

Bethel United Methodist Church

Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thess 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

Next Week: 2 Samuel 7:-11,16; Luke 1:46b-55; Rom 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Prelude: "*Sing Alleluia to the Lord*"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "*Angels We Have Heard on High*" UMH 238

Lighting Third Advent Candle.....Phill & Betty Brown

***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 126 Jo Ann Carlson

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Music: "*Mary, Did You Know?*"

Message: Fear of Dark or Light?

Scripture: John 1:6-9,19-28

***Hymn:** "*The First Noel*" UMH 245

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us celebrate, for Christ our Savior has been born!

People: Is our Messiah, the promised one, among us this day?

Leader: Surely I say unto you, Christ the Lord is with us even as we speak.

People: Are even sinners such as we welcome in Christ's kingdom?

Leader: Praise to the Lord God Almighty, for in Christ we are all welcome!

All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!

Prayer Of Confession: Lord, so often we have allowed the worldly trappings of the holidays to blur our vision and pull us away from the true message of Christmas. Forgive us, Lord, and where we find the hurting, let us give comfort; where we see need, let us give a helping hand; and where we find the lost, give us the wisdom and courage to lead them home to You. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 2nd Sunday of Advent

Next Week: 3rd Sunday of Advent

December 24: 5:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight 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; 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; Wayne Wyatt; Howard & Ruth Zody; Clarke Campbell-Evans; Karen Alford

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

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



The Third Sunday of Advent

Peace

Tallahassee, Florida 32304

(850) 576-1454

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