

Bethel United Methodist Church

16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Exod 15:1b-11,20-21; Ps 114; Rom 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

Next Week: Exod 16:2-15; Ps 105:1-6,37-45; Phil 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" TFWS 2088

***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 19:3

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Song "Born Again" Travis Oaks

Message: Born of the Spirit

Scripture: John 3:17

***Hymn:** "I Surrender All" UMH 354

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Pastor: Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Men: How can we be born again when we are old and wise in the ways of the world?
We know too much to believe in Scripture.

Women: How can we believe when science says God did not create because he is not, and society says that God doesn't matter because man will achieve goodness on his own.

Pastor: "I tell you the truth, unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."

All: Lord, we can believe because of the gift of your Holy Spirit. He will lift us above our wisdom and teach us to understand your ways. Please be with any here who might not know you and help them to understand your love for them and the wonderful difference it can make. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 16th Sunday after Pentecost; Constitution Day

Next Week: 17th 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; Robert Pio family; Darren Plate & parents; Tina Rucker; Sylvester and Jean Shields; Pat Singletary; Candy Trimble; Dave Watson, Family and Friends of Patsy White; 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!**