

## “Salty Service” Offering

Bethel participates, along with all other churches of the Florida Conference, in a program called “The Methodist Way”. It requires gathering weekly 5 numbers representing “Missional Vital Signs” that reflect different areas of each church's ministry (and reporting the numbers monthly to the conference). The areas reported are: Passionate Worship, Radical Hospitality, Intentional Discipling, Salty Service and Extravagant Generosity. The numbers reported for each are: Worship Attendance, Persons Received into Membership (by Profession or Reaffirmation of Faith), Persons involved in small Discipling Groups, Persons who have been “Salty Servants” during the week and the Offering collected for Budget, Capital and Missional purposes.

Of these, the “Salty Servants” is probably the only one that may require explanation. A “Salty Servant” is anyone who has “Joined Jesus in 'Salty Service' to persons outside the congregation” for at least one hour in the previous week. Those who have, indicate that by placing one of the “Salty Service Tickets” (found in a holder on the back of the pew) in the offering plate when it is passed. That's all. The number received is the number reported to the conference.

*“Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?”*  
Matt 5:13

## What is Salty Service?

1. It is service done for others.
2. The person or persons for whom the service is performed should receive a sense that something has been done for them. (This does not exclude the “anonymous” service that the person may not “see” being performed.)
3. The act of financial giving is *not* “salty service”. That is generosity. “Salty Service” is about giving “time”, not money.
4. “Salty Service” can be a part of our normal “duties”, work-life, or actions that may even result in a personal financial benefit. You should have a sense that the service performed is independent of and has more value in God’s sight than any financial rewards that might be received.
5. The service is *not* done as part of a “bargain with God” or to “reward our ego” or to “win points” in the eyes of God or man.
6. *The service is performed as a love offering to God.*

*“Only one life, 'twill soon be past....only what's done for Christ will last.”*

# Bethel United Methodist Church



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

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

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

**This Week:** Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 118:1-2,14-24; 1 Cor 15:1-11; Jn 10:1-18; or Mk 16:1-8

**Next Week:** Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

**Prelude:** “Sing Alleluia to the Lord”

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** “Mighty to Save” W&S 3038

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

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

**\*Gloria Patria** UMH 71

**Youth Message:** “Letters to God”

**Offerings of Praise, Thanksgiving**

Doxology.....UMH 95

**OT Reading:** *Psalm 32*

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

**Special Music**

**Message:** *The Patient Father*

**Scripture:** *Luke 15:1-3,11-32*

**Hymn:** “Open Our Eyes, Lord” TWFS 2086

**\*Benediction and Closing Chorus:** “Bind Us Together”

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

**Leader:** It's Sunday again! We're here in this sanctuary together! God, the Great Mystery is here, in and around us. We revel in the signs of spring, knowing that God is still creating! We delight in this place of beauty and in the company of friends. This day, like all days, is holy.

**Prayer of confession:** **We praise God for freedoms, for pardon, and for hope that tomorrow is in God's hands and that we are being guided through time to eternity with Divinity. The scriptures say that God will teach us the way to go, and we are warned not to be stubborn or cynical, we receive Divine guidance and blessings with acute awareness and with gratitude. Together, we enjoy God, now and forever!**

### Calendar of Events

**Today:** *Fourth Sunday of Lent, Admin Council meeting after the service*

**Wednesday:** *Bible Study, 6:00 pm, Around the Table with Jesus*

**Next Sunday:** *Fifth Sunday of Lent, communion will be observed*

**All Week:** *Keep Safe and Pray*

### Worship, Educational and Outreach Opportunities

**Today:** *Interactive Online Service thru link on Bethel Web Site, Service Page*

**Wednesday:** *Bible Study, 6:00-6:30*

### Prayer Concerns

*Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, those in Military Service, Police, Fire, EMS first responders, Healthcare professionals and home caregivers, those still recovering from the tornadoes; Teachers, Students; Pastor Ralph & Judy Wrightstone; Kathie & Al Adams; Lexie Allen; Judy Goreau; Ryan Goreau and family; Savannah Lantz; Abby McDonald; Annabelle Pafford and family, David Plate and family; Tina Rucker; Melanie Worley Sanders; Paul Sawyer; Don & Pat Singletary; Heidi Wagnon; Austin Smith; 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](mailto:bumctlh@gmail.com)

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