

Bethel United Methodist Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 19, 2021

Pastor Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Micah 5:2-5a; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45; Luke 1:46b-55

Next Week: 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148; Collosians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

Prelude: "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Hymn:** "Joy to the World" UMH 246 vs 1,2,4

Lighting Third Advent Candle

***Responsive Call to Worship:** *on opposite page*

***Affirmation of Faith** (Apostle's Creed).....UMH 881

***Gloria Patri**.....UMH 71

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

***Doxology**.....UMH 95

OT Scripture Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Special Music "Do You Hear What I Hear" Travis Oaks

Message: "Shared Promises"

Scripture: Luke 1:39-45

***Hymn:** "The First Noel" UMH 245 vs 1,2

***Closing Chorus & Benediction** "Bind Us Together"

**Please stand if able*

The poinsettias are placed in memory of Dorothy Carr by her daughter Diane

Call to Worship

Leader: Send us to an Elizabeth, O God,

People: When we need someone to affirm what is happening to us.

Leader: Send us to an Elizabeth, O God,

People: When we need someone to hear our sound of greeting.

Leader: Send us to an Elizabeth, O God.

Prayer of Confession: O God, who is as near to us as a baby leaping in the womb, help us to let hope uproot fear, to let joy displace fret, to let surprise invite the shaping of new plans. Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: Fourth Sunday of Advent; 2 PM, Sylvia Marsh service at Bevis Funeral Home

Friday: 5pm, Chrsitamas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday: Merry Christmas

Next Sunday : Christmas 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, Pastor Ralph & Judy Wrightstone, Kathie & Al Adams, Lexie Allen, Sarah Brown, Gina Davis, Ellanore Goater, Kendall Hall, Robyn Keeler, Carol Koski, Family & friends of Sylvia Marsh, William McCloud, Fred & Cindy Moore, Travis & Tina Oaks, Carol Painter, David Plate, Tom Plate & family, Tina & Greg Rucker, Family of Marvin Strickland, David Trimble, Cindy Westmark, Family of Lorine Vause, Eddie White, Lon & Lucy Wright

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

Heifer Fund: "Youth Message" offering goes to support Heifer International

Contact: Church phone: 850 576-1454 email: bumctlh@gmail.com

Pastor phone: 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



**1470 Bethel Church Road
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**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"
Welcome home!**