

# Bethel United Methodist Church

19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Bethel Homecoming

October 8, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

## Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Exod 20:1-4,7-9,12-20; Psalm 19; Phil 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

**Next Week:** Exod 32:1-14; Ps 106:1-6,19-23; Phil 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "How Great Thou Art" UMH 77

**\*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 28:2

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

**Special Song** Judy and Travis

**Message:** Knowledge and Experiencing of God

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-9

**\*Hymn:** "Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling" UMH 348

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

*\*Please stand if able*

## Call to Worship

The Lord is good; his love is eternal, and his faithfulness lasts forever.

Come, let us worship our generous God with songs of praise and prayers of thanksgiving for this day of HOMECOMING at BETHEL!

**ALL: God our Father, we bow before you with grateful hearts for your bountiful goodness to us. You have blessed us in so many ways, we cannot begin to count them. Most of all, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ. His life, his death, his resurrection, and his ascension have shown us the way to eternal life with you. With hearts filled with hope, joy, and thankfulness and for the gift of your Holy Spirit we praise your holy name. Amen.**

## Calendar of Events

**Today:** Homecoming, dinner after service

**October 11:** Wed, Charge Conference, 6:30 pm at Gray Memorial UMC

**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; Savannah Lantz; 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](mailto:bumctlh@gmail.com)

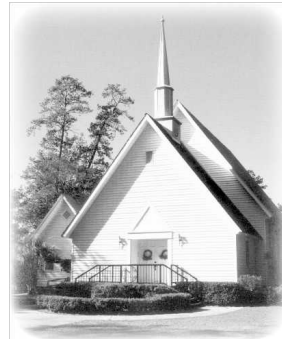
Pastor phone: (850) 591-9785; email: [wrightstone@embarqmail.com](mailto:wrightstone@embarqmail.com)



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



Les Jackson  
1978-1979



Jesse Baker  
1975-1978



John Wolfe  
1968-1970



Calvin  
Williams  
1958-1963



C.C. Smith  
1921-31, 1933-34



Glenn Mitchell  
1982-1983



Russell Bean  
1979-1982



Richard Fife  
1972-1975



Lucene  
Williams  
1963-1965



W.F. Dunkle  
1944-1948



Ray Honaker  
1983-1984



Joseph R.  
Stiles  
1985-1992



Alex  
Knight  
1994-1998



Laura Beth Fisher  
2000-2002



George Potter  
2006-2014



David McKelder  
1984-1985



Barbara Stiles  
1992-1994



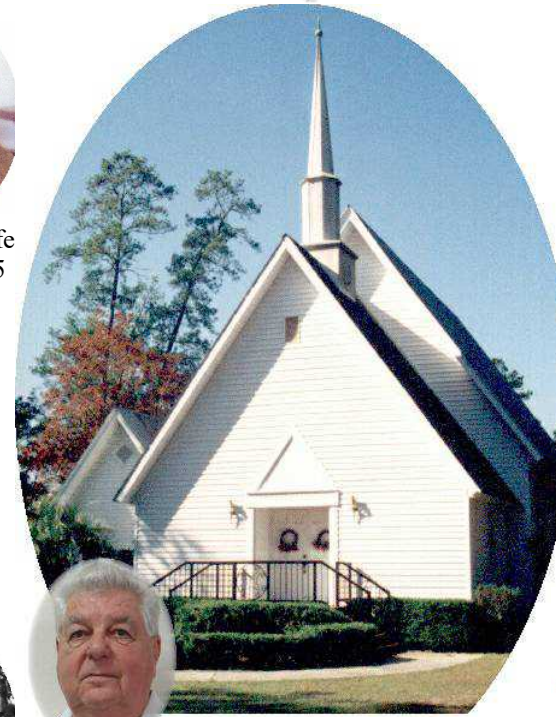
Magrey  
Devega  
1998-2000



Steven T. Riddle  
2002-2006



Karen Alford  
2014-2016



*Pastor Ralph Wrightstone  
and the congregation of Bethel  
Welcome you to Homecoming*

**Bethel U.M.C.**  
*Celebrating 189 Years of Ministry*