

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

**Next Week:** Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:16-24; Luke 24:36b-48

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

### Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

**\*Hymn:** *"Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"* TFWS 2088

**\*Responsive Call to Worship:** *on opposite page*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed) UMH 881

**\*Gloria Patria** UMH 71

**Youth Message** *"Doubting Thomas"*

### Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

**\*Doxology**.....UMH 95

**OT Reading:** Psalm 133

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

### Special Song

**Message:** *"Free to Forgive"*

**Scripture:** John 20:19-31

### Communion

**\*Hymn:** *"I'm so Glad Jesus Lifted Me"* TFWS 2151

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** The spirit of resurrection is a spirit of community, for those who believe have one heart and soul.

**People:** For we are one in faith in the Risen Lord, and fellow recipients of New Life through him.

**Leader:** Before the resurrection power came into our lives, we had nothing in common, for selfishness and self-interest stood between us.

**People:** Now, however, we have much in common, and what we have we share as brothers and sisters of the Risen Christ.

**Prayer of Confession:** Forgiving God, we admit to you and one another our tendency to be selfish and self-serving, and to let all sorts of worldly concerns and earthly things divide us from one another. Forgive us, we pray. Place your resurrection Spirit so deep within our hearts that we shall truly feel at one with the resurrected Christ and united with each other as members of his body. In His name we pray. Amen

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** *Second Sunday of Easter, Communion*

**April 28:** *Heritage Sunday, service and dinner at Bethel pond*

**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; Wendy Barber, 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; Melanie Worley Sanders' Jean Shields and family; Pat Singletary; Debbie Tomkinson, Candy Trimble; Kathy Walker; Dave Watson, Eddie White; Family and Friends of Patsy White; Lawson Wooley; Lon & Lucy Wright; Wayne Wyatt; Howard & Ruth Zody; 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

# Bethel United Methodist Church



J • H • N • 2 • 0 • 1 • 2 • 7

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

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