

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Lectionary Scriptures

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

Next Week: Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-28; Matthew 2:13-23

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle

***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 7:10-16

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation:** "Angels from the Realm of Glory" UMH 220,v1

Message: "Here Is Your Sign"

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

***Hymn:** "Love Came Down" UMH 242,v1,3

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, you told Joseph to name him Jesus, the one who saves, the one who delivers your people. Save us, deliver us, as we also name your Son Jesus, the Lord of our lives! Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

Wednesday: *5:00 pm, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Thursday: *Christmas Day*

Next Sunday: *First Sunday after Christmas*

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; the Homeless, 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.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



The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Love

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