



*Sunday, March 14, 2021*  
*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
*Annual Men's Day*

*Men of Strong Faith Spiritually Connecting*  
*"Men of St. Mark's Where Are You?"*

*Brother Wayne Coffen, Chair*  
*Brother Larry Powell, Co-Chair*

*Order of Service*

**Welcome**

Whether you regularly worship at St. Mark's United Methodist or whether you're visiting with us, we encourage you to open your hearts and minds to what says the Lord. If you are a visitor, interested in becoming a member of St. Mark's United Methodist Church feel free to contact the church at 301.776.8885 | [emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com](mailto:emailstmarkslmd@gmail.com) | Pastor Matthews directly (443.257.2730 | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)). Our doors are always open, welcome.

**Gathering Song**..... **"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"** (*Hymnal, #334*)  
(*being sung this morning by Doris Akers*)

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**..... **Mr. Gregg**

**Leader:** O Lord, on this Men's Day, and every day, show us the right way.

**Wayne:** "Forget that I sowed wild oats; Mark me with your sign of love. Plan only the best for me, GOD!"

**Leader:** Lord, teach us to be humble and to always seek Your will.

**Wayne:** "GOD is fair and just; He corrects the misdirected, Sends them in the right direction. He gives the rejects his hand and leads them step-by-step."

Leader: Teach us to be good husbands, fathers, leaders, and friends, never wavering in our love for You.

Wayne: **“From now on every road you travel will take you to GOD. Follow the Covenant signs; Read the charted directions.”**

Leader: Lord, we are all sinners and have come short of your glory, but You Lord, look beyond our brokenness, see our need, and forgive us over and over again.

Wayne: **“God-friendship is for God-worshippers; They are the ones he confides in. If I keep my eyes on GOD, I won't trip over my own feet.”**

Leader: Let Us Pray Together...

Wayne: **“Use all your skill to put me together; I wait to see your finished product!”  
Amen!**

**Hymn of Praise.....“Rise Up O Men of God”**  
*(sing along with a Traditional Choir)*

1 Rise up O men of God,  
Have done with lesser things.  
Give heart and soul and mind and strength,  
To serve the King of Kings.

2 Rise up O men of God,  
His Kingdom tarries long,  
Bring in the day of brotherhood,  
And end the night of wrong.

3 Rise up O men of God,  
The Church for you doth wait.  
Send forth to serve the needs of men  
In Christ our strength is great.

4 Lift high the Cross of Christ,  
Tread where His feet have trod,  
As brothers of the Son of Man,  
Rise up O men of God.

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance..... Mr. Gregg**

Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we are called. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer grace and love. **Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** *(featuring Andrea Bocelli)*

**The Invocation.....Brother Tommy**

**Song of Meditation — “Marvelous”** *(featuring Walter Hawkins)*

**Men's Day Appreciation ..... Brothers Wayne and Larry**

**Poem — “Test of Man” .....Brother Jaden**

**Selection — “My Soul Has Been Anchored** *(featuring E. Daryl Duff)*

**The Prayer of Illumination (Unison) ..... Brother Gregg**

Dear Lord, I pray that You would open my mind to the truth of Your Word by means of the Holy Spirit. Open my eyes to see Jesus. Open my heart to love Him more and more. Open my will to do only that which is righteous in Your sight so that Your name may be glorified. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Master Eli**  
(*Genesis 3:1–9, Common English Bible*)

### **Knowledge, Not Eternal Life**

**3** The snake was the most intelligent of all the wild animals that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say that you shouldn’t eat from any tree in the garden?”

**2** The woman said to the snake, “We may eat the fruit of the garden’s trees **3** but not the fruit of the tree in the middle of the garden. God said, ‘Don’t eat from it, and don’t touch it, or you will die.’”

**4** The snake said to the woman, “You won’t die! **5** God knows that on the day you eat from it, you will see clearly and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** The woman saw that the tree was beautiful with delicious food and that the tree would provide wisdom, so she took some of its fruit and ate it, and also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. **7** Then they both saw clearly and knew that they were naked. So they sewed fig leaves together and made garments for themselves.

**8** During that day’s cool evening breeze, they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden; and the man and his wife hid themselves from the LORD God in the middle of the garden’s trees. **9** The LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?”

**Scripture Reading #2** ..... **Master Jeremiah**  
(*2 Timothy 1:7–14, Common English Bible*)

**7** God didn’t give us a spirit that is timid but one that is powerful, loving, and self-controlled.

### **Don’t Be Ashamed of the Testimony**

**8** So don’t be ashamed of the testimony about the Lord or of me, his prisoner. Instead, share the suffering for the good news, depending on God’s power. **9** God is the one who saved and called us with a holy calling. This wasn’t based on what we have done, but it was based on his own purpose and grace that he gave us in Christ Jesus before time began. **10** Now his grace is revealed through the appearance of our savior, Christ Jesus. He destroyed death and brought life and immortality into clear focus through the good news. **11** I was appointed a messenger, apostle, and teacher of this good news. **12** This is also why I’m suffering the way I do, but I’m not ashamed. I know the one in whom I’ve placed my trust. I’m convinced that God is powerful enough to protect what he has placed in my trust until that day. **13** Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching that you heard from me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. **14** Protect this good thing that has been placed in your trust through the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Master Isaiah**  
(*Luke 15:11–22, 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. <sup>19</sup> I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.” ’ <sup>20</sup> 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. <sup>21</sup> Then his son said, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ <sup>22</sup> 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!

**Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” ..... Brother Gregg**

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.**

**The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed” ..... Brother Gregg**

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried:  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

**The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” ..... Brother Gregg**

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.**

**Introduction of Speaker ..... Brother Wayne**

**Hymn of Preparation — The Center of My Joy** (*featuring Richard Smallwood*)

**Inspirational Message.....Rev. Eric W. King, I**

*Pastor, Goshen United Methodist Church  
Gaithersburg, MD*

***“Adam, Where Are You”***

*Genesis 3:8–10*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection — “Fix It Jesus”** *(featuring The Canton Spirituals)*

**Announcements .....** **Brother Gregg**

**Benediction**

*Reverend Eric W. King, I*  
Pastor, Goshen United Methodist Church  
19615 Goshen Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879  
[King1906@comcast.net](mailto:King1906@comcast.net), 410/935-1038



Eric Wellington King, is a prophetic messenger, passionate leader, social activist, and educator engaged in preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ, and committed to empowering and transforming the lives of the under-served and the disenfranchised.

Reverend King has been a minister for thirty 34 years; serving twenty 24 years as a pastor in the United Methodist Church; currently serving the Goshen United Methodist Church located in “Gorgeous” Gaithersburg MD, where the ministry theme is “Possibilities are Fertile at Goshen.” At each appointment, under his leadership, membership growth, ministry development occur. During one appointment a new church building was erected, and at another a successful merger of two congregations took place.

As a reflection of his commitment to community transformation and social consciousness, Pastor King serves in various leadership capacities in organizations that champion social change and education. He serves as board member for Advancing Black Learning in Education, (ABLE), HTP-Homes, and Co-chairperson for the Advisory Board for the School of Social Work at Morgan State University.

Pastor King continues to expand ministry and collaborations through Goshen UMC into the Gaithersburg community to enhance teacher hiring and student learning in Montgomery County Schools.

Pastor King is most grateful to be the parent of three adult sons Eric-II, Bryant and Aston and devoted “Baba” to Taylor, Xavier and Talliah with another grandchild on the way due October 2021.

✠ Member/Brother: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated

# *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.



**Wednesdays (7:15 p.m.) — Wednesday Night Experience.** Call-in Information: **712-770-4010 (Access code: 331960)**

**Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>** — If you are able, please make a special donation to **UMCOR**— the United Methodist Committee on Relief (formerly One Great Hour of Sharing) — is the disaster relief arm of The United Methodist Church. Your gift ensures UMCOR's response in times of crisis so that 100% of gifts to UMCOR help those who need it most.

**Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup>** (time TBD) — **Distribution of Palms** at the church.

**Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Good Friday** service. Additional information forthcoming.

**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, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
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>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

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 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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Rayvon Roy, Joyce Gibson, Tony Tingle, Mitchell Talley, LaKisha Thomas, James (Stoney) Carroll, Marva Thomas, Nena Hughes, Deysha Gibson, Gloria Thomas, Sharon Thomas, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Sherman / Erica Roy, Janeen Thomas, Eunice Harding (Gemma's Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley's brothers), Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Veronica Miller, Jeanette Reeves, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Laura Dotson, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Eunice Parker, Hannah Polk, Delores Tyler

**Eunice Dumas**

1909 Sheffield Court  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Ruth Miller**

1206 Peachwood Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Diane Cobb**

410.802.1427

**Umbrenda Fisher**

9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Mrs. Edlin Chambers**

14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764