

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Next Week: Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "Victory in Jesus" UMH 370

***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

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:42-47

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Music

Message: "Close the Back Door!"

Scripture: John 10:1-10

***Hymn:** "Spirit of the Living God" UMH 393

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul; he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (*based on Psalm 23 [KJV]*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Father of glory, Lord of light, we turn to you today, recognizing you as Shepherd, Savior, and King. You lead us beside the still waters. You restore our soul. We come together this day and seek to follow you wherever you might lead us. Open our hearts and minds to your blessings which overflow. Let your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. Here in your house we call upon you to live and breathe and move in our midst. Alleluia. Alleluia. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Thursday: National Day of Prayer

May 14: Mother's Day and Heritage Sunday at the pond

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; Mark Carlson and family; 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 & Ruth 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

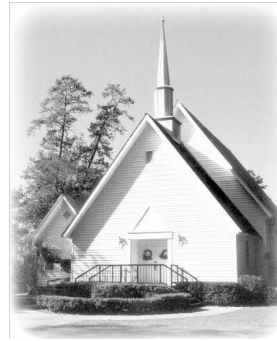
Pastor phone: (850) 591-9785; email: wrightstone@embarqmail.com



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!**