

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

January 28, 2024

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Deut 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

**Next Week:** Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11,20c; 1 Cor 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "How Great is Our God" W&S 3003

**\*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 101

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

**Message:** "Blessings and Responsibility"

**Scripture:** Luke 1:46-55

**\*Hymn:** "Holy Ground" TFWS 2272

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Leader: Happy are the people who have learned to give acclaim to God, and who walk in the light of the Lord's presence.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God to humanity descending, Man to God ascended, God to all condescending, you send prophets to lead adulterous royalty to repentance and angels to innocent, common folk to direct them in your service. Forgive any unwillingness we have shown to do your will, any unwillingness to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, any doubt that your promised kingdom will fully come and will not fail. We have not been prepared to serve you at the risk of personal reputation or at hazard of private wealth. Have mercy on us, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who served your purpose without reservation. Amen.**

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** *Fourth Sunday after Epiphany*

**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; Cathy Allen; Lexie Allen; Family of Sara Carter; Paula Cooksey; Judy Goreau; Savannah Lantz; Nan Lindsey; Travis and Tina Oaks; the Oaks family; Darren Plate & parents; Todd Qualls family; Tina Rucker; Jean Shields and family; Pat Singletary; Candy Trimble; Kathy Walker; Dave Watson, Eddie White; Family and Friends of Patsy White; Lawson Wooley; Lon & Lucy Wright; Wayne Wyatt; Howard & Ruth Zody; Clarke Campbell-Evans; Family and friends of 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

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Established 1834

**1470 Bethel Church Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
(850) 576-1454**

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