

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

443.257.2730 | 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, February 12, 2023

Black History Month



Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

Ushers:

Thomas Matthews and Tyrone Mundell

Order of Service

Brother Floyd Hughes, Worship Leader

Prelude Rev. Henry Tindel

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 Worship Brother Floyd Hughes

Leader: Great is the Lord! God is exalted above all nations.

People: Let all the people praise God's great and awesome name.

Leader: Great is the Lord! God is Mighty, God loves justice and mercy.

People: Let all the people exalt and worship the Lord.

Leader: God has answered the prayers of Moses and Aaron.

**People: God has also answered the prayers of our ancestors
that has led to our freedom.**

All: Let Us Praise God for His Goodness!!

Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation

“Glory Glory Hallelujah”

- 1** Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down,
Glory, glory, hallelujah! Since I laid my burden down.
- 2** I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down,
I feel better, so much better, Since I laid my burden down.
- 3** Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!” Since I laid my burden down,
Feel like shouting, “Hallelujah!” Since I laid my burden down.
- 4** I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, Since I laid my burden down,
I am climbing Jacob’s ladder, Since I laid my burdens down.
- 5** Ev’ry round goes higher and higher, Since I laid my burden down,
Ev’ry round goes higher and higher, Since I laid my burden down.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Companion God, you have shown us through generations, what it means to be a faithful companion and true neighbors and brothers and sisters. We almost always intend to follow where you lead. We almost always mean well ... and sometimes we accomplish our intent. But there are times... many times... when we become self-absorbed, or angry, or afraid, or proud, or tempted by worldly messages of greed and entitlement. Beckon us to repent with our whole hearts. Forgive our broken choices so that, with you, we may reveal the beauty of a universe made holy with love and respect. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation..... Brother Floyd Hughes
Song of Meditation St. Mark’s Choir

Black History Moment Rev. Eugene Matthews

The Prayer of Illumination *(In 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 **Brother Floyd Hughes**
(Deuteronomy 30:15–20, Common English Bible)

¹⁵ Look here! Today I've set before you life and what's good versus death and what's wrong. ¹⁶ If you obey the Lord your God's commandments that I'm commanding you right now by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments, his regulations, and his case laws, then you will live and thrive, and the Lord your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and so are misled, worshipping other gods and serving them, ¹⁸ I'm telling you right now that you will definitely die. You will not prolong your life on the fertile land that you are crossing the Jordan River to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as my witnesses against you right now: I have set life and death, blessing and curse before you. Now choose life—so that you and your descendants will live— ²⁰ by loving the Lord your God, by obeying his voice, and by clinging to him. That's how you will survive and live long on the fertile land the Lord swore to give to your ancestors: to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Scripture Reading #2 **Brother Floyd Hughes**
(1 Corinthians 3:1–9, Common English Bible)

3 Brothers and sisters, I couldn't talk to you like spiritual people but like unspiritual people, like babies in Christ. ² I gave you milk to drink instead of solid food, because you weren't up to it yet. ³ Now you are still not up to it because you are still unspiritual. When jealousy and fighting exist between you, aren't you unspiritual and living by human standards? ⁴ When someone says, "I belong to Paul," and someone else says, "I belong to Apollos," aren't you acting like people without the Spirit? ⁵ After all, what is Apollos? What is Paul? They are servants who helped you to believe. Each one had a role given to them by the Lord: ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God made it grow. ⁷ Because of this, neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but the

only one who is anything is God who makes it grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together, but each one will receive their own reward for their own labor. ⁹ We are God's coworkers, and you are God's field, God's building.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Brother Floyd Hughes

Blessing of the Offering Brother Floyd Hughes
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Brother Floyd Hughes
(Matthew 5:21-37, Common English Bible)

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago, *Don't commit murder*, and all who commit murder will be in danger of judgment. ²² But I say to you that everyone who is angry with their brother or sister will be in danger of judgment. If they say to their brother or sister, 'You idiot,' they will be in danger of being condemned by the governing council. And if they say, 'You fool,' they will be in danger of fiery hell. ²³ Therefore, if you bring your gift to the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift at the altar and go. First make things right with your brother or sister and then come back and offer your gift. ²⁵ Be sure to make friends quickly with your opponents while you are with them on the way to court. Otherwise, they will haul you before the judge, the judge will turn you over to the officer of the court, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ I say to you in all seriousness that you won't get out of there until you've paid the very last penny.

²⁷ "You have heard that it was said, *Don't commit adultery*. ²⁸ But I say to you that every man who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery in his heart. ²⁹ And if your right eye causes you to fall into sin, tear it out and throw it away. It's better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your right hand causes you to fall into sin, chop it off and throw it away. It's better that you lose a part of your body than that your whole body go into hell.

³¹ "It was said, 'Whoever divorces his wife must *give her a divorce certificate*.' ³² But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife

except for sexual unfaithfulness forces her to commit adultery.
And whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

³³ “Again you have heard that it was said to those who lived long ago: *Don’t make a false solemn pledge, but you should follow through on what you have pledged to the Lord.* ³⁴ But I say to you that you must not pledge at all. You must not pledge by heaven, because it’s God’s throne. ³⁵ You must not pledge by the earth, because it’s God’s footstool. You must not pledge by Jerusalem, because it’s the city of the great king. ³⁶ And you must not pledge by your head, because you can’t turn one hair white or black. ³⁷ Let your *yes* mean yes, and your *no* mean no. Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (Hymnal, #71)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

An Order for the Commissioning of Class Leaders

Pastor to congregation:

Dear friends,
the office of class leader is one of the most important contributions
made by world Methodism
to the pastoral leadership of Christ’s holy Church.

In the General Rules of 1743,
John Wesley described the Methodist societies
as companies of men and women who,
“having the form, and seeking the power of godliness,”
came together in order to pray,
to receive the word of exhortation,
and “to watch over one another in love
that they may help each other work out their salvation.”
To this end, the societies were divided into small companies, called
classes,
each with an appointed leader
“to advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may
require.”

Class leaders of today continue this tradition.
In the founding *Discipline* of our church, they are described as persons
“not only of sound judgment, but truly devoted to God,”
who are willing to help others in the congregation
“to grow in the knowledge and love of God.”

Presider to class leader(s):

Do you accept the office of class leader
in this congregation of The United Methodist Church?

I do.

Will you exercise this office
by helping other members of the congregation
to fulfill the general rule of discipleship:
To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings
through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion,
under the guidance of the Holy Spirit?

I will.

Will you help other members of the congregation
to be accountable for their discipleship,
not by judging them, but by watching over them in love?

I will.

Will you meet weekly in covenant with others of like mind
and purpose to be accountable for your own discipleship?

I will.

Presider to congregation:

Will you affirm the call of these *men and women* to be class
leaders
in this congregation of The United Methodist Church?

We will.

Will you acknowledge *them* as your *leaders* in discipleship,
and accept *their* guidance as *they* watch over you in love?

We will.

Presider to class leader(s):

You are hereby commissioned as *class leaders*
in this congregation of The United Methodist Church

Let us pray.

Most gracious God,
bless your servant(s)
whom we now entrust with the office of class leader.

Grant *them* wisdom tempered by your love,
and courage tempered by your justice,
so that Jesus Christ might be honored and served
by all in this congregation,
to the furtherance of your coming reign, on earth as in heaven;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

“Healed and Reconciled”

“³⁷ Let your *yes* mean yes, and your *no* mean no.”

Matthew 5:37a, Common English Bible

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews
Invitation Selection

Benediction

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 01/29/2023	
In-Person	49
Zoom	16
Total	65

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.



Yearly Contributions are ready for pick up in the Finance Room after Church

Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>,

Meeting ID: 885 7118 4455; **Passcode:** 459563

One tap mobile: +13017158592, 88571184455#, *459563#

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room.
Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.

Thursday, February 16th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Friday, February 17th (11:00 a.m.) — **Variety Dinner** sponsored by Emancipation Committee (call church to order – 301.776.8885). Dinner: ½ Chicken (White/Dark meat or Fried Fish), Fresh Greens, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Bread, no substitutions). **Donation: \$18.50.** Side orders – \$2.00 each, desserts – \$2.00 and sodas – \$1.00. If you have additional questions, please talk with member of committee: Tommy, Tiara, Patricia, Larry or Tina). Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sunday, February 19th (following service) — In recognition of Black History Month, **Stamp Exhibition** presented by Mr. Gregg. Light fanfare will be served.

Wednesday, February 22nd (7:00 p.m.) — **Ash Wednesday** service — this service will be held in church and on Zoom. If you are on Zoom, please have ashes available for blessing.

Sacred Grounds: Free Native Plants! Our Mother's Day Native Plant giveaway has been scheduled for **Sunday, May 14, 2023**. To receive plants, please register online at <https://www.nwf/NativePlantPledge>. If you have questions, please contact Jackie Jones.

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.



*"Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world"*

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

Condolence to the family of Sister Elizabeth Day

Celebration of Life (99 yrs.)

Saturday, February 18, 2023

Final Viewing: 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Celebration of Life: 11:00 a.m.

Queens Chapel United Methodist Church

7410 Old Muirkirk Road

Beltsville, MD 20705

Shawn Settles, Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Chantel Ashley, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Leah Henry, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Francis Desouza (Gemma's son), Eric Smith, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, 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

Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Grace Elaine Catchings

15505 Clayburn Drive
Laurel, MD 20707
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Black History First

For those that are football fans and who will be watching the Pro Bowl this weekend I introduce **Emlen Tunnell**. He was the **first** Black American inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1967.



The Philadelphia Concert Orchestra who was the **first** Black Symphony founded in 1905. It was the **first** American orchestra to perform in the People's Republic of China in 1973, launching a now-five-decade commitment of people-to-people exchange through music. The Orchestra maintains a strong commitment to collaborations with cultural and community organizations on a regional and national level and has partnered with the Metropolitan Opera.



Shirley Anita Chisholm who was an American politician who, in 1968, became the **first** black woman to be elected to the United States Congress. Chisholm represented New York's 12th congressional district, a district centered on Bedford–Stuyvesant, for seven terms from 1969–1983.

Eddie Jack Jordan, Jr. is an American attorney who served as the district attorney for Orleans Parish, Louisiana. In 1994 President Bill Clinton named him as the **first** African American to hold the post of U.S. Attorney in the state of Louisiana.

Richard Greener was the **first** Black American to receive a degree from Harvard University in 1870. He went on to graduate from Law School at the University of South Carolina and became the **first** Black professor hired at that University. In 1876 he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of South Carolina and he went on to serve as Dean of Howard University's School of Law. In 1898 he became the **first** Black diplomat to a white country, serving in Vladivostock, Russia.

Father Augustus Tolton. Born a slave in 1854 in Missouri, he was the **first** Black American ordained as a Roman Catholic Priest in 1886. He planted his roots in Illinois where he developed a national reputation but had a heart for his congregants, who mostly lived in poverty. He succumbed to a heat stroke at the age of 43.

