

Bethel United Methodist Church

First Sunday After Christmas

New Year's Eve

December 31, 2023

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

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

Next Week: Genesis 1:1-5; Psalm 29; Acts 19:1-2; Mark 1:4-11

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "Shine Jesus Shine" TFWS 2173

***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

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Message: An Attitude Adjustment

Scripture: Romans 12:2

***Hymn:** "They'll Know We are Christians" TFWS 2223

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Praise be to God who has brought us here today!

People: Holy Spirit, we are grateful that you live inside us; producing the attitudes of Jesus Christ in our lives.

Leader: Help us, Lord, to be grateful for the many ways in which you love us.

People: Help us to be humble: asking for help when we need it, being quick to forgive and difficult to offend.

Prayer of Confession:

Jesus, quiet our hearts, to hear your words of truth. Help us to submit to the Holy Spirit because we want to do your will. Allow us the grace to leave here today, confident and assured that we have your attitude. We ask this in your name. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 1st Sunday After Christmas, New Year's Eve

Tomorrow: New Year's Day – Happy New Year

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

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



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