

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Bethel Homecoming

October 9, 2022

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Jeremiah 29:4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

**Next Week:** Jeremiah 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-104; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

**Prelude:** "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** " \_\_\_\_\_ "

**\*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

**OT Scripture Reading:** Jeremiah 29:4-7

**Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

**Special Music**

**Message** "The Foreigner"

**Scripture:** Luke 17:11-19

**\*Hymn:** " \_\_\_\_\_ "

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

**Pastor:** Let us begin this experience of worship with our frowns turned into smiles; our doubts regarded as growing pains in our faith; and our disappointments exchanged for our appointment with God this morning.

**People:** We come with one thought in mind: to praise and thank God who calls us into abundant living.

**Pastor:** It's easy to wear masks when we say thanks to God. Will you be your real self this hour?

**People:** It's true there are things that make us unhappy. But it's also true that life is full of blessings. It's these blessings of God that we want to concentrate on now.

**Prayer of Confession:** Dear Lord, day by day I have been touched by your love; and blessed by your generous hand. Yet, day by day, I have gone merrily on my way, with the majority, instead of returning to offer my thanks. Forgive me for not only my lack of gratitude; but especially for my failure to express it. Thank you for each tiny second of my existence; and each gigantic age of your majestic creation! In Jesus' name. Amen.

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** *Homecoming*, covered dish dinner following the service

**Next Week:** Laity Sunday

**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, all of those affected by Hurricane Ian, 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; Georgia Bubner; Terry Bubner; Mark Carlson; Lori Cisne & family; Gina Davis; Ellanore Goater; Kendall Hall; Jimmy- a friend; Bud Keeler; Robyn Keeler; Carol Koski; Nan Lindsey; William McCloud; Fred & Cindy Moore; Travis & Tina Oaks; Annabelle Pafford; Carol Painter; Darren Plate; David Plate; Tom Plate & family; Tina & Greg Rucker; Pat Singletary; 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](mailto:bumctlh@gmail.com)

Pastor phone: 850 591-9785; email: [wrightstone@embarqmail.com](mailto: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)*



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



Les Jackson  
1978-1979



Glenn Mitchell  
1982-1983



Ray Honaker  
1983-1984



David McKelder  
1984-1985



Russell Bean  
1979-1982



Joseph R. Stiles  
1985-1992



Barbara Stiles  
1992-1994



John Wolfe  
1968-1970



Richard Fife  
1972-1975



Alex Knight  
1994-1998



Magrey Devega  
1998-2000



Calvin Williams  
1958-1963



Lucene Williams  
1963-1965



Laura Beth Fisher  
2000-2002



*Pastor Ralph Wrightstone  
and the congregation of Bethel  
Welcome you to Homecoming*



George Potter  
2006-2014



Steven T. Riddle  
2002-2006



C.C. Smith  
1921-31, 1933-34



W.F. Dunkle  
1944-1948



Karen Alford  
2014-2016

**Bethel U.M.C.**  
*Celebrating 188 Years of Ministry*