

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2022

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

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

Next Week: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12); John 1:1-14

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

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

Lighting Fourth Advent CandleDebbie and Randy McCoy

***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 7:10-16

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Song "Mary, Did You Know?"

Message: "Secret Dance"

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

***Hymn:** "Joy to the World" UMH 246

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Pastor: Long ago God promised a Messiah whose mission would be to make God's presence a reality.

People: God revealed to Joseph in a dream that Mary's son was to be that Messiah.

Pastor: Jesus' birth is divine, because God intervened in history to send his Son.

People: God continues to give himself through his Son; that all who recognize his divine origin may find him to be their Emmanuel.

Prayer of Confession: We come with joy in our hearts, Father, because we know Jesus came to save us from our sins. We invite you to be our Emmanuel, and ask that you forgive us our sins through Jesus, your Son. May the joy we feel at his birth increase as we grow in our commitment to him who has brought your love to us. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday: 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

Pastor phone: (850) 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 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

Bethel United Methodist Church

Love



**1470 Bethel Church Road
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**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"
Welcome home!**