and pastors of all ages and from diverse backgrounds who share a common passion: bringing Christ's love and care to hurting people. They use their gifts of teaching, leadership, organization, and administration to help make Stephen Ministry happen.



Stephen Leaders recruit, train, lead, and support Stephen Ministers—lay caregivers who use their gifts of empathy, listening, mercy, and service to provide one-to-one, distinctively Christian care to people experiencing life difficulties. You do not need to be formally trained as a Stephen Minister to

serve as a Stephen Leader.

The steps to becoming a Stephen Leader are to attend the Stephen Leader Training Course and then be commissioned by your congregation. The Stephen Leader training equips the new Stephen Leader to establish, maintain, and strengthen Stephen Ministry in our congregation. The new Stephen Ministry leader will gain the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to establish, maintain, and grow this vital Stephen Ministry program within our church.

Skills are taught through a variety of teaching and learning methods—including presentation, group discussion, video, and skill practice activities—for an engaging, enjoyable and productive training experience.

If you would like to talk with a Stephen Minister, please call the church office at 813-782-5645.

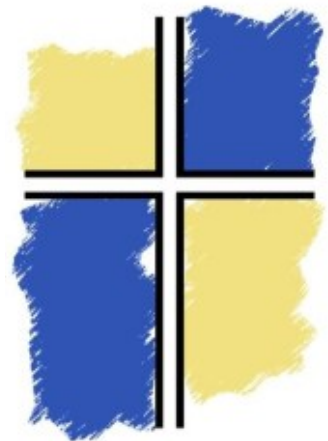
If you would like more information about becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Dave Hill at: dhill1944@tampabay.rr.com or call 410-409-9132.

Faith Responders [Local Church Liaisons ~ Lorne Becker and Tanna Day]

As Hurricane Season has progressed this year, I found myself praying more and more for a quiet calm season as I know MANY of you have been doing as well. After the damage and destruction experienced in the 2024 season from Debby, Helene and Milton, we just needed a *break*.

There are thousands of folks still recovering, living in temporary housing and working hard to return to a new normal, a new life after being impacted last fall. So this week when we witnessed Tropical Storm Imelda take a hard right turn into the Atlantic following Erin, Gabrielle and Humberto - it brought to mind a story from a devotional I was reading recently told by Charles Inglis:

George Muller, while making the voyage to America, encountered a very dense fog surrounding the ship. Muller approached the captain, Charles Inglis, on the bridge saying, "Captain, I have come to tell you that I must be in Quebec on Saturday afternoon". When informed that was impossible, he replied "Very well. If the ship cannot take me, God will find some other way. I have never broken an engagement in fifty-seven years. Let us go down to the chartroom and pray." The captain replied, "Mr. Muller do you know how dense this fog is?" "No", he replied, "my eye is not on the density of the fog, but on the living God, who controls every circumstance of my life". He knelt down and prayed one of those simple prayers, and when he finished I was going to pray, tells the captain; but he put his hand on my shoulder and told me not to pray. "Firstly, because you do not believe God will and secondly, I believe God has," stated Muller, "Get up and open the door". Charles Inglis tells - I got up and the fog was indeed gone and George Muller was in Quebec on Saturday for his engagement.



Let's **KEEP PRAYING!** Let's focus our eyes on the living God who controls every circumstance of our lives and praise him for a quiet season.

submitted by Rev. Laura Lambert

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.

Meeting Information:

Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:30pm

September 3rd through November 5, 2025

Crusaders Classroom - Education Building



For information, contact Gaynell Jeffries at: eldis.jeffries@gmail.com or pick up a flyer in the sanctuary lobby. You can register directly at <https://www.griefshare.org/findagroup>

Note the following schedule changes: Wednesday, November 12th meeting 2:00 - 3:30pm; Thursday, November 20, 1:30 - 3:00pm directly after Young at Heart; Wednesday, November 26, 4:00 - 5:30pm; Wednesday, December 3, 3:00 - 4:30pm; Monday, December 8 Last Class, 2:00 - 3:30pm

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.



SPECIAL EVENTS: Information, Fellowship, Music

Young At Heart Presentations [Team Leads ~ Harry Kehr & Gary Hartman]

SENIOR LUNCHEON AND HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, November 20th



11:30am—1:00pm
Cooper Hall East

Old Fashioned Thanksgiving Meal

Complete with turkey,
dressing, gravy, mashed
potatoes, and cranberry
salad.



**ADMISSION: BRING
ONE COVERED
"MOM'S FAVORITE"
SIDE DISH OF YOUR
CHOICE TO SHARE.**

Fifth Sunday Special [Karen Ezra and Family Ministries]

The final Fifth Sunday of the year will be November 30th and this free event is planned to give off decidedly holiday vibes. 11:30am - 2:00pm in Cooper Hall, featuring plenty of early Christmasy food, sweets, craft activities, and seasonal music.

First Christmas Festival of the Season

November 30th in Cooper Hall

11:30am - 2:00pm

Holiday themed lunch, sweet treats, activities, and fellowship

Please join us for Christmasy food and fun starting with a light lunch and featuring family-friendly activities such as a cookie exchange, holiday cookie decorating, themed crafts for kids and adults, caroling, and decking the halls!

Soup Extravaganza [Youth Ministries Fundraiser] Returning to Cooper Hall

November 2nd ~ "Soup Extravaganza"

Delicious Fundraiser in Cooper Hall East

11:30am - 1:00pm

Sample a whole new menu of soups
and stews made fresh and served with
bread or crackers and drink.

Supporting our youth trip to
Universal Studios' Rock the Universe
January 23 - 25, 2026

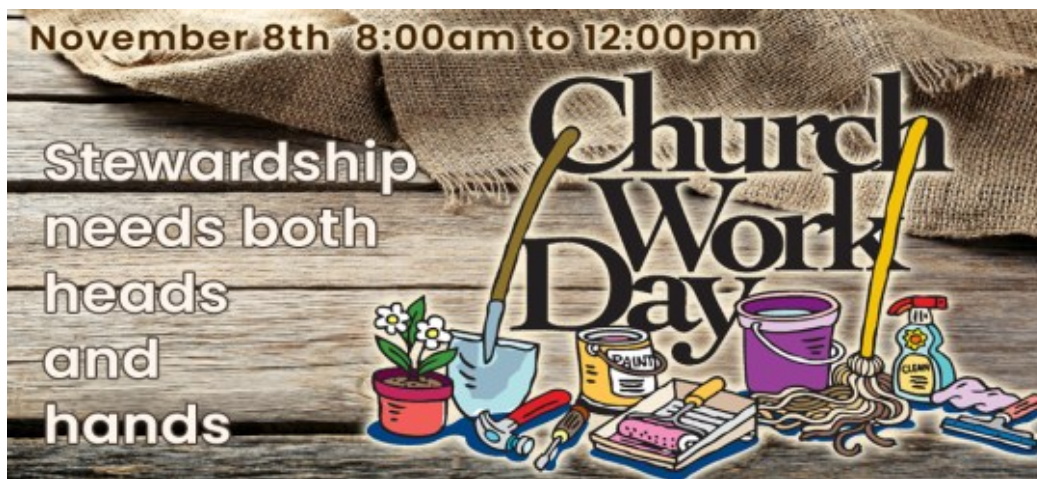


Spotlight < Photos from Chili Cook-Off and Pumpkin Carving

On Saturday, October 18, FMCZ Family Ministries hosted their annual Chili Cook-Off and Pumpkin Carving event in Cooper Hall East. The event is always a big hit with our church families and those who love discovering new and tasty recipes. This year was no exception with plenty of unique chili dishes to sample and lots of blank-faced orange gourds to turn into jack-o'-lanterns.



Spotlight < Trustees Campus Work Day



We will be focusing on the Youth area upstairs in Cooper Hall. We will mainly be painting with some cleaning. Mulching and weeding around the church as needed. Coffee, water and snacks for the morning, then a light lunch will be provided between 12 and 1pm.

There are sign up sheets in the Narthex and Cooper Hall. Please use them so we can have a better count of participants to make preparations more accurate.

Thank you for your willingness to help maintain and beautify our place of worship and learning of our Awesome God!

Submitted by Tamela Davis, Trustee Secretary



Spotlight < All Saints Sunday ~ November 02, 2025

On the Christian calendar, Saturday, November 1st is All Saints Day, which means the First Sunday of the month is All Saints Sunday for Methodists. It's a day for us to remember the saints, meaning all Christian people of every time and place called to walk on Christ's holy path. We celebrate this communion of the saints as we remember the members of our church family who have died over the past year.

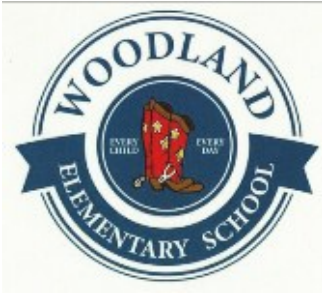
Dewey Coon (died 09/27/2025) ~ Harry Howell (died 01/23/2025)

Karl Kingery (died 06/02/2025) ~ Marion McDonald (died 01/11/2025)

Joyce McDuffie (died 11/22/2024) ~ Marjorie Nelson (died 12/22/2024)

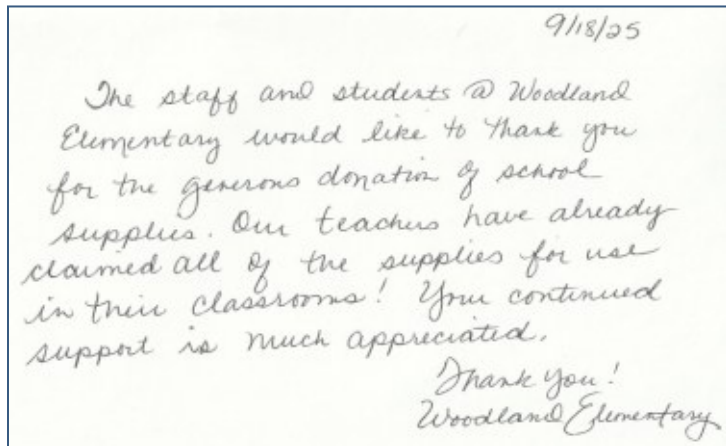
Stan Roseman (died 06/24/2025) ~ Dan Tacker (died 11/27/2024)

SPECIAL NOTES: Information and Fellowship



In August, our Family Ministries opened Cooper Hall to neighborhood families with a Back to School Pancake Breakfast and school supply give-away. The event

was extremely successful and brought a good number of folks through our doors. Even more successful was the school supply donation drive that fueled the event. Karen and her team ended up with plenty of extra supplies after the event, so they donated the remaining supplies to a grateful and surprised Woodland Elementary School staff. This is an important reminder that all donations, big or small, to any one of our ministries, reach out to touch our communities in very real and personal ways. Thank you for being such a caring and giving church family!



Falling Back [why do we change our clocks twice each year?]

On November 2nd, 48 states in our country will change their clocks back into standard times after being on Daylight Savings Time since early March. Colorado and Hawaii opted out of the system and let their times run naturally. The concept of adjusting clocks to take advantage of more or less sunlight during the regular day, was first formalized in Germany during WWI as a way of conserving needed wartime fuel. The US adopted the concept temporarily a few years later, then again during WWII as part of nation-wide war rationing efforts. After the war, individual states sporadically adopted DST, but the nation, as a whole, didn't follow suit until 1966 when it adopted the Uniform Time Act. Ongoing debates over the usefulness and general safety of changing clocks twice a year generally focus on energy conservation and the potential safety and health impacts of the ritual. Studies over the years have been inconclusive, but many hint at the subtle dangers of trying to alter time to fit our own needs and wishes. Currently, twenty states have resolutions to move to daylight savings time permanently and in 2022 the Sunshine Protection Act was introduced to make that change on a national level, but the debate is on-going and only time will tell its outcome.



Did You Know? [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected]

- Most of our communications channels, including weekly eBlast, website, monthly newsletter, and the Sunday announcement reels are available from your cellphone. We continue to work to keep our church family informed as quickly and efficiently as possible as we look at ways to use technology to promote sustainability and good stewardship of our resources.
- Church ministries and ministry members who engage the greater community outside their groups with narratives of their activities and impacts, often find unexpected support in terms of increased membership and material or financial donations. Even informal word of mouth news keeps our congregation reminded of how active FMCZ is in our congregation and community.

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
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, 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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01	Ilene Tacker	11/18	Dylan Freiermuth
11/03	Elizabeth Fields	11/18	Marian Rogers
11/03	Jaimie Gant	11/19	Connie Stuby
11/04	Delbert Bice	11/22	Dawn Floyd
11/04	Vicki Eller	11/22	Barbara Williams
11/06	Josh Hinson Sr.	11/23	Thomas Gale
11/06	Madalon Janoski	11/23	Shirley Wellington
11/06	Jodie Obenour	11/26	Jesse Harmon
11/07	Gideon Boggs	11/28	Julie Pearson
11/08	Adam Perez	11/28	Bob Shaw
11/11	Linda Mersing	11/29	Katelyn McFatridge
11/12	Donald Parsley	11/29	Mirtza Springfield
11/13	Jeanette Horner		
11/15	Judith DenHerder		
	Loving		
11/15	Amber Wood		
11/16	Todd Kramer		
11/16	Marilyn Pauls		
11/17	George Gano		
11/17	Evelyn Panzer		
11/18	Elizabeth Boggs		

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/07	Diane and Gregory Belles
11/12	Brian and Rose Zembraski
11/20	Kay and Stephen Hadley
11/27	James and Sandra Wyman
11/29	Evelyn and John Perez



This Month's Cover [November - "Due Season"]

No matter where one lives in this country, the late autumn months are painted in people's minds with the golden leaves, red apples, and orange pumpkins of harvest, even if some of those elements have to be trucked in from miles away or rendered in plastic as "seasonal décor". But here in Central Florida, local farmers are busy PLANTING for the winter growing season and now is the time one sees new green fields of strawberries and onions replacing the empty brown fields of the hot summer. Our "due season" is generally before June for winter plantings and after January for fall plantings. But due it is, after the same necessary labor and patience that farmers all over the country work into their fields to earn that harvest celebration.

It's telling in many ways that the Bible is home to so many parables and metaphors that relate to farming and husbandry, not simply because of their importance to the agrarian culture in which it was written but also because the images evoke universal life themes and have continued to do so down through the ages. The term, "Due Season" can be found in the King James Translation in Galatians 6:9 where it reminds readers that the harvests of their good works will come "when the time is right" and only after patience and hard work. So often the fruits of our spiritual labors, the prayers, donations, fellowships, and ministries, don't appear until long after we have moved onto other things and that work is no longer our focus. It's tempting to wonder if the labor was worth the harvest if we don't often "see" the results first hand. What Galatians reminds us is that "Due Season" is not ours to plan or celebrate, but God's, and that our harvests will be secure if only we don't tire of doing HIS work.

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, FL 813-783-8100

Roberta Hubbart

SOLARIS NORTH ~ 7350 Dairy Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 813-788-4300

Shirley Force Washington Unit
Richard Mortimer

ROYAL OAK NURSING CENTER ~ 37300 Royal Oak Ln, Dade City, FL 352-567-3122

Joan Donaldson

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

Fay Kingery

AT HOME ~ Personal Addresses and Phone Numbers

Allan Scheckler
Ira Crook
Terri Stanley

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

HILLSIDE HEALTH ~ 38220 Henry Dr., Zephyrhills 813-788-7114

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

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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

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Tom Gale, Communications Director

tigale@fmcz.org

Peter Jordan, Treasurer

pjordan@fmcz.org

Todd Kramer, Technical Director

tkramer@fmcz.org

Giving Back



“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:19-21

Giving Back

We often think of “Giving Back” in terms of tithes and offerings, of financial or material donations. For many of our ministries, these giving channels are all important; raising money for direct support of other community ministries, or purchasing goods and materials to then give away where the need is the greatest and our blessings, the most impactful.

But one other way of giving is the giving of one’s time, talents, and insights. Our church is a very active community, offering so many opportunities for members to contribute to its community-based ministries as well as those focused on the core mission of the Global Methodist family; that is to make disciples of Christ. See below for a great opportunity to “give back” with time, talent, and purpose.



Make a JOYOUS sound! Salvation’s Rock is looking to grow musically and vocally. This group of talented musicians and singers lead our 9:30am contemporary worship service in both song and prayer. If you play keyboards, guitar, or some other modern instruments, or if you love to sing out your praise, please consider sharing your talent with our church family as part of the 9:30 am service.

Band practice is usually held every Thursday evening with a warmup practice each Sunday prior to service. The band is hoping to expand its roster of regularly available members and add additional dynamics to its music. Interested? Contact Music Worship Leader, Eric Gale, at egale@fmcz.org