

Bethel United Methodist Church

Heritage Sunday

Sixth Sunday after Easter

May 22, 2022

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14:23-29

Next Week: Acts 16:16-34; Psalm 97; Revelation 22:12-14,16-17,20-21; John 17:20-26

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** *"Church in the Wildwood"*

A time for Sharing Stories and Memories

***Responsive Call to Worship:**on back of page

***Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed)

***Gloria Patria**

Presentation of Offerings and Thanksgivings

***Doxology**

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Music *"Precious Memories"*

Message: "Why Belong to a Church?"

Scripture: John 14:15-21

***Hymn:** *"How Great Thou Art"*

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Pastor: The first generation Christians did not hesitate to preach the good news of Christ's resurrection.

People: They knew what they had seen; and they knew God had sent them to tell others what He had done in Christ.

Pastor: God is still doing a mighty work through his church at BETHEL. We, too, must witness to God's redemption for our world.

People: God give us strength and wisdom to share our resurrection faith with our neighbors here at the BETHEL community of Faith as did those who founded the BETHEL METHODIST CHURCH at this very BETHEL pond in 1834!

Prayer of Confession: Eternal God, who raised your Son in glory, and who inspired your people at BETHEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH to preach the good news, we will continue as your messengers to proclaim the gospel truth; that people, dying in sin, may yet be restored to glorious living. In JESUS name we pray. Amen!

Calendar of Events

Today: *6th Sunday after Easter, Heritage Sunday at Bethel Pond*
Gideon Speaker, Chris Buchanah

Tuesday: Aldersgate Day

Thursday: Ascension Day

May 29: 7 pm, 5th Sunday Sing in the church

All Week: Keep Safe and Pray

Worship, Educational and Outreach Opportunities

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

Prayer Concerns

Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, Those in Military Service, Police, Fire, EMS first responders, Healthcare professionals and home caregivers, Teachers, Students, Pastor Ralph & Judy Wrightstone, Kathie & Al Adams, Lexie Allen, Sarah Brown, Family & friends of Faye McCoy Callaway, The Families of Mary Gray and Michelle Culbertson, Gina Davis, Ellanore Goater, Kendall Hall, Robyn Keeler, Carol Koski, Nan Lindsey, William McCloud, Fred & Cindy Moore, Travis & Tina Oaks, Annabelle Pafford, Carol Painter, David Plate, Tom Plate & family, Tina & Greg Rucker, David Trimble, Cindy Westmark, Eddie White, Lon & Lucy Wright

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

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

Contact: Church phone: 850 576-1454 email: bumctlh@gmail.com

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty
maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Gloria Patria

Glory be to the Father
and to the son
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end.
Amen.

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory
forever. Amen.

Church in the Wildwood (CH 121)

1. There's a church in the valley
by the wildwood,
No lovelier spot in the dale;
No place is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

Chorus:

*Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the vale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.*

2. O come to the church in the wildwood
To the trees where the wild flowers bloom;
Where the parting hymn will be chanted
We will weep by the side of the tomb.

Chorus:

3. How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning,
To list to the clear ringing bell;
Its tones so sweetly are calling,
Oh, come to the church in the vale.

Chorus:

4. From the church in the valley
by the wildwood,
When the day fades away into night,
I would fain from this spot of my childhood
Wing my way to the mansions of light.

Chorus:

How Great Thou Art (UMH 077)

1. O Lord my God! When I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee;
how great thou art, how great thou art.*

2. When through the woods
and forest glades I wander,
and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook, and feel the gentle breeze;

Refrain:

3. And when I think that God,
his son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in;
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin.

Refrain:

4. When Christ shall come
with shout of acclamation
and take me home,
what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim,
my God, how great thou art!

Refrain:

Bind Us Together

Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together with cords
that cannot be broken.

Bind us together, Lord,
bind us together, Lord,
bind us together in love.

Celebrating Our Heritage

As you may know, from the brief history on the back of this bulletin, “the earliest record of Bethel Methodist Church is that in August of 1834 a camp meeting was held on the banks of Bethel Pond”. But do you know what one of these “old fashioned Methodist Camp Meetings” might have been like. In the Methodist “storybook”, *Endless Line of Splendor*, we are told that “the camp meeting was as American as Indian corn or sweet potatoes” and occupied a “large place...in the life of the frontier and in the religious life of the people...”.



While we might not think of Tallahassee as being on the frontier, in 1834 it had been just 10 years since the site for the new territorial capital was chosen near a picturesque cascade and the “old fields of Tallahassee”. Methodists were on the scene early with itinerant preachers John Slade (the “Father of Methodism in Florida”) and John Triggs reported to have given occasional sermons “before 1825” which were “probably the first ever preached in the city”. Actually, the new territorial capital was chronologically just midway between the frontier town of perhaps 6 homes in 1824 and the state capital that it would become in 1845. That same year, Bishop Joshua Soule, standing at Bethel’s pulpit in Trinity church, conducted the first meeting of the Florida Conference of the Methodist Church.

Still, in 1838 Tallahassee was “reputedly a wild frontier town”.

One of the hazards of life in this growing urban setting was the threat of disease. Outbreaks of yellow fever in 1831 and 1841 contributed to annual migrations away from the city during the unhealthiest months of August, October and November. Perhaps this desire to get out of the city during these months also contributed to the popularity of the open-air camp meeting in this area.

Though we have no details concerning the camp meeting at Bethel Pond, the history of Florida Methodism, *From Saddlebags to Satellites*, describes a typical camp meeting in this way: “They would, as a rule, meet for four days, starting on noon Friday and lasting till noon Tuesday. Prior to the meeting, land would be cleared for there were very few open fields in those years in Florida. Pine woods, with some of the trees thinned out, proved to be a favorite site for such meetings because there was less underbrush and palmettos to clear”. A nearby source of water for animals and people was also important. “These meetings were important as social gatherings and visiting as well as the spiritual enrichment they rendered....Some came by ox carts, others on horse or mule back, others walked...they all came because the camp meeting was the most exciting event going on....There were times that shouting could be heard for miles from the camp grounds.”

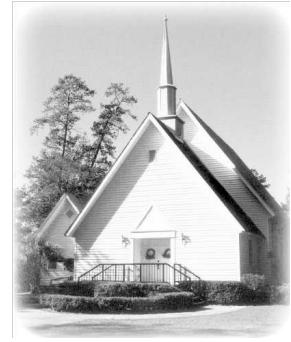
Yes, times have changed, but Heritage Sunday is a time when we can remember those who have gone before us, our spiritual mothers and fathers, as well as our own journey of faith which has brought us to this time and place...always remembering that: “The Best is Yet to Be!”



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)



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