

# Bethel United Methodist Church

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

November 12, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Josh 24:1-3a,14-25; Ps 78:1-7; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Next Week: Judges 4:1-7; Psalms 123; 1 Thess 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "Here I Am to Worship" W&S 3177

**\*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

**OT Reading:** Psalm 78:1-7 Jo Ann Carlson

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

**Special Song**

**Message:** Are You Soaked in the Holy Spirit?

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

**\*Hymn:** "Love Lifted Me" W&S 3101

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Leader: Sisters and brothers, we are called to be prepared!

**People: WE ARE CALLED TO BE READY FOR THE COMING OF THE CHRIST!**

Leader: For the work of God is not yet finished!

**People: THE REIGN OF GOD IS NOT YET ESTABLISHED!**

**Prayer of Confession: Heavenly God, we confess that we often let the prospects of the dawn of your Reign and of the arrival of the Christ fade from our minds, and that we therefore do not use them as images to inspire us or goals to guide us in our ongoing discipleship in the name of Jesus. Forgive us, we pray, and keep us constantly prepared, not just for the Reign that is to come but for the Reign that is already in our midst, and not just for the ultimate Second Coming, but for all of the many present comings of the Christ, especially in the least of our brothers and sisters. In his name we pray. Amen**

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Fellowship 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; 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

# 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!**