

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 11, 2022

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:47-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**Next Week:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH 238

**Lighting Third Advent Candle** .....Betty and Phillip Brown

**\*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:** Isaiah 35:1-10

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

**Special Song** "Silent Night" UMH 239

**Message:** "The Succession"

**Scripture:** Matthew 11:2-11

**\*Hymn:** "O Come All Ye Faithful" UMH 234

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

**Pastor:** We have twenty centuries of church history giving evidence that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah.

**People:** We have heard from others, and we have seen for ourselves what wonderful things God does through his Son, Jesus, our Savior.

**Pastor:** Truly, God is present in his Son to heal the brokenness of his world!

**People:** Jesus is our Lord, the Messiah, who brings God's salvation to us!

**Prayer of Confession:** We believe Jesus is the Christ, the promised Messiah, Father. But that confession is more a memorized creed than an experience of faith. Forgive us when we confuse the fallacy of childhood fantasies with the beautiful story of redemption. Open our eyes to the wonderful signs of your glorious presence in the ministry of our Savior; that our faith may not falter by any doubts. We pray in his name. Amen.

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** Third Sunday of Advent

**Christmas Eve:** 5:00 pm, a combined Christmas Day and Candlelight service

There will be no service at the church on Christmas Day

**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 the Hurricanes, 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; Ellanore Goater; Ken Hirsekorn; family & friends of Carol Koski; Nan Lindsey; William McCloud; Travis and Tina Oaks, the Oaks family, Pat Singletary; Candy Trimble, Sandra Willis, Lawson Wooley, 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 worshipers. 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

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**Established 1834**

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

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