

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

February 23, 2025

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Gen 45:3-11; Ps 37:1-11,39-40; 1 Cor 15:35-48,42-50; Luke 6:27-38

**Next Week:** Deut 26:1-11; Psalm 92:1-2,9-16; Phil 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "They'll Know We are Christians" TFWS 2223

**\*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 Reading:** Psalm 37:1-13

**Youth Message:** The Golden Rule

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

**Special Music**

**Message:** A New Commandment

**Scripture:** Luke 6:27-38

**\*Hymn:** "Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord" TFWS 2131

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Leader: Be still in God's presence and worship expectantly. Take delight in prayer, and you will receive your heart's desire.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Compassionate Parent, understanding Brother and Sister, loving and forgiving Spirit, you know how weak we are and how prone to retaliate when treated spitefully. We would rather return a curse with a curse and a blow with a blow. We refuse many who ask us for what we think we do not owe. We are ready to sue for the return of what is rightfully ours. How is it that you expect us to do good to those who hate us? Is it really possible that we could become so much like Jesus Christ? Forgive us, for his sake, for we are not. Amen.

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

**Next Sunday:** Transfiguration Sunday

**March 5:** Ash Wednesday, beginning of Lent

**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; family & friends of Betty Brumbley; Ellen and Don Brown; Judy Goreau; Ryan Goreau and family; Savannah Lantz; Abby McDonald; David Plate and family; Tina Rucker; Melanie Worley Sanders; Don & Pat Singletary; Paul Sawyer; Austin Smith; 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)

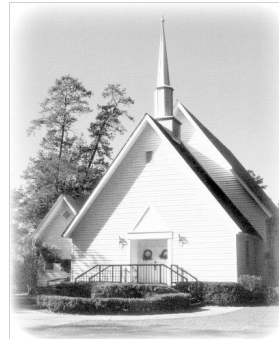
Pastor phone: (850) 591-9785; email: [wrightstone@embarqmail.com](mailto:wrightstone@embarqmail.com)



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

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**Established 1834**

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

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