

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany

January 8, 2023

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

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

**Next Week:** Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "Shout to the Lord" TFWS 2074

**\*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:** Psalm 29

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

**Special Song:** "Jesus is the Light of the World" Travis Oaks

**Message:** "A New Year, A New Heart"

Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

**\*Hymn:** "I Love You, Lord" TFWS 2068

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus, who was sinless, accepted baptism by John in recognition of his willingness to be God's Servant.

**People: His acceptance of God's will made him worthy to be God's anointed Servant.**

Leader: The Spirit of God came upon Jesus; and God announced to all that this was his Son with whom he was well pleased.

**People: Praise be to Jesus, who accepted his calling to be God's Servant on our behalf!**

**Prayer of Confession: We worship in adoration of your Son, O God. We hold him in high esteem, knowing you are pleased with his life and ministry. But we forget, Father, that you are pleased with him because of his willingness to minister to us. Forgive us when we have resisted that ministry. Send your Spirit to convict us of our sins and convince us of your love in Christ to redeem us. In his name we pray. Amen**

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Epiphany,

*Lay Leader Tina Oaks is leading the service today*

**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; Family & Friends of 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](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

# Bethel United Methodist Church



**Established 1834**

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

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