

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 15, 2026

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Next Week: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

***Opening Hymn:** “We’ve a Story to Tell ” UMH 569(1,3,4)

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: Proverbs 12:15-28

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn of Preparation:** “Fairest Lord Jesus” UMH 189 (1,4)

Message: “Choosing the Wrong Friend”

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 7:29-40

***Closing Hymn:** “Freely, Freely” UMH 389

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: For God alone my soul waits in silence, for my hope is from him.

Prayer Of Confession: With the Apostle Paul, we take a step back to see beyond today's cares to the glory that is soon upon us. We must engage in commerce, laugh, love, and grieve, attend to our aches and pains, live a life worthy of the calling. But tarry this hour, this moment, Lord of time, and grant us the vision of larger things. The present pattern of this world is passing. We are your new creation! Amen.

Calendar of Events

Today: *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

Tuesday: *St. Patrick's Day*

Next Sunday: *Fifth Sunday 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, 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, Lake Goreau, Ryan Goreau; Kaylee; Savannah Lantz; Annabelle Pafford; Darren Plate; Don & Pat Singletary; Holly Snelgrove; the family of 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.com

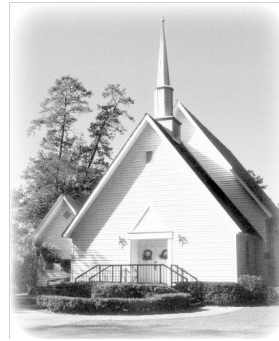
Pastor phone: (850) 591-9785; email: wrightstone@embarqmail.com



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!**