

Bethel United Methodist Church

First Sunday after Epiphany

January 11, 2026

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

Next Week: Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

Recognition of Bethel 2026 Leadership Team

***Hymn:** "I Stand Amazed" UMH 371,v1,4

***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: 2 Chronicles 7:14-16

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation:** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" UMH 526

Message: "Your Marvelous Friend, Jesus"

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

***Hymn:** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" UMH 557,v1-4

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to this sanctuary! Take a deep breath and bring your whole self — body, mind, and psyche — to this place. Set aside the pain and troubles that you brought with you. Be aware of what gives you pleasure and be grateful. Be aware of how and when you feel God's presence.

Prayer Of Thanksgiving: Living God — thank you for guiding us day by day. We sing and dance our gratitude. In this hour, speak to us again so we may hear your hopes for our lives; speak again so we can answer you with gracious attitudes and hospitable habits. We are alert for your loving guidance. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: *First Sunday after Epiphany, fellowship dinner after the service*

Next Sunday: *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

All Week: *Keep Safe and Pray*

January 22nd: 6:30pm – Planning session with Sarah Campbell

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; Danny Flynn, Lake Goreau, Ryan Goreau; Kaylee; Savannah Lantz; Annabelle Pafford; family of Ralph Sharp; Don & Pat Singletary; Holly Snelgrove; Mike Trimble, 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

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!**