

# Bethel United Methodist Church

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 02, 2021

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Music Director: Travis Oaks

### Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-12; John 15:1-8

Next Week: Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17

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

**Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries**

**\*Hymn:** "Holy Ground" TFWS 2272

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

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

**\*Gloria Patria**.....UMH 71

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

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

**Old Testament Reading:** Psalm 22:25-31

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

**Message:** "The Vine"

Scripture: John 15:1-8

**Holy Communion**

**\*Hymn:** "Soon and Very Soon" UMH 706

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

*\*Please stand if able*

### Call to Worship

Leader: Let us draw closer to the Lord Who is our only true source of life.

**People: For we are the branches that grow from God's Vine.**

Leader: The Lord is the source for all that is truly good.

**Peple: And we are the branches, called upon to bear God's good fruit.**

Leader: Let us give praise then to the living Lord with all that we are!

**Prayer of Confession: Lord, we are slow to admit that too often we have been unfruitful branches of Your Vine. Too often we have forgotten the love and mercy we receive from You. Too often we have failed to share Your love with the world. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to accept Your loving pruning that we might bring forth much good and wonderful fruit for You. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

### Calendar of Events

**Next Sunday:** *Sixth Sunday after Easter, MOTHER's Day*

**Always:** *Be safe and Pray*

### Worship, Educational and Outreach Opportunities

**Today:** *Interactive Online Service thru link on Bethel's Web Site, Service page*

**Wednesday:** *Midweek Worship service is temporarily suspended*

### Prayer Concerns

*Bethel UMC, The UMC, Our Country, Those in Military Service, Teachers, Students, Pastor Ralph & Judy Wrightstone, Kathie & Al Adams, Lexie Allen, Sarah Brown, Gina Davis, Mary Hall, Robyn Keeler, Sylvia Marsh, William McCloud, Tina & Travis Oaks, Tina & Greg Rucker, Don & Pat Singletary, David Trimble, Amy Smith Wadsworth, Cindy Westmark, Eddie White, family & friends of Tom Moore, family & friends of Randy Morgan, Jimbo Jackson and family on the passing of his mother*

*Please use a prayer request form, in the narthex, to submit requests for adding to the Prayer Concerns in the worship bulletin and online*

**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

Pastor phone: 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)*



## Bethel United Methodist Church



**Tallahassee, Florida 32304**  
**(850) 576-1454**

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

*"Surely the Lord is in this place! This is none other than the house of God"* Genesis 28:16