

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Third Sunday of Advent

December 14, 2025

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11

**Next Week:** Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7,17-19; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

### Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

**\*Hymn:** "Go Tell it on the Mountain" UMH 251

**Lighting the Third Advent Candle** Betty and Phill Brown

**\*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:** Isaiah 35:1-10

### Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

**\*Hymn of Preparation:** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240,v1

**Message:** "Have You Ever Doubted Your Faith?"  
Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11

**\*Hymn:** "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" UMH 229,v1,2

**\*Benediction and Closing Chorus:** "Bind Us Together"

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight - indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. (based on Malachi 3:1)

**Prayer:** Lord, we recall that when John the Baptist was taken from your people, a greater prophet emerged. Despite that example, we struggle when the new replaces the old. But you are making all things new, and as we approach the feast of the Nativity, we pray for open hearts and minds so our spirits may be renewed! Amen.

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** *Third Sunday of Advent*

**Next Sunday:** *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**December 24<sup>th</sup>:** *5:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

**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; Don Bitner, Georgia Bubner; Ryan Goreau; Kaylee; Savannah Lantz; Annabelle Pafford; Don & Pat Singletary; Holly Snelgrove; 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.org](mailto:bumctlh@gmail.org)

Pastor phone: (850) 591-9785; email: [wrightstone@embarqmail.com](mailto: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



*The Third Sunday of Advent*  
*Peace*

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“Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life”  
Welcome home!