

Bethel United Methodist Church

2nd Sunday of Christmas

New Year's Day

January 1, 2023

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14; Eph 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

Next Week: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "We Three Kings" UMH 254

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

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

***Gloria Patria**.....UMH 71

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

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

OT Scripture Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Message: "What Do We Fear Most?"

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

Holy Communion

***Hymn:** "All Hail King Jesus" TFWS 2069

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Pastor: Even as an infant, Jesus was faced with rejection because of man's sinfulness.

People: King Herod felt threatened by Jesus' birth, and wanted to kill him.

Pastor: But God protected him by telling Joseph in a dream to take Jesus to Egypt.

People: Praise be to God for his divine protection of the infant Jesus!

Prayer of Confession: Forgive us, Father, for taking so much for granted in the Christian faith. You have constantly had to pour out your love to people who seem bent on resisting that love. And we who want to accept your love, do so without considering the price you have paid. Sharpen our senses to see what wonderful feats you have performed in order that we might be redeemed from sin. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: New Year's Day, 2nd Sunday of Christmas, Communion

Next Sunday: Epiphany 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 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

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

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 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

Bethel United Methodist Church



**1470 Bethel Church Road
Tallahassee, Florida 32304
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**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"
Welcome home!**