

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family



Chipping Away

August 2026

In this issue: Our new and improved social media presence - See page 15

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.

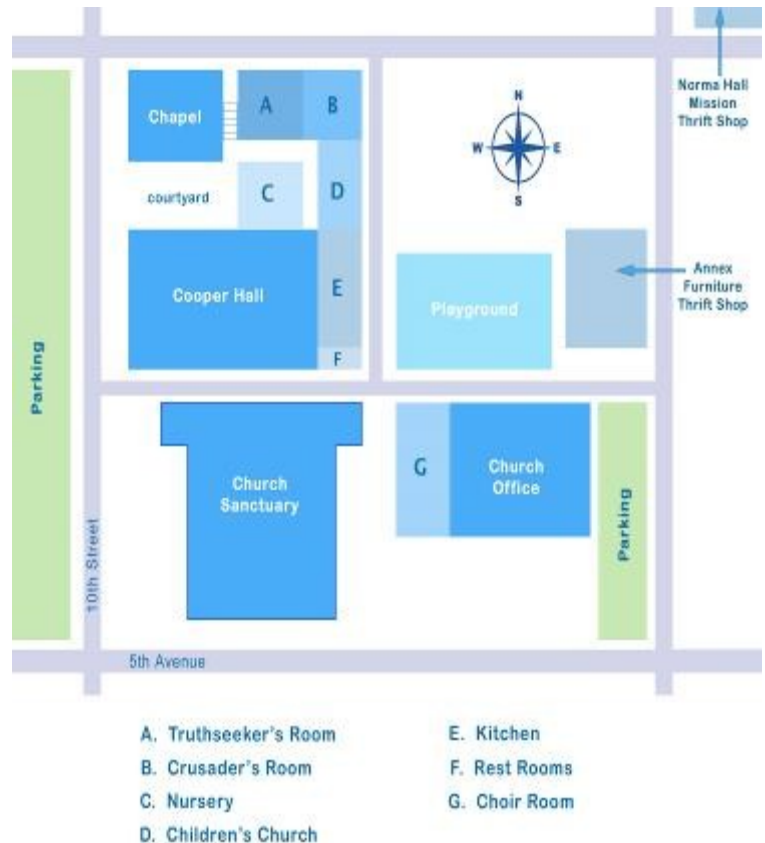
Restrooms

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



August 2026 Worship Services

Worship Themes

Through August 16, **FLAWED HEROES: Unlikely heroes from the Old Testament Book of Judges.** Exploring a series of unlikely men and women, found in the Book of Judges, called by God to serve and save Israel during tumultuous times. Even today God chooses the unlikely for his own purposes!

Sunday, August 02: Communion Sunday

Flawed Heroes: "A Rash Vow", Judges 11:1-11 (NLT)

"Take care always to understand your commitment to God completely and discern what is right to give and what is a promise beyond God's wishes."

Sunday, August 09: Missions Celebration Sunday

Flawed Heroes: "Decisions Have Consequences", Judges 13-16 (NLT)

"The story of Samson shows how God can still use someone who stubbornly turns away from him repeatedly. Despite God's patience, our choices do have consequences."

Sunday, August 16:

Flawed Heroes: "What Success Looks Like"

"Samuel's life is a powerful example of what a person can accomplish when they are fully committed to the Lord all their lives."

Sunday, August 23:

New Sermon Series Begins

Watch our upcoming eBlasts for the announcement about the next sermon series.

Sunday, August 30:

Fifth Sunday Collection

A special 5th Sunday collection will be taken in support of Residing Hope Children's Home.

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, this class uses material developed by Cokesbury Methodist publishing house. This summer the Crusaders Sunday School Class will study how the work of the Holy Spirit and the grace of Jesus Christ is growing the church as shown to us through the Book of Acts.

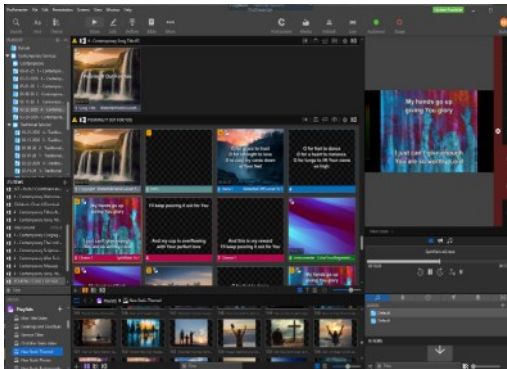
Spirit and Truth Class: Facilitated by Greg Peavey. The Spirit and Truth Sunday class focuses on a close line-by-line analysis of books of the Bible.

Truthseekers Class: The Truthseekers class will be finishing their study on Jonah on August 2nd and helping with the pancake breakfast on the 9th. They will be starting a new study on August 16th on the prophet, Micah. It is a series of three 30 minute video sessions by Lance Martin of Revive School. Please join us on Sundays in the Truthseekers room at 11 am!

The Importance of Study and Discussion Groups: The importance of congregational assemblies for Bible study and spiritual support has been a cornerstone of John Wesley's theological vision from the beginning. In fact the earliest congregations didn't emphasize churches at all but as "societies" met in homes and other domestic structures. Structured around these regular support and study classes, Wesley's followers became know derogatorily as "Methodists", a name they took on to themselves as it became apparent how successful these methods were in building a spiritual renewal across England and on over to America. This fall marks the return of our Wednesday Refuel classes and group meetings, our own method of structuring ongoing spiritual growth and mutual support. Set aside time for both fellowship and learning together with your church family!

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



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!

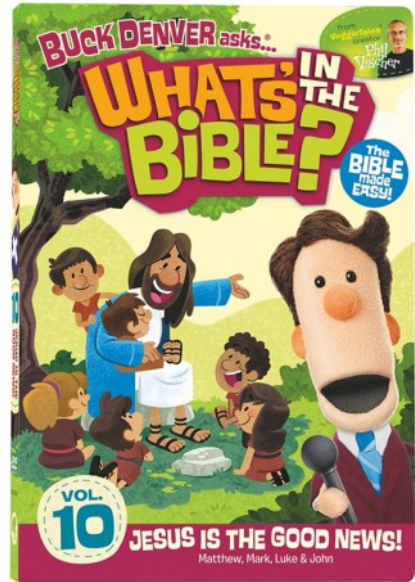


MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

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

Children's Church (grades K - 5)

Contact Carol Runyon at: crunyon@fmcz.org



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL CONTINUES INTO AUGUST 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 for more information.

August 02 ~ Lesson 101: Topic - God Protects Joash
August 09 ~ No Sunday School: Back to School Event in Cooper Hall
August 16 ~ Lesson 102: Topic - God Answers Hezekiah
August 23 ~ Lesson 103: Topic - God Promises the Messiah
August 30 ~ Lesson 104: Topic - Josiah Follows God



August Youth and Family Ministries News

August 09: Back to School Pancake Breakfast ~ In Cooper Hall 9:00 - 11:30am. Stop by, before or after service, for free pancakes and fellowship while we help send our community children back to school with new school supplies. (In conjunction with Zephyrhills Back to School Bash).

August 16: Salad and Dessert Luncheon Fundraiser ~ Youth Ministry is raising funds for next year's Rock the Universe trip with this delicious event. Too hot for soup? Yes! But our favorite soup makers will turn their talents to offer up cooling salads and unique desserts. Cost is a donation for the Youth trip.

August 30: Talent Showcase ~ Enjoy the talents of your church family at 5 pm in the Sanctuary. We are bringing back Pastor Steve to see what other jokes he can pull out of his hat and inviting some talented people to share with us. It will be a variety of talents, and we look forward to having a wonderful time. Our talent show will be followed by an Italian dinner in Cooper Hall. Free for all; invite your friends.

Prayer and Praise [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]

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

You and I have many facets to our lives: physical traits, emotional patterns, personality types, spiritual dimensions and unique background!

THERE WILL NEVER BE ANYONE LIKE YOU!

Remember: No one has the place in God's plan that you occupy.

God has shaped us for HIS glory. HE intends to remove everything that is not Christlike and polish what reflects HIM! This brings us to FAITH; to have faith we believe what will occur is GOD'S plan for us. HE is forming Christ within us for HIS glory. This shapes us for God's glory to have faith and be strong in spirit to assist us to be useful in life telling others about God.



To submit a Prayer List Request, please contact Connie Norton at: cnorton40@tampabay.rr.com

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

The FMC Walk to Emmaus Reunion Group would like to thank everyone who has participated in our fellowship, accountability, and spiritual growth meetings and gatherings throughout the year. The Reunion Group will be taking a short break during the summer months. Regular meetings will resume in **September** for all community members who have completed an Emmaus Walk.

Have you been considering taking an Emmaus Walk? Now is the perfect time to answer the call and experience a life-changing spiritual weekend.

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.

The Walk to Emmaus is a powerful opportunity to strengthen your relationship with Christ, deepen your faith, and connect with fellow Christians in a meaningful way. If you would like more information about the Walk to Emmaus or would like to receive an application, please contact:

Roz Hill, phone: 443-834-8621, email: rozzie1944@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing our Emmaus family in September and welcoming new pilgrims to this transformative journey of faith.

DeColores!



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].*

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

WHO ARE THE UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH?

This international service group has deep roots extending back to the late 1800's. First formed as the Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, early members tended to the physical and spiritual needs of women and children in India, China, Japan, Korea, Africa, Bulgaria, Italy, South America, Mexico, and the Philippines by means of women's colleges, high schools, seminaries, hospitals, dispensaries, day schools, and "settlement work".



When the Methodist Church in Zephyrhills was formed, a local chapter was established here, and women served as helpers wherever they were needed. Not unlike today, women then were teachers, housekeepers, cooks, organizers, and savers. They saw need and sought to fill it. Today, women in our church sing in the choir, teach Sunday school, serve as lecturers, care for children in the nursery, and use their talents to sew, paint, and cook. We are willing helpers in service. Meetings begin with prayer and devotions and continue with a discussion of current business and sharing of joys and concerns. The United Women in Faith Unit meets the second Thursday of each month September through May for lunch and fellowship at noon in Cooper Hall. After lunch, members enjoy a variety of presentations; local dignitaries, service providers, and agencies that help care for women and children in need. They assemble welcome bags for visitors to Sunday services, craft cards for soldiers in war zones and patients in hospital care, and they traditionally hold two fundraisers annually – one in the spring and one in the fall. Funds raised support United Women in Faith as well as local and regional charities. The purpose of the United Women in Faith is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand our concepts of "mission" through participation in the global ministries of the church. All women are welcome to join us in our efforts.

Phyllis Blanchard, President, Zephyrhills United Women In Faith, 712-830-5196 1pb5152@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!



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 August 10, 11, 12 ~ DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS August 16





**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!*



During the summer months, the Food Pantry has been handing out special “snack” bags for the children. Each bag includes a granola bar, pudding cup, fruit cup, nuts, Pop Tart, chips or trail mix, and a microwave mac and cheese. Don't forget as well that free summer meals and snacks are available at many local locations through the BreakSpot Program. See our eBlasts for details!

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.

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



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!

8/02 Review the Gospels

Practice skits and perform for our families; acting out Jesus's miracles!

8/09 Back to School Event

We will be in Cooper Hall for the Second Annual Back to School Pancake Breakfast and School Supply Give-away. Everyone is invited to attend, share fellowship, and support our community children as they head back into the classrooms for the fall.

8/16 Return to Regular Schedule for Children's Church

Pasco County Schools will resume their classroom schedule for the 2026-27 school year on Thursday, August 13. The FMCZ Children's Church resumes its regular schedule of lessons, activities, and themed projects the Sunday following.

For more information on themes and lessons for the fall months, please connect with Carol Runyon or any member of the Family Ministries team.

Spotlight <United Women in Faith ~ August Field Trip and Lunch>



Please join us for our August field trip to the Rosa Valdez Center and after, for lunch at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City. Thursday, August 13 in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. We'll carpool from the FMCZ office parking lot; leaving the church at 9:00am.

Please RSVP to Phyllis Blanchard at 712-830-5196 or speak to any UWF member.

Cornerstone Family Ministries: Providing quality Early Childhood education in lab school setting, where everyone is learning and growing; where parents feel safe and secure as they earn and learn their way out of poverty – breaking the cycle of generational poverty one child, one family, and one future early childhood professional at a time!



Revive Your Spirits
Gather and Sing
Join us around

The Campfire

**Wednesday, August 19th
7:00pm in the Sanctuary**

for a night of worship,
musical fellowship,
and revival
with Salvation's Rock

Remember the feelings of peace and simple pleasure, sitting around a campfire under the stars, singing gospel songs of prayer and praise we all knew by heart. Return to those times with songs like, "Will The Circle Be Unbroken", "I'll Fly Away", "Word of God Speak", "Amazing Grace", and other favorites. This is a worship gathering meant for everyone to join in, join hands, and join hearts. COME GATHER AROUND THE CAMPFIRE AND SING.

Long Term Prayer List [For August 2026] updated 07/07/2026

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, Robbin Cochran, Michael Grundman, Randy Hall,
Suzanne Morgan, Linda Schall, Glenda Wilson, Roxanna Young,

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

CMC will not meet in July and August but will resume meeting in September.

The FMCZ Commission on Missions is a dedicated group of church members who meet each month to provide direct support to an annual list of local charities and service organizations.

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 to which organization you would like each donation to go!

The following are the organizations for the rest of 2026

July: Agape Flights (see our feature on page 12)

August: Food Pantry

September: Caterpillars to Butterflies

October: ECHO

November: Henderson Settlement

December: ABC Program Zephyrhills High School



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.



Pasco County Schools are back in session starting August 13th!

As our community children and youth return to the classrooms this month, it will be especially important to keep their safety foremost in our minds. Drivers should be mindful of new traffic patterns in neighborhoods with schools and remember the laws concerning stopped school buses and speed zones. Parents can help their children prepare for the new year by reviewing nutritional needs and summer eating habits, adjusting sleep patterns to account for their new schedules, and being proactive partners in home study needs and setting aside both time and space for homework and reading. Parents can also get a jump on potential health risks faced by school-aged children by speaking now to your family doctor and considering updated tests for your child's hearing and vision.

Find more back to school information at the link below:

[Johns Hopkins Tips for Parents](#)

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.



United
Women
in Faith



Cornerstone
Rosa Valdez
Early Learning Center and Lab School

Please join us for our August field trip to the Rosa Valdez Center and after, for lunch at the Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City. Thursday, August 13 in lieu of our regular monthly meeting. We'll carpool from the FMCZ office parking lot; leaving the church at 9:00am. Please RSVP to Phyllis Blanchard at 712-830-5196 or speak to any UWF member.

Wednesday Night Refuel returns for Fall 2026

New classes and groups to be announced soon!

Ten week session of classes and family friendly meals

September 16th through November 18th

Dinners ~ 5:45 - 6:30pm in Cooper Hall East

Classes and Groups ~ 6:45 - 8:00pm in the
Education hallways and other campus rooms.

Children's Church and Youth Learning Sessions

Nursery available for families attending classes

Complete fall session information coming soon!



Talent Showcase and Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, August 30th at 5:00pm Sanctuary

with dinner in Cooper Hall immediately following

Enjoy the talents of your church family at this free entertaining fellowship event. We are bringing back Pastor Steve to see what other jokes he can pull out of his hat and inviting some talented people to share with us. It will be a variety of talents, and we look forward to having a wonderful time. Our talent show will be followed by an Italian dinner in Cooper Hall. Free for all ~ invite your friends. Watch our eBlasts for more details.

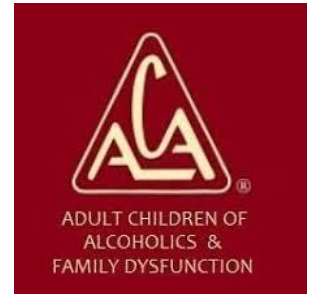
Support Groups On Our Campus

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:

eldis.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.

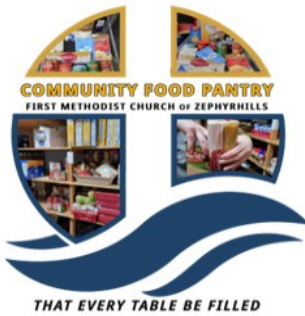
Please enter through the back door of Cooper Hall, on 6th Avenue between 10th and 11th Streets (a sign will be there).

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]



Speaker
Tana Day: FMCZ Food Pantry

SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, August 20th

11:30am—1:00pm

Cooper Hall East

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



United Women in Faith

announce their fall arts and crafts market
for crafters and artists within our FMCZ church family

Saturday, October 17, 2026

10:00 - 3:00pm in Cooper Fellowship Hall

*Display table stations only \$25 each
Reserve your spot early so you don't miss out.*

*Applications available from Phyllis Blanchard,
Lyn Sears (Thrift Shop), or at Church Office*



The UWF Arts and Crafts Marketplace has returned for the fall of 2026! This is a great opportunity for church members who enjoy the creative process to show and sell their creations. The Marketplace will be in Cooper Hall on October 17, and open to the public from 10:00 - 3:00pm. Set up will be on Friday, 10/16, 12:00 - 4:00pm. Each table display station is only \$25 with payment due by 10/01/2026.

The Marketplace is open to a wide variety of home-produced products including (but not limited to) paintings, photography, fabric art, wood crafts, fashions, accessories, jewelry, quilting and sewing, pet crafts, baked goods, both general and holiday decor, paper crafts, and much more.

Table space is strictly limited by the size of our fellowship hall and all displays must fit within the footprint defined by the table stations. All stations will be set up indoors! Requests for electrical service cannot be guaranteed. Reserve your table now!



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.

Did You Know? [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected]



Beginning on August 1st, First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills will have a more visible and dynamic presence on line with an upgraded Facebook page and a brand new Instagram account. In the planning stages for some time, these channels will go active with regular posts and pictures designed to share more content with our present church family members and to engage a wider audience to help our congregation continue to grow and proclaim the Good News.

Our Facebook page remains a place to watch Sunday services remotely, find postings of interest, and read excerpts from our weekly eBlasts. In the next few weeks, the page will see expanded content and new directions. If you're not currently on the page, please stop by at www.facebook.com/fumczhills and follow us. Every "follow" helps increase the page's visibility.

Our Instagram page will be a brand new face for our church to residents in Zephyrhills and the surrounding communities of East Pasco County. One goal is to have the FMCZ name and identity be at the top of any results list when someone searches for "a church in Zephyrhills". Help engage our neighbors by going to [1stmethodistchurchzephyrhills](https://www.instagram.com/1stmethodistchurchzephyrhills) on Instagram and clicking the FOLLOW button. Stop back regularly and respond to the content!

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](#)





FMCZ Back to School Pancake Breakfast

and Children's School Supply Giveaway

Sunday, August 9th, 9:00 - 11:30am

in Cooper Hall East and West

in conjunction with Main Street Zephyrhills
Back to School Bash

Enjoy pancakes and community fellowship, while
supporting children as they return to the classroom.

Free and open to all!

FMCZ Family Ministries is once again throwing open the doors of Cooper Hall to help Zephyrhills and East Pasco County celebrate the start of a new school year! Along with serving everyone a piping hot pancake breakfast, our goal is to send our kids off to school with their backpacks full of much needed supplies. Through August 6th we are asking our church family members to donate school supplies for us to give out that morning. Of course all donations are welcome but a list of supplies that are most needed for school kids of all ages can be found in our recent eBlasts. Please drop off supplies in the receptacles located in the Narthex, Cooper Hall, or at the church office during regular operating hours. THANK YOU! AND DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US BEFORE OR AFTER SERVICES AUGUST 9TH FOR FELLOWSHIP AND WELCOME OPPORTUNITIES WITH MEMBERS OF THE ZEPHYRHILLS COMMUNITY!

FMCZ Youth Ministries Salad and Dessert Luncheon

~ a Rock the Universe fundraiser ~

Sunday, August 16th, 2026

11:30am - 1:00pm

Cooper Hall East

*Cooling specialty salads and delicious
desserts for the cost of a donation to
next year's Youth Trip to Orlando.*



FMCZ Family Ministries is already planning its Youth Trip to Rock the Universe, Florida's premiere Christian music festival in Orlando at Universal Studios. The 2027 festival will run January 22nd - 23rd, and feature a whole new lineup of Christian music artists, opportunities for peer fellowship, one of a kind worship sessions, and motivational presentations that focus on the gospel message in the modern world. Throughout the fall, our Youth Ministry team will hold fundraisers to send our youth and adult chaperones to this amazing experience. Please help support our "Next Waves" youth as they grow in their faith in the midst of our modern cultural influences!

Member News <Special Request from Youth and Family Ministries>

Church member, Skyler Jones, has joined the Marines and is in boot camp. He left on July 6th and won't be back until the beginning of October. His family has, of course, not heard from him other than to know he arrived there safely. The only two items they are allowing him to receive during this time are mail and protein bars. We, as a church family, would like to supply him with those two things. If you would like to write Skyler a note or buy some protein bars for the church to ship to him, we will accept those items throughout the month. There will be a small basket in the sanctuary lobby and a larger one in Cooper Hall. We would like to send a couple of boxes to Skyler during his time at basic. On a side note, Skyler turns 18 in September while at boot camp, so if you would like to throw in a birthday card, that will also be sent along at the correct time. He is only allowed to receive bars marked specifically as protein bars. Thank you for supporting Skyler in his journey!



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

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

Beulah Zeller

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

Pat Fletcher

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

Geneva Dunford

Barbara Kehr

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

Steve Mayville Room 607

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

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
 Monteiro, Jared, U.S. Coast Guard, grandson of Debbie Huffert
 Mueller, Hannah, US Army, Fort Sill, OK, daughter of Lorraine & Tom Mueller
 Noel, Tim, MSSGT, Air National Guard, Japan, son-in-Law of Ann Crawford
 Parks, Andrew, Staff SGT, US Air Force, Shaw AFB, SC, grandson of Bob & Barb Stankiewicz
 Shoup, Justin, Deployed
 Tindall, Tyler, US Army Specialist, TX, grandson of Ed Fisher
 Wells, Jarrett, US Marine Corps, recently deployed, grandson of Dee Treanor
 White, Darrel, 1ST SGT, US Army, TX, nephew of Gerald & Virginia Swank

REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

SARIES	08/19	April Conolly
08/01 Anne Mester	08/19	Eric Gale
08/02 Larry Crawn	08/19	Karen Harwell
08/03 Roxanne Bricker-Geisenheimer	08/20	Aria Adwell
08/03 Patty Thompson	08/20	Karen Ezra
08/04 Richard Briggs	08/20	David Harwell
08/04 Cot Cross	08/21	Ray Lambert
08/04 Liz Welton	08/21	Grace Smalligan
08/05 Marsha Dulier	08/22	Alexandra Harwell
08/05 Wes Lonnquist	08/22	Claudia Kikendall
08/05 Teresa Stewart	08/22	Wanda Rakocy
08/06 Cassandra Abernathy	08/24	Cathy Gano
08/06 Suzanne Springfield	08/24	Gary Hartman
08/07 Marian Kay Crawn	08/24	Barb Stein
08/07 Marian Kay Crawn	08/24	Robin Williams
08/07 Irl Crook	08/25	Lois Hall
08/10 Ann Beal	08/25	Bill Hoff
08/11 Christopher Ferraro	08/25	Pamela Manapat
08/14 Gaynell Jeffries	08/26	Deborah McWee
08/16 George Rood	08/26	Pamela Williams
08/17 Carole Oesch	08/27	Sally Bair
08/18 Pamela Kennard	08/27	Terri Kramer
08/18 Claire Mullen	08/29	Beth Smock
08/18 Sam Sager	08/30	Tana Day
	08/30	Dale Smock
	08/31	Charles Parker

AUGUST ANNIVER-

08/02	Kathy Cady and Cot Cross
08/08	Barbara and John Sheldon
08/08	Pat and Katherine Thomas
08/09	Joan and Robert Gaskill
08/10	Beth and Dale Smock
08/18	David and Roz Hill
08/21	Terri and Todd Palmer
08/25	Larry and Marian Kay Crawn
08/25	Donna and Sam Sager
08/30	Greg and Nancy Brooks



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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This Month's Cover [August, "Chipping Away"]

A common sound among the trees in East Pasco neighborhoods is the persistent tapping of the woodpecker as it chips away at trunks and branches in search of bugs and larvae to eat. The pecking of a single bird can be heard echoing through an entire neighborhood (especially if it mistakes a house's rain gutter for a branch) and can last quite some time. Some ornithologists studying this fascinating species have recorded between 8,000 and 12,000 strikes in a single period. Now that's perseverance.

While the repeated sound of the woodpecker's endeavors may prove to be annoying to some, it serves to remind us that most tasks are accomplished over time and with repeated efforts. Many blessings that come to us are not grand strikes out of the blue like lightning, but the result of persistent small acts of faith that accumulate, often unnoticed, over time. For anyone who has seen the end results of a woodpecker's perseverance, the power of tenacity is clearly evident in the hole-riddled tree it leaves behind.

Our stewardship of the church sanctuary and campus buildings is not unlike the woodpecker's daily labors. It seems that every week, another practical challenge arises, more often out of need than want; a repair here, an equipment malfunction there, a software upgrade required, a storm that pulls down what our volunteer team built up. It is natural to feel overwhelmed at times. But with faith in our goals and trust in the path we are walking, positive tenacity from us and strength from the Spirit will keep us chipping away at life's trials, reaching deep for those little blessings one tap at a time.

GIVING BACK [Building a Legacy]

This is the church that Reverend N.J. Hawley may have envisioned in his heart in 1912 when he gathered together his small flock of believers to meet, worship, and spread the words of the gospels. But this stunning house of worship wouldn't exist until 1963, more than fifty years and two generations later. Today it stands as an irreplaceable visual focus for Downtown Zephyrhills. This is a legacy of Faith.



We don't know what the future holds, but we do know that its path starts right here at our own feet and that we are the ones who set those next steps in motion. What will our legacy look like in fifty years? If you want to be a part of defining that path, talk to a member of the Permanent Endowment Committee to see how you can help pave that way for future believers in Zephyrhills and beyond.