

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## First Sunday After Christmas

December 29, 2024

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** 1 Samuel 2:18-20,26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52

**Next Week:** Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalms 72:1-7,10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

**Prelude:** "Sing Alleluia to the Lord"

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH 234 v1-3,6

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

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

**\*Gloria Patria** UMH 71

**Youth Message** A Candle

**Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings**

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

**OT Reading:** *Psalm 148*

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

**Special Hymn** "His Name is Wonderful" UMH 174

**Message:** A Homecoming

**Scripture:** *Luke 2:41-51*

**\*Hymn:** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" UMH 224

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Leader: This very day in David's town, called Bethlehem, our Savior was born -- Christ the Lord.

**People: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased. Today, in a world of turmoil and conflict, we gather, Lord, to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. Let your Spirit move among us, we pray, that the peace we yearn for may begin with each one of us, and then empower us to let our lights shine to enlighten this dark world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** *First Sunday after Christmas; Craig Zody keyboardist*

**Wednesday:** *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, all of those affected by the storms, 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; Judy Goreau; Ryan Goreau; Savannah Lantz; Nan Lindsey; David Plate; Tina Rucker; Melanie Worley Sanders; Don & Pat Singletary; Paul Sawyer; Austin Smith; Family & friends of Eddie White; Lawson Wooley; Lon & Lucy Wright; Howard & 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](mailto:bumctlh@gmail.com)

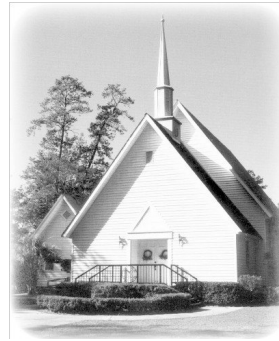
Pastor phone: (850) 591-9785; email: [wrightstone@embarqmail.com](mailto:wrightstone@embarqmail.com)



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 Christ Candle*

**1470 Bethel Church Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
(850) 576-1454**

**"Seeking The Life In Grace As The Way of Life"  
Welcome home!**