

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Gen 37:1-4,12-28; Ps 105:1-6,16-22,45b; Rom 10:5-15; Matt 14:22-33

**Next Week:** Gen 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Rom 11:1-2a,29-32; Matt 15:(10-20),21-28

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "Here I Am, Lord" UMH 593

**\*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

**Proverb Reading:** Proverbs 11:29

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

**Special Song**

**Message:** Desert Places, part II

Scripture: Psalm 51

**\*Hymn:** "As the Deer" TFWS 2025

**\*Benediction and Closing Chorus:** "Bind Us Together"

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Take joy in your salvation and be willing to obey God as the Spirit prompts you.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God above all, you have created us from the ground up and in Christ came to our turf, to show us again that the earth is yours and you have made all things to be good. Your own Spirit infused life into the lifeless so that the human race should be distinct, not in its physical properties, but in its ability to control behavior individually and socially. Forgive our lack of self-control and our abuse of what you have created for the good of all. May such fasting and penitence as we may practice enable us to balance things out and to bring the spiritual and the physical into equilibrium, following the example of Jesus Christ. Amen.

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; Communion

**Next Week:** 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, covered dish dinner after the service

**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; Robert Pio 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](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



**1470 Bethel Church Road  
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(850) 576-1454**

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