

Bethel United Methodist Church

4th Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2020

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Acts 2:42-47; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Next Week: Acts 7:55-60; Ps 31:1-5,15-16; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 14:1-14

Prelude and Processional: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" TFWS 2158

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

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

***Gloria Patria**.....UMH 71

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

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

OT Scripture: Psalm 23

Special Music: "Fear Doesn't Stand a Chance" Travis Oaks

Youth Message "The Good Shepherd"

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Message: "Sheep Just Wanna Have Fun!"

Holy Communion

***Hymn:** "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS 2129

***Closing Chorus & Benediction** "Bind Us Together"

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Lift up your hearts to the risen Lord who keeps and sustains us!

People: Our Lord, who cares for us and watches over our every heartbeat.

Leader: Let us bow and be thankful for the very breath of life.

People: For the Lord has cared for us through all the days of our lives.

Leader: Sing joyful praise to the Lord for God's loving kindness!

Prayer of Confession: Lord, truly like sheep, each one of us has gone our own way. So often each of us has chosen to wander off into the wildernesses of life and away from You. And in our pride we have chosen to try to face the dangers of life alone. Forgive us, Lord, and open our hearts that we might hear You calling us home into the safety of Your care. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: Communion

Thursday: National Day of Prayer

Next Sunday: *Mother's Day*

All Week: Easter Season, Keep Safe and Pray

Worship, Educational and Outreach Opportunities

Today: *Interactive Online Service thru link on Bethel Web Site, Service page*

Wednesday: Midweek Worship service is temporarily suspended

Prayer Concerns

Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, Those in Military Service, Pastor Ralph, Lexi Allen, Family of Dorothy Carr, Sylvia Marsh, Carol Morgan & Family, Tina & Travis Oaks, Pam Plate, Pat Singletary, David Trimble, Benny Will

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

Heifer Fund: "Youth Message" offering goes to support Heifer International

Contact: Church phone: 850 576-1454

Pastor phone: 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

Easter Promises...

*an empty tomb, an open sky,
a risen Savior.*

*Easter Promises...
the gift of Christ to us,
the joy of Christ in us
forevermore.*

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR HIS INDESCRIBABLE GIFT! 2 CORINTHIANS 9:15 (NIV)