

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

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

**Next Week:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH 234

**Lighting Fourth Advent Candle.....**The McCoy family

**\*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 89:1-5

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

**Special Music:** "Tiny Little Manger" Travis

**Message:** Wrapped in a Cloud!

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38

**\*Hymn:** "Away in a Manger" UMH 217

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice, for the day of the Lord is at hand!

**People: Praise be to God who has heard our cries and sent our Messiah!**

Leader: Soon to a virgin a child shall be born and He shall be called Jesus.

**People: The Son of the Almighty God! The King of kings!**

Leader: And all the world will join us in singing praise to our Messiah.

**All: Blessed be the name of the Lord!**

**Prayer Of Confession: O God, in every way You have reached out to us so we might know of and accept Your love. You have sent Your prophets, but we would not hear. You sent Your Son, and we nailed Him to the cross. Forgive us, O God, and open the floodgates of Your Holy Spirit that we might share the Gospel of Christ here and in every land and among every people on earth. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, 11:00 Worship service  
5:00 pm, Christmas Eve, Communion  
Candlelight Service

**Tomorrow:** Christmas Day – have a Merry Christmas

**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; Jean Shields and family; 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](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



*The Fourth Sunday of Advent*

*Love*

Tallahassee, Florida 32304

(850) 576-1454

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