

Bethel United Methodist Church

8th Sunday after Pentecost

July 23, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Gen 28:10-19a; Ps 139:1-12,23-24; Rom 8:12-25; Matt 13:24-30,36-43

Next Week: Gen 29:5-28; Ps 105:1-11,45b; Rom 8:26-39; Matt 13:31-33,44-52

Prelude: "*Sing Alleluia to the Lord*"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "*He Has Made Me Glad*" TFWS 2270

***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

A Proverb for today: Proverbs 6:12-23

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Message: "The Desert Places"

Scripture: Acts 10:21-48

***Hymn:** "*More Precious than Silver*" TFWS 2065

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Pastor: Jesus promised that when the Holy Spirit came he would reveal the truth about God. Let us open our minds and hearts to the Holy Spirit that we may better understand God -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer Of Confession: O Lord, we confess that our lives do not always show our love for Christ. We put aside his call to be peacemakers and exercise our right to be troublemakers. Jesus showed us the way of compassion, but we prefer to get even with our oppressors. Forgive us, Lord, and fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may so live that people will be able to tell we are Christians by our deeds of love and mercy. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 7th Sunday after Pentecost

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; Paula Cooksey; Judy Goreau; Ken Hirsekorn; Nan Lindsey; William McCloud; Travis and Tina Oaks; the Oaks family; Darren Plate & parents; Tina Rucker; Sylvester and Jean Shields; 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
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**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"
Welcome home!**