

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

Pointing Ahead

April 2026

In this issue: VBS 2026 Registration Open ~ see page 14

38635 5th Avenue, Zephyrhills, FL 33542
Church Office: (813) 782-5645
www.fmcz.org / info@fmcz.org

Join us for Live, In-Person Sunday Worship

Contemporary Service 9:30am

Traditional Service 11:00 am

Children's Church dismissal at both services

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 | |



April 2026 Worship Services

Worship Themes

April begins with Resurrection Sunday, bringing to a close the sermon series on the many gifts of The Holy Spirit. Starting on the second Sunday of the month, we will delve into a new seven part series which carries us through the end of May. This series is based on a worship series from LifeChurch in Edmond, Oklahoma and is titled, "Pre-Decide". *This series asks the question, what if becoming the person you want to be starts long before the moment you make a decision?* Before you click "buy," before you take one more bite, or before you lash out at the people you love; can the decisions you make today help you live the life you really want tomorrow? Let's learn together in this worship series "Pre-Decide." The quality of your decisions determines the quality of your life.

Sunday, April 05: Easter/Communion Sunday

The Holy Spirit ~ "Gives New Life", Romans 6:4-11 (NLV)

"If we die with Christ, we believe that we will also live just as he lived after death."

Sunday, April 12: Missions Celebration

"Decide to Pre-Decide", Isaiah 43:18-19a, Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

"Do you like the direction your decisions are taking you? Let God help determine the course before those decisions are even made."

Sunday, April 19:

"Three Keys to Overcoming Temptation", 1 Corinthians 10:12-13, 16:13 (NIV)

"The quality of your decisions determines the quality of your life."

Sunday, April 26:

"The Power of Consistency", Romans 7:15, 18-19; Daniel 6:4, 10, 23 (NIV)

"Consistency is the key to spiritual strength, success, and physical health. Lean on God's help to stay the course and achieve the goals He puts on your hearts."

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

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

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

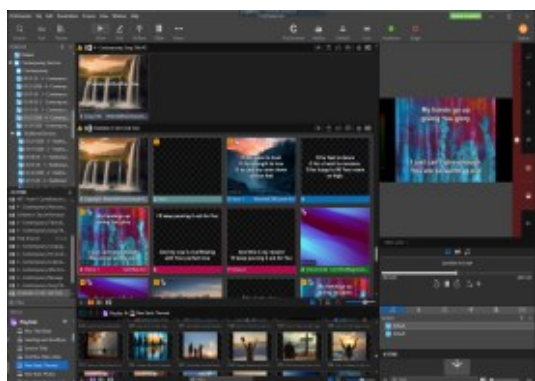
Crusaders Class: Facilitated by Jeanne Narum. The Crusaders class is examining the Psalms through April, delving into its poems of joy, anger, and faith and our complex relationship with God.

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. All are welcome to join us in discovery and discussion.

Technical Support Services [Team Leader ~ Todd Kramer]

Contact our Technical Director at tkramer@fmcz.org if you are interested in joining the A/V Team.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO

- Operate audio console*
- Run presentation software*
- Control livestreaming*
- Set up microphones and equipment*
- Mix in-house sound*



Sanctuary Support [Team Leader ~ Karen Harwell]

Fill out a Ministry Interest Form *on our website* if you would like to join this important team that includes ushers and greeters, altar preparation, recording attendance, visitor services, and front of house safety and security. Serve in rotation with other team members and be FMCZ's official welcome to all who walk through our sanctuary doors, whether old friends or first time visitors. The first impressions of our visitors can be the difference between a casual, one Sunday stop through, or a long time membership in an active Global Methodist Family. Call the church office at 813-782-5645 and we'll connect you with the appropriate team leader.



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. 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)

Contact Carol Runyon at: crunyon@fmcz.org



Children's Church is a place where our young ones can learn about Jesus through age-appropriate video and book lessons, engage in directed play and fellowship, and enjoy hands on craft projects related to seasonally based Bible texts. Always fun. Always worshipful.

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 for more information.

April 05 ~ No Youth Sunday School on Easter

April 12 ~ Lesson 84: Topic - Absalom Rebels

April 19 ~ Lesson 85: Topic - Praises to God

April 26 ~ Lesson 86: Topic - Solomon Asks for Wisdom

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SPRING NEWS

Summer seems very far away, but work is already beginning on this year's Vacation Bible School, a journey across the lush, countryside of Ireland as our children delve into Psalm 23 and learn all about David, the shepherd king. With an engaging drama, great songs, Bible verses, games, crafts, and snacks, every day will be a wonderful adventure in a green and beautiful land that is the perfect backdrop for the concept: "The Lord is my shepherd"

If you'd like to learn more about this summer's VBS adventure, please turn to page 14 for more information and links.



Prayer and Praise [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]

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

Officially spring arrived March 20th-2026.

It has been WINTER for a VERY LONG TIME!

We are happy to see God making our grass green once again!

There is a time for everything, Ecclesiastes fully explores this!

There is a time to plant and a time to transplant.

Spring is an excellent time to renew old friendships!

It is a time to make peace and to love!

It is time to invite friends to join us at FMCZ, a very friendly congregation!

PRAYER for Spring:

**Father, be my strength today, allow me to move in confidence and love,
covered by YOUR protection!!!**



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

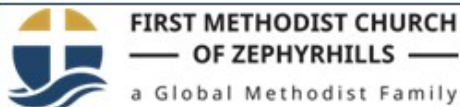
Walk to Emmaus [Team Leaders ~ Dave and Roz Hill]

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders.

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.



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

WITNESS THE PATH TOGETHER

HOLY THURSDAY 4/02 at 6:30pm

~The Last Supper~

GOOD FRIDAY 4/03 at 6:30pm

~Passion and Death~

EASTER SUNDAY 4/05

9:30am Contemporary

11:00am Traditional

~Resurrection~

www.fmcz.org



Join us at The Big White Church on 5th Avenue

Easter arrives early this year on the first Sunday in April, with Holy Week upon us just as March's volatile temperature shifts are departing. A perfect backdrop for the new life we celebrate in Christ's Resurrection, we find joy in the fullness and warmth of spring as it begins to bathe the area in greens, yellows, whites, and blue. Join your friends, family, and neighbors in claiming this new life through prayer and worship in this most special time of year for all Christians.

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Our unit met last Thursday in Cooper Hall. Yes, we women are still at it!

We hosted the President of the Gulf Central District for United Women in Faith, Shirley Erwin. Shirley spoke a little about goals in the District, State, and Region. They are: Communication and Building & Retaining Membership. Do you read YOUR emails? All of them? I know I don't always! Got any ideas on how we can share information, help each other through not so great times, and share our good times? Let me know! I may not be able to use ALL of your suggestions, but....what was it we learned from School House Rock? Knowledge is Power!

At our April 9th meeting we'll hear the agencies our pledges and contributions help, make pledges for Cornerstone Ministries' Wonder Walk, and sign up for our Mothers' Day Pot Luck at Hercules Park. The Pot Luck will be in lieu of our Thursday, May 7th meeting. We'll leave the church parking lot by carpool about 10:45 and return in time for members of the Mission Committee to attend their own meeting. I get to provide the fried chicken; a list for contributions will be passed at our April meeting, and wives, husbands, daughters, and friends are invited. It's for Mother's Day after all!

May's picnic meeting will include a program in memory of our ladies who passed to their heavenly reward last year. I'd love to include a collage of activities we've shared as a group. Do you have any pictures? Will you share them?

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



Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

Project Others meets every Friday from 8:00 to 11:00 in Cooper Hall. Once a month after we meet; we go out for lunch here in town. You are always welcome to come see what we do and perhaps decide that you too would like to participate regularly..

We look forward to making quilts every Friday. We sew clothes protectors, walker bags, wheelchair arm covers and more. Some ladies crochet or knit slippers.

We invite you to stop by! Take a look at our bulletin board in Cooper Hall during coffee hour. We are there and will gladly answer your questions and talk about what we do every week.

Join us any time. Make what you like and know you are making many children and adults, mainly in Zephyrhills, a gift from our church.

Questions may be phoned to our 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

Distribution Days are April 13, 14, 15 ~ DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS April 19



**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF ZEPHYRHILLS**
Community Food Pantry

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." *Matthew 25:35*

The FMCZ Food Pantry distributes non-perishable foods and non-food necessities to those in need in our community each second full week of the month with the following Sunday for restock donations. Each month, the pantry provides over 120 bags of meal components while team members purposefully engage with community members and share the abundant blessings found in our church community.

Thank you for your continued support of this essential community outreach. Please check with team members for specific food items that are needed each month and remember: the best food items to donate are the ones you would put on your own table!



Find your next favorite outfit or home furnishing at the Norma Hall Thrift Shops and support the mission and ministry work of our church and numerous charitable organizations in our area.

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



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF ZEPHYRHILLS

- NORMA HALL -
THRIFT SHOP

CLOTHING BOOKS HOME GOODS

All Purchases Help to Fund Our Mission Partnerships



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF ZEPHYRHILLS

- NORMA HALL -
THRIFT SHOP ANNEX

FURNITURE SEASONAL ITEMS MEDICAL

FMCZ Children's Easter Egg Hunt ~ April 5th



FMCZ Family Ministries

will host two children's egg hunts on

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5th

Hunts will be held after each worship service out in the Education Building Courtyard.

Follow the 10th street pavement toward the chapel or follow the corridor back from Cooper Hall to the double doors.

United Women in Faith Mother's Day Picnic Meeting

Thursday, May 7th, 10:45am
Hercules Park, Zephyrhills

Members will carpool from FMCZ and return prior to 1:00pm that afternoon



The May meeting will be held "al fresco", weather permitting and will feature a member pot luck. UWF members can invite friends, relatives, and significant others. Please sign up during the April meeting in Cooper Hall. The May gathering will include a tribute to past members who are no longer with us, with plans for this component to be organized at the April meeting. Please mark your calendars for both April and May meetings and join us in fellowship and purpose!



Flowering of the Cross

The "flowering of the cross" is an old Easter tradition where a bare wooden cross, that symbolizes Jesus's sacrifice and death on Good Friday, is decorated with flowers on Easter Sunday to represent the new life of his resurrection, marking the change liturgically from mourning into celebration.

Church members are encouraged to bring fresh cut flowers on Easter morning with which to decorate the bare cross that will be standing out on the sanctuary's west lawn next to the rose garden. Flowers can be store bought or trimmed from your garden. This ceremony will continue throughout the morning and church members are encouraged to use this beautiful cross as a backdrop for your Easter photos.

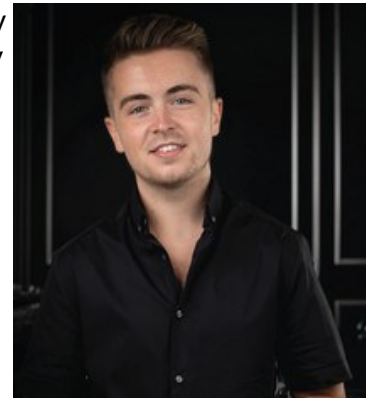
Spotlight < Salvation's Rock ~ Praise Song Playlist



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.

This month's song is suggested by Dee Trainor, one of two regular guitar players for the Contemporary service praise band. The band utilizes a mix of string instruments, such as guitars, electric bass, and ukelele to create both melody lines and rhythms that blend with piano and percussion to back the band's vocalists. Dee enjoys a variety of guitars and has ten (including a Gibson) in her personal collection. At church she plays an Ovation e-acoustic guitar; one of the first guitars in the 1960's to offer the acoustic instrument with a built in electric pickup; a very advanced design for its time!

Dee's song of choice for April is *"If Jesus Comes Tomorrow"* performed by Owen Mac, now twenty-three year old Country/Christian singer from County Derry, Ireland. Owen was only 14 when he gained international recognition for his cover of this beautiful song. Dee writes, "This song really hits home with me. It opens my eyes to my faith, my strengths and my shortcomings. Would I be ready? So many people today panic when their cell phone is about to die and can't find their charger. Yet, so many people fail to urgently seek Jesus before their human cells are about to die! Misplaced priorities – material over eternal. This song helps me re-evaluate what Jesus means to me. I pray it enlightens you as well."



Listen to it here: ["If Jesus Comes Tomorrow"](#)

Long Term Prayer List [For April 2026] updated 03-17-26

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, Roxanna Young

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

April Mission of the Month ~ FMCZ Community Food Pantry

The FMCZ Commission on Missions is a dedicated group of church members who meet each month to provide direct support to a list of local charities and service organizations. Highlighting different local groups each month, the Commission calls attention to ongoing good work being accomplished across our region and attracts both financial and volunteer support from within our church community.

Regular support through the Commission is provided to recipients like our Sister Church in Cuba, our own Food Pantry, The Pregnancy Care Center of Zephyrhills, Agape Flights in Venice, Florida's Faith Responders, and many more.



SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

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

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



The Faith Community Nursing team maintains a regular and informative bulletin board display in Cooper Hall where you can find information about a variety of physical and mental health issues that may impact members of our church family. Please take some time to read the materials provided, and know that the nursing team is available anytime to provide further, in-depth information or answer any questions you may have prior to or after visiting your health care provider.

The nursing team provides regular blood pressure screening in Cooper Hall on designated Sundays between 10:30 - 11:00am and coordinates with One Blood to host the **Big Red Bus** Blood Drives regularly right outside our sanctuary. Please watch the church eBlasts and bulletins for specific dates and times.

Special Scripture-Based Puzzle Feature ~ "Easter"

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

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

Alive, Angel, Apostles, Appearance, Arrest, Barabbas, Betrayed, Calvary, Christ, Church, Cross, Crucified, Death, Eggs, Emmaus, Garden, Gethsemane, Golgotha, Iscariot, Jerusalem, Jesus, Joy, Judas, Mary, Magdalene, Parade, Passover, Peace, Peter, Pilate, Priest, Redeemed, Risen, Romans, Rooster, Salvation, Sanhedrin, Spring, Tomb, Trial, Worship

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

From Christian Bible Reference site

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, terminal or chronic illness, relocation, separation due to military deployment, or job loss. 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.

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 [Rev. Laura Lambert] *FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF ZEPHYRHILLS IS A FAITH RESPONDERS HOST CAMPUS*



faithresponders
a ministry partner of the Global Methodist Church

Faith Responders, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, was established by laity and Global Methodist pastors following Hurricanes Ian and Idalia. Our mission is to empower, equip and engage congregations to share the restorative love of God and offer Christ in tangible ways through disaster response and recovery. We collaborate with congregations, communities and other organizations to provide crucial relief and restoration in disaster-stricken areas. We invite all to share your unique skills and gifts in times of need by being a part of volunteer workforce teams.

See our regular updates posted on the FMCZ website! Go to www.fmcz.org and click the link button to the Faith Responders update page. There we share current stories, information on area trainings, and links to support and donation pages that keep our aid and comfort reaching out wherever it is needed.

FMCZ Outreach Devotional Services [Team Leader ~ Ros Hill]



Several members of our church family regularly provide on site Sunday devotional services at American House Assisted Living Community for FMCZ members and other interested residents on the **2nd Sunday of each month at 2:30pm**. Each service includes praise and prayers, hymns, scripture readings, and a spiritual message. For those of our congregation who would like to join in these devotionals, you are asked to arrive at the facility by 2:00pm that Sunday. Carpooling with other team members can be arranged beforehand by speaking directly to a team member. *Contact Roz Hill for more information at the following number [443-834-8621].*

Looking to join a ministry but are not sure of the best fit for your skills and talents? Service ministries like this one are perfect vehicles for church members to begin or expand their volunteerism with smaller groups that don't require a lot of time or commitment, just a heart-felt desire to share your blessings with others and be a close partner in the good works of your church community.

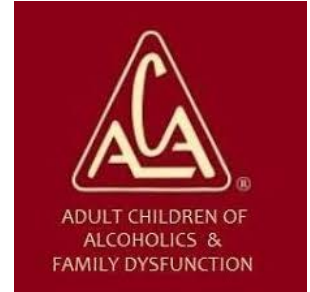
Support Groups On Our Campus

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

January 7th to April 8th, 2026

Crusaders Classroom - Education Building



For information, contact Gaynell Jeffries at: 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]

Young at Heart Presentations provide Good Food, Good Times, and Good Fellowship for all our seniors who are truly young at heart! Offering informative and entertaining presentations with always tasty, cooperative lunches, this long-running member favorite is a perfect chance to get out and enjoy the community blessings of our very active congregation.

SENIOR LUNCHEONS

**On the 3rd Thursday
of Every Month**

**11:30am—1:00pm
Cooper Hall East**

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



What is YOUNG AT HEART? Our mission is to honor and celebrate the lives, wisdom, and enduring spirit of our senior community through the Young At Heart Luncheon. The gathering serves as an expression of gratitude and respect, providing a dignified space where seniors are recognized for their contributions, cherished for their presence, and uplifted by fellowship. We are committed to fostering an atmosphere of joy, appreciation, and connection that reflects the value of every individual, thereby ensuring that each guest feels celebrated as an integral part of our shared story.

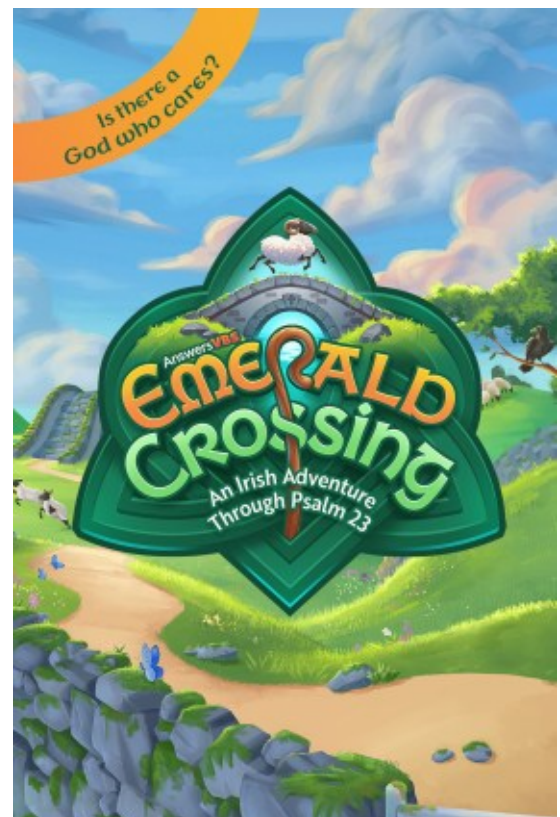
Presentations are chosen to be of special educational, civic, or entertainment interest to our senior church members and suggestions for future presentations are always welcome.

Vacation Bible School 2026 [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra]

Join FMCZ Family Ministries on June 8, 2026 for a fun and meaningful journey through the lush landscapes of Ireland as children discover the truths behind Psalm 23 through drama, song, crafts, science, and directed play. This immersive Bible based adventure weaves its teaching moments into five days of fun and fellowship, guided by our team of “shepherds”.

The adventure begins with Grandpa Fitz, a life-long Irish sheep farmer, who has never lived anywhere but the family farm. But now the farm is getting to be too much for him. Reluctantly, he puts the farm up for sale, but then his son—and only heir—surprises him by moving back to Ireland after quitting his long-time law practice in New York City. The joy doesn’t last long, however. A greedy, corrupt county official has other ideas and almost forces the sale until his evil plan is discovered. In the ups and downs of it all, Grandpa Fitz draws strength from God, the Good Shepherd, and his well intentioned, wayward son finds faith, all through Psalm 23.

Both student and volunteer registration is now open and work is well underway to transform our campus into the green hills of Ireland. Follow the link below to the dedicated FMCZ VBS webpage where you can take the next step to register!



<https://fmcz.org/children/vbs-summer-2026/>

Playground Dedication ~ [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra, FMCZ Family Ministries]

From a jumbled pile of loose timbers, hardware, nuts and bolts, and tough plastic play pieces in December of last year, grew a sturdy and beautiful playground structure, carefully assembled by Greg and Nancy Brooks along with a small band of volunteers. Complete with overhead shade canopies to keep the play surfaces as cool as possible in the summer sun and a soft carpet of astro-turf, the area is now nearly fully functional and certainly stands as a major upgrade to what was there before.

The equipment was purchased through generous donations from a few of our church members, and we are all truly blessed by what the refurbished area can now offer to our children.

On **Sunday, April 12th**, we will be holding two dedication observances as part of both Traditional and Contemporary worship services, giving everyone in the congregation an opportunity to be a part of the consecration of the space to the service of God's works and words for the children He so deeply loves. On that Sunday there will be some new traffic patterns in the alleyways around the playground fencing to make sure the dedications are both convenient for our church family and safe for all. Please watch the upcoming eBlasts and bulletins for particulars.

As is evident by the on-going improvements happening in and around all the campus buildings and grounds, our Trustees are keeping very busy with both major and minor repair and renovation projects to make our campus more functional for our missions and ministries, and more appealing to those who visit. Seeing visible growth and activity helps to attract new members and to energize us all to find new ways to serve and share the many blessings given to us every day!



Trainings ~ [Opportunities to Explore and Grow in Faith]

The next **Certified Lay Minister** class is "*Leadership and Emotional Intelligence*" taught by Rev. Dr. David Moenning. This is a required class for certification. Register at the button below.

May 4, 11, 18, 25, and June 1

7:00pm to 8:30pm

The class fee is \$35



You can pay online at the button below or send a check to:

GMC Florida Conference
11250 Old St. Augustine Rd. Suite 15-114
Jacksonville, FL 32257.

Please write "CLM Leadership EI" on a memo line for both online payment and a check.

GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[PAY ON-LINE HERE](#)

SPECIAL NOTES: Information and Fellowship

New Youth Members Class, March 2026 [Karen and Steve Ezra]

We were especially blessed in March when a number of our Youth stepped forward to be formally confirmed in their faith and become official members of First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills. Attending three weeks of classes, each young person committed their lives to God and accepted membership in the Global Methodist Church. We welcome each and every one warmly and commit ourselves to them as they have to us!



Jazz Vazquez



Keelan Adwell



Andrew Ahrend



Blake Raybon



TJ Hickman



Hickman Family

In an un-planned and unexpected blessing, on the day of TJ's confirmation, the whole Hickman family stood together to be baptized as well. This has been a very joyful start to a new year as a Global Methodist family. We welcome all our new members and look forward to seeing how their own special gifts and talents will help shape our faith and works going forward. As a church community, we are proud to be chosen as a spiritual home, and know that it is a mutual commitment we cannot and do not take lightly. It's especially meaningful in this season of New Life, to celebrate the new energies and possibilities that our recent members bring to us and to all our activities and ministries. Welcome!

LOVING HANDS MINISTRIES - DADE CITY
34TH ANNUAL WENDELL C. WILSON MEMORIAL

GOLF

TOURNAMENT



34th Annual Wendell C. Wilson Memorial Golf Tournament

This annual tournament supports the ongoing work of Loving Hands Ministries. We're grateful for the businesses, churches, and individuals who make this day possible year after year!

If you've played before, we'd love to have you back. If you haven't joined us yet, this is a great year to start!

Register a team ~ Become a sponsor ~ Invite someone to play

You can sign up by E-mail
Brian@Lovinghands.net for information.

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
Pat Fletcher

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

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, 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

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

04/01 Sandy Coon
04/01 Tamela Davis
04/01 Sandy Hoff
04/01 Brian Zembraski
04/02 Marcia Wregg
04/03 Barbara Friedman
04/03 Patricia Pedigo
04/03 Mary Spink
04/03 Conway Theel
04/04 Mary Kent
04/04 Devyn Sheffich
04/05 Bruce Cimorelli
04/06 Kurt Bjorkner
04/07 Shirley Caudill
04/08 Theresa Campbell
04/08 Gary Oesch
04/08 Eugene Williams Jr.
04/09 Susan Smith
04/13 Casey Harrison
04/14 Robert Packard
04/15 Alice Hajek
04/15 Dennis Nutt
04/15 Barbara Sheldon

04/16 Mary Crook
04/19 James Wregg
04/20 Steve Shaughnessy
04/22 Miguel Guillen
04/23 Kathy Cady Cross
04/24 Joan Demastrie
04/24 James Wyman
04/25 Kari Adams
04/26 Jean Simpson
04/27 Shayna Morrell
04/27 Joanna Smith
04/28 Wayne McWee
04/29 Teresia Gale
04/30 Cheryl Bjorkner
04/30 Frances Mayo

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

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

04/02 Diane and Norm Rautenberg
04/04 Teresia and Tom Gale
04/12 David and Shirley Carlson
04/14 Dennis and Terry Dutkiewicz
04/14 Sally and Yoshi Koiso
04/15 William and Sandy Hoff
04/18 Bruce and Virginia Cimorelli
04/19 Terri and Todd Kramer
04/20 Greg and Judy Peavey
04/21 Allan and Carol Scheckler
04/28 Pamela Manapat and Tommy McCormick



Staff and Organizational Contacts

Church Web Address

www.fmcz.org

Staff Team Email Addresses

(for staff with church emails)

Church Office

info@fmcz.org

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Todd Kramer,

Technical Director

tkramer@fmcz.org

This Month's Cover [April ~ "Pointing Ahead"]

Early this month we celebrate Easter Sunday, the day of Resurrection. It is from the open entrance of this empty tomb that we mark the origin of our paths forward as Christians because from this point, we are all changed in the promise of eternal life. Christ showed us the way we should live with his own life and demonstrated the reality of eternal life with his Resurrection. And so we stand now at that same origin point with that promise in hand. Why then, do we hesitate?

In this disconnected and broken world, we look around and see so many paths leading off into futures promised by corporations, money managers, politicians, social groups, and celebrities; all of them trumpeting rewards, wealth, health, happiness, fulfillment, and contentment. Turn in any earthly direction and we are faced with the temptations of futures where everyone is happy, dancing, fulfilled, accepted, and at peace. We are so tempted that we want them all and find ourselves dizzy in turning first one direction, then the other, then another, trying to grasp all those promised lands.

But the point is that we cannot go in all directions; that we must choose one because as the old story goes, "a point in every direction is the same as no point at all." "In an effort to be accepted by everyone, we become no one." We MUST choose our direction, and at the entrance to the empty tomb, there is no clearer or more compelling path ahead than the way that Christ points. It is not the easy path or the most tempting path, but in our hearts and souls we know it is the ONLY path.

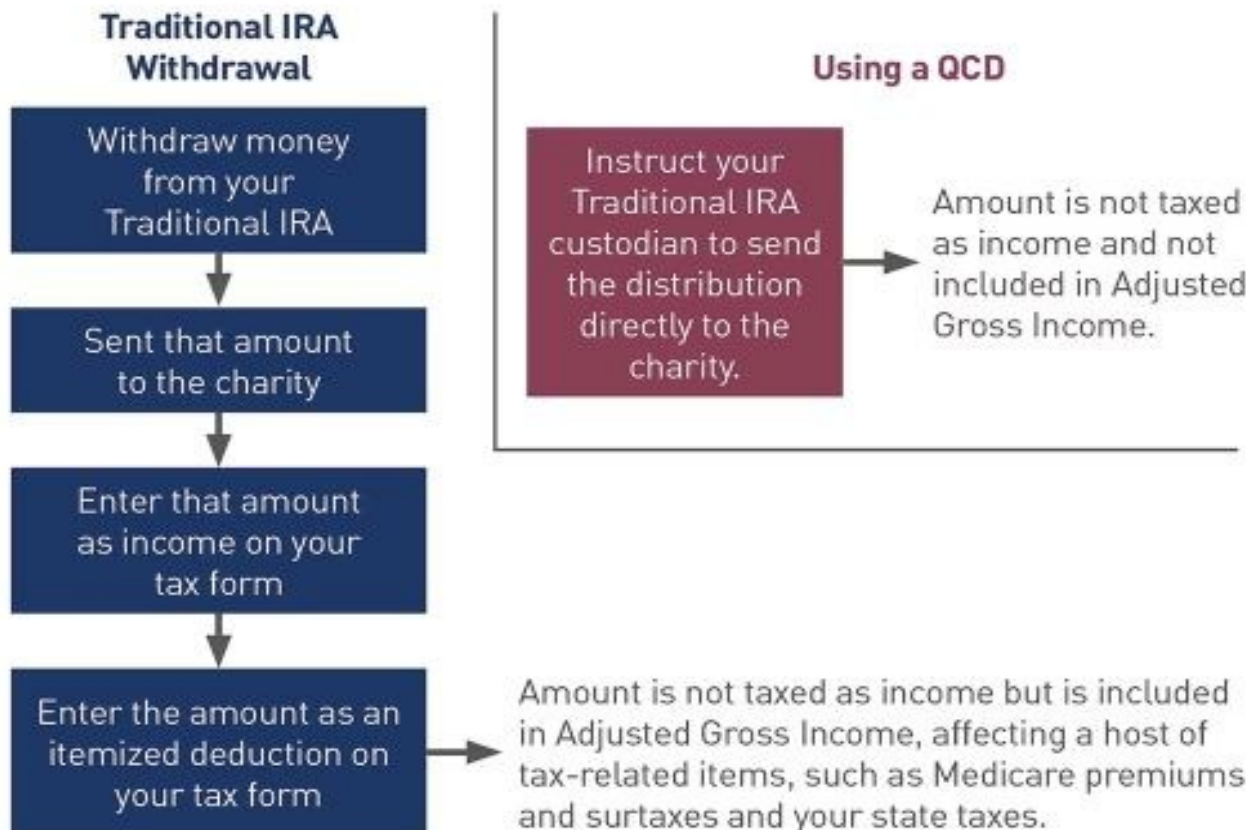
GIVING BACK [RMDs and Qualified Charitable Donations]

We make many investments in our lives, perhaps one of the most significant is the investment we make in our spiritual life and community. Whether we give of our talents, our energies, our time, or our financial resources, when we give back, we invest in the practical application of our faith. Investment is particularly important as our church family and its ministries continue to grow and expand.

For most of us, our monetary donations are in the forms of electronic tithes, envelopes, or cash put into the Sunday offering plate, as that is what we can afford. But for some who may be in a different place in life, there are other practical ways to provide financial support to our church while gaining direct tax advantages. For those with qualified retirement accounts who, because of age, must take their **REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION** each year, that money comes with a tax liability. Those not needing their distribution for regular living expenses often look for ways to turn that excess income into a charitable donation in a way that decreases their tax obligations.

The **QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DONATION** allows that income to be directly donated to any qualified 501(c)(3) organization, like **First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills**, without adding to the donor's tax burden for that year. There are limitations and exclusions, of course, so it is always best to work through a professional financial advisor to set this up. But the good news is that a well defined path is already in place for converting excess retirement income into a **tax exempt donation** that will go directly to work building a legacy that can stretch well into the future and touch numerous generations.

QCD Versus Traditional IRA Withdrawal



Source: PNC