

Bethel United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Christmas

December 27, 2020

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

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

Next Week: Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9),10-18

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Lighting of the Christ Candle

***Hymn:** "Step by Step" W&S 3004

***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

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 148:1-14

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Message: "Sword of Truth "

Scripture: Luke 2:21-40 & Hebrews 4:12

***Hymn:** "Open Our Eyes, Lord" TFWS 2086

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Happy New Year! 2021 is on the next calendar page! Christmas symbols are still here – until Epiphany when our images change to depict a maturing Jesus. During these last four weeks, we've told our faith stories and our family memories; we've given gifts, as the magi gave gifts to the Christ Child and as God has given divine presence in Jesus of Nazareth.

People: From him we learn to be God-bearers in this world.

Leader: Our expectations have been met: God is among us in new ways.

People: Like angels, we sing to God; like shepherds, we honor God and all creation.

Leader: Praise God! Hallelujah!

People: Light the Christ candle again to remind us that Christ is light for the world and banishes our own darkness!

Community Confession: Loving God – as we look back over this last year, we are aware of things we wish we had done differently. Sometimes we have not been hospitable; sometimes we have been stingy; sometimes we have spoken unkindly; sometimes we have been nasty. Relieve us of guilt and help us to be aware of the opportunities when we can manifest your goodness in our homes, in our neighborhoods, and in our church. Empower us with newly birthed delight and go with us as peace into the world. Amen

Calendar of Events

Today: *First Sunday of Christmas Season*

Friday: *New Year's Day*

Next Sunday: First Sunday of New Year, *Communion*

Always: *Be safe and Pray*

Worship, Educational and Outreach Opportunities

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

Wednesday: Midweek Worship service is temporarily suspended

Prayer Concerns

Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, Those in Military Service, Teachers, Students, Pastor Ralph & Judy Wrightstone, Lexie Allen, Sarah Brown, Gina Davis, Albert Goater, Mary Hall, Sylvia Marsh, William McCloud, Tina & Travis Oaks and families, Greg Rucker, Don & Pat Singletary, Debbie Tompkinson, David Trimble, Eddie White, Patsy & Donnie White, Amy Smith Wadsworth, Cathy & Phil Worley

Please use a prayer request form, in the narthex, to submit requests for adding to the Prayer Concerns in the worship bulletin and online

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)



Bethel United Methodist Church



Established 1834

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

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

"Surely the Lord is in this place! This is none other than the house of God" Genesis 28:16