

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 21, 2025

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Jeremiah 8:8-9:1; Psalm 79:1-9 or Psalm 4; 1 Tim 2:1-7; Luke 16:1-13

Next Week: Jer 32:1-3a,6-15; Ps 91:1-6,14-16; 1 Tim 6:6-19; Luke 16:19-31

Prelude: “*Sing Alleluia to the Lord*”

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** “*O How I Love Jesus*” UMH 170 (1,2,3)

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

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

***Gloria Patria** UMH 71

Offerings of Praise, Thanksgiving

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

Lesson from Proverbs: Proverbs 4:11-27

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation:** “*I Stand Amazed in the Presence*” UMH 371 (1,5)

Message: “*God Knows Your Heart*”

Scripture: Luke 16:1-13

***Hymn:** “*His Name is Wonderful*” UMH 174

***Benediction and Closing Chorus:** “*Bind Us Together*”

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus taught us that you cannot serve two masters. If you try, you will hate one and love the other. You cannot serve both God and money. Come, let us worship the Lord God, our Master and our Friend.

Prayer Of Confession: God of mercy, we come to you with penitent hearts seeking forgiveness. We have been quick to learn the ways of the world: to seek power over others, always to be on the lookout for self, to make decisions based on greed; but we have been slow in learning the teachings of Jesus: to love mercy, to lose oneself in service to others, to be forgiving, and to love you and our neighbors as ourselves. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, we pray, that we may be cleansed of our sins and find what it means to be new persons in Christ. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 15^h Sunday after Pentecost

Monday: *First Day of Autumn; Rosh Hashanah – Jewish New Year*

October 7th: *Charge Conference*

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; FSU Family; Pastor Ralph & Judy Wrightstone; Kathie & Al Adams; Lexie Allen; Ryan Goreau; Kaylee; Savannah Lantz; Annabelle Pafford; family and friends of Paul Sawyer; Don & Pat Singletary; Holly Snelgrove; Heidi Wagnon; Lawson Wooley; Lon & Lucy Wright; Howard and Ruth Zody

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

Pastor phone: (850) 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



Established 1834

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

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