

# The Messenger



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

***Igniting Spirit***

***June 2026***

*In this issue: Children's Church Summer Sunday School - See page 9*

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

## Join us for Live, In-Person Sunday Worship

Contemporary Service 9:30am

Traditional Service 11:00 am

**Children's Church** dismissal at both services

**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  |               |



## June 2026 Worship Services

### Worship Themes

“God in the Ordinary” is a two-week worship series going through the book of Ruth that reveals how God is at work in the quiet, everyday moments of life, especially when circumstances feel uncertain, painful, or even empty. The goal of this worship series is to help people recognize that God’s work is not limited to dramatic miracles or mountaintop moments but is often found in daily faithfulness, integrity, and relationships. By connecting Ruth’s story to the larger redemptive arc that leads to Jesus Christ, this worship series invites worshipers to trust God’s timing, remain faithful in the ordinary, and see their own lives as part of a bigger story.

### **Sunday, May 31: Fifth Sunday**

God In the Ordinary ~ “When Life Falls Apart”, Ruth 1:1-22 (NIV)

“Stay faithful even when life doesn’t make sense.”

### **Sunday, June 07: Communion Sunday**

God In the Ordinary ~ “God’s Quiet Redemption”, Ruth 2:1-12 (NIV)

“Trust God’s timing even when it seems slow; invest in a legacy.”

### **Sunday, June 14: VBS Sunday ~ One Special Service at 10:00am**

Emerald Crossing Vacation Bible School

“Our VBS students share their week’s experiences in story and song.”

### **Sunday, June 21: Father’s Day**

Today we will be celebrating all the fathers in our congregation with a special observance and Biblical tie-in.

### **Sunday, June 28:**

This Sunday will feature a new sermon series. For details see upcoming weekly eBlasts and Sunday pre-service announcements.

## 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, this class uses material developed by Cokesbury Methodist publishing house. This spring quarter: "Lament, Confession, and Rebirth," studying Psalms and Acts, examining the moving of the Holy Spirit in and through believers of Jesus.

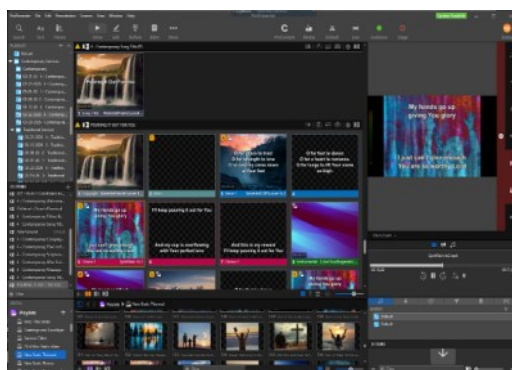
**Spirit and Truth Class:** Facilitated by Greg Peavey. The Spirit and Truth Sunday class focuses on a close line-by-line analysis of books of the Bible.

**Truthseekers Class:** Truthseekers class is facilitated by a team, with various members taking lead roles in turn.

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

Contact our Technical Director at [tkramer@fmcz.org](mailto:tkramer@fmcz.org) if you are interested in joining the A/V Team.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO

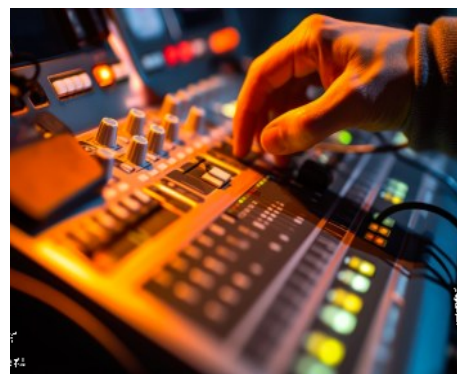
*Operate audio console*

*Run presentation software*

*Control livestreaming*

*Set up microphones and equipment*

*Mix in-house sound*



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## Sanctuary Support [Team Leaders ~ Karen Harwell, Bonnie Hazelett]

Perhaps the second most important location within our sanctuary after the altar platform is the front lobby, called the Narthex, because that is where visitors form their first impressions of our church family and activities. Our support team offers warm welcomes, answers questions, hands out programs, and acts as our front line ambassadors to all who enter the space on Sunday mornings. In addition, team members coordinate offerings and help with communion on first Sundays of each month. A friendly greeting before and a sincere thank you after each service let people know that everyone is welcome at the Big White Church on 5th Ave.



If you are interested in joining this ministry team, call the church office at 813-782-5645.

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



## MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

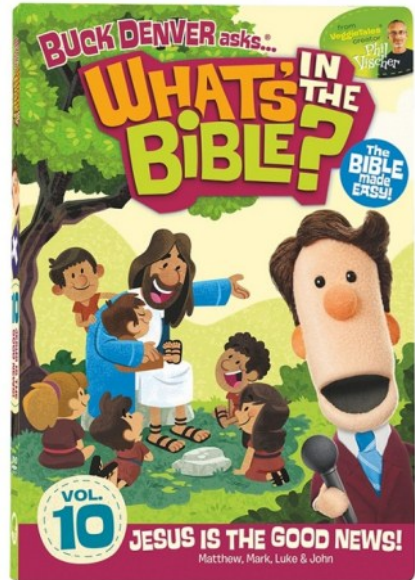
### Children's Ministry [Team Leaders ~ Carol Runyon and Polly Adwell]

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

Contact Carol Runyon at: [crunyon@fmcz.org](mailto:crunyon@fmcz.org)



**SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS JUNE 7TH!  
SEE THE INFORMATION ON PAGE 9!**



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.

June 07 ~ Lesson 93: Topic - God Protects Elijah

June 14 ~ VBS - No Youth Sunday School

June 21 ~ Lesson 94: Topic - God Calls Elisha

June 28 ~ Lesson 95: Topic - Elisha and the Syrians

#### **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SUMMER NEWS**

The big Children's Ministry news this time of year is always our exciting **June VBS program**. Registration for both students and volunteers is **STILL** open and it is suggested that you register early to ensure a good spot! Information on this year's theme and registration links can be found on **page 14**.



Vacation Bible School runs from Monday, June 8th through Friday, June 12. On the Sunday following, June 14th, there will be one worship service at 10:00am and all the VBS students will have an opportunity to share their week's adventures and lessons with the whole First Methodist congregation. Before the service, FMCZ Family Ministries will be hosting a free PANCAKE BREAKFAST from 9:00am to 9:50am. All are welcome; congregation, VBS families, VBS workers, children and teens. This will replace the usual coffee time at church. We will not have any refreshments after service. There will be an area for families to take pictures together. This will be a great final get together for our VBS families, and we hope to have everyone come and join us!

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

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

COMPASSIONATE CHRISTIAN??? Are you one???

EPHESIANS 4 has Paul's commentary on this. It is when a person is SO MOVED by the distress of another AND by the choice to relieve it!!! Let ALL bitterness, wrath and anger be put away from you! BE KIND to one another, forgiving one another, just as God forgives YOU! Be generous with helping others! Prayer to do this will greatly assist you! Our focus today is to work hard so that you can help others! Ask the Lord to give you sensitivity to people and HELP someone who may be in need!! Then, and ONLY then, you are a COMPASSIONATE Christian!!!



To submit a Prayer List Request, please contact Connie Norton at: [cnorton40@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:cnorton40@tampabay.rr.com)

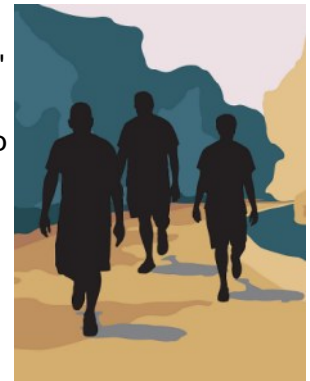
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## Walk to Emmaus [Team Leaders ~ Dave and Roz Hill]

The **Walk to Emmaus** is a spiritual retreat designed to deepen participants' relationship with Christ and strengthen their commitment to their faith. It's inspired by the biblical story of Jesus appearing to two disciples on the road to Emmaus, as described in Luke 24:13-351.

Here's a brief overview of what the Walk to Emmaus entails:

1. **Three-Day Experience:** The retreat typically lasts for 72 hours, starting on Thursday evening and ending on Sunday evening.
2. **Structured Program:** Participants engage in a series of talks, worship, small group discussions, and fellowship activities.
3. **Focus on Grace:** The talks and activities center around the theme of God's grace and how it can be lived out in daily life.
4. **Holy Communion:** Participants have the opportunity to celebrate Holy Communion and to experience the presence of Christ in the community.
5. **Personal and Community Growth:** The retreat aims to inspire, challenge, and equip participants to live out their faith in their homes, churches, and communities.



The Walk to Emmaus is open to all Christians who are seeking to deepen their spiritual journey and become more active in their faith. It is a transformative experience that many find profoundly impactful.

**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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## FMCZ Outreach Devotional Services [Team Leader ~ Roz 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].*

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The First Methodist UWF chapter is holding a baby shower in support of Cornerstone Ministries' two day care centers in the Ybor City area. The **Rosa Valdez Learning Center** and the **Oak Grove UMC Center** request diapers (in all sizes from new born through toddler) and wipes to help stock their child care facilities. The more diapers and wipes collected, the more the Centers can use monetary donations on other much needed supplies. Donations will be delivered on May 30th and again on August 13th. Please drop your donations off in Cooper Hall East on the table beneath the ministry bulletin board. Thank you for your support of this important initiative.

We will continue to meet on 2nd Thursdays at noon through the summer, although not in our usual spot in Cooper Hall. In June we'll meet at The Highlands at Scotland Yard . In July, Beef O'Brady's in Zephyrhills on 301, and in August, we'll take a field trip to Tampa to visit Cornerstone Ministries and the Rosa Valdez Center. Lunch that day will be at The Columbia in Ybor City.

*Phyllis Blanchard, President, Zephyrhills United Women In Faith, 712-830-5196 pb5152@yahoo.com*

## Project Others [Team Leader ~ Deann Harrington]

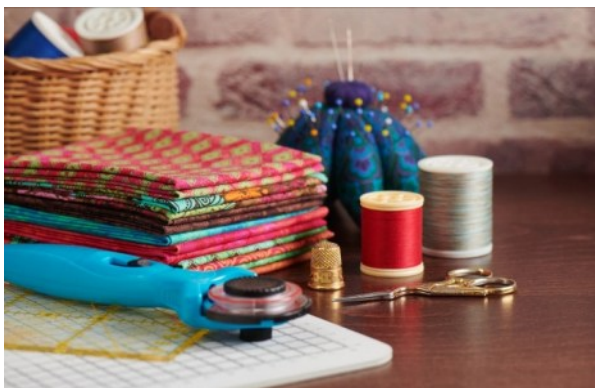
We meet every Friday in Cooper Hall from 8:00 to 11:00 am.

You are always welcome, so come join us some Friday.

We have coffee and devotions from 9:00 to 9:30.

Then get back to making items for adults and children until 11:00.am

The items created by Project Others add a personal touch to our outreach efforts, creating a sense of community and Christian caring with practical, hand-crafted items. Our team works closely together to take donated fabric and other materials and turn them into one-of-a-kind items that provide comfort and support for those who receive them. Join us in HANDS-ON discipleship!





**FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**  
**— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —**  
Prayer Shawl Ministry

"This shawl was crafted with prayers for your healing - Mind, Body, and Spirit. As you wear this shawl, may you feel the warm embrace of our Heavenly Father."



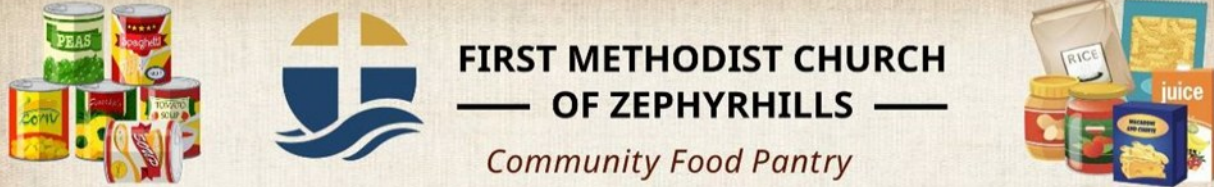
Hand Made by Members of the Prayer Shawl Ministry  
and Blessed by the Senior Pastor

### 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 June 8, 9, 10 ~ DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS June 14**



**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. *Thank you for your continued support of this essential community outreach. Please check with team members and see periodic notices for specific food items that are most 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 while supporting the mission and ministry work of our church and numerous charitable organizations in our area.

### **Christmas in June** - Super Sale

Wednesday June 24th and Saturday June 27th

8:00am - Noon

#### **Main Building will have:**

1/2 off all Regular-priced items PLUS  
Discounts on sale merchandise

#### **The Annex will have:**

Fill a Bag for \$5 in the Christmas Store!  
and discounts on many items on the floor.



**Mondays 8am–12pm Donations only**  
**Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am–12pm**  
**Both Sales & Donations**



**- NORMA HALL -**  
**THRIFT SHOP**  
CLOTHING BOOKS HOME GOODS  
All Purchases Help to Fund Our Mission Partnerships



**- NORMA HALL -**  
**THRIFT SHOP ANNEX**  
FURNITURE SEASONAL ITEMS MEDICAL

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## Spotlight <Children's Church Summer Sunday School>



This summer we have a fun-filled schedule awaiting your children. We will go through the "What's in the Bible" with Buck Denver/volume 10. Each week we will learn more about the life of Jesus, His followers and the many miraculous things he did in his life. The children will enjoy sharing what they learn through the video series with crafts, skits, songs and more. Please join Next Waves Kids Ministry every Sunday from June 7th through August 9th for a summer season of fun and learning!

**6/7 Building the Way**

What we learned through the Old Testament prophets

**6/14 Vacation Bible School wrap up in the sanctuary**

ONE service & Pancake breakfast before the worship service

**6/21 Building the Way II**

Building Roads for the future with Jesus - Roman Empire 27 BC-74 AD

**6/28 What the past can teach us**

Religious groups - Pharisees, Sadducees & Zealots

For more information on these June sessions and others throughout the summer, see the web page linked from our website Home Page, or pick up a flyer in the Narthex or Cooper Hall East.

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## Spotlight <America 250 Area Observances>



This year marks the 250th anniversary of American independence and our area communities and businesses are celebrating with a number of special events and 250-themed programs. This is a perfect time to reflect on the many blessings we have in this country and ponder those that we ourselves can help to bring about.

Throughout June and July, we will try to track the various celebrations in Zephyrhills, Wesley Chapel, Tampa, and East Pasco, and list as many of them as possible on a dedicated web page linked from the home page of our own website. We encourage everyone to join in events that interest you and use this opportunity to share the blessings that are possible when people of faith and generosity come together to continue in Christ's path.

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## Spotlight < Salvation's Rock ~ Praise Song Playlist



Since the July 2025 issue of our newsletter, we have featured Christian music suggested by members of Salvation's Rock Praise Band as ones for our congregation to listen to and perhaps add to their own praise playlist. This month we feature song suggestions from Teresia Gale who, while not seen up on the altar platform, plays a critical role in the service as the band's in-house audio technician, live mixing all the vocals and instruments into a harmonious sound.

Teresia writes: Growing up I was exposed to Gospel/Bluegrass and what would become known later as Christian contemporary music. My parents were members of a gospel group which I had the privilege to be present for their rehearsals and concerts. At the time I had no idea that I would circle back later in my life to this genre of music. When my mother passed away I took great comfort from the music I grew up hearing. "I'll Fly Away" brings peace and joy to me each time I hear it. The joy that one day, this life will end and my eternal life will begin, is motivation to follow Christ every day in the here and now. The heartfelt comfort comes when listening to this song I distinctly hear my mother's voice singing. My favorite version of "I'll Fly Away" is by Allen Jackson. I hope you like as much as I do!

In the late 70's into the 80's, Christian contemporary music was starting to come into its own. An artist by the name Benny Hester was one of my early favorites. His version of "Christ the Solid Rock" I find spiritually moving not only by the lyrics but the musical arrangement. Every time I hear this song it reminds me of who I am, who I am dependent on, and no matter what this life throws at me I know He IS faithful!

I'll Fly Away ~ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PYyyfw349FI&>

Christ The Solid Rock ~ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFqTzQvhrYE>

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### Long Term Prayer List [For May 2026] updated 05-11-26

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, Robin Cochran, Michele Devine, Jim Elliot, Michael Grundman, Randy Hall, Gary McLean, Suzanne Morgan, Linda Schall, Glenda Wilson, Roxanna Young, Beulah Zeller

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

#### June Mission of the Month ~ FMCZ 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.

Every second Sunday, the Commission shares the stories of their monthly focus group during our Sunday service. You can use the offering plate or go to our Vanco donation site to contribute. Be sure you note clearly which organization you would like each donation to go to!



## SERVICE TEAMS: Community Self-Care

Parish Nurses [Team Leader ~ Druann Briggs, RN 813-420-7919]

Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ June 21st ~ 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall

One-Blood Blood Drive ~ June 21st. Donors will receive tee shirt and \$20 gift card



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



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

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

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

**MENTAL HEALTH:** <https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/men-and-mental-health> Depression in men often goes undiagnosed, contributing to the fact that men are four times as likely to commit suicide as women. Among 15- to 19-year-olds, boys were 5 x as likely as girls to commit suicide. Among 20- to 24-year-olds, males were 7 x as likely to commit suicide as females. The suicide rate for persons age 65 and above: men...38.4 - women...6.0.

### **WHO IS THE WEAKER SEX?**

- 115 males are conceived for every 100 females. The male fetus is generally at greater risk of miscarriage and stillbirth.
- 25% more newborn males die than females. 3/5 of SIDS victims are boys.
- Men suffer hearing loss at 2x the rate of women.
- Testosterone is linked to elevations of LDL, the bad cholesterol, and declines in HDL, the good cholesterol.
- Men have fewer infection-fighting T-cells and are thought to have weaker immune systems than women.
- By the age of 100, women outnumber men eight to one.

*Don't you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)*

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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, 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](mailto:dhill1944@tampabay.rr.com) or call 410-409-9132.*



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### Key Themes in Stephen Ministry Stories - What can I expect from my Stephen Minister?

**A "Lifeline" in Crisis:** Many share that their Stephen Minister was a source of stability during times of intense emotional pain, such as the death of a spouse, providing a "burden off my shoulders".

**Confidential Listening:** Care receivers, often highlight the value of having a safe, non-judgmental, and confidential person to talk to outside of friends and family.

**Spiritual Reconnection:** Stories often feature individuals who, through the support of their minister, were able to feel God's love again during times of spiritual darkness.

Stephen Ministry provides a one-to-one confidential, non-judgmental and caring environment for people to talk about their faith journey during life's difficulties. Typically, regularly scheduled visits with an individual — called a care receiver — take place over a course of months or even years, depending on the need.

Ministry situations include grief, divorce, cancer diagnosis, hospitalization, physical rehabilitation, long-term care, chronic or terminal illness, job loss, loss of a home, military deployment, onset of a disability or spiritual crisis. Some Stephen Ministers have described the ministry as an important resource for people navigating the difficulties of the pandemic. And others, like Bednarek, have credited the Stephen Ministry with helping through common life stresses, such as raising children, moving to a new city or experiencing loneliness.

Care receivers have the opportunity to express themselves in a safe, confidential way to a person who is not too close to the situation. "Friends are constantly trying to tell you what to do," said Patricia Foley, who serves as referral and training coordinator with Stephen Ministry at Holy Infant. "We are Christ-centered, process-oriented, and offer a non-judgmental listening ear. And it's proactive listening, listening in the moment and really hearing the person. We are focused in on you and every word that comes out of your heart."

**Would you benefit from having a Stephen Minister?  
Call the Church Office at 813-782-5646 for more information.**

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**TOO MANY  
CHOICES  
TO NAVIGATE?**



**A Stephen Minister  
can help read  
the signs  
around you.**

## Support Groups On Our Campus

### Adult Children of Alcoholics and Family Dysfunction

WILL NOT BE MEETING THROUGH THE SUMMER BUT WILL RESUME MEETING ON OUR CAMPUS IN OCTOBER.

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:

**WILL START A NEW SESSION IN SEPTEMBER.**

Crusaders Classroom - Education Building

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



The 14 week spring session of GriefShare concluded on April 8th. Please watch this space this summer for information on upcoming sessions of this ministry group for the fall of 2026 and beyond. We will post updated information as soon as it is announced.



### 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 Luncheon**  
presentations provide  
**Good Food, Good Times,**  
**and Good Fellowship**  
for all our seniors who  
are truly young at heart!

### SENIOR LUNCHEON

**Thursday, June 18th**

**11:30am—1:00pm**

**Cooper Hall East**

**ADMISSION: BRING A COVERED  
SIDE DISH OF YOUR CHOICE TO**



Vacation Bible School 2026 [Team Leader ~ Karen Ezra]

### **Emerald Crossing VBS**

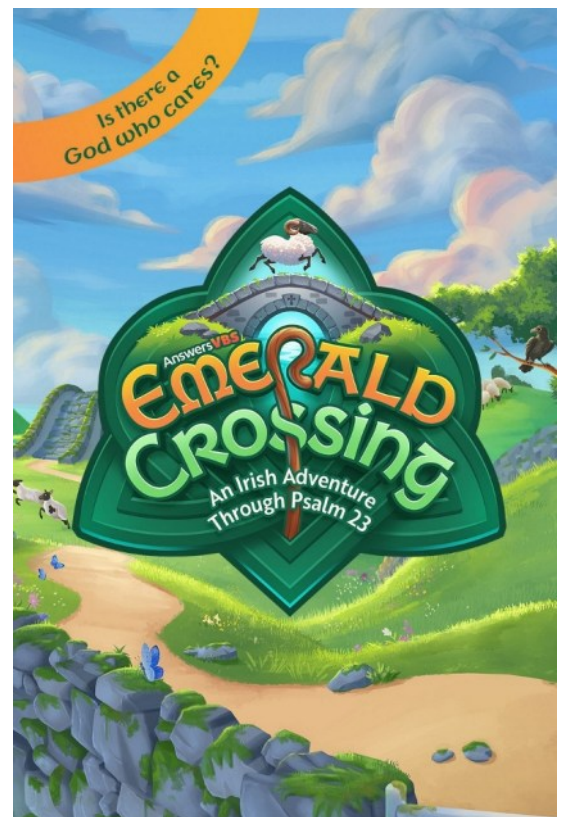
**June 8th through 12th**

**9:30 am - 12:30 pm Monday through Friday**

There's still time to sign up using the link on our website home page!

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.

Student registration is still open and work is nearly done 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/>

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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](http://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.

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**Did You Know?** [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected] <https://fmcz.org/>

If the brightly colored tabs shown on the right look familiar to you, then you have visited the home page of the FMCZ website. It's there that we post live links to the growing number of web pages dedicated to sharing dynamic content, updated as often as we receive new information. From these links you can watch past worship services, catch what's new with the Global Methodist Florida Conference, see last Sunday's announcements or last week's eBlast, or read the latest ministries news items. A congregation like ours is always on the move, and this is where you can ensure that you are always part of the action.



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**GMC News ~ [Florida Annual Conference 2026]**



- June 5: 10:30AM-11:30AM, Clergy Session/Lay Meeting
- June 5: 1:00PM - 5:15PM, Main Session One
- June 5: 7:00PM - 8:30PM, Main Session Two
- June 6: 9:00AM-12:00PM, Main Session Three
- June 6: 2:00PM - 4:00PM, Ordination Service

For more information and breakout session registration:  
<https://floridagmc.org/annual-conference-2026/>



**GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH**

Florida Conference of the  
Global Methodist Church  
will hold its annual conference  
June 5 and 6, 2026  
at the First Methodist Church  
of Oviedo  
263 King Street  
Oviedo, Florida 32765



Helping Seniors Live Well at Home

## MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING PROGRAM

### Our Services

Are you 60 or older and experiencing loneliness, anxiousness, sadness, or are you adjusting to new life events? You're not alone - and you don't have to manage it alone.

Our **free** mental health counseling program offers confidential individual sessions with a licensed therapist.

- ✓ Adults, Age 60 and older
- ✓ Resident of Pasco or Pinellas County
- ✓ No insurance required
- ✓ No diagnosis required
- ✓ Telehealth and in-person options

● Take charge of your mental wellbeing and call us today

727-570-9696  
ext. 288

**Elder Affairs**  
FLORIDA



### So Many Ways to Serve [Volunteers come in all shapes, sizes, and talents]

Regardless of your skill set, talents, or interests, there is always a way for you (and perhaps a friend or a family member) to become involved directly supporting the many ministries of the church in helping to make disciples for Christ. Whether it's swinging a hammer, painting a wall, patching a hole, giving another church member your undivided attention, or lending a supportive arm, your actions help to move forward the very human business of our church.

If you are uncertain how to serve, click on the form below, fill it out, and return it to the church office. A team leader will contact you to help you activate!

[MINISTRY AND GROUP INTEREST FORM](#)



Thank you for my surprise Birthday Party  
and it was a complete surprise. Thanks to  
all that were involved with the planning,  
the wonderful cakes with Ice Cream,  
the great cards and gifts. You are all  
Very Special.  
Sandy Coon

## 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**  
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

**ROYAL OAKS NURSING CENTER ~ 37300 Royal Oak Ln, Dade City, FL 352-567-3122**  
Joan Donaldson Room 457A

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

Luci Knepper  
Terri Stanley  
Dorothy Lundeen  
Jesse Harmon

*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  
Wells, Jarrett, US Marine Corps, recently deployed, grandson of Dee Treanor  
White, Darrel, 1<sup>ST</sup> SGT, US Army, TX, nephew of Gerald & Virginia Swank

**REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS**

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/01	David Carlson	06/24	Edie Minch
06/01	Connie Norton	06/24	Rodger Peirce
06/02	Marian Otto	06/24	Terry Wilson
06/03	Barbara Kehr	06/24	Tresea Wymore
06/05	Keelan Adwell	06/28	Karen Darland
06/06	Marjorie Leake	06/28	Kaye Edwards
06/07	Allan Scheckler		
06/11	Cliff McDuffie Jr.		
06/12	Carol Peirce		
06/13	Heidi Miller		
06/13	Lyn Sears		
06/14	Marlene Mann		
06/14	Kenneth Stuby		
06/15	Jeanne Narum		
06/17	Neal Slingerland		
06/18	Doris Carroll		
06/18	Samuel Surratt III		
06/19	Karen Field		
06/19	Emilie Mastin		
06/23	Sarah Smith		

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

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

06/08	Gary and Linda Ashline
06/08	Julie and Richard Cotton
06/13	Bentley and Polly Adwell
06/15	John and Pamela Kennard
06/17	Beth Wyer and George Pattison III
06/21	Barbara and David Friedman
06/21	David and Rosie Moore
06/22	Amanda and Timothy Saylor
06/24	David Cox and Miriam Ezra



## Staff and Organizational Contacts

### **Church Web Address**

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

### **Staff Team Email Addresses**

*(for staff with church emails)*

Church Office

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

Karen Ezra,

Director of Family Ministries

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

Carol Runyon,

Assistant Director of Family Ministries

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

Polly Adwell,

Nursery Coordinator

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

Miriam Ezra,

Choir Director

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

Steve Ezra,

Senior Pastor

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

Carol Freiermuth,

Financial Secretary

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

Eric Gale,

Contemporary Worship Leader

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

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 [June: "Igniting Spirit"]

Having just observed Pentecost Sunday, May 24th, the image of the Holy Spirit descending on the apostles as tongues of heavenly fire as they sat in the Upper Room, is still fresh in our minds. It was that spirit that ignited those followers to go out beyond their comfort zones and begin the work of the Great Commission, "to make disciples of Christ" and bring the Good News to all the people of the world. The apostles HAD the spark, had the POTENTIAL, but needed the special igniting gifts of the Holy Spirit to awaken them to action and begin actually running the race that God set before them.

The use of fire, flame, heat, and ignition, as metaphors for great passion and action has long been a part of our cultural awareness. Perhaps for as long as mankind possessed the ability to make a spark burst into consuming flame, the energy and raw spirit of fire has engrained itself into our cultural identities. Fire is action personified; it is an energy that fuels and motivates, a visible "force" that will, by its nature, change everything it touches. It is natural that our concept of the Holy Spirit should take on the characteristics of a holy fire as we are ignited out of our comfort by both the inspiration to act and the gifts by which to achieve. Both these elements were necessary for the apostles to begin their work of building Christ's world-wide church.

Not much has changed since then. Our own upper rooms are quiet, comfortable, and secure. But we are called to action by the fire of the Holy Spirit and the Good News of Jesus Christ. The race is laid out before us. All we need is to accept the igniting spirit to set us running.

## GIVING BACK [Legacy Giving]

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 FMCZ church family and its ministries continue to grow and expand in 2026 and beyond.



The journey begun in 1912 with a group of 30 like-minded believers, stretched far beyond their years and dreams, but not beyond their faith and plans. Today, the Methodist community that we call our church family exists because those individuals invested in a path far ahead of the one they themselves would walk. They fueled a journey along a road they would never see but that they believed would always be walked in our community. Plan ahead to keep the journey moving forward. Talk to a member of our Permanent Endowment committee about the many options available for establishing a legacy gift for the future of First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills.