

Bethel United Methodist Church

First Sunday of Christmas

December 28, 2025

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Lectionary Scriptures

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

Next Week: Jer 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9),10-18

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "We Three Kings" UMH 254,v1,2,5

Lighting the Christ 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: Psalm 148

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation:** "What Child is This?" UMH 219

Message: "The Escape"

Scripture: Matthew 2:13-23

***Hymn:** "Joy to the World" UMH 246,v1,2,4

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let all who serve the Lord gather this day for worship.

People: The Lord our God is great and all who would serve shall be blessed.

Leader: Yet God's call can mean times of stress and great danger.

People: We are willing to follow the Lord however we are called to serve.

Leader: So let us prepare to follow Christ as we sing and give praise to God.

Prayer Of Confession: Lord, so often in our pride we feel we can actually erase Your voice of salvation from history. Pharaoh would have killed Moses; Herod would have killed Jesus. We, in our hearts, have even tried to silence Your voice of warning when we had our own plans outside the way of faith. Forgive us, Lord, and lead us anew wherever you would have us serve. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: Christmas Sunday

Thursday: New Year's Day

Next Sunday: Epiphany Sunday

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

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