

The Messenger



FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
— OF ZEPHYRHILLS —
a Global Methodist Family

From Word to Spirit

September 2026

In this issue: Wednesday Night Refuel Returns - See page 07

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 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.

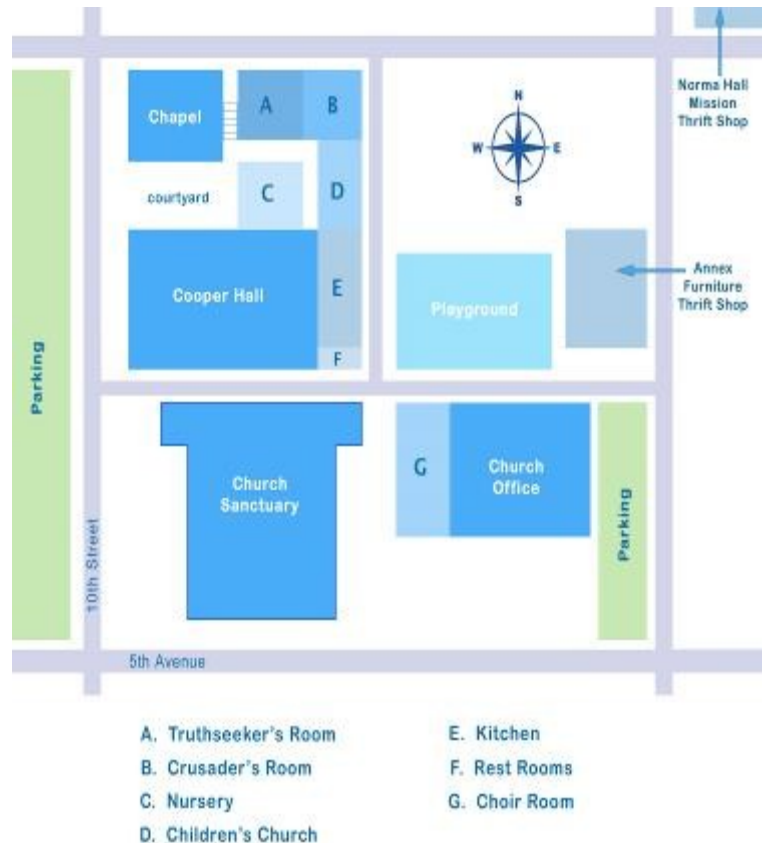
Restrooms

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



September 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, September 06: Communion Sunday

Me-conomics: "Investing in What Matters", Malachi 3:6-12, Luke 11:42

The tithe is not God's goal for our generosity. It is His benchmark, teaching us to invest in what will outlast us. Scripture reminds us that all earthly investments have expiration dates.

Sunday, September 13: Missions Celebration Sunday

Meeting With God: "Fellowship", Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 10:24-25

"God has designed us to grow spiritually in relationship with other believers. We don't simply meet God alone; we meet Him through His people."

Sunday, September 20:

Meeting With God: "Study", 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105

"When we open the Bible with receptive hearts, we find the God who speaks.

The goal isn't just to know more about the Bible but to know God more deeply.

Sunday, September 27:

Meeting With God: "Prayer", Matthew 6:5-13; Philippians 4:6-7

"Prayer doesn't change God into someone who cares about us. Prayer helps us become aware of the God who already does."

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 fall, the Crusaders Class will study the Book of Hebrews and find out what it tells us about living our lives in faithful obedience, as we journey with Christ.

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.

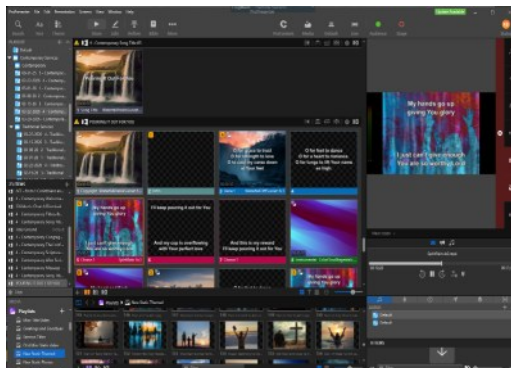
Truthseekers Class: The Truthseekers class is using videos by Dr. Kyle Lance Martin and other resource materials from class members to continue their studies of the several minor prophets for the late summer/early fall season.

Dr. Kyle Lance Martin is the founder of Time to Revive, a ministry based in Dallas, Texas, whose mission is to equip the saints for the return of Christ. His heart's desire is to engage people with the Word of God directly in their own environment. Kyle believes when people turn to the Messiah in humility and have a willingness to walk in the Holy Spirit, they can know and experience the calling of being a disciple of Jesus Christ.

The Importance of Study and Discussion Groups: John Wesley called himself a, "Man of One Book," not only affirming the authority of Scripture, but highlighting the importance of spiritual growth through its study and discussion. Bible study has always been a cornerstone of the Methodist tradition. But Wesley went further, calling on believers not just to study, but to use that knowledge to awaken the Holy Spirit in the heart and put it to active work in one's life, joining Head and Heart to Action.

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

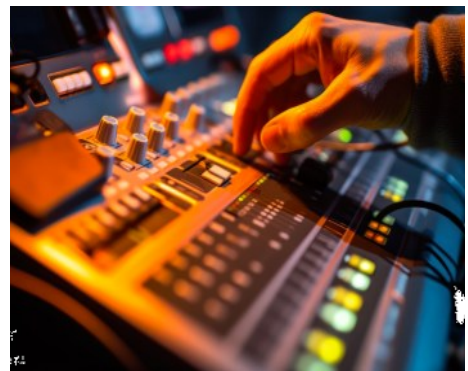
Operate audio console

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!



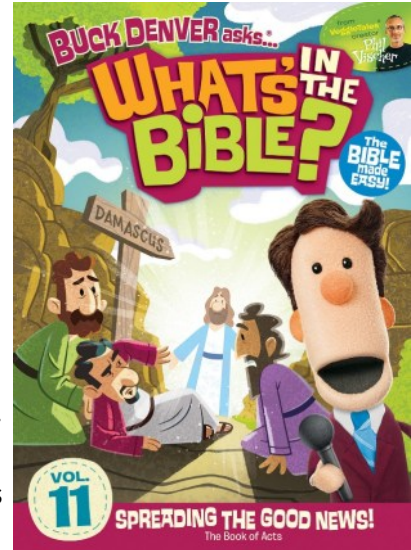
MINISTRIES: Making Disciples of Christ

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

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



In September, Children's Church will be expanding on their summer theme of The Miracles of Jesus, with skits, charades, and storytelling. They will also be watching Buck Denver's video series volume 11 and learn about spreading the Word as found in the Book of Acts. 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.

September 06 ~ Lesson 105: Topic - God Warns Judah

September 13 ~ Lesson 106: Topic - God Judges Judah

September 20 ~ Lesson 107: Topic - God Blesses Daniel

September 27 ~ Lesson 108: Topic - God Defends His Glory



September Youth and Family Ministries News

September 09: Youth Ministry Parent/Student Meeting ~ In the newly-renovated Youth Gathering room on the second floor of the Education Building. This meeting will give our Youth parents the chance to see the results of our ongoing upgrade efforts and discuss exciting activity plans for the months ahead.

September 20: Soup Extravaganza Fundraiser ~ Youth Ministry will raising funds for next year's Rock the Universe trip with the return of this ever-popular Sunday event. Stop over to Cooper Hall after services, from 11:30am - 1:00pm for a whole new lineup of home-made soups, complete with breads and drinks. Have a bowl of your favorite or try samples of them all! Cost is a donation for the Youth trip.

September 30: Rock the Universe Sign Up Deadline ~ Students ages 6th grade and up are eligible to join the trip to Universal Studios, Friday, January 22 ~ 24, 2027. Tickets to the event are going fast this year, so all youth who plan to attend should sign up by the end of the month. Speak to Karen Ezra.

Prayer and Praise [Team Leader ~ Connie Norton]

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

HOW WE SEE THE WORLD B E G I N S WITH HOW WE SEE OURSELVES.

The key issue is to make sure we are seeing ourselves as GOD sees us! Only HIS viewpoint can give us an accurate self image, HIS death and shed blood and HIS powerful resurrection.

The LORD wants us to open our eyes to our understanding to see and to know the hope to which HE has called us, richest of HIS glorious inheritance. To be able to understand our identity , we need to understand how JESUS sees us!



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

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

A promotional graphic for the 'Walk to Emmaus' event. It features a scenic background of a path leading through a landscape towards a bright sun or sunrise. On the left, a wooden signpost has three signs that read 'Faith', 'Hope', and 'Love'. A large cross is visible on the path. The title 'Walk to Emmaus' is prominently displayed in a large, serif font, with a small cross symbol below it. Below the title, it says 'A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THAT CHANGES LIVES'. A central box contains information about upcoming walks: 'The next Walks to Emmaus are as follows:' followed by 'Men's Walk - September 10-13, 2026' and 'Women's Walk - September 17-20, 2026'. To the right, a list of activities is provided under the heading 'There's still time to register. Here's what to expect:'. At the bottom, a dark purple banner with a heart icon and arrows contains the text 'If you're interested in registering, please contact Roz Hill at 443-834-8621'.

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].

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

Class information and sign up sheets now in the Narthex and Cooper Hall



Infants through 5-year-olds will meet in the Nursery (their parent/guardian must be on campus).

Kindergarteners through 5th graders will meet in the Children's Ministry classroom across from the Nursery (their parent/guardian must be on campus).

Middle and high schoolers will meet in the Student Ministry wing upstairs in the Education Building for a study called, **"God Is . . ."** Students will start in a large, age-mixed group then divide into smaller age-focused groups for discussion and finally return to the large group to finish each session.

Adult study #1: "Ten Ways to Grow Your Faith: The Conversation Continues", led by Steve Ezra in the Crusaders classroom. Each week the group will discuss the previous Sunday's sermon. No homework required other than hearing the previous Sunday's message. ***This group is open to all adults.***

Adult study #2: "The Good News About the Kingdom," led by Lorne Becker in the Choir room. This study will be a chapter-by-chapter look at the Gospel of Mark, exploring what Jesus' words and actions teach us about who he is and what he came to do. This study has no homework. ***This class is open to all adults.***

Adult study #3: "Walking by Faith (lessons learned in the dark)" led by Karen Lauket in the Truthseekers classroom using workbook and DVD by Jennifer Rothchild. By showing practical differences between walking by sight and walking by faith, the author offers valuable spiritual lessons on: taking risks, giving God control, trusting His will, persevering through hardship and being guided by the truth. ***This class is open to all women.***

Adult study #4: "How (Not) to Read the Bible" led by Miriam Ezra in the Chapel classroom. They will be going through the book *"How (Not) to Read the Bible"* by Dan Kimball. ***This group is tailored specifically for men and women in their 20's, 30's, and 40's.***

Adult discussion group: Led by Tom Sharp, this men's group will be choosing a different video presentation each week to watch and discuss. This approach will offer a wide variety of subjects and themes and offer an on-going response to the interests of the group members. ***This class is open to all men.***

Adult watch group: Season 5 of "The Chosen" in the Chapel. *The Chosen* is a multi-season television series on the life of Jesus with strong production values and excellent stories. Post-episode discussions will be facilitated by Roz Hill. ***This viewing and discussion group is open to all adults.***

GriefShare: Led by Gaynell Jeffries. This 14-week book and video ministry meeting will return on Wednesday, September 2nd. The group will normally meet 4:00 - 5:30pm in Crusaders classroom allowing opportunities for members to participate further in meals and later classes. Meetings prior to the start of Refuel, on 9/02 and 9/09, will meet earlier at 3:00 - 4:30pm in Crusaders classroom.

United Women in Faith [Team Leader ~ Phyllis Blanchard]

Zephyrhills United Women in Faith visited the Rosa Valdez Learning Center on Thursday, August 13th. We learned a little about Rosa and Eliza Wolff and how they helped care for kids when parents were in the factory even 100 years ago. We sang some of my favorite Sunday School songs. . . “Zaccheus”, “Noah's Ark”, and “The B I B L E”. We learned about how Cornerstone will help solve the food desert issue by planting gardens and teaching us how to prepare them.

Then we ate lunch at the Columbia Restaurant. 1905 Salads, Cubans, and Bean soup followed by Key Lime Pie and Bread Pudding! It was an inspiring and educational outing enjoyed by all who joined us.

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 11:00am.

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

MISSIONS: Community Outreach

Distribution Days are September 14, 15, 16 ~ COLLECTION SUNDAY IS September 20



**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!*



With school now back in session in all our surrounding counties, it is particularly important for area food banks and pantries to be well stocked with healthy pantry commodities that can help families with school-aged children provide the best possible nutritional support. Low salt canned vegetables, beans, whole grains, tuna packed in water, and low sugar peanut butter are all excellent choices to both donate and stock in your own pantry for economical and healthy eating this fall.

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





The FMCZ Commission on Missions mission of the month for September is the **Caterpillars to Butterflies** program of Dade City that assists foster families. There are quite a few organizations that strive to provide basic necessities to groups assisting local at-risk children. But the Caterpillars to Butterflies program focuses more on providing practical resources directly to these foster children so they can flourish.

The program helps children prepare for the school year with brand new shoes and various needed school supplies. They fund after school activities that help build self esteem, such as football, baseball, dance, karate, gymnastics, acting, swimming and volleyball. These athletic opportunities can help the children gain the confidence to rise above their home circumstances. **Caterpillars to Butterflies** is a resource for local foster families that support children in their care with bags, books, toiletries and toys. In December, they hold an annual Christmas Carnival that hosts over 400 children with super fun activities for the kids, a visit with Santa, and gifts for all.

Caterpillars to Butterflies aims to help children accomplish goals, explore passions, and participate in activities that can boost their enjoyment of life. Your prayers and donations can go a long way in enhancing the lives of our area foster children. Please mark your donations MISSIONS on the memo line of your check or on the outside of a pew envelope. You can also go to the "ONLINE GIVING" page on our website or use the Vanco app on your phone, use "Other Designated", and be sure to note that the donation is designated for "Commission on Missions".

Long Term Prayer List [For September 2026] updated 08/25/2026

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 Budes, Robbin Cochran, Randy Hall, Suzanne Morgan
Robyne Nelson, Linda Schall, Janice Shaw, Glenda Wilson, Roxanna Young

Commission on Missions Committee [Team Leader ~ Karen Laukat]

Commission on Missions resumes monthly meetings beginning September 3rd at 1:00pm.

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]

Next Blood Pressure Checks ~ September 13th ~ 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



SEPTEMBER IS PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

While the exact cause of prostate cancer is unknown, certain **risk factors** have been identified that may increase the chance of developing the disease:

Age: Age is a strong factor for developing prostate cancer. This form of cancer is primarily found in men over age 55, and the average age of diagnosis is 70.3.

Race and ethnicity: African-American men are disproportionately affected by prostate cancer, with an incidence rate more than **60 percent higher** than white males.

Genetics: Having a father or brother with prostate cancer **more than doubles** a man's risk of developing the disease.

Weight: Men with a body mass index higher than 32.5 have about a one-third greater risk.

There are generally no **signs or symptoms** for early-stage prostate cancer, and some symptoms can be easily mistaken for those of other disorders.

Common symptoms of prostate cancer may include pelvic pain, frequent or painful urination, blood in the urine, painful ejaculation, weight loss, lack of appetite, and bone pain.

Medical experts who encourage **regular screening** recommend that all men who have a life expectancy of at least 10 years should be offered the PSA test and DRE annually **beginning at age 50.**

They also recommend offering screening tests earlier to African-American men, and men who have a father or brother with prostate cancer.

If your PSA test or DRE suggests a problem, your doctor will likely refer you to a urologist.

About half of all men have PIN by the age of 50

Nearly all forms of prostate cancer start in the cells of the prostate gland and are known as adenocarcinoma. Physicians believe that prostate cancer begins with small changes in the size and shape of the prostate gland cells, a change known as prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN).

INFORMATIONAL LINKS:

<http://www.cancer.org/cancer/prostatecancer/>

<https://www.cancer.gov/types/prostate>

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.



Save the Date and Time
Wednesday, September 9th
7:00 - 8:00pm

Student/Parent Meeting
MS and HS Youth and Parents
in our newly renovated
2nd floor Youth Gathering Room

Hear about the exciting plans ahead
for our youth in 2026 and 2027



Appreciation Certificate from Residing Hope for 2025 Giving

Residing Hope Children's Home, formerly Florida United Methodist Children's Home has been one of First Methodist Church of Zephyrhills connectional ministries for many years. Recently we received a certificate from them congratulating our church on reaching the set goal of \$12.00 per person for 2025, a total of \$9,330.00. We would like to thank everyone for their generosity to this ministry.

The certificate is on display in Cooper Hall for everyone to see.

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:

STARTS A NEW SESSION SEPTEMBER 2ND.

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, September 2nd. The first two meetings will be held from 3:00 - 4:00pm; all subsequent 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 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]



SENIOR LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 17

11:30am—1:00pm

Cooper Hall East

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



September Presentation:

"Vintage Beats"

**Local band that plays
music from rock and roll
to country and
everything in between.**



Great Music, Delicious Food, Good Fellowship

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 while they last!

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

We are excited to announce the return of our Emmaus Reunion Meetings, beginning Thursday, September 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. in the Crusader's Room! These special gatherings are for everyone in our church family who has completed a Walk to Emmaus.

Reunion meetings provide an opportunity to come together with fellow Emmaus pilgrims, strengthen our Christian friendships, share our faith experiences, and encourage one another as we continue to live out the commitments we made during our Walk. It is a wonderful way to keep the spirit of Emmaus alive in our daily lives.



Six New Pilgrims Preparing for Their Walk

We are also excited to share that six pilgrims from our church will be attending the upcoming Heart of Florida Walk to Emmaus weekends!

Men's Walk: September 10-13, 2026

Women's Walk: September 17-20, 2026

Please keep these six pilgrims in your prayers as they prepare for this special weekend. Pray that they will be open to God's presence, experience His love in new and meaningful ways, and return home renewed in their faith and ready to serve.

An Emmaus Gathering for Our Church Family

Our church will also be sponsoring an Emmaus Gathering for all members who have completed a Walk through the Heart of Florida Walk to Emmaus on Saturday, September 26th. This will be a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends, welcome those who have recently completed their Walk, and celebrate the continuing ministry of Emmaus in our church and community.

Whether you have completed your Walk many years ago or are a recent pilgrim, you are invited and encouraged to join us!

Come share in the fellowship, encouragement, prayer, and joy that make the Emmaus community so special. We look forward to seeing old friends, meeting new ones, and continuing our journey together as we seek to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.



Wednesday Refuel Meals

Sept 16th: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Corn, and Rolls

Sept 23rd: Roast Pork w/gravy, Mashed Potatoes, mixed vegetables, Rolls

Sept 30th: White Chicken Enchiladas

All meals come with drink and dessert. Dinner is served from 5:45 to 6:30pm. Only \$5/person or \$10/family.

SPECIAL NOTES: Information and Fellowship

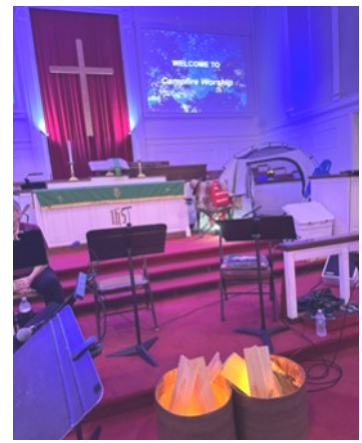
Campfire Worship Night Recap [Team Leader ~ Eric Gale]

What a great night at our Campfire Worship Night!

We gathered together for an evening of worship, fellowship, and praise, surrounded by the feeling of a campfire and reminded of the light God calls us to carry into the darkness. Even the thunderstorm decided to join us. Good thing, our campsite was inside!

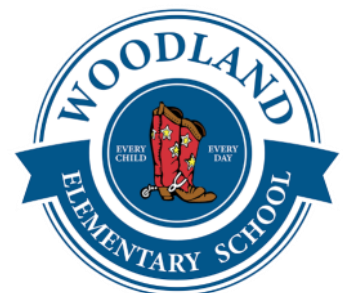
One of the most memorable moments of the night was closing with “Amazing Grace.” Hearing everyone come together and sing as one, was truly powerful. In that moment, you could truly feel God’s light growing brighter through the people in the room voices joining together, hearts lifted, and His presence all around us.

Thank you to everyone who came out and made the night so special. May we take the light we shared around our campfire and carry it with us out into the world.



Woodlawn Elementary Lunch [United Women in Faith]

At the start of every new school year, the members of FMCZ’s United Women in Faith provide a delicious catered lunch to teachers and staff at Woodland Elementary School on teacher preparation day. This year, the ladies made and served BBQ pork, baked beans, corn casserole, coleslaw slaw, dessert, and drink, to show how much our congregation appreciates and supports our local school teams.



Welcome New Members

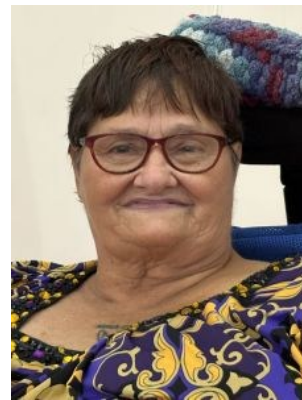
We are blessed to welcome those who have chosen to share their lives and talents with our congregation and build our spiritual futures together.



Rose Knight



Warren Knight



Joan Antaya



Kaye Edwards



C.B. Edwards



Katherine Thomas



Pat Thomas

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

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

09/02	Nancy Swartz	09/21	Sally Koiso
09/04	Amanda Wregg	09/22	Emily Morris
09/05	Paul Bathrick	09/23	Fran Ritzheimer
09/05	Arlene Mahlke	09/24	Robin DeVlieg
09/05	Cheryl Wilson	09/26	Nancy Laviano
09/07	John D'Angelo	09/27	Sandy Theus
09/07	Linda Engel	09/28	David Cox
09/09	Yolande Green		
09/09	Deanie Weeden		
09/11	Roz Hill		
09/11	Joanne Martin		
09/11	Joan Wansor		
09/12	Kimberly Perez		
09/12	Terri Stanley		
09/13	Craig Miller		
09/15	Rita Wencel		
09/16	Josh Smith		
09/17	Elizabeth Ahrend		
09/18	Druann Briggs		
09/18	Roy Galarneau		
09/18	David Moore		
09/19	Yondale LaBarre		
09/19	Merita Sheive		

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

09/10	Floyd and Marian Otto
09/23	Barbara and Richard Gottschalk
09/24	Cathy and George Gano
09/28	Joan and Robert Gaskill
09/30	Devyn and Zachary Sheffich

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



Staff and Organizational Contacts

Church Web Address

www.fmcz.org

Staff Team Email Addresses

(for staff with church emails)

Church Office

info@fmcz.org

Karen Ezra,

Director of Family Ministries

kezra@fmcz.org

Carol Runyon,

Assistant Director of Family Ministries

crunyon@fmcz.org

Polly Adwell,

Nursery Coordinator

padwell@fmcz.org

Miriam Ezra,

Choir Director

mezra@fmcz.org

Steve Ezra,

Senior Pastor

sezra@fmcz.org

Carol Freiermuth,

Financial Secretary

cfreiermuth@fmcz.org

Eric Gale,

Contemporary Worship Leader

egale@fmcz.org

Teresia Gale,

Office Manager

tgale@fmcz.org

Tom Gale,

Communications Director

tjgale@fmcz.org

Peter Jordan,

Treasurer

pjordan@fmcz.org

Todd Kramer,

Technical Director

tkramer@fmcz.org

This Month's Cover [September, "From Word to Spirit"]

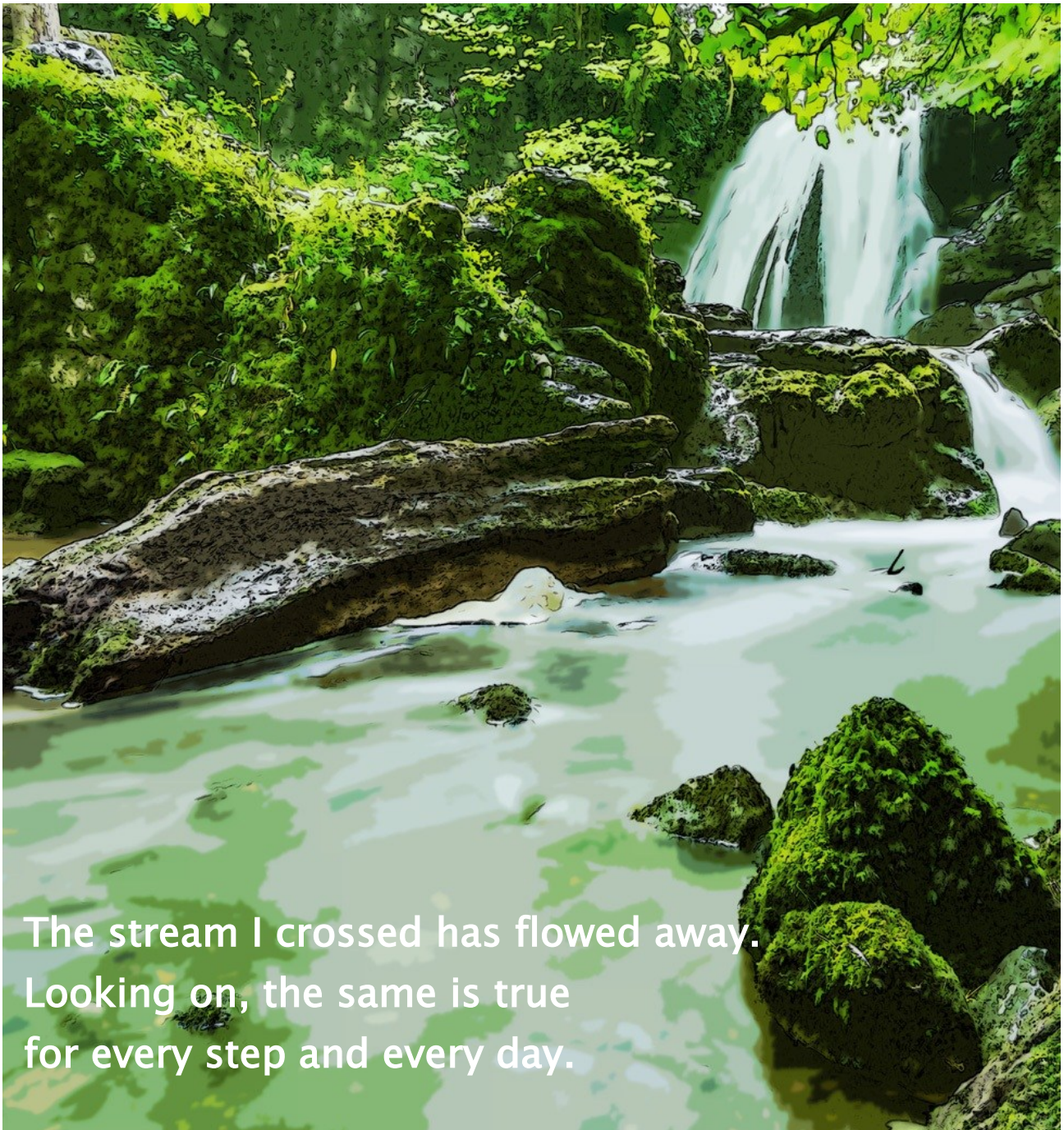
In his book, "Recapturing the Wesleys' Vision", Paul Wesley Chilcote writes that from the start, the Methodist movement was conceived as an inclusive theology, stressing "and" rather than "or". Both John and Charles articulated themes of unity, fusion, and balance, in a vision that balanced head with heart and action with prayer.

With the beginning of a new Wednesday Night Refuel study and discussion series this month, we should remember that, to the Wesley brothers, the study and discussion of Scripture was meritless without internalizing that knowledge and using it to fuel appropriate action. And equally, good works without being Spirit-driven, without being anchored to "The Word", would do little to further one's relationship with God. Methodism at its very foundation seeks to build spiritual bridges between the complementary elements of Christianity; knowledge and study of Scripture, communication with God, obedience to the Word, love of oneself and one's neighbors, acceptance of the Spirit, and Christian action (activism in its non-political context) based on the interconnectedness of all those elements.

On this foundation of bridge building, Methodism offers a uniquely balanced path to building a real and lasting relationship with God. In an age of political and social extremes that merely seem to further divide us, the Wesleyan tradition searches for common grounds and linkages that bring together those Christian elements that can create a supportive force greater than the sum of those parts which all become s the bridge over which we journey to understand God, rather than to just "know" him.

Giving Back <Building New Legacies ~ Crossing New Streams>

Marcus Aurelius was a Roman emperor and Stoic philosopher who lived and ruled around 170 AD. He is known primarily today as one of the “Five Good Emperors” and the author of “Meditations”, a collection of his musings on life. In it, he contends that no one can cross the same river twice because the swiftly flowing water creates a fully different river at every crossing. It’s a powerful metaphor for the ever-changing nature of life around us, but it also makes a vivid point about the nature of giving; that the needs around us will always be swifter than our ability to fill them. In Matthew 26:11, Jesus reminded his disciples that they would always have the poor in need of their help. On this earth there would be no finish line; no point at which to say “We have given enough”. What we will always have before us is another brand new stream we can cross, if we are bold enough to step into it again.



The stream I crossed has flowed away.
Looking on, the same is true
for every step and every day.