The Messenger

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF ZEPHYRHILLS
a Global Methodist Family



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 worshiping 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 Kindergarten. It opens at 9:15am 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.

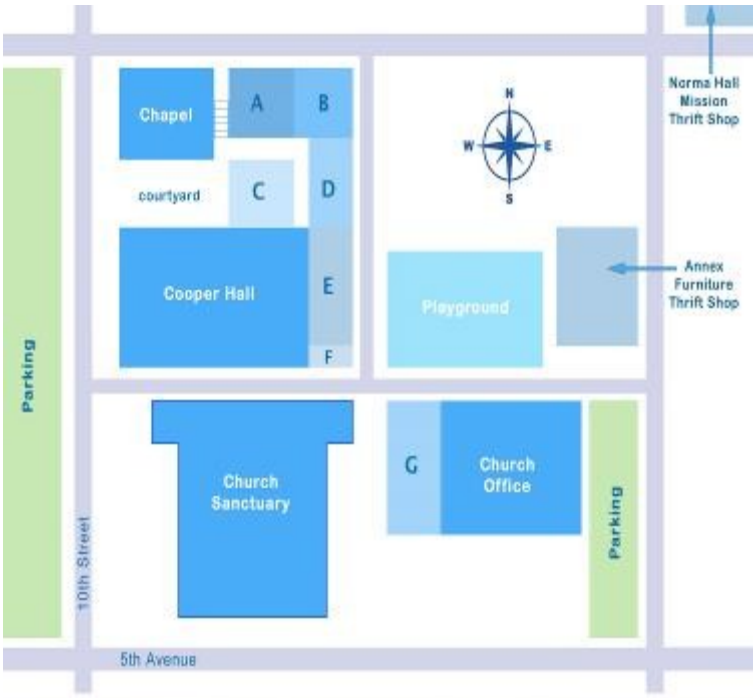
Restrooms

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
B. Crusader's Room
C. Nursery
D. Children's Church
E. Kitchen
F. Rest Rooms
G. Choir Room



October 2026 Worship Services

Worship Themes

Coinciding with his Wednesday Night Refuel class, Pastor Steve begins a new ten week sermon series in September entitled, "Into the Meeting With God: Spiritual Disciplines for a Transformed Life". For Sunday worshippers, this series is a stand alone journey into the spiritual practices that help us become more attentive and responsive to God within a culture that is full of noise, distraction, and busyness. For those who want to take a deeper dive into the weekly themes, Sunday's conversation will continue the following Wednesday evening in Pastor Steve's WNR discussion group.

Sunday, October 04: Communion Sunday

Meeting With God: "Confession", Psalm 32:1-5; 1 John 1:8-9

"We don't confess because God is waiting to condemn us. We confess because God is waiting to forgive us."

Sunday, October 11: Missions Celebration Sunday

Meeting With God: "Solitude", Mark 1:35; Luke 5:15-16

"Our culture teaches us to fill every empty moment. Jesus teaches us that empty moments can become places of encounter."

Sunday, October 18:

Meeting With God: "Meditation", Psalm 1:1-3; Joshua 1:8

"Biblical meditation is learning to slow down, dwell upon God's truth, and allow it to sink deeply into our hearts."

Sunday, October 25:

Meeting With God: "Worship", Romans 12:1-2; Psalm 95:1-7

"We worship when we sing, but we also worship when we work, serve, give, forgive, obey, love, and surrender."

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 and other resources. Coming up, the class will be watching the movie, "The Way" in October. The movie follows the pilgrimage trail to St. James Cathedral in Santiago, Spain. Pictures of a trip to the Cathedral will be shown. We will also be studying the differences between United Methodist Church and the Global Methodist Church.

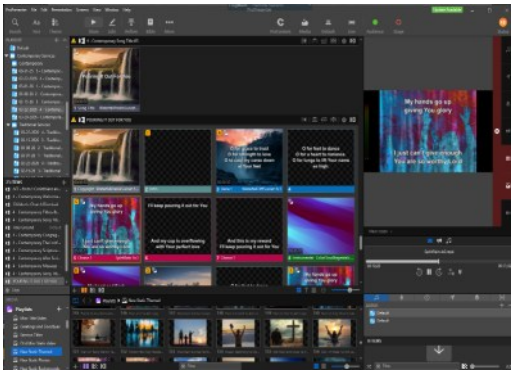
Spirit and Truth Class: Facilitated by Greg Peavey. The Spirit and Truth Sunday class focuses on a close line-by-line analysis of books of the Bible.

Truthseekers Class: The Truthseekers class will continue their studies of several minor prophets for the early fall season. Currently, the group is looking at the Book of Amos, followed by the Book of Obadiah. There are twelve short books in the Bible (often just several pages long) attributed to these prophets (sometimes grouped together as "The Twelve"). The term "Minor" refers not to their overall importance but to the length of the writings preserved from them.

The Importance of Study and Discussion Groups: In Pastor Steve's current sermon series, "Meeting With God" he describes study as one of the primary "places" where a believer may meet with God. The goal of this study is not just one of "gaining Bible knowledge" for its own sake, but in opening our minds and hearts to God's truth and thereby allowing it to shape our thinking, decisions, attitudes, and lives. As Methodists we turn to Scripture as the primary standard against which all other Christian teachings are measured. For Methodists, knowledge isn't just power; it's salvation.

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!

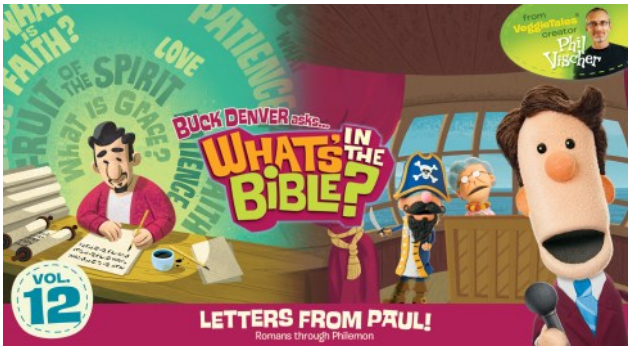


MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

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

Children's Church (grades K - 5) Contact Carol Runyon at: crunyon@fmcz.org

NEXT WAVES KIDS MINISTRIES at First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills



Through October, Children's Church will be looking at Volume 12 of The Buck Denver video series, learning about the Apostle Paul, once a persecutor of Christians named Saul who became a leading defender and supporter of the young church. Along with the video series, Children's Church uses a child-friendly Bible with specially designed pictures, captions and explanatory material promoting a real understanding of God's glory. All this is accompanied with fun, hands-on seasonal crafts and activities.

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.

October 04 ~ Lesson 110: Topic - Daniel Serves Faithfully

October 11 ~ Lesson 111: Topic - Experiencing God's Glory

October 18 ~ Lesson 112: Topic - God's New Covenant

October 25 ~ Lesson 113: Topic - Zerubbabel Returns to Israel



October Youth and Family Ministries News

October 18: Youth Trip to Corn Maze ~ This Sunday day trip takes FMCZ Youth to the Fox Squirrel Corn Maze in Plant City. Leaving Cooper Hall by 11:00am and returning by 4:30pm. Cost is $15 for the maze and extra for fast food lunch on the way. All youth 6th grade and up are welcome.

October 24: Trunk or Treat in the West Parking Lot ~ In conjunction with Zephyrhills' Halloween Howl, FMCZ Family Ministries will host a family-friendly Trunk or Treat from 4:00 - 7:00pm. If you would like to volunteer to decorate your car and hand out sweet treats, please contact Karen Ezra.

October 30: The annual **Chili Cook-Off and Pumpkin Carving Night** returns on Friday evening, 10/30. Karen asks that those interested in participating either as cooks or carvers, please sign up using the form found in the church lobby or Cooper Hall. Fun prizes will be awarded for both competitions. Find details on page 15 of this newsletter and watch our eBlasts and announcements through October.

Prayer and Praise [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]



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

Christ is forming HIMSELF within us, for HIS glory!
HE shapes us for our good, makes us strong, happy and healthy in Spirit which is useful in life! We are each one shaped differently so the LIGHT Of CHRIST is reflected throughout our lives E V E R Y day!

Share your light through service and generosity. Allow your light to show before men, that they see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

September is childhood cancer awareness month, please use your gold ribbon! And in your prayers, remember those young ones actively battling these childhood robbing conditions.



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

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

Emmaus Reunion: *Those who have completed a walk, meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 in the Crusaders room.*

Welcoming Our Newest Emmaus Pilgrims

There is something special about the Walk to Emmaus. It is a time to step away from the busyness of everyday life, open our hearts to God, and experience His presence in new and meaningful ways. We are delighted to celebrate six members of our First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills family who recently participated in the Walk to Emmaus and have now joined the growing community of Emmaus pilgrims. Please join us in welcoming Bobby Theel, Bob Cartwright, Tom Sharp, James Treanor, and Carolyn Ledford!

Each pilgrim came to the Walk with his or her own story, experiences, hopes, and expectations. Over the course of the weekend, they shared in worship, prayer, fellowship, reflection, and the love of a community committed to helping one another grow in faith. The Walk to Emmaus reminds us that, just as the disciples discovered on the road to Emmaus, Jesus is often walking beside us—even when we don't immediately recognize Him.

The weekend is more than an event; it is an invitation to continue the journey. Our newest pilgrims now become part of the Emmaus community, carrying with them the lessons, friendships, encouragement, and renewed faith they experienced during their Walk. We are especially grateful to everyone who helped make their Walk possible—the pastors, lay leaders, team members, prayer partners, cooks, volunteers, and all those who quietly supported the weekend through their prayers and service. Your love and dedication help make the Emmaus experience a blessing to so many.

Bobby, Bob, Tom, James, and Carolyn, welcome to the Emmaus community! We celebrate each of you and look forward to seeing how God continues to work through your lives and your faith. May the joy and spiritual renewal you experienced on your Walk continue long after the weekend has ended.
As you continue your journey, may you always remember that you are never walking alone. Christ walks beside you, and your Emmaus family walks with you.

Welcome home, pilgrims! De Colores! Our next Emmaus Reunion meeting will be held on Thursday, October 1st at 6:30 p.m. in the Crusader's Room. All who have completed a Walk are invited.

Wednesday Night Refuel is back for **Fall 2026**

Some groups and classes are still open!

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

Speak to a class leader if you are interested in joining

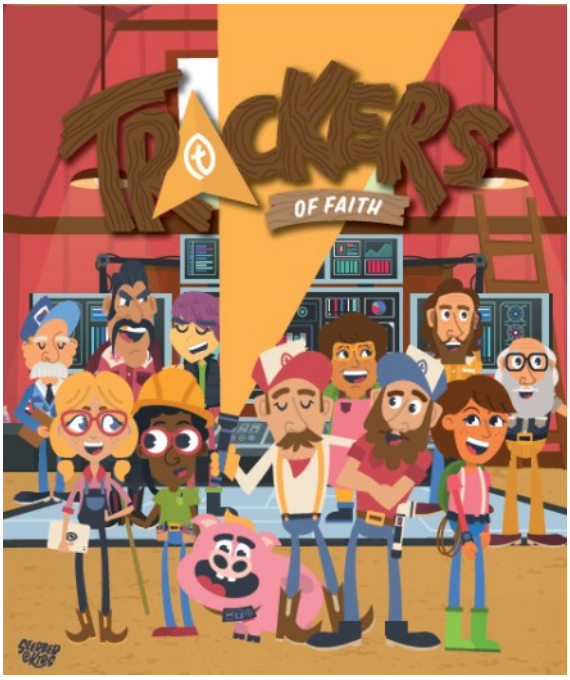




Children's Church on Wednesday Nights [Wednesday Night Refuel]

If you're used to thinking about Children's Church on Sundays, know that kids grades K through 5th have their own Wednesday Refuel sessions called Trackers of Faith. Trackers is a video series by SEEDBED KIDS that leads the children through a Life of Discipleship. We will be learning about the Lord's Prayer throughout October. We will also be reviewing the topics below through videos, discussions, crafts, and games with plenty of time set aside for fun on the playground. Please join us for great times!

10/7 The Lord's Prayer & the Psalms
10/14 Intercessory Prayer
10/21 Prayer Fasting
10/28 Baptism



United Women in Faith

present their Autumn Arts and Crafts Marketplace at
First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills.

Saturday, October 17
10:00am - 3:00pm
in Cooper Fellowship Hall

Home and hand-crafted goods made by members of First Methodist Church.
In time for seasonal gift-giving!



Showcasing wreaths, shell art, wooden toys, table runners, pot holders, greeting cards, jewelry, nightlights, original canvas art, Christmas tree ornaments, kitchen scrubbies, crochet kitty hats and much more. Find your perfect one-of-a-kind gift here!

Support local crafters and hobbyists and discover unique creations.

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 11:00am.

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

FMCZ Food Pantry Days are October 12, 13, 14 ~ COLLECTION SUNDAY IS October 18

This year First Methodist Church is once again planning on a special Thanksgiving distribution. In addition to the regular bag of food, each client will also receive a bag containing canned chicken, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, cream of chicken soup, powdered milk, stuffing, and a dessert mix. In order to facilitate this, we are holding our **Fall Cornucopia of Giving**. If you'd like to participate, below is a list of 30 suggested items to donate, each item associated with a day in October. Then at the end of the month, or whenever the list is complete, all items can be brought to the church office during regular hours. Please identify your donation as "Fall Cornucopia". Any items that you can donate will be appreciated, even if you are unable to complete the list. Thank you for your support!

Day 1 - 10 to 12 oz. box of cereal
Day 2 – small jar of peanut butter
Day 3 – stuffing mix
Day 4 – instant potatoes
Day 5 – macaroni and cheese
Day 6 – canned fruit
Day 7 – canned pumpkin
Day 8 – canned tuna
Day 9 – dessert mix
Day 10 – small jar applesauce
Day 11 – canned sweet potatoes
Day 12 – cranberry sauce
Day 13 – canned cream soup
Day 14 – box of crackers
Day 15 – shampoo
Day 16 – small jar jelly
Day 17 – 1 lb. package of pasta
Day 18 – canned spaghetti sauce
Day 19 – chicken noodle soup
Day 20 – tomato soup
Day 21 – canned corn
Day 22 – can mixed vegetables
Day 23 – canned carrots
Day 24 – canned green beans
Day 25 – gravy mix
Day 26 – canned chicken
Day 27 – toilet paper
Day 28 – toothpaste
Day 29 – pork & beans
Day 30 – soap



Regularly Featured In the Annex

Furniture ~ larger home goods ~ Christmas decor

Regularly Featured In the Main Shop

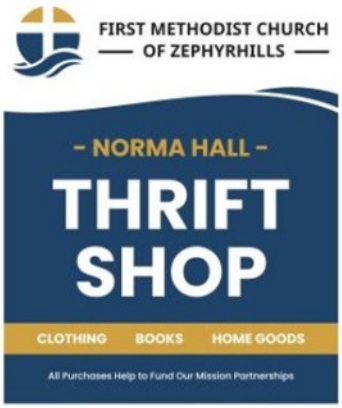
Clothing, books, smaller home goods and general home décor

Mondays 8am—12pm
Donations only

Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am—12pm









Salvation's Rock [Team Leader: Eric Gale]

What goes into preparing a single song for the 9:30 contemporary worship service each Sunday? The process starts immediately after the Sunday before, with Eric choosing songs from the band's extensive music library that best tie into the theme and feel of the next week's worship and message. The band is legally restricted to using only songs that are in the FMCZ music licensing agreement. With the songs chosen, band members work together to decide how best to organize the compositions, with the song structure often changing to fit time, tempos, and which band members will be able to play that Sunday. A chorus or bridge may be repeated a different number of times or left out altogether. Unlike the songs in hymnals, contemporary songs are fluid and dynamic; changing to fit the needs of each worship service. This scaffold of verses, choruses, bridges, and instrumentals is known as the "mapping".

The initial "mapping" is then sent to team members who prepare the visual content of each worship service, the images and video backgrounds that are projected onto the large screens on the choir loft walls. The words of all the prayers and songs are composed into slide shows, that are passed on to the next team member who chooses backgrounds to fit with the themes and feelings of each part of each song and distributes the words according to the song's pacing and intent. Finally each slide is checked against the mappings to be certain everything will match up during Sunday's computer "playback".

The band members come together twice more for full musical practices, carefully rehearsing each song for tempo, musical dynamics, vocal blending, instrument timing and other elements that flow together into each song of worship that you hear every Sunday morning. The result is a collaboration that strives to help create a meaningful and engaging worship experience every week for each person who comes to praise and pray.

Long Term Prayer List [For October 2026] updated 09/22/2026

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."**

Randy Hall, Trisha Lukacs, Suzanne Morgan, Larry Mansfield, Robyne Nelson, Bonnie Runyan, Linda Schall, Liz Welton, Glenda Wilson, Roxanna Young

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

Commission on Missions meets the first Thursday of every month at 1:00pm in the Choir room.

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:

September: Caterpillars to Butterflies
October: ECHO
November: Henderson Settlement
December: ABC Program Zephyrhills High School

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

Blood Pressure Checks and Rechecks ~ October 11th ~ 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall
Next Big Red Bus Blood Drive ~ Watch the eBlast for details of the next Big Red Bus drive.

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES



Domestic Violence affects everyone. It knows no boundaries, it affects all races, all ethnicities, all economic classes, all ages, all religions – all communities. Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior used to establish power and control within the context of an intimate relationship. It can include:

Physical Abuse: Hitting, Slapping, Kicking, Choking, Pushing, Punching, Burning, Using a Weapon or Other Object to Cause Injury

Sexual Abuse: Forcing a Partner to Engage in Unwanted Sexual Acts, Refusing to Practice Safe Sex, Degrading Treatment

Verbal Abuse: Constant Criticism, Making Humiliating Comments, Name-calling, Mocking, Yelling, Swearing

Emotional Abuse: Denying/Shifting Blame, Treating a Partner as an Inferior, Making Up Impossible "Rules" and Punishing the Victim for Breaking Them, Isolation, Monitoring Correspondence and Whereabouts, Abusing Children or Pets, Destruction of Property, Stalking, Using Threatening Actions or Gestures, Making the Victim Feel Guilty, Being Overly Jealous

Financial Abuse: Preventing a Partner from Getting or Keeping a Job or Attending School, Denying Access to Financial Information and/or Family Income, Damaging or Ruining a Partner's Credit

Domestic violence isolates a survivor, reduces their options to leave the relationship, has a negative impact on the children in the household, affects their ability to work, can lead to a perpetrator stalking the survivor and has a high risk of ending in life-threatening violence or death. A safety plan is an important first step if you are in or have been in a violent relationship.

Sunrise of Pasco County is a multi-faceted domestic violence and sexual assault center providing a safe place for survivors to heal and plan their future. It offers a 24-hour/7 day a week hotline for persons affected by domestic and sexual violence that provides information on how to get help for a loved one, options and services available for survivors, community referrals or someone to just listen. The hotline is **CONFIDENTIA**L. If you are in immediate danger you should call 911 or your local emergency number immediately. **Sunrise's 24-hour hotline (321) 521-3120**

Stephen Ministry [Team Leaders ~ Jeanne Narum and Michelle 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 beginning a relationship with a Stephen Minister or becoming a Stephen Minister, contact Jeanne Narum at: jlnarum@hotmail.com or call 701-838-7387.



Annual FMCZ Church Business Conference ~ Sunday, October 4th



4:00 - 5:00pm in the Sanctuary

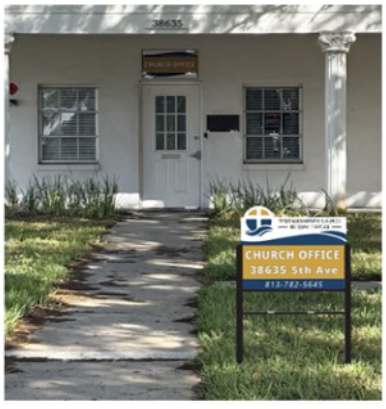
This year's annual "Charge" Conference has been opened to be a "Church" business meeting in order to allow all official Church Members to join with the Administrative Council in voting on several important items on the proposed agenda. All FMCZ members are invited and encouraged to attend this short business meeting to hear department reports, share your input, and be an active part of our faith community's governance.

Did You Know? [Helpful Hints for Staying Connected]

We Have a Social Media Presence

With a new focus on the FMCZ presence on both Facebook and Instagram, we hope to attract a new interest in our church community from couples and families moving into all the recent residential development in our area. Numbers help increase exposure on social media so you can help by stopping by our pages and hitting the "like" buttons regularly. It's an easy way to help spread the word about our mission to "spread the Good Word"!

Get to our social media pages by going to the "Live Links" page on our website and clicking on the link tab. It's easy!



CHURCH OFFICE BUSINESS HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9:00am - 2:00pm

Communications Desk

Monday Through Wednesday
9:00am - 2:00pm

Please see the front desk receptionist when you enter. *Thank You!*

general email: info@fmcz.org

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF ZEPHYRHILLS

CHURCH OFFICE
38635 5th Ave
813-782-5645

Support Groups On Our Campus

Adult Children of Alcoholics and Family Dysfunction

WILL RESUME MEETING ON OUR CAMPUS THIS MONTH.

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:

Fall session will begin Wednesday, October 7th
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 fall session of GriefShare will begin Wednesday, October 7th. The meetings will be held from 4:00 - 5:30pm to allow those attending to participate in weekly Refuel activities. All meetings will be held in the Crusaders classroom.

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 the12-step program to achieve sobriety and support others who share that path.

SPECIAL EVENTS: Information, Fellowship, Music



Young at Heart will be presenting Terri Poulin from Amerilife of East Pasco. Amerilife's strength is to provide insurance and retirement solutions to help people live longer and healthier lives. Amerilife is a national leader in developing, marketing, distributing and administering life and health insurance, annuities, and retirement planning solutions to enhance the lives of pre-retirees and retirees. Please join us on Thursday, October 15 in Cooper Hall.



In conjunction with Mainstreet Zephyrhills' Halloween Howl on October 24th, FMCZ Family Ministries is organizing our own sweet treat give-away from 4:00 - 7:00pm in the west parking lot. Volunteers are needed to decorate their cars and distribute treats to our area children who stop through! It will be a whirlwind of costumes and candies and a chance to connect with neighborhood families and represent our church community. Want to volunteer? Contact Karen Ezra for details.

FMCZ Board of Trustees
is organizing a church-wide work day to complete much needed repair, clean-up, and paint projects.

Saturday, October 24
8:00am - 12:00pm

Sign up sheets are available in the Narthex and Cooper Hall. Please sign up soon so that projects can be organized early!



Coffee, water and snacks will be available upon arrival for work in the morning, then a light lunch will be provided between 12 and 1pm. Please use the sign up sheets found in the Narthex and Cooper Hall.



FMCZ CHILI COOK-OFF and PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST

Friday, October 30, 2026 in Cooper Hall

5:45pm cooks sign in ~ 6:00 - 6:30pm tasting and voting
6:30pm dinner, carving, and fellowship
7:45pm awards announcement

Sign up forms for the Chili Cook Off Competition and the Pumpkin Carving Contest will be in the Narthex and Cooper Hall beginning Sunday, October 4th. Cooks, please fill in the form noting the type of chili you would like to bring. Carvers, indicate your contest entry and request additional pumpkin(s) if you are registering for a group. Prizes will be given out at the end of the night based on open voting! Seasonal fun for the whole family and a great way to spend quality time with other members of our church family.

ECHO [Commission on Mission's October Mission of the Month]

The FMCZ Missions Committee has chosen ECHO, as a new mission partner. ECHO helps people who live in some of the world's poorest places learn simple, low-cost ways to grow food and feed their families.

About 650 million people in our world live in "extreme poverty." The World Bank defines this as living on less than $2.15 per day. Most struggle to get enough food. Each year, more than 9 million children under age five die from malnutrition.

Most of these families live just north or just south of the equator in an area often called the "10/40 window", a rectangular geographic region stretching from North Africa across the Middle East and Asia, located between 10 degrees north and 40 degrees north latitude. ECHO focuses its work there. It has Agricultural Impact Centers located in Africa (Burkina Faso and Tanzania), Asia (India and Thailand) and Central America.

Each Center has a test farm. There, ECHO studies which farming methods work best in that local area. Then ECHO turns that knowledge into simple steps people can use with minimal effort. Each center also has a seed bank with seeds from the food plants that grow best in the area. ECHO works with local churches, missionary organizations and other partners in the area to spread the word about practical skills such as:

- Saving seeds from one harvest so they can be planted again next season.
- Using natural pest control and fertilizer instead of costly chemicals.
- Raising chickens, goats, pigs, and other animals in healthy ways.

ECHO shares these skills through hands-on training sessions. These are offered not only to farmers but also to pastors and missionaries who can pass along these life-saving practices as they spread the gospel - "spreading the love of God in word and seed" (Colossians 3:17 actually says "in word and deed"). On average, each person who attends an ECHO training session shares what they learn with 40 other people.

Jesus told his disciples, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) By welcoming ECHO as a new mission partner, our Missions Committee has given us a practical way to follow that command and spread His love to people who live far from Zephyrhills and are in great need.

You can learn more about ECHO from their website https://echonet.org/our-work/what-we-do/.

You can also visit their Florida test farm in Fort Myers https://echonet.org/make-an-impact/get-involved/visit-echo/.



Farming on slopes



Practical Results



ECHO Training Session

Birthday Observances [Hosted by United Women in Faith]

Last month, UWF hosted a combined birthday party for mother and daughter members, Terri Stanley and Luci Knepper to celebrate their birthday one day apart each year. This year, Luci turned 90! and Terri turned 68.

Susan Yule, Luci's first sister in law spoke and David, Luci's son/Terri's brother joined the party. Sandy Coon decorated the Hall, Judy Peavey helped with the cake, a two layer chocolate cake with raspberry filling and her friends brought salads and sandwiches to share. Thank you to Pastor Steve for Grace and to all who attended! It was a fun and meaningful get together!






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

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*

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 ~ with Personal Addresses and Phone Numbers
Luci Knepper
Terri Stanley
Dorothy Lundeen
Pat Fletcher
Steve Mayville staying with Cathy and Michael Gunn, 27113 Arrowbrook Way, Wesley Chapel

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, 1ST SGT, US Army, TX, nephew of Gerald & Virginia Swank

REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/02 Elisabeth Ezra Jenkins
10/02 Cricket Linn
10/03 Charles Flanagan
10/03 TJ Hickman
10/04 Shirley Carlson
10/04 Donald Iwaniec
10/04 Lin Weitzel
10/05 Karen Laukat
10/07 Johanna Theel
10/07 Jim Wencel
10/09 Jerry Wymore
10/12 Tom Burgmeier
10/13 John Kennard
10/15 Eddie Gionet
10/15 James Rich
10/17 Kathleen Coyne
10/18 Sharon O'Hara
10/21 Meaghan D"Angelo
10/21 Kati Lonnquist
10/22 Dawn Harrison
10/22 David Hill
10/24 Becky Adwell
10/25 Richard Cotton
10/25 Rebecca Davis
10/29 Joan Wall
10/30 Richard Gottschalk

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

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

10/02 Shay and Lynn Johnson
10/03 Tresea and Jerry Wymore
10/06 Eric and Sarah Gale
10/09 Bill and Sally Bair
10/17 Dave Houghtalen and Debbie Williams
10/17 Wendy and Kenny Leslie
10/23 Irl and Mary Crook
10/24 Connie and Kenneth Stuby
10/26 Carol and David Freiermuth
10/30 Wanda and Joe Rakocy
10/31 Jim and Joanne Martin



Staff and Organizational Contacts

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This Month's Cover [October - "Planting to Harvest]

Within the ancient agrarian cultures when the books of the Bible were composed, farming was a serious and difficult occupation. Being able to amply feed one's family was not guaranteed. We read often about times of drought and famine, and with no social safety nets so common in modern times, those in need faced hard decisions just to survive. It is no wonder that so many of the lessons found in both Old and New Testaments are framed in terms of planting, tilling, and harvesting.

For the most part, the everyday farmer (those the faith particularly reached out to) planted with focused purpose, they planted specifically for a harvest. These were not gentlemen planters who grew pretty ornamentals or decorative shrubs (although in the upper echelons of those societies there were those few who could afford to have that). These were serious growers who planted those seeds they knew would give them the best chance for a harvest capable of feeding and sustaining them and their loved ones for another year. They planted, focused always on the future, and then labored to make that future happen.

In our faith, we are little different despite being in a modern world of incredible convenience. Spiritually, we plant for a future we do not see but in our hearts and souls, praying that our efforts will overcome the natural adversities all around us. We nurture the seeds of wisdom and faith in a plot rich with growth potential. We tend each fragile sprout as it grows. We help it mature. Then we celebrate as we harvest, knowing that another planting is soon to come. Growth never stops. Faith never rests.

Giving Back

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"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:19-21

Giving Back

We are blessed to have Pastor Steve here on our staff and in light of Pastor Appreciation Month we would like to give back a "love offering" in recognition of his commitment and dedication to our church and each member of our church family.

If you would like to show your appreciation, here's how:

Cash or Check payable to FMCZ - *Memo Line* - *"Pastor Apprec"*

Online at: fmcz.org/online-giving *Choose: Other Designated Funds Note: "Pastor Apprec"*

Please have your love offering in by October 18th, as the presentation to Pastor Steve will take place on Sunday, October 25th.

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF ZEPHYRHILLS
PASTOR
APPRECIATION
MONTH
OCTOBER

Submitted by Staff Parish Relations Committee