



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

*Condolence to the family of  
Sister Delores Tyler*

*Tuesday, August 24, 2021*

*Final Viewing: 10:00 a.m.—Noon  
Celebration of Life: Noon*

*First United Methodist Church  
424 Main Street | Laurel, MD 20707*

**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))

**Special prayers for Sister Laura Dotson** who suffered a stroke this week. She is in Johns Hopkins, Baltimore ICU.

Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Joyce Gibson, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Eunice Harding (Gemma’s Mother), Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Samuel / James Briggs (Cynthia Burley’s brothers), Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

**Eunice Dumas**  
1909 Sheffield Ct.  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**  
9160 Charlton Pl.  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Laura Dotson**  
7246 Guilford Rd.  
Clarksville MD 21029

**Ruth Miller**  
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Bowie, MD 20716  
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**Mrs. Edlin Chambers**  
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*St. Mark’s United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707  
301.776.8885 | [stmarksfmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksfmd@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 | 443.257.2710 (cell) | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)

**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, August 22, 2021*

*Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

## *Order of Service*

*Gemma DeSouza, Worship Leader*

**Prelude** ..... **Rev. Dr. Fernando Allen**

**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**..... **Sister Gemma DeSouza**

**Leader:** The Lord God grants us life and salvation.

**People:** **O Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth.**

**Leader:** The Lord God created the moon, stars, and all things.

**People:** **We praise and thank you, O Lord.**

**Leader:** Fill us with your holy Spirit, O Lord.

**People:** **Renew us today in body and spirit in the power of your word.**

**Hymn of Praise**..... **St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**

### *How Great Thou Art*

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the \*worlds thy hands have made,

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.

# 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.



**Note:** Rev. Matthews is on vacation for a couple of Sundays.

“A FRESH START (NOW)” — Any person who would like to participate or discuss further the Ministry areas presented last week, please contact either Jaime, Nena or Rev. Matthews. **We desire to have many members as possible active in all of the various areas of Ministry.**

**Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Nomination’s Committee** will meet in a conference call. Call in: 712-770-4010 Access code: 331960.

**Wednesday Night Experience.** On hiatus until September 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

## Moving Forward

**Annual 5K Walk/Run (Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 a.m.)**

**Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup>** (10:00 a.m.) — **Annual Homecoming Sunday.** Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord will be our morning preacher.

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (6:00 p.m.) — Annual Church Conference** (details will be 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/stmarks1md>)

I see the stars, I hear the \*rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed:

### Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:  
How great thou art! How great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur,  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze: **Refrain**

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,  
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin. **Refrain**

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then \*I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, My God, how great thou art! **Refrain**

### Prayer of Confession and Assurance (Unison)

Almighty God, who created the world and deemed it good: we confess our failure in not being wise stewards. You have gifted us with wholeness, and we have often fragmented this gift. This day we ask that you provide us with your wisdom, courage, and a sense of your divine presence with new direction. In the name of our creator God, we pray. **Amen.**

### The Lord’s Prayer (sung)

**The Invocation**..... **Sister Gemma DeSouza**  
**Song of Meditation**..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

### The Prayer of Illumination (Unison)

Draw us close, Holy Spirit, as the scriptures are read, and the Word proclaimed. Let the word of faith be on our lips and in our hearts, and let other words slip away. May there be one voice we hear today, the voice of truth and grace. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1 ..... Sister Gemma DeSouza**  
*(1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10–11, Common English Bible)*

**8** Then Solomon assembled Israel’s elders, all the tribal leaders, and the chiefs of Israel’s clans at Jerusalem to bring up the chest containing the LORD’s covenant from David’s City Zion.

**6** The priests brought the chest containing the LORD’s covenant to its designated spot beneath the wings of the winged creatures in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the most holy place.

**10** When the priests left the holy place, the cloud filled the LORD’s temple, **11** and the priests were unable to carry out their duties due to the cloud because the LORD’s glory filled the LORD’s temple.

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Gemma DeSouza**  
*(Ephesians 6:10–20, Common English Bible)*

**Put on the armor of God**

**10** Finally, be strengthened by the Lord and his powerful strength.

**11** Put on God’s armor so that you can make a stand against the tricks of the devil. **12** We aren’t fighting against human enemies but against rulers, authorities, forces of cosmic darkness, and spiritual powers of evil in the heavens. **13** Therefore, pick up the full armor of God so that you can stand your ground on the evil day and after you have done everything possible to still stand. **14** So stand with the belt of truth around your waist, justice as your breastplate, **15** and put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to spread the good news of peace. **16** Above all, carry the shield of faith so that you can extinguish the flaming arrows of the evil one. **17** Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is God’s word.

**18** Offer prayers and petitions in the Spirit all the time. Stay alert by hanging in there and praying for all believers. **19** As for me, pray that when I open my mouth, I’ll get a message that confidently makes this secret plan<sup>[a]</sup> of the gospel known. **20** I’m an ambassador in chains for the sake of the gospel. Pray so that the Lord will give me the confidence to say what I have to say.

**Selection ..... St. Mark’s Choir**

**Scripture Reading #3 ..... Sister Gemma DeSouza**  
*(John 6:56–69, Common English Bible)*

**56** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. **57** As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me lives because of me. **58** This is the bread that came down from heaven. It isn’t like the bread your ancestors ate, and then they died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

**59** Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum. **60** Many of his disciples who heard this said, “This message is harsh. Who can hear it?”

**61** Jesus knew that the disciples were grumbling about this and he said to them, “Does this offend you? **62** What if you were to see the Human One going up where he was before? **63** The Spirit is the one who gives life and the flesh doesn’t help at all. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life. **64** Yet some of you don’t believe.” Jesus knew from the beginning who wouldn’t believe and the one who would betray him. **65** He said, “For this reason I said to you that none can come to me unless the Father enables them to do so.” **66** At this, many of his disciples turned away and no longer accompanied him.

**67** Jesus asked the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”

**68** Simon Peter answered, “Lord, where would we go? You have the words of eternal life. **69** We believe and know that you are God’s holy 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.**

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

**Blessing of the Offering ..... Sister Gemma DeSouza**

**Inspirational Message ..... Brother Anthony Latney**

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection**

**Announcements**

**Benediction**