

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@gmail.com



"We come together at St. Mark's to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world."

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

401.379.0600 | 443.257.2730 (cell) | reveugene@comcast.net

Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, July 24, 2022

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Ushers: Joe Daniels, Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews

Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley, Worship Leader

PreludeRev. Henry Tindal

Lighting of the Candles Usher

Gathering Song.....St. Mark's Choir/Congregation

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to WorshipSister Gemma Desouza-Ottley

Leader: Come, people, enter the house of the Lord.

People: Rich and poor, low and high born, humble and haughty, come.

Leader: Come, people, meditate on the wisdom of God.

People: Sophisticated and simple, bold and timid, curious and convinced.

Leader: Come, people, take your fill of divine goodness.

People: Come, let us worship. Let us attend now to the things of God.

All: Come, let us all worship together, let there be no feud among Us. We are the family of God”.

Hymn of Praise..... Choir/Congregation

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me along the way;
For if You lead me, I cannot stray;
Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak, and I need Thy strength and power
To help me over my weakest hour;
Let me through the darkness Thy face to see,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***[Refrain]***

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness;
Be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in Thee,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***[Refrain]***

3 I am lost, if you take your hand from me;
I am blind, without Thy Light to see;
Lord, just always let me Thy servant be,
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***[Refrain]***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

God of grace we live in a world that is often fractured and divided by class and clan. Forgive us for the ways in which we have not affirmed each other even within the Christian family, only to be tripped by our own weakness. Teach us to welcome our weakness as an opportunity to rest in your spirit. Teach us to be still enough to find the powerful hope that lies in your love and leads us to a posture of understanding, forgiveness and reconciliation with each other. Give us the strength we need through the power of our resurrected Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung*) St. Mark’s Choir

**The Invocation..... Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley
Song of Meditation St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*Unison*)

O God, your Word is more precious than fine gold, than purest honey. As we turn to the scriptures today, send your Holy Spirit to infuse your Word with truth and grace. May the good news of your love shine through each of us and extend to the entire family of God. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley**
(*Genesis 37:1–11, Common English Bible*)

37 Jacob lived in the land of Canaan where his father was an immigrant. ²This is the account of Jacob’s descendants. Joseph was 17 years old and tended the flock with his brothers. While he was helping the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives, Joseph told their father unflattering things about them. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons because he was born when Jacob was old. Jacob had made for him a long robe. ⁴When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of his brothers, they hated him and couldn’t even talk nicely to him.

⁵Joseph had a dream and told it to his brothers, which made them hate him even more. ⁶He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had. ⁷When we were binding stalks of grain in the field, my stalk got up and stood upright, while your stalks gathered around it and bowed down to my stalk.”

⁸His brothers said to him, “Will you really be our king and rule over us?” So they hated him even more because of the dreams he told them.

⁹Then Joseph had another dream and described it to his brothers: “I’ve just dreamed again, and this time the sun and the moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me.”

¹⁰When he described it to his father and brothers, his father scolded him and said to him, “What kind of dreams have you dreamed? Am I and your mother and your brothers supposed to come and bow down to the ground in front of you?” ¹¹His brothers were jealous of him, but his father took careful note of the matter.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley
(2 Timothy 1:1–7, Common English Bible)

1 From Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God’s will, to promote the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus.

2 To Timothy, my dear child.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3 I’m grateful to God, whom I serve with a good conscience as my ancestors did. I constantly remember you in my prayers day and night. **4** When I remember your tears, I long to see you so that I can be filled with happiness. **5** I’m reminded of your authentic faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice. I’m sure that this faith is also inside you. **6** Because of this, I’m reminding you to revive God’s gift that is in you through the laying on of my hands. **7** God didn’t give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving, and self-controlled.

Tithes and Offering

Blessing of Offering..... Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Scripture Reading #3 Sister Gemma Desouza-Ottley
(Luke 15:11–31, Common English Bible)

11 Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. **12** The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. **13** Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

14 “When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. **15** He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. **16** He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. **17** When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. **19** I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take

me on as one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. ²¹ Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ ²² But the father said to his servants, ‘Quickly, bring out the best robe and put it on him! Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet! ²³ Fetch the fattened calf and slaughter it. We must celebrate with feasting ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead and has come back to life! He was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ “Now his older son was in the field. Coming in from the field, he approached the house and heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the servants and asked what was going on. ²⁷ The servant replied, ‘Your brother has arrived, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he received his son back safe and sound.’ ²⁸ Then the older son was furious and didn’t want to enter in, but his father came out and begged him. ²⁹ He answered his father, ‘Look, I’ve served you all these years, and I never disobeyed your instruction. Yet you’ve never given me as much as a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours returned, after gobbling up your estate on prostitutes, you slaughtered the fattened calf for him.’ ³¹ Then his father said, ‘Son, you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation..... St. Mark’s Choir

Inspirational Message..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

“Family Feud”

Praise and Prayer Concerns

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection St. Mark's Choir

Welcome of Visitors

Announcements

Pastor's Moment

Benediction

Announcements

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer, can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



The Kumeh-Poh family, whose historical roots are in Liberia, will be worshipping with us on **Sunday, July 31st**, for our morning worship and they will be observing a “Reunion of Prayer” service with us. Sister Gbeh-Kumeh-Korta, a member of our congregation, is also a member of the Kumeh family. Her uncle, Marcus Kumeh is the coordinator of the weekend celebration. Additional information will be forthcoming as related to how we will accommodate the Kumeh-Poh family for their family celebration. To welcome our guest, we will reserve the first 4 rows on the pulpit for their family.

Kudos!!!! to all who participated in the preparation of the dinner and to those who purchased dinners. **Thank you!!!**, Emancipation Day Committee.

Reminder from Pastor Matthews: With the new variants of Covid, please remember to wear your mask while you are in the sanctuary.

The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

July 25th – July 31st

Day 206 — Mark 9:38–50	Day 209 — John 7:32–53
Day 207 — Matthew 18:10–22	Day 210 — John 8:1–20
Day 208 — John 7:1–31	Day 211 — John 8:21–59
	Day 212 — Luke 10:25–42

Follow-up: Email to Tina Matthews, Patricia Mundell, Cynthia Augustus, Nena Hughes, Andrea Gibson, Cynthia Burley and Deidre Ballard, Thomas Matthews, Judith James, Shimaine West, Floyd Hughes, Desiree Vanloo. Rev. Matthews would like to meet with you all following morning service for about 10 minutes.

Monday, July 25th (7:00 p.m.) — Meeting of the **Nurture Committee**. Persons who should be in attendance include Rev. Matthews, representative from Choir (President/Vice President), Ushers, Lay Leader, Membership, Andrea Gibson, Carolyn Noel. Zoom information for the meeting is as follows:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84876087048?pwd=K201NEwzWmplMFZMenVqTnJlL0d0QT09>; Meeting ID: 848 7608 7048; Passcode: 803201. I will also email this information to you all. Thank you in advance for your attendance.

Ladies Roundtable — **On hiatus** (*watch for startup date*)

Wednesday Night Experience — **On hiatus**, *classes resume September 7th*

Thursday, July 28th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir** rehearsal



Saturday, September 3rd (8:00 a.m., Rain or Shine) — **10th Annual In-Person & Virtual Diabetes 5K Run/Walk/Fun Walk at Alice B. McCullough Field** (Montgomery & Eighth Street, Laurel,

MD). USATF Certified Course professionally timed by **Blue Cheetah Sports Timing, LLC**. For Online Registration/Additional Information go to **Runsignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5k**.



Exhibition Opened at **The Laurel Museum**, 817 Main Street, Laurel
Hours 12:00–4:00 p.m. Saturday/Sunday

Group Outing — I have reserved 20 orchestra seats to see “**Tina – The Musical**” at the National Theater (Washington, DC) on **Saturday, October 15th** at 2:00 pm. **Tickets: \$115 per ticket**. Reserve your ticket, you can make payments with all money being due by **September 11th**. As usual, we will try to provide transportation.

Note from Finance: First, let us give a big thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox

2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)

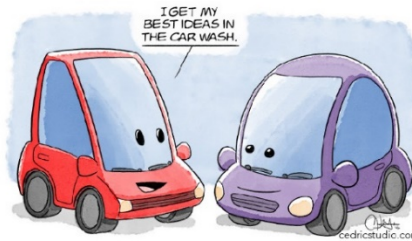
Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

CAR WASH

Provided by
the Grove Finest Hand Car Washers
St. Mark's United Methodist Church
601 Eighth Street | Laurel, MD
301-776-8885

Saturday, July 30, 2022
11:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

Donations Required



For Sale

Hot Dogs, Hamburgers
Chips, Water, Sodas

Proceeds to benefit Emancipation Day 2022



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), reveugene@comcast.net)

All branches of the Military, Anthony Latney, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Gail Edwards (Gemma’s cousin), Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Larry Powell, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia’s Mom); Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Joan Moore, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas
1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher
9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Ruth Miller
1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Edlin Chambers
14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

