Bethel United Methodist Church

Second Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2023

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Gen 12:1-4a; Psalm 121; Rom 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17 **Next Week:** Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

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*Hymn:	"What a Mighty God We Serve"	W&S 3016
*Responsive Call to Worship: on opposite page		
*Affirmation of	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: Psalm 121

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Song: "He Touched Me" Judy & Travis

Message: "Born of the Spirit"

Scripture: John 3:1-17

Communion

*Hymn: "Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus" UMH 462

*Closing Chorus & Benediction "Bind Us Together"

Call to Worship

Pastor: If faith has been a family tradition, it may be we are thirsty for a more personal encounter with Christ.

People: Many of us have grown up in the church. We feel at home here. Perhaps that familiarity hinders what God would like to do with us.

Pastor: God would like to satisfy our thirst by revealing our sins so he can forgive us. Then we can really worship him!

People: We desire to empty our lives of all distractions, that God may fill us with his presence!

Prayer of Confession: Worship almost becomes a habit, Father; and we do not feel our spiritual thirst is quenched. It is too easy for us to go through our ritual of worship, and continue in a lifestyle of sin. Forgive us for worship which is artificial, preventing us from drinking the life-giving water of salvation. Reveal our sins to us, and then cleanse us; that we may be refreshed with your gift of new life in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 2nd Sunday of Lent; Communion

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 storms, 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; Ken Hirsekorn; Nan Lindsey; William McCloud; Travis and Tina Oaks; the Oaks family; Darren Plate & parents; Pat Singletary; Candy Trimble; Lawson Wooley; Lon & Lucy Wright; Howard Zody

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

^{*}Please stand if able







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.

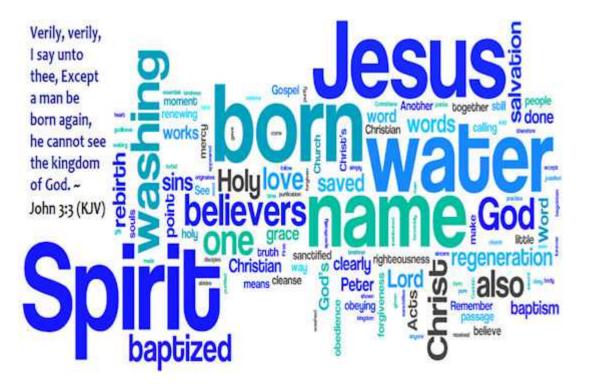
The furniture in the Church constitutes one of the most interesting parts of its history. The Pulpit was used by Bishop Joshua Soule on February 6, 1845 when he convened the first Florida Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in Trinity Methodist Church, Tallahassee, Florida. Trinity gave the 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 (850) 576-1454

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