

Bethel United Methodist Church

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Heritage Sunday

April 26, 2026

Pastor: Ralph Wrightstone

Lectionary Scriptures

This Week: Ezekiel 34:7-15; Psalm 100; 1 Peter 2:19-25; John 10:1-10

Next Week: Proverbs 4:10-18; Psalm 119:9-32; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14

Welcome & Announcements, Birthdays, Anniversaries

*Opening Hymn: *“It's Me, It's Me, O Lord”* UMH 352

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: Isaiah 1:18-20

Hymn: *“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”* UMH 405

Joys, Concerns, Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Message: *“The Gatekeeper”*

Scripture: John 10:1-10

*Closing Hymn: *“Church in the Wildwood”* CH 121

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

**Please stand if able*

Call to Worship

Leader: The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (based on Psalm 23 [KJV])

PRAYER: Father of glory, Lord of light, we turn to you today, recognizing you as Shepherd, Savior, and King. You lead us beside the still waters. You restore our soul. We come together this day and seek to follow you wherever you might lead us. Open our hearts and minds to your blessings which overflow. Let your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. Here in your house we call upon you to live and breathe and move in our midst. AMEN!

Calendar of Events

Today: *Heritage Sunday at Bethel pond, dinner after in the shelter*

Charge Conference: *in Early May*

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 & Tracey Bitner, Mark Carlson, Lake Goreau, Ryan Goreau; Kaylee; Savannah Lantz; Annabelle Pafford; Darren Plate; Don & Pat Singletary; Holly Snelgrove; 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.

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