

# Bethel United Methodist Church

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

Thanksgiving Sunday

November 19, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

## Lectionary Scriptures

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

**Next Week:** Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24; Ps 100; Eph 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

**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

**OT Reading:** Psalm 123

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

**Message:** Commitment Without Fear

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

**\*Hymn:** "Give Thanks" TFWS 2036

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

*\*Please stand if able*

## Call to Worship

**Pastor:** God has entrusted us with the gift of life: life which is responsible to Christ our Lord.

**People:** Every day we live is a day which cannot be relived. We must do our best while it is ours.

**Pastor:** The gift is from God. But he expects us to invest ourselves in it, that life may become more rewarding.

**People:** May God help us be faithful with our stewardship, as we invest our lives in the joy of his love.

**Prayer of Confession:** Father, we want to be Christian; but to be committed is a challenge we are hardly prepared for. We have preserved our certificates of baptism and membership, but they represent little investment of our self in living Christian lives. Forgive us for being unfaithful with our stewardship as Christian disciples. Lead us by your Spirit to give our best in living as followers of Christ our Lord, through whom we pray. Amen.

## Calendar of Events

**Today:** 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Thanksgiving Sunday

**Thursday:** Thanksgiving Day

**Next Sunday:** Chrismon 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; Paula Cooksey; Judy Goreau; Savannah Lantz; Nan Lindsey; William McCloud; Travis and Tina Oaks; the Oaks 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

**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  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
(850) 576-1454**

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