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.

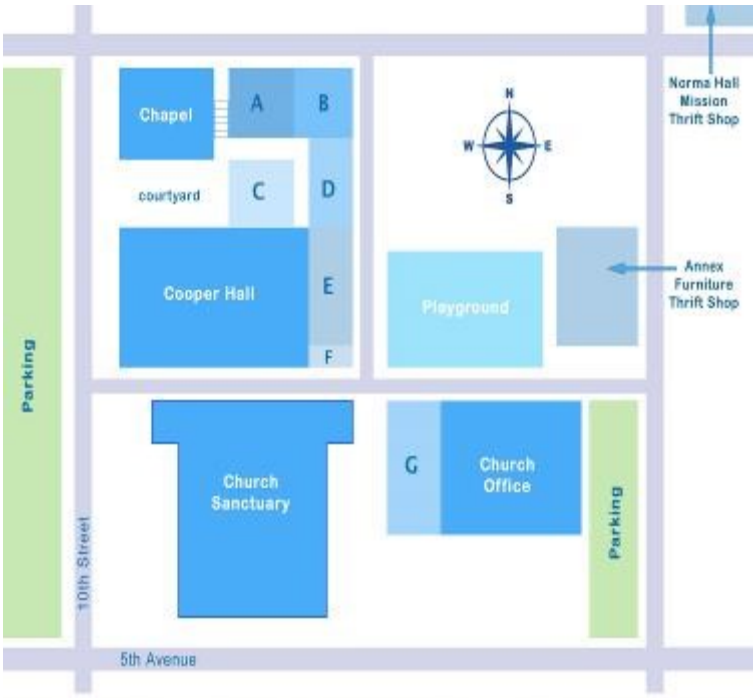
Restrooms

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



November 2026 Worship Services

Worship Themes

In November, Pastor Steve continues his ten week sermon series, "Meeting With God." November 22nd will feature a stand alone sermon subject while the 29th begins our Advent season.

Sunday, November 01: Communion Sunday /All Saints Sunday

Meeting With God: "Worship", Romans 12:1-2, Psalm 95:1-7; John 4:23-24

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

Sunday, November 08: Missions Celebration Sunday

Meeting With God: "Service", Mark 10:42-45, John 13:1-17

"Service is more than volunteering at church. It is adopting the posture of Jesus. The question becomes, "Lord, where do You want to love someone through me?"

Sunday, November 15:

Meeting With God: "Celebration", Philippians 4:4; Psalm 118:24

"Celebration reminds us that the Christian life isn't merely about discipline and sacrifice. It is ultimately about the joy of knowing God and living in His grace. "

Sunday, November 22:

"Trick Questions," Matthew 22:15-22

"The Pharisees attempt to trap Jesus by presenting him with TRICK QUESTIONS. But knowing their hearts, Jesus turns the tables with unexpected answers."

Sunday, November 29: Fifth Sunday/First Sunday of Advent

Preparing for Christ's Arrival

"In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord: make straight a highway for our God.'"

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. During the month of November, the Crusaders continue to explore the differences between the United and Global Methodist churches, and watch the movie, "The Way."

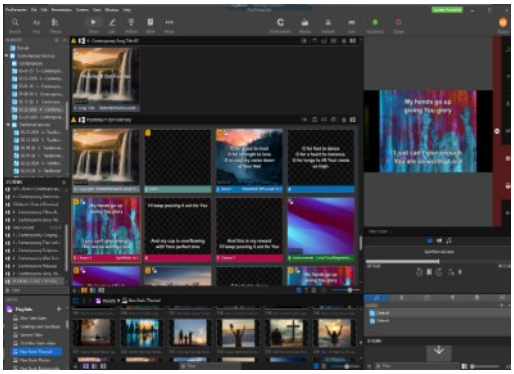
Spirit and Truth Class: Facilitated by Greg Peavey. The Spirit and Truth Sunday class focuses on a close line-by-line analysis of books of the Bible.

Truthseekers Class: The Truthseekers class will continue their studies of several minor prophets for the fall season. 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. Books include Micah, Nahem and Habakkuk. In November, the group will finish out the rest of the minor prophets ending with Malachi.

The Importance of Study and Discussion Groups: "Our vision is a Church where discipleship, doctrine, and justice are not separate pursuits, but a unified way of life, forming believers who love God deeply, think theologically, and live their faith with integrity and compassion." *~ from the Global Methodist Church web site.* Towards our goal of making disciples of Christ, study and discussion are critical in understanding the message we seek to spread. Doing so together with others strengthens that understanding by seeing our shared faith through the eyes of other believers.

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!

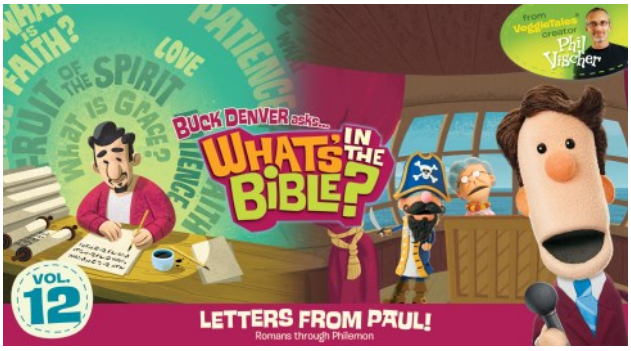


MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

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



Children's Sunday School for November: We will continue learning about Paul and how important he was for the early church. Did you know, with the 3 main trips he did visiting towns and teaching about Jesus, he covered 6,900 miles?! Remember there were no trains, planes or automobiles in his time. We will also have a special day on Sunday 11/22 preparing our thoughts for Thanksgiving. As always we will have special activities and hands on projects that help illustrate our seasonal themes.

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.

November 01 ~ Lesson 114: Topic - Esther Trusts God

November 08 ~ Lesson 115: Topic - Ezra Teaches the law

November 15 ~ Lesson 116: Topic - Nehemiah Rebuilds the Wall

November 22 ~ Thankful Sunday

November 29 ~ Lesson 117: Topic - Nehemiah Governs Jerusalem



November Youth and Family Ministries News

November 08: Soup Extravaganza ~ As the weather actually begins to turn cooler, FMCZ Family Ministries offers up another delicious soup and stew fundraiser to help all our youth members attend Rock the Universe in early 2027. You will find the usual "soup suspects" with brand new creations and a few all time favorites for sampling! Admission is a donation to the Youth Trip.

November 29: Christmas Festival ~ The last Sunday in November is the first Sunday of Advent and this free event is planned to give off decidedly holiday vibes. 11:30am - 1:30pm in Cooper Hall, featuring plenty of early Christmasy food, sweets, craft activities, and seasonal music. Please join us as we begin celebrating the joy of the Christmas season.

Prayer and Praise [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]



The prayer team meets every Tuesday Morning 9:00am,
Truthseekers Room, in the Education Building

ARE YOU RUNNING ON EMPTY?

This means literally that you are out of energy, resources and motivation!
It will also happen with spiritually energy!
Eventually we use up that spiritual energy.

WE NEED TO FIND SOURCES FOR GROWTH!!
WE CAN DISCOVER HOW WE CAN ADD SPIRITUAL FUEL TO OUR LIVES ON A DAILY BASIS.
WE CAN DISCOVER HOW TO DO THIS WITH PRAYER!
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS P R A Y TO GOD DAILY.
PRAYER DOES FUEL OUR LIVES ON A DAILY BASIS.
PRAYER GIVES POWER TO THE WEAK.
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS TALK TO GOD.
WE MUST CONTINUE TO ADD STRENGTH THROUGH INDEPENDENCE.

GOD ENJOYS OUR VISITS WITH HIM. IN FACT, GOD LOOKS FORWARD TO OUR VISITS !

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.*

Our Emmaus Reunion Group will gather again on Thursday, November 5, at 6:30 p.m. in the Crusader's Room of the Education Building at First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills.

If you have completed a Walk to Emmaus, you are invited to join us for an evening of fellowship, encouragement, prayer, and sharing as we continue to live out the Emmaus experience in our daily lives. The Reunion Group is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow Emmaus pilgrims, strengthen our faith, and support one another on our Christian journey.

We will spend time reflecting on God's presence in our lives and encouraging one another through the joys and challenges of faith.

Whether you have been attending regularly or have not joined us in a while, we would love to see you! Come and enjoy the fellowship of your Emmaus family.

DeColores!

Sad News [FMCZ Staff]

It is with profound sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Juan Wiggins, church Custodian and good friend to all who worked with him. Juan was a true follower of Jesus Christ, a helpful and outgoing man who strove to bring excellence to every part of his work around campus. He cared deeply about the daily upkeep of this campus and supporting all the folks who used these facilities. Juan took great pleasure in being able to complete a task right, and he always had the highest personal standards. He shared warm smiles and gentle greetings with everyone around him. Juan took pride in his work for First Methodist and found great meaning in keeping the Sanctuary clean and welcoming for worship. In so many ways, both large and small, he demonstrated what a great asset he was to our staff and our church family. We miss him greatly.



Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

November's Mission of the Month is one that our church family has a long tradition of supporting, through direct support from our Missions Commission as well as proceeds from the two Thrift Shops. When you purchase items in the shops, the money regularly goes out to a varied list of worthwhile programs, organizations, charities, and social projects both local and distant. The Henderson Settlement has served its Appalachian community in Kentucky for many years and its Methodist roots run deep. Henderson Settlement is located in Frakes Kentucky and was founded in 1925 by Hiram Frakes. Rev. Frakes was a Methodist minister from Pineville, Kentucky, who had a dream of educational, economic and spiritual reforms in this area of Appalachia. Local families got together and donated 123 acres and Rev. Frakes started a school in the area. That was the beginning of Henderson Settlement. The vision has shifted over the years to meet changing needs of the community. Henderson now has a workshop that hosts volunteers who help repair homes in the surrounding areas and even help to build new homes. There is a thrift store, a food pantry, a library, a senior care center, youth ministries and much more. All these are an outreach to the community while sharing the love and gospel of Jesus Christ in Appalachia.

As a Mission of the Month, you can directly support this ministry by using the offering envelopes and marking your donation "Henderson Settlement". Thank you!







OVER 90 YEARS OF HISTORY

In 1925, Hiram Frakes, a Methodist minister, came to the Laurel Fork Valley in southeastern Kentucky with a dream of educational, economic, and spiritual reform. Local families donated 123 acres of land and Frakes started a school for the area. It opened in the fall of 1925 with 13 students.

That was the beginning of Henderson Settlement. The vision has shifted focus over years to meet the changing needs of the community

Today, over 90 years later, Henderson Settlement still provides opportunities for the communities we serve.



(Main Campus)
16773 HWY 190, P.O. Box 205
Frakes, KY 40940
606.337.3613

WWW.HENDERSONSETTLEMENT.COM

Satellite Location: White Oak Center 4433 White Oak Road Duff, TN 37729

LIKE Us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/hendersonsettlement
SUBSCRIBE to us on YouTube
hendsett
TWEET with Us on Twitter
Twitter @HenderSettle

Creating Opportunities for Better Lives through Christ-centered Service.

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Sisters and Brothers:

October begins cool weather across the nation and travel south for our part time Floridians. I love watching for that different, new tag. When's the last time you saw a New Mexico tag? Oregon? Saskatchewan?

Thank you all for your work to promote our Arts and Crafts Market. Word of mouth, oral and digital, brought in 23 vendors and many customers...some in a busload. Special thanks to Lyn, Gaynell, Ilene, Michelle, and Marsha! We had 4 youth volunteers, too! Thank you Rylie, Elizabeth, Grace, and Lizzy for your help.

November's regular meeting is the 12th and we'll celebrate with a World Thank Offering. United Women in Faith continues to support women and children around the globe with our time, our love, and our talents.

December 10th is our annual Christmas Dinner. We're serving Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Carrots & Peas, Judy's Rolls, and Dessert for $12.50. Entertainment will be provided by Vintage Beats and, of course, everyone's welcome.

Oh! Look for Sandy's Suncoast Bronze Ringers ad in the Zephyrhills Women's Magazine! They will be performing in our sanctuary December 12th.

Our Annual Fill Your Box Cookie Sale is the next day...December 13th. Get your home made cookies for Santa's Plate!! As you can see, the weeks ahead are full of special times; we hope you are a part of them.

Love to you all! Phyllis

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 make quilts, walker bags, food protecters, wheelchair arm covers, collected small toys and stuffed animals, and made and filled Christmas stockings for children in our area.





Above: Project Others members knitting socks for men and women in hospice. At left: Project Others team members showcasing one of a number of quilts made by hand this summer.

Food Pantry [Team Leader ~ Tana Day]

Fall Holiday Harvest Collections

Help our Food Pantry fill a plate this holiday season.
As we gather with loved ones and share warm meals,
many in our community will be facing empty cupboards.
Your donation—big or small—can bring comfort, nourishment,
and hope to a neighbor in need.

During the month of November, please take some extra time to consider those non-perishable pantry ingredients that are the foundations of many happy holiday meals. The Pantry staff is asking our food donors to focus on providing those holiday staples that will help make Thanksgiving and Christmas meals extra bright with as many traditional elements and flairs as possible. Think about which meal items brighten a holiday table, and please consider donating those! As always, please be mindful of the quality and contents of the items you donate to ensure we are providing healthful meal items to those who need them the most. Thank you!

Food Pantry Distribution Days are November 09, 10, and 11

THIS MONTH'S DONATION COLLECTION SUNDAY IS November 15



Food Pantry strives to help each family feel wanted and safe. Because of you, our donors, we have the ability to provide extra items throughout the year. In that light, for our October distribution, food pantry gave each child a Halloween treat bag. We distributed around 100 bags this year.
Please note: we are requesting help in restocking plastic grocery bags all through the month of November.



Regularly Featured In the Annex

Furniture ~ larger home goods ~ Christmas decor

Regularly Featured In the Main Shop

Clothing, books, smaller home goods
and general home décor

Mondays 8am—12pm
Donations only

Wednesdays & Saturdays 8am—12pm





FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF ZEPHYRHILLS

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

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
OF ZEPHYRHILLS

- NORMA HALL -
THRIFT SHOP
ANNEX
FURNITURE SEASONAL ITEMS MEDICAL

Salvation's Rock [Team Leader: Eric Gale]

On a wall inside the small contemporary music ministry office just off the altar platform in the sanctuary, there is a laminated sign that reads:

Salvation's Rock exists to boldly proclaim the message of Jesus Christ through the worship and powerful contemporary music that resonates with the hearts of all generations. With every song we seek to reflect the hope and grace found in Jesus Christ, bringing the light of salvation to the world through the sound of music.

Our mission is to create a worshipful experience that inspires connection, transformation, and spiritual growth, using the universal language of music to bring people closer to God.

The members of Salvation's Rock invites all church members, regardless of their musical preferences, to stop by the 9:30am Contemporary service, lift up your hands as you sing, and be inspired to find new ways to share your voice in praise and worship while connecting with some of the best and most moving worship music being written and performed today. And after service, don't forget to reach out and connect with some of the band members, who love to hear your feedback.



Coming Soon: an updated band photo!

Long Term Prayer List [For October 2026] updated 10/20/2026

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, Linda Schall, Judy Welker, 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 ~ November 8th ~ 10:30 - 11:00am in Cooper Hall
Next Big Red Bus Blood Drive ~ December 6th out in front of the sanctuary.

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD IN COOPER HALL FOR OTHER UPDATES



WHAT IS DIABETES?

People with diabetes either don't make enough insulin (type 1 diabetes, autoimmune disorder) or can't use insulin properly (type 2 diabetes). Insulin allows blood sugar (glucose) to enter cells, where it can be used for energy. When the body doesn't have enough insulin or can't use it effectively, blood sugar builds up in the blood**. High blood sugar levels can lead to heart disease, stroke, blindness, kidney failure, and amputation of toes, feet, or legs.**

SOME FACTS ABOUT DIABETES

- Diabetes is the 7th leading cause of death in the United States.
- It's the leading cause of kidney failure, lower limb amputation, and adult-onset blindness.
- Risk factors include being overweight, having a family history of type 2 diabetes, being physically active less than three times a week, or having a fasting blood sugar result above 100. Results above 100 is known as pre-diabetes. Above 126 is full on diabetes.
- The rate of new cases of diagnosed diabetes in the United States has begun to fall, but the numbers are still very high. More than 29 million Americans are living with diabetes.

HEALTH COMPLICATIONS FROM DIABETES

- **Heart disease and stroke:** People with diabetes are twice as likely to have heart disease or a stroke as people without diabetes—and at an earlier age.
- **Blindness and other eye problems:** Diabetic retinopathy (damage to blood vessels in the retina), cataracts (clouding of the lens), and glaucoma (increase in fluid pressure in the eye) can all result in vision loss.
- **Kidney disease:** High blood sugar levels can damage the kidneys long before a person has symptoms. Kidney damage can cause chronic kidney disease, which can lead to kidney failure.
- **Amputations:** Diabetes damages blood vessels and nerves, particularly in the feet, and can lead to serious, hard-to-treat infections. Amputation is sometimes necessary to stop the spread of infection.

PREDIABETES: OPPORTUNITY FOR CHANGE

More than a third of American adults—around 86 million—have prediabetes, and 90% of them don't know it. With prediabetes, blood sugar levels are higher than normal, but not high enough yet to be diagnosed as diabetes. People with prediabetes have an increased risk of developing diabetes, heart disease, and stroke.

http://www.diabetes.org/

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.



Congratulations!

First Methodist Thrift Shop
is a **Top 3** business in **Zephyrhills**



Google Reviews • 2026 Annual

Earned. Respected. Recognized.

Congratulations to Lyn Sears, Terry and Dennis Dutkiewicz, and all the Thrift Shops Staff Members for being voted one of the TOP 3 thrift shops in Zephyrhills for 2026.

Your hard work is appreciated!

TOP 3
2026
AWARD WINNER
BusinessRate

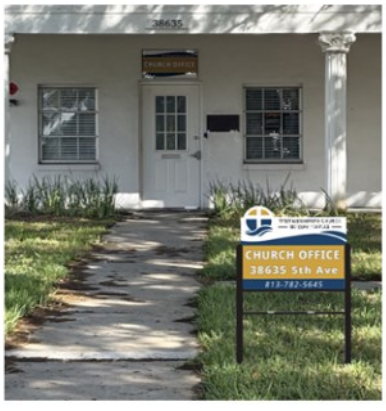
RECOGNIZING TOP PERFORMERS.
EMPOWERING BUSINESS
EXCELLENCE.

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

Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:00pm in the Chapel Classroom

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 Presentations [Team Leader ~ Gary Hartman]

SENIOR LUNCHEON AND HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

Thursday, November 19th



11:30am—1:00pm
Cooper Hall East

Old Fashioned Thanksgiving Meal

Complete with turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, and cranberry salad.

young at heart

ADMISSION: BRING ONE COVERED "MOM'S FAVORITE" SIDE DISH OF YOUR CHOICE TO SHARE.

Come together *with friends and family this year, recalling the many blessings that have come our way in the last 12 months. Be grateful by reaching out to those who may be less fortunate.*



Spotlight < Christmas Angel Trees ~ 2026



The Mission Committee's Angel Tree Gift Project is BACK and BIGGER than ever for the 2026 holiday season. This year we are increasing our support to 75 children from Woodlawn and Centennial Elementary Schools. The tags for each desired gift will be on the Christmas trees starting on Sunday, November 22nd. There will be trees in the Church Narthex and in Cooper Hall. Please take one or more tags and purchase the gift indicated. Please stay to a $20-$25 limit for each gift. Bring the UNWRAPPED gift with the tag attached to Cooper Hall by Sunday, December 6th. The gifts will be distributed to each school by Friday, December 11th.

Let's make this holiday season a joyous time for these students and their parents who really need the financial help.

Thank you for your generosity at this special time of year.





If you haven't made it over to Cooper Hall for one of the Youth Ministry's Soup Extravaganza fund-raisers, you have certainly missed a one-of-a-kind experience. With usually over a dozen home-made soups and stews, most folks gather trays full of sampling cups with bread or crackers, a drink and a sweet dessert of choice. Each soup or stew station features small labels with the names of each soup so its easy to compare types and tastes with your friends and neighbors. It's a fun and delicious afternoon and supports our youth on their way to the 2027 Christian Music Festival, Rock the Universe!

Christmas Festival [Karen Ezra and Family Ministries]

The last Sunday in November is the first Sunday of Advent and this free event is planned to give off decidedly holiday vibes. 11:30am - 1:30pm in Cooper Hall, featuring plenty of early Christmasy food, sweets, craft activities, and seasonal music.

First Christmas Festival of the Season
November 29th in Cooper Hall
11:30am – 1:30pm
Holiday themed lunch, sweet treats, activities, and fellowship

Please join us for Christmasy food and fun starting with a light lunch and featuring family-friendly activities such as a cookie exchange, holiday cookie decorating, themed crafts for kids and adults, caroling, and decking the halls!

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

faithresponders
a ministry partner of the Global Methodist Church

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

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



The now iconic image above, painted by Norman Rockwell, was one of a special four part cover series for the Saturday Evening Post, inspired by the 1941 State of the Union speech by Franklin Delano Roosevelt known as "The Four Freedoms." In an attempt to persuade Americans away from their traditional isolationism in the face of the growing threat of WWII, FDR outlined four freedoms that he characterized as both universal and worthy of fighting for regardless of where that fight took our country and its resources. It was his hope that he could persuade the American people to support his plan to aid the allied European forces fighting against Hitler's Germany. After it's publication, sales of war bonds increased dramatically and months later, after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, America did actively join the war effort both overseas and at home, helping to establish a new role of global responsibility for our nation.

"Freedom from Want," (the painting's title) received mixed reviews at the time, particularly in Europe, with many criticizing the perceived disconnect between the affluence pictured and the real meaning of "want" that was the daily reality in most of war-ravaged Europe. As we enter into this holiday season surrounded by similarly romanticized images, we should remember that real need exists in every country and every community around the world, and that *Freedom from Need* is a fight that should daily be at the heart of every Christian community.

Regular Monthly Meetings [for November 2026]

Commission on Missions [first Thursday ~ 1:00 - 2:00pm, Choir room] 11/05/2026
Emmaus Reunion [first Thursday ~ 6:30 - 8:00pm, Crusaders classroom] 11/05/2026
American House Outreach [second Sunday ~ 2:30pm , off campus] 11/08/2026
United Women in Faith [second Thursday ~ 12:00 - 2:00pm, Cooper Hall] 11/12/2026
Young at Heart Luncheon [third Thursday ~ 11:30am - 1:00pm, Cooper Hall] 11/19/2026
Stephen Ministry [third Thursday ~ 6:00 - 8:00pm, Crusaders classroom] 11/19/2026

Hand Bell Practice [Mondays ~ 6:00 - 7:00pm, Choir room]
Chancel Choir Practice [Mondays ~ 7:00 - 8:00pm, Choir room]
Praise and Prayer Team [Tuesdays ~ 9:00 - 10:00am, Truthseekers room]
Salvation's Rock Band Practice [Thursdays ~ 7:30 - 9:30pm, Sanctuary]
Project Others Ministry [Fridays ~ 8:00 - 11:00am, Cooper Hall West]

Trustees Meeting [Tuesday, 11/03/2026 ~ 6:30 - 8:00pm, Choir room]
Staff Meeting [Monday, 11/09/2026 ~ 3:00 - 4:15pm, Choir room]
Endowment Committee [Tuesday, 11/10/2026 ~ 6:30 - 8:00pm, Choir room]
Admin/Finance Meeting [Tuesday, 11/17/2026 ~ 6:30 - 8:00pm, Choir room]

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

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/01 Ilene Tacker
11/03 Elizabeth Fields
11/03 Jaimie Gant
11/04 Delbert Bice
11/04 Vicki Eller
11/06 Josh Hinson Sr.
11/06 Madalon Janoski
11/06 Jodie Obenour
11/07 Gideon Boggs
11/08 Adam Perez
11/11 Linda Mersing
11/12 Bentley Adwell
11/12 Donald Parsley
11/13 Jeanette Horner
11/15 Judith DenHerder Loving
11/15 Amber Wood
11/16 Todd Kramer
11/16 Marilyn Pauls
11/17 George Gano
11/17 Evelyn Panzer
11/18 Elizabeth Boggs
11/18 Dylan Freiermuth
11/18 Marian Rogers
11/19 Connie Stuby
11/22 Dawn Floyd
11/22 Barbara Williams
11/23 Thomas Gale
11/23 Shirley Wellington
11/28 Julie Pearson
11/28 Bob Shaw
11/29 Katelyn McFatridge
11/29 Mirtza Springfield

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

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11/07 Diane and Gregory Belles
11/12 Brian and Rose Zembraski
11/20 Kay and Stephen Hadley
11/27 James and Sandra Wyman
11/29 Evelyn and John Perez



Staff and Organizational Contacts

Church Web Address

www.fmcz.org

Staff Team Email Addresses

(for staff with church emails)

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This Month's Cover [November – "Come Together"]

Thanksgiving, in its various incarnations through history, has been a celebration of harvest, a bandage on the wounds of a divided nation, a remembrance of a year's worth of blessings, and perhaps least commendable, the kick-off of the commercial holiday shopping season. The traditional image of Pilgrims and Indigenous Americans sitting down to celebrate a life sustaining harvest together may be factually inaccurate, but continues to capture the spirit of gratitude for the fruits of labor and nature that see us through another year. In Civil War times, influenced by the lobbying of Sarah Joseph Hale, President Lincoln codified the observation as a way to begin healing a war-weary country whose people needed to be reminded of their daily blessings in the midst of tragedy and destruction. For the generations that lived through two great world wars, Thanksgiving reminded our society of those values and blessings that bound us together in mutual gratitude, a feeling that even the worst-off among us had so much more than so much of the rest of the world. Finally in contemporary times, tarnished a bit by blatant commercialism, the holiday became a symbol of purchasing power and the official start of Christmas gift giving.

Through all these permutations, though, the one element at the foundation of the observance is that of togetherness. We gather at this time. We give thanks around a table. We open our minds and hearts in recognition that gratitude is a relationship; it doesn't happen in isolation. Gratitude is the result of there being a giver and a receiver, and as Christians, we are mindful especially this time of year, of how great a giver is God. And thus we come together, clasp hands, lift our eyes and give thanks for blessings received and blessings shared; received from our God and shared with all those together in our embrace.

Giving Back

As Methodists and members of the Global Methodist Family, we are charged to make disciples of Christ by our examples in words and actions. First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills has a long and proud history of support for a wide array of local ministries and missions, generously giving to help fill the many needs we see, both large and small. Along with the FMCZ Commission, the Norma Hall Thrift Shop and Annex, as well as the United Women in Faith, regularly invest funds they raise into the work of charitable organizations in the East Pasco area and beyond. A small number of them are shown here.

Foremost in our investment strategies should be the stewardship of the blessings we ourselves have received; the beautiful sanctuary and campus that directly supports so many charitable activities. Donations to the many active repair and upgrade projects can be made on our web site through BUILDING FUND / PROPERTY PRESERVATION https://fmcz.org/online-giving/



Within our mission to support Christ's disciples around the world, our members give regularly to the Methodist Church of Amancio Rodriguez , designated as a Sister Church, located in LosTunas District in Cuba. Donations help to fund on-going repairs and renovations to their campus, support numerous outreach programs, and help in the spread of God's Word where it is most needed.



Since 1974 Meals on Wheels East Pasco provides balanced, nutritious and appealing meals to seniors, people with disabilities, and other members of our community. All meals are prepared fresh each morning with the help from over 80 volunteers, and 500-600 meals weekly are delivered in Zephyrhills, Dade City and outlying areas. The program does not accept government support.

Agape Flights, founded by Keith and Clara Starkey in 1980 , serves as a lifeline from family, friends, and supporters to more than 300 missionary families in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas. More than 20 million people live in the areas regularly reached by Agape's flights bringing critical supplies to hundreds of affiliated missionaries, their families, and missions.

Farmworkers Self-Help works with immigrant Mexican farmworkers, Mexican-American farmworkers, and former farmworkers to formulate solutions to the problems encountered by this population. The organization also works with other poverty-entrapped and oppressed groups in East Pasco communities. Located in Dade City, this group advocates for all ages of the under-served and vulnerable.

A Personal Message from Pastor Steve

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for your kind words, thoughtful expressions of appreciation, and generosity during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your encouragement and kindness mean more than you know. It is a blessing and a privilege to serve such a caring congregation. Pastoral ministry is a calling that brings both joys and challenges, and the love and support of a church family make a tremendous difference. Your thoughtfulness was a wonderful reminder of God's goodness and the privilege of serving His people. Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and the many ways you demonstrate the love of Christ. We are grateful for you and look forward to seeing all that God will continue to do in and through our church!

In Christ's Love, Steve and Karen Ezra