

Bethel United Methodist Church

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Homecoming

October 12, 2025

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Jeremiah 29:1,4-7; Psalm 66:1-12; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19

Next Week: Jer 31:27-34; Psalm 119:97-194; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Prelude: “Sing Alleluia to the Lord”

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” UMH 277

***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

OT Scripture: Jeremiah 29:10-12

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation:** “Softly & Tenderly” UMH 348,1,4

Message: “My Friend Can Be Your Closest Friend”

Scripture: Matthew 5:43-48

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

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Call to Worship: Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Prayer Of Confession:

Lord, the world wants so much. You, Lord of our lives, want more. The world demands the letter of the law. You, Lord of mercy, desire its fulfillment. The world offers measure for measure. You, Lord of eternity, offer abundance. Thank you, Lord, for pushing us farther, beyond our comfort, being our friend, for our salvation. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: 18th Sunday after Pentecost; Homecoming, dinner after the service

Next Sunday: 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Oct 26th: 7:00 pm, Will Graham Revival Tour, Tallahassee Auto Museum

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; 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



Les Jackson
1978-1979



Glenn Mitchell
1982-1983



Ray Honaker
1983-1984



David McKelder
1984-1985



Joseph R. Stiles
1985-1992



Barbara Stiles
1992-1994



Jesse Baker
1975-1978



Russell Bean
1979-1982



Richard Fife
1972-1975



Alex Knight
1994-1998



Magrey Devega
1998-2000



John Wolfe
1968-1970



Lucene Williams
1963-1965



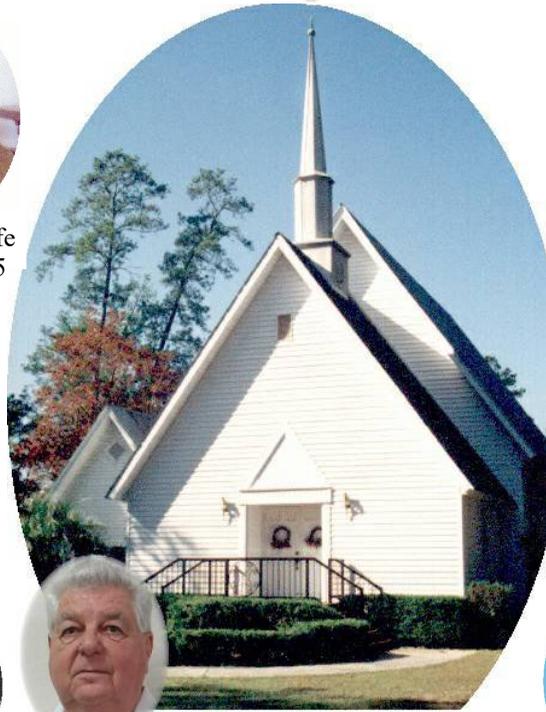
Laura Beth Fisher
2000-2002



Calvin Williams
1958-1963



W.F. Dunkle
1944-1948



*Pastor Ralph Wrightstone
and the congregation of Bethel
Welcome you to Homecoming*



George Potter
2006-2014



Steven T. Riddle
2002-2006



C.C. Smith
1921-31, 1933-34



Karen Alford
2014-2016

Bethel U.M.C.
Celebrating 191 Years of Ministry