

# The Messenger



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

***Spirit of New Life***

***March 2026***

*In this issue: Meet our new members! See pages 16 and 17*

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

**Three Adult Sunday School Classes:** 9:30-10:30am Crusaders  
9:30 -10:30am Spirit and Truth and 11:00am-12:00pm Truthseekers

### **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**

Mothers' Room offers live streaming of each service and a quiet place for mothers to attend to the needs of their small children. Located through the door to the right of the altar platform.

#### **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  |               |



## March 2026 Worship Services

### Worship Themes

March continues the lead up to Easter with a sermon series focused on the Holy Spirit. If we want to know and serve God, if we want to live a vital Christian life, and if we want to understand Scripture, we need to understand more about the Holy Spirit and how we relate to Him. This seven-week worship series will help us understand the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives to give us a more holistic understanding of the God who created us and loves us.

### **Sunday, March 01: Communion Sunday**

The Holy Spirit ~ "Ignites Relationships", Romans 8:15-16 (NIV)

"The Holy Spirit assures us of our salvation, giving us confidence that we belong to God."

### **Sunday, March 08: Missions Celebration/Youth Confirmation of Membership**

The Holy Spirit ~ "Refines Character", 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (NIV)

"The Holy Spirit transforms us by aligning our values with Christ's values."

Note: Daylight Savings time begins this date. "Spring Forward!"

### **Sunday, March 15:**

The Holy Spirit ~ "Fuels Unity", John 17:9-12, 20-23 (NIV)

"The Holy Spirit works to bring and maintain unity in God's family."

### **Sunday, March 22:**

The Holy Spirit ~ "Stirs Potential", Ephesians 4:11-13 and Romans 12, 3-8 (NIV)

"The Holy Spirit equips us with spiritual gifts for His purposes and in His service."

### **Sunday, March 29: Palm/Passion Sunday/Fifth Sunday of the Month**

Note: Easter Cantata will be performed at the 11:00am service.

The Holy Spirit ~ "Spreads Light", Acts 1:8 and Jeremiah 1:9 (NIV)

"The Holy Spirit brings us the inspiration and skills to make disciples of Christ."

## 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**

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## 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**

**Spirit and Truth from 9:30 - 10:30am**

**Truthseekers from 11:00am - 12:00pm.**

**Crusaders Class:** Facilitated by Jeanne Narum. The Crusaders class invites all adults interested in exploring and discussing the various books of Scripture and their impact on our modern faith.

**Spirit and Truth Class:** Facilitated by Greg Peavey. The Spirit and Truth Sunday class focuses on a close line by line analysis of books of the Bible, in order to discover and explore deep connections of meaning in the Word.

**Truthseekers Class:** Truthseekers class is facilitated by team, with various members taking lead roles in turn. This structure invites fluid discoveries and a certain amount of unexpected paths through Scripture. All are welcome to join us in discovery and discussion.

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

Are you interested in audio and/or video presentation work? Would you like to run an audio mixing board to blend vocals and instruments, Perhaps you are interested in operating state of the art video presentation software, helping to tell each week's spiritual stories through live sight and sound. **Our A/V is team is actively looking for several new volunteer members to help run the audio board and slide presentations during both Sunday services. No experience is needed!** Training can be provided on the production software used in our balcony systems. Contact our Technical Director at [tkramer@fmcz.org](mailto:tkramer@fmcz.org)



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## Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]

With friendly faces, welcoming voices, and engaging personalities, our Sunday greeters rank high in visitor surveys returned to us. This positive feedback is no accident. Please be sure to thank our Sanctuary Support team, when you see them in the lobby, for often being the very first impressions visitors have of our church family. Regular volunteer activities include Sunday ushers and greeters, sanctuary preparation, communion stewards, and visitor assistance. Making everyone welcome helps make more Disciples for Christ and makes each Sunday service a meaningful, joyful experience. Fill out a Ministry Interest Form *on our website* if you are interested in joining this important team.

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

The Sunday Morning Café is located in Cooper Hall east from 9:00 am until 11:00 am every Sunday, before and between services. Enter through the side door facing the sanctuary which also leads to the Education Building. Join us as we greet the day with coffee and fellowship! It's a great time to meet or make friends, share our viewpoints, or prepare to join in a Sunday Bible Study class.



## MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

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

#### Children's Church (grades K - 5)

#### February Class Activities

Children's Church continues with the Buck Denver video series through March, as Buck and his friends discuss the meaning of the season of Lent and the significance of Easter. We hope you will join us for this very special season of learning, fellowship, and finding the importance of the Risen Christ in all our lives.



There are five Sundays in March this year. Easter falls on the very first Sunday in April. That Sunday will be a very special Sunday for all our children that will include the traditional Easter Egg Hunts after both worship services.



Questions? Contact Carol Runyon at: [crunyon@fmcz.org](mailto: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 which is down the 1st floor 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".

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](mailto:kezra@fmcz.org) for more information.

#### OTHER YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S NEWS FOR MARCH

**Youth Sunday Confirmation of New Members:** March 8th. During both worship programs. For more information connect with Karen Ezra at [kezra@fmcz.org](mailto:kezra@fmcz.org)

**Youth Super Soup Extravaganza** March 8th in Cooper Hall East 11:30 - 1:00pm. This fundraiser is in support of our church young people going to Youth Camp this summer. More details on the camp will be available so watch our communications channels in the coming weeks.



**Family Ministries Easter Egg Hunts** Easter falls on April 5th this year, and just like past years, FMCZ will be holding two easter egg hunts (one after each worship service) in the Cooper Hall Courtyard. We are asking all our church members to assist with this fun activity by donating candy and treats to fit inside plastic Easter eggs for the children to hunt down. Please bring donations to Cooper Hall on Sunday, March 22 and/or March 29th or to the church office during regular business hours. Thank you!

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## Prayer and Praise [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]

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

**This is a message for those thinking they are fully capable of doing everything by themselves.**

Jesus wants us to ask for help. You should NOT think you are capable of doing everything by yourself! It really doesn't matter if we have a small or a large problem, God will solve ALL our problems; perhaps not as we think HE will but in a much better way! When we strive to manage our problems by ourselves, we often fall short and become frustrated. Jesus wants us to talk to Him to ask for assistance as needed.

**When we are close to Jesus, HIS strength lightens our burdens.  
Our thanks become our very NEXT prayer! PRAYER HAS POWER!**



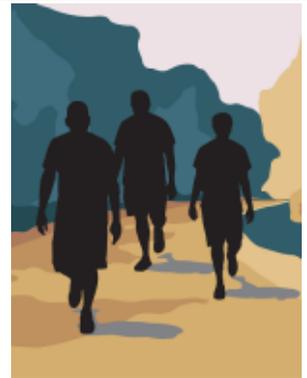
*Please join us in prayer every Tuesday morning as we ask for help doing what we cannot do ourselves..*

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

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in way appropriate to being "a servant of all."

March's reunion meeting, for those who have completed a walk, will be on Thursday, March 05, from 6:30 - 8:00pm in the Crusaders Classroom.



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

Masterpiece Gardens, 3900 Great Masterpiece Rd., Lake Wales, FL.

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

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## Children's Church Activities [Team Leader ~ Carol Runyon]

Children's Church includes an engaging mix of age-appropriate curriculum, group interactions, and hands-on activities. This past month, the children made beautiful valentine greetings to be delivered to seniors in our area assisted living facilities.



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

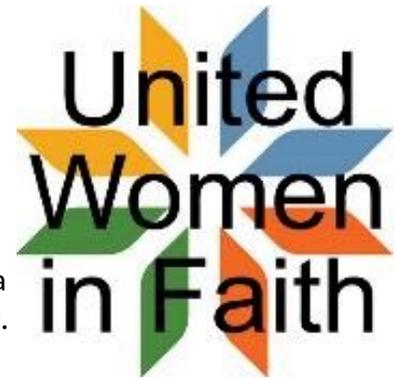
Our Unit of United Women in Faith met Thursday the 12th at noon in Cooper Hall. We learned a little about our impact on our sisters and we pledged to continue promoting the welfare of Women and Children in our missions around the world.

We're hosting a Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show on March 28th from 1:00 -3:00pm. Tickets are \$10, available in the church office or from unit members. The fashion show will feature fashions modeled from the Norma Hall Thrift Shop by our own members and members of Chapter EU of P.E.O.

April 7th we're holding a Mother's Day Potluck Picnic at Hercules Park. Remember, there is no registration required to join any of our events. Just bring a smile and an item to share. We're hoping Mother Nature honors us with beautiful weather.

Until we meet, know Jesus loves you, too!

*Phyllis Blanchard, President,  
Zephyrhills United Women In Faith,  
712-830-5196 lpb5152@yahoo.com*



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## Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

Project Others received a generous donation of yarns from Erin Murphy Crouch. They were the "stash" of her grammy who can no longer make her beautiful items. Our group will use these yarns in honor of Phyllis Geer Murphy and so continue knitting & crocheting slippers that are donated to hospice patients. Some of you will remember Phyllis as a snowbird who attended our church.

Donations of quilting materials keep our group working. We currently have a problem. A GOOD PROBLEM! Our cabinets are overflowing with tiny & small pieces of fabrics. AT PRESENT, we will temporarily stop accepting fabric donations **unless they are one yard or larger**. We are so thankful for all of you who donate and help keep our mission alive.

Some of our members work "remotely". The picture at right shows Barbara Stein bringing in completed clothing protectors that she made at home.

We are currently sorting & organizing all of our cloth and crafting notions inventory. We have many boxes of squares all cut and ready to be sewn into quilt tops. Anyone who would like to help, please stop in on Friday mornings in Cooper Hall from 8 - 11 A M and we will help you get started!



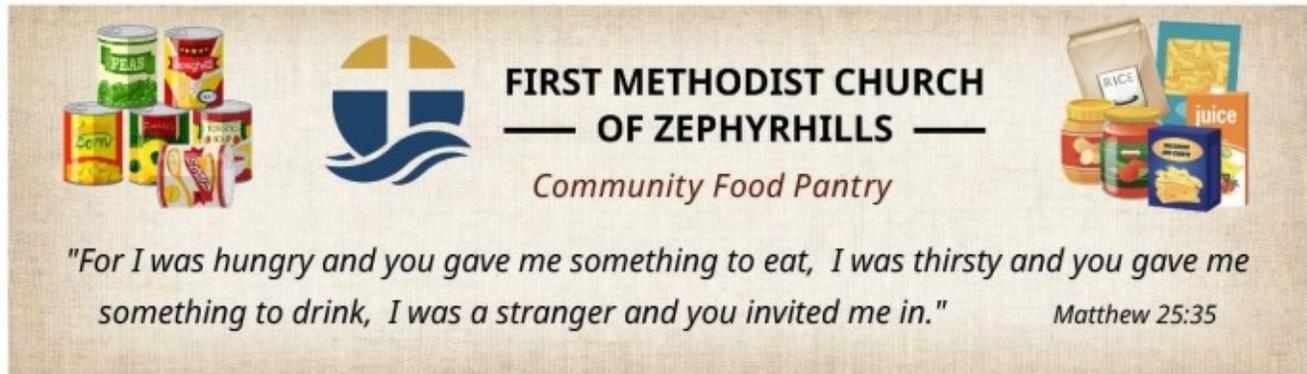
### THE PROJECT OTHERS TEAM

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]

**Distribution Days are March 09, 10, and 11 ~ DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS March 15**



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

The Norma Hall Thrift Stores had a fantastic 2025!!

Because of your donations and volunteer work, the Thrift Stores had \$75,725 net proceeds for the year!! We appreciate everyone who supported both buildings with your treasured items we could resell and the boundless enthusiasm of all our volunteers.

In order to continue this wonderful ministry and promote even more donations from our local community, we have 2 volunteer requests:

- 1) Someone with a truck and/or trailer that could pick up large merchandise for our main building and annex. This person could set their own schedule with days that are convenient for them. If you are interested, please contact Lyn or Sandy at the Norma Hall building during regular business hours - Mon, Wed., or Sat. from 8 -noon.
- 2) Someone to help out in our Women's clothing dept. on Monday mornings. We do most of our sorting, stocking shelves and hanging clothes on racks when the store is closed to the public.

Please consider helping us in these positions or anytime the stores are open. And always remember that proceeds from the Thrift Stores go to support the missions, ministries, and activities that are the Heart and Spirit of the FMCZ Church Family.

Thank you

Norma Hall Thrift Store volunteer committee.

#### Regularly Featured In the Annex

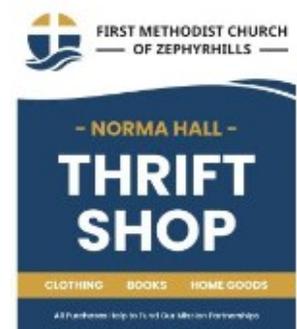
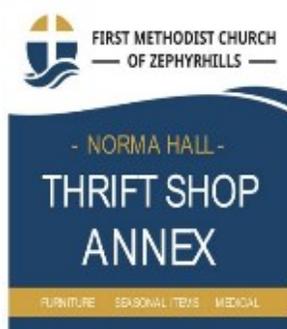
Furniture ~ larger home goods ~ Christmas decor

#### Regularly Featured In the Main Shop

Clothing, books, smaller home goods  
and general home décor

Mondays 8am–12pm  
Donations only

Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am–12pm



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## Spotlight <FOOD EVENTS! Everyone loves a function with food>

This month's opportunities to share in great food, fun, and fellowship!



### Wednesday Refuel Meals

**March 4th: B.B.Q Pork, Potato Wedges, Vegetable, Rolls**  
**March 11th: Orange Chicken over Rice, Rolls**  
**March 18th: Goulash, Salad, Rolls**  
**March 25th: Chicken Tortilla Soup, Rolls**

**All meals come with drink and dessert. Dinner is served from 5:45 to 6:30pm. Only \$5/person or \$10/family.**

### March 8th ~ "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 to attend Youth Camp this summer*



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## UWF Ladies Salad Luncheon and Fashion Show [Spring Fundraiser]

Please save the date for this highly anticipated spring fellowship and fundraising event organized by our local United Women in Faith group.

Saturday, March 28th, 2026  
1:00 - 3:00pm  
Cooper Hall East

Tickets are only \$10 and will be on sale throughout March. Contact any UWF member for additional details or stop at the church office!



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## 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, even if the track is not in our music library or available to play at worship service.

This month's song is suggested by Debbie Nonnemaker, regular vocal contributor to the inspiring praise songs at our 9:30 Contemporary service. The complex blend of vocal leads and harmonies gives Salvation's Rock a vital dynamic that changes from week to week depending on the songs selected and how the group chooses to create that week's blend. It's the reason that even if a song is often sung, you will seldom hear it sung exactly the same way twice in a row.

Debbie's song of choice for March is *"Too Good To Not Believe"* by Brandon Lake and Cody Carnes. Debbie writes, "I have many Christian playlists that resonant with my whole being. For me, this song is so uplifting and reveals our powerful, wonder-working God. We all face afflictions in life spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally. When I reflect on my past challenges, as well as others, I am in such awe of God's healings. Sometimes they have not been what was wanted but through faith, we cannot limit God. In the lyrics, *'You cannot tell me He can't do it'*, is a constant reminder no matter what season or challenges you are facing we have a God who does do all things for our good and HIS purpose (Romans 8:28). God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. (Hebrews 13:8).

Listen to it here: ["Too Good To Not Believe" performed by Brandon Lake](#)

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### Long Term Prayer List [For February 2026] updated 01-15-26

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."**

Chloe Budge, Michele Devine, Jim Elliot, Randy Hall, Bristol Loftis,  
Gary McLean, Suzanne Morgan, Mike Sonnenberg

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### Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

#### March's Mission of the Month ~ Sunrise of Pasco County, Inc.

Sunrise center provides survivor-focused, trauma-informed services through an empowerment based approach. They work collaboratively within the community to enhance survivors access to services. The program uses empathetic and holistic practices to empower individuals and engage the local community to end domestic and sexual violence. They provide opportunities for women and children of our community while sustaining a fiscally strong agency that acts with respect, fairness and integrity to all. Their vision is to lead our community in creating an environment in which domestic and sexual violence no longer exist. Please support this important mission with your prayer and donations. Thank you for all your prayers and support.



## SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

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

Next One Blood Drive ~ Sunday, March 1, 2026 in front of the Sanctuary  
Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ Sunday, March 8, 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall



PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES

### IS YOUR BODY'S CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON?

Think of your thyroid as a car engine that sets the pace at which your body operates. An engine produces the required amount of energy for a car to move at a certain speed. In the same way, your thyroid gland manufactures enough thyroid hormone to prompt your cells to perform a function at a certain rate.

- As many as **30 million Americans** may be affected by thyroid disorders, although more than half remain undiagnosed.
- Thyroid disorders are more common amongst women.
- Thyroid disorders tend to run in families.
- Fatigue is a common complaint for under and overactive thyroid conditions.
- TSH testing is the most useful test for thyroid screening.
- Regular check-ups are the key to successfully managing a malfunctioning thyroid gland.
- Changing formulations and dosage that affect thyroid hormone levels should be followed by retesting.
- Do not change your dose of thyroid medication without guidance from your physician.
- Thyroid conditions in pregnancy warrant close attention.
- Thyroid cancer is one of the fastest growing cancers in America and one of the most curable.

### HOW TO TAKE THE THYROID NECK CHECK

#### ALL YOU NEED IS A GLASS OF WATER AND A HAND-HELD MIRROR

1. Hold the mirror in your hand, focusing on the lower front area of your neck, above the collarbones, and below the voice box (larynx). Your thyroid gland is located in this area of your neck.
2. While focusing on this area in the mirror, tip your head back.
3. Take a drink of water and swallow.
4. As you swallow, look at your neck. Check for any bulges or protrusions in this area when you swallow. Reminder: Don't confuse the Adam's apple with the thyroid gland. The thyroid gland is located further down on your neck, closer to the collarbone. You may want to repeat this process several times.
5. If you do see any bulges or protrusions in this area, see your physician. You may have an enlarged thyroid gland or a thyroid nodule and should be checked to determine whether cancer is present or if treatment for thyroid disease is needed.

Every time you look in the mirror, a key to your well-being is staring back at your thyroid gland. The thyroid gland is a small, butterfly-shaped gland located in the lower front of the neck, above the collarbones, and below the voice box (larynx). Your thyroid gland makes hormones that help control the function of many of your body's organs, including your heart, brain, liver, kidneys, and skin. Making sure that your thyroid gland is healthy is important to your body's overall well-being.

For more info go to: <http://www.thyroidawareness.com/> and take the QUIZ!

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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.

Currently, the Stephen Ministry is holding training sessions every Tuesday evening from 6:00 - 8:30pm. This training is for new Stephen Ministers, involving about 50 hours of focused instruction. While this class is at capacity for this spring session, those interested in future opportunities are always welcome to inquire.

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



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## Faith Responders [Rev. Laura Lambert]

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF ZEPHYRHILLS IS A  
FAITH RESPONDERS HOST CAMPUS

When the spring floods swept through Kentucky, Karen watched the water rise until her home was nearly under water. The place she had poured her retirement savings into, the place that was supposed to feel safe, was suddenly filled with mud, debris, and damage she couldn't afford to fix.

She applied for assistance, hoping for help. Instead, she was told her home was "noncompliant." A previous owner had once received FEMA funding that required flood insurance, and because that agreement stays with the property and not the person, she was denied support. Through no fault of her own, she was left with no coverage and no clear path forward. She didn't even know who to call next. But through her local emergency management office, her story was referred to **Faith Responders**. It was one of those moments that only God could orchestrate. We didn't know Karen, and she didn't know us, yet somehow the right people connected at exactly the right time.

When we first spoke, she wasn't asking for everything to be rebuilt. She simply said, "If I just had a pressure washer, I could start cleaning this myself." So we sent her one. Because sometimes recovery starts with just one small step forward. From there, God began lining up the rest. Faith Responders partnered with local churches and the Mid-South Conference to organize volunteers and help fund the rebuild. We were able to **cover nearly half of the materials and repair costs** so Karen wouldn't have to



carry the burden alone. Week after week, teams showed up to clean, repair, and rebuild. Many of them were in their seventies, yet they kept coming back faithfully until her home slowly began to feel like home again. Thank God for these wonderful Volunteers.

*Thank you for being part of Faith Responders and for caring about the stories that don't always make the news but matter deeply to the people living them.*

Rev. Laura Lambert



## Support Groups On Our Campus

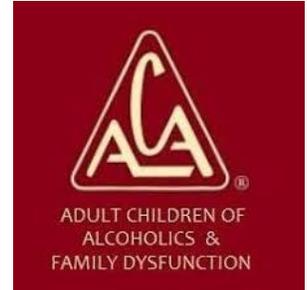
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### Adult Children of Alcoholics and Family Dysfunction

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.



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### 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.*



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### 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.

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### Meeting Information:

Wednesdays, 4:00 - 5:30pm

January 7th to April 8th, 2026

Crusaders Classroom - Education Building



For information, contact Gaynell Jeffries at: [eldis.jeffries@gmail.com](mailto:eldis.jeffries@gmail.com) or call or text at this number: 813-838-3319. You can register directly at <https://www.griefshare.org/findagroup>

This 14 week session features a video seminar, group discussion, and personal workbook (cost: \$25.00), all designed to create a safe and comforting place where anyone recovering from significant loss can find support, direction, and guidance on how to make it through the challenges inherent in the grieving process.



### 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 Leader ~ Gary Hartman]

The Kitchen Band meets every Friday at 9:00am at Betmar's Clubhouse Three. The band is a group of people who get together and sing songs and play kazoo's for the Betmar community and residents of local nursing home facilities! We are a no cost club and encourage anyone who would like to join us to come on over to check us out! If you play an instrument, that's great but if you don't, no problem! Anyone can kazoo! New kazoo's are provided! The smile on the residents faces is amazing and many of them like to sing along!



Special presentation for March will be a performance by the Betmar Kitchen Band, a group of residents who sing songs, play kazoo's, & have fun entertaining at local functions and ALF's.

### SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, March 19th

11:30am—1:00pm

Cooper Hall East

**Betmar Kitchen**

**Band Performance**

Good Food ~ Good Fellowship ~  
Good Times



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

### Special Scripture-Based Puzzle Feature ~ "Fruits of the Spirit"

S T F I G O B E D I E N C E S  
L O V E G R A C I O U S L U E  
U T R U S T W O R T H Y R K G  
F O R G I V I N G O N R I I R  
R S U B M I S S I V E L F E A  
E S Y S M R D I U N T C S B T  
Y E T U E T O D D S O P L N E  
A N I O D U M E I M E A E C F  
R D L E I E R R P C M D N G U  
P O I G T S H A T E I A F E L  
L O M A A C S T L F R U I T R  
E G U R T S S E N E L T N E G  
A J H U I S S O L O Y A L T Y  
R O N O O S C O Y H T L A E H  
N Y N C N G T M E E K N E S S

Search for these words in the puzzle either across, up and down, or diagonally.

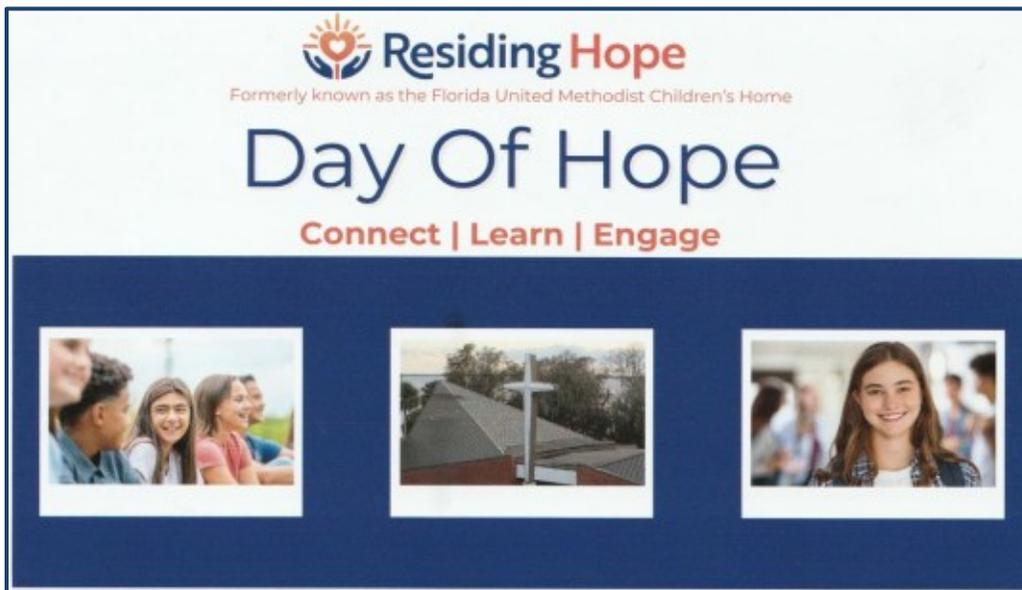
Blameless, Christ-like, Compassion, Confident, Considerate, Courageous, Forgiving, Fruit, Gentleness, Gifts, Goodness, Gracious, Grateful, Healthy, Humility, Joy, Learn, Love, Loyalty, Meditation, Meekness, Obedience, Prayerful, Respect, Submissive, Surrender, Tolerance, Trustworthy, Virtues, Wisdom

Once you have found and circled all the names in the list, unscramble the remaining letters to reveal a mystery name.

Contributed to Christian Bible Reference site by Tony Jose.

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## Residing Hope ~ Day of Hope, March 19



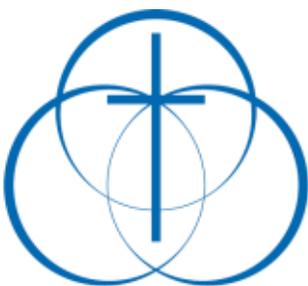
March 2026 is a Fifth Sunday month which means that we will highlight the Residing Hope Ministry in our communications channels and remind everyone that the special Fifth Sunday Collection on the 29th will be in support of this long-time Methodist ministry. Also this month, on Thursday, March 19, there will be an opportunity for congregational members to learn more about the great work being done at the Enterprise Campus with a facility tour, break-out sessions, fun activities for all ages, boxed lunches for participants, and opportunities to interact with small on-site projects. This is a great chance for those in our own campus ministries to travel as a small group to see this amazing facility in action and to see first-hand the impact of our generous giving.

Anyone interested in putting together a day outing or being a part of one, can communicate with Sandy Coon, our local Residing Hope liaison, or by leaving your name and contact information for her at the church office.

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## Spirit-Filled Outings ~ [Opportunities to Explore and Grow in Faith]

Recently a group of our church members attended the Women of Hope Conference at Brandon New Hope Church, a member of the Global Methodist Florida Conference. The ladies shared that they had an amazing time of worship and learning through a day of inspiring break out sessions, speakers, and good fellowship with others looking to grow in faith. Our Florida Conference is very active in promoting these kinds of opportunities for church communities to come together in partnership, growth, and discovery, challenging all our members to take their faith outside our sanctuary doors and share the inspiration of the Spirit. Thank you ladies for well representing First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills!



**GLOBAL**  
METHODIST CHURCH



## SPECIAL NOTES: Information and Fellowship

### New Members Class, February 2026 [Pastor Steve Ezra]

We are especially blessed to be an actively growing church family with visitors joining both our worship services and Sunday fellowship time in Cooper Hall. Last month both our visitors and church associates took the next step and became full members of our church family. We welcome each and every one warmly and commit ourselves to them as they have to us!



Liz Welton



Norm Rautenberg



Diane Rautenberg



Polly Adwell



Bentley Adwell



John Adwell



Becky Adwell



Maria Williams



Merita Krause-Sheive



Sandra Hoff



William Hoff

## New Members Class, February 2026 [Continued]



Timothy and Amanda Saylor and Family



### FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF ZEPHYRHILLS

a Global Methodist Family

On Sunday, February 15th at both 9:30 and 11:00am services, we received our 13 new members into the FMCZ family with special presentations that included a baptism. Both these special services are available to watch again by visiting our Past Services page on the website and clicking on the appropriate service.

*WELCOME! To our newest family members!*

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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 Green Apt. 333  
Neal Slingerland Apt. 207

### **EDWINOLA ~ 14235 Edwinola Way, Dade City 352-567-6500**

Beulah Zeller

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

Shirley Griffin, Memory Unit

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

Geneva Dunford  
Barbara Kehr

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

Shirley Force Washington Unit  
Dorothy Lundeen  
Carol Scheckler

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

Joan Donaldson

### **AT HOME ~ Personal Addresses and Phone Numbers**

Luci Knepper  
Terri Stanley

*HILLSIDE HEALTH ~ 38220 Henry Dr., Zephyrhills 813-715-1749*

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

*ADVENT HEALTH ZEPHYRHILLS ~ 7050 Gall Blvd, Zephyrhills, FL 813-788-0411*

*GARDEN OF WESTBROOK ~ 6701 Dairy Rd., Zephyrhills, FL 813-782-4417*

## 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  
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**

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

03/02	Jim Martin	03/19	Richard Vogel
03/03	John Adwell	03/20	Lois Hemphill
03/04	Thelma Diekfuss	03/23	Sarah Gale
03/04	Bonnie Hazelett	03/23	Bernie Schmitt
03/06	Lorne Becker	03/25	Joan Atwood
03/06	Ronald Wisor, Sr.	03/25	Doyle Springfield
03/07	Vicki Gower	03/27	Reva Cooper
03/09	Virginia Gray	03/27	Patricia Sheets
03/09	Terri Palmer	03/29	Kevin Keating
03/09	Beulah Zeller	03/30	Terry Dutkiewicz
03/11	Joshua Ouellette	03/30	Daniel Ezra
03/12	Linda Ashline	03/31	Tina Graves
03/12	Glenn Harmon	03/31	Robert J. Sheldon
03/13	Jennifer Smith		
03/13	Geri Teeple		
03/15	Deanna Hasenauer Pafundi		
03/15	Nancy Hitte		
03/16	Gregory Belles		
03/17	Lynn Cox		
03/18	Melanie McDowell		
03/19	Minyon Freiermuth		
03/19	David Friedman		

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

### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

03/04	Kevin and Sarah Smith
03/04	Scott and Teresa Stewart
03/13	Elisabeth and Stephen Jenkins
03/21	Sandra and Kevin Morris
03/22	Johanna and Bobby Theel
03/23	Donald and Janice Parsley



## 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)

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Financial Secretary

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

Eric Gale,

Contemporary Worship Leader

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

Teresa Gale,

Office Manager

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

Tom Gale,

Communications Director

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

Peter Jordan,

Treasurer

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

Todd Kramer,

Technical Director

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

## This Month's Cover [March ~ Spirit of New Life]

This month we are talking and pondering a lot about the Holy Spirit and the force or spark that imbues us with the spiritual gifts that empower us to follow Christ's path in the world. As we are exploring these gifts through Pastor Steve's sermon series leading up to the ultimate spark that was the Resurrection, it is easy to draw parallels with the life sparks that are all around us. While modern science has been focused on documenting and explaining the biological "forces" that mold and shape life on this world, the spiritual spark behind those forces remains ineffable and undefinable by human measurement. We acknowledge that a single seed can carry within all the genetic information needed to grow into a ripe tomato, a towering redwood tree, or a human being so unique as to have never been seen or known before nor ever be duplicated again. We see too, without that spark, the "data" remains lifeless, dormant, hardly more than potential. But as ancient seeds have amazingly sprouted and grown in modern times, so does all that potential wait, just for the spark, to ignite and burst forth.

When I was young, my father and mother were both lay leaders at our church, with my Mom very active in liturgical writing. Recently, going through her notes I found a meditation she wrote that speaks on this: *"All of earth's glory begins with a dying. The beauty that is spring could never be unless the seed accepts its death within the tomb of winter. . . Somehow, Creation knows the Lord is risen; Somehow, Creation knows that He is here, and dying is no longer death - only an awakening to Glory."*

## Giving Back [Investing in Gardens and Orchards]

Investing in the work and growth of our church and its family is an on-going call to action that makes our faith and our words tangible and immediate within our community and the communities around us. Do we accept the calling to make our church grow and go out beyond to make disciples of Christ? Then we invest in those activities that keep us on Christ's path through today's challenging world. We tend short-term financial gardens and plant long-term financial orchards; we invest in growth. If we enter this world with nothing and leave the same way, then it is what we do with what we gather and make in between that creates our individual legacy. Ultimately, we are who we become and what we choose to leave behind. Below are some ways you can invest now.

### Automatic Bank Transaction

Most banks have the ability to do automatic bill pay. It is simple and easy to set up and once established continues without interruption. Access your bank's bill pay features and choose a new pay to account. You can choose the amount, frequency, and duration of your payments. Please make sure your contribution is sent to:

First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills  
38635 5th Ave, Zephyrhills, FL 33542

### Automatic Bank Draft

The church has the ability to set up a batch file through our bank that will draft from your checking account 2x each month. This is similar to the Vanco giving as you will need to provide your account number plus the routing number for a one time setup. Usually there are two separate batches each month so you can choose to give, for example, on the 5th or 20th of the month. There is no fee charged to the church for this service. Contact our Church Treasurer in the church office to sign up.

### Secure Online Transaction

First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills has partnered with Vanco to provide safe and secure processing of church contributions using credit cards, debit cards, and bank accounts. Vanco provides these services to many churches across America and is a partner with the Global Methodist Church. With this option you can choose the frequency and the amount of your contribution. The preferred method and most economical for FMCZ is to utilize bank draft.

To sign up or learn more about giving you can visit [www.fmcz.org](http://www.fmcz.org), click on the word GIVE on our home page and click the GIVE ONLINE button there.

### Offering Envelopes

You can order a book of offering envelopes that are dated for each Sunday to use in placing your tithes and offerings in the offering plate each week. These offering envelopes are ordered annually and can be picked up in the Narthex or church office in December. This is a great benefit because the envelopes are already preprinted with your family name and number, and the weekly envelopes are a good reminder. If you would like to receive envelopes or cancel your envelopes, contact our Church Treasurer in the church office.

### Plate Offering

Simply place your offering in the plate each Sunday as it passes you.

To fully ensure that your contribution is credited to your account for tax purposes, please clearly mark your envelope with your family name.

### Donating Appreciated Stock

The IRS allows for donation of appreciated stock to a qualified 503c organization. This method requires some setup with the church. If you are interested in this, please contact our Church Treasurer in the church office.

*Thank you for your support!*



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