

Bethel United Methodist Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 12, 2021

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Isaiah 12:2-6; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Phil 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Next Week: Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45; Luke 1:46b-55

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH 238

Lighting Third Advent Candle Betty & Phill Brown

***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 Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Music Travis Oaks

Message: "The Art of Fruit"

Scripture: Luke 3:7-18

***Hymn:** "Silent Night" UMH 239

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

**Please stand if able*

The poinsettias are placed in memory of Dorothy Carr by her daughter Diane

Call to Worship

Leader: God is able.

People: And so are we.

Leader: God is able to do what seems impossible.

People: We are able to bear amazing fruit from our resources.

Leader: Come, let us worship our able, empowering God.

Prayer of Confession: When we live out the faith of our baptism, O God, we begin to understand our responsibility for how we live. Strengthen our resolve to act beyond self-interest. Open our ears to hear that we are able to live as you would have us live. In the name of the coming Saviour. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: Third Sunday of Advent

Next Sunday : 4th Sunday of Advent

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, 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, Sarah Brown, Gina Davis, Ellanore Goater, Kendall Hall, Robyn Keeler, Carol Koski, Sylvia Marsh, William McCloud, Fred & Cindy Moore, Travis & Tina Oaks, Carol Painter, David Plate, Tom Plate & family, Tina & Greg Rucker, Family of Marvin Strickland, David Trimble, Cindy Westmark, Family of Lorine Vause, Eddie White, Lon & Lucy Wright

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 email: bumctlh@gmail.com

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

Bethel United Methodist Church



**1470 Bethel Church Road
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**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"
Welcome home!**