

Bethel United Methodist Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16; Luke 1:47-55; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Next Week: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Lighting of the Fourth Candle of Advent - Love

***Hymn:** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240

***Responsive Call to Worship:** *on opposite page*

***Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed).....UMH 881

***Gloria Patri**.....UMH 71

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

***Doxology**.....UMH 95

Old Testament Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11,16

Message: "Surprise, it's Christmas! "

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Bible Study: Overview of the Book of Revelation, Chpt. 22

***Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH 238 vs 1,3,4

***Closing Chorus & Benediction** "Bind Us Together"

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice, for the day of the Lord is at hand!

People: Praise be to God who has heard our cries and sent our Messiah!

Leader: Soon to a virgin a child shall be born and He shall be called Jesus.

People: The Son of the Almighty God! The King of kings!

Leader: And all the world will join us in singing praise to our Messiah.

Prayer of Confession: O God, in every way You have reached out to us so we might know of and accept Your love. You have sent Your prophets, but we would not hear. You sent Your Son, and we nailed Him to the cross.

Forgive us, O God, and open the floodgates of Your Holy Spirit that we might share the Gospel of Christ here and in every land and among every people on earth. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Thursday: (December 24) *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5:00 pm*

Friday: *Christmas Day!*

Next Sunday: *First Sunday of Christmas Season*

Always: *Be safe and Pray*

Worship, Educational and Outreach Opportunities

Today: *Interactive Online Service thru link on Bethel's Web Site, Service page*

Wednesday: *Midweek Worship service is temporarily suspended*

Prayer Concerns

Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, Those in Military Service, Teachers, Students, Pastor Ralph, Lexie Allen, Sarah Brown, Gina Davis, Albert Goater, Mary Hall, Sylvia Marsh, William McCloud, Tina & Travis Oaks and families, Greg Rucker, Don & Pat Singletary, Debbie Tompkinson, David Trimble, Eddie White, Patsy & Donnie White, Amy Smith Wadsworth, Judy Wrightstone

Please use a prayer request form, in the narthex, to submit requests for adding to the Prayer Concerns in the worship bulletin and online

Devotionals: *The Upper Room and Our Daily Bread* are daily devotional booklets that are available in the Narthex. Please take one or both and enjoy!

Bethel Website: <http://www.bethelumctlh.org>

Recordings of recent sermons are available on the web site

Recordings of sermons or services are available on CD by request

Heifer Fund: "Youth Message" offering goes to support Heifer International

Contact: Church phone: 850 576-1454

Pastor phone: 591-9785;

email: wrightstone@embarqmail.com



1940's



1960's



Today

The History of Bethel UMC

The earliest historical record of Bethel Methodist Church is that in August of 1834, a campmeeting was held on the banks of Bethel Pond. Church meetings were held in neighborhood homes following this. In good weather brush arbors provided meeting places for these early worshippers. Later, services were held in a small log schoolhouse about a mile north of the present church.

On March 17, 1847, Joseph and Thirza Hale deeded two acres of land to the Methodist Episcopal Church with the provision that Bethel Meeting House be built in the center of the two acres. A small frame church with wooden shutters was built where our Sunday School rooms are today.

In 1909 the congregation started building the present sanctuary. The church building was originally roofed with wooden shingles. The windows contain the original panes with the imperfections of early glass. The interior of the church was not completed until 1947. The narthex was added in 1970 and the steeple in 1972.

The furniture in the Church constitutes one of the most interesting parts of its history. The Pulpit was used by Bishop Joshua Soule on February 6, 1845 when he convened the first Florida Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Trinity Methodist Church, Tallahassee, Florida. Trinity gave the pulpit to Bethel Church circa 1895. The chancel rail, communion table and two of the pulpit chairs were part of Trinity Church during the 1800's and were given to Bethel in 1946. The larger pulpit chair was a gift of John Sullivan, friend of our Church.

(history prepared for bulletin cover by Thelma Royce, church historian)



Bethel United Methodist Church



Established 1834

**1470 Bethel Church Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
(850) 576-1454**

**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"
Welcome home!**

"Surely the Lord is in this place! This is none other than the house of God" Genesis 28:16