

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

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*"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***

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***Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus***

***Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling***

*Baltimore/Washington Conference*

***Rev. Sarah Schlieckert***

*District Superintendent  
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

*Just sharing!!!*

## *Signs of the times*

*“He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’”*

*Revelation 21:5*

It's said that the *Titanic* sank because of cheap rivets and poor planning. Faced with a shortage of quality bolts, the shipbuilders used substandard ones that popped when the ship hit the iceberg. So, how sturdy are the bolts of *your* faith? Reinforce them daily with God's Word, seasons of in-depth prayer, and fortifying fellowship. Describing signs of the end times, Jesus said, “All these are the beginning of birth pains” (Mt 24:8 NIV), and birth pains signal the onset of the final push. The obstetrician says, “This will hurt for a while, but it's going to get better,” and Jesus offers us the same assurance about end-time events. We're in the final hours—just a few pushes away from delivery. John said: “I saw ‘a new heaven and...earth,’...the first heaven and...earth had passed away, and...the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven...prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying...‘God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be...their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.’ He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’” (Rev 21:1-5 NIV). People everywhere are searching for answers. So don't isolate, engage! Your goal isn't to get out of this world in one piece; it's to take as many people as you can to heaven along with you.

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*

*Sunday, August 14, 2022*

*Tenth Sunday After Pentecost*

*Welcome*

*Rev. Herbert Watson, Jr.*

*Order of Service*

*Ushers: Joseph Daniels and Thomas Matthews*

*Cynthia Whitfield, Worship Leader*

**Prelude .....Rev. 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 Worship .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

Leader: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock!

**People: You are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth before Benjamin and Manasseh.**

Leader: Stir up your might and come to save us.

**People: Restore us, O God of host; let your face shine that we may be saved.**

Leader: Then we will never turn back but will continue to keep faithful.

**People:** Restore us, O Lord god of host, let your face shine that we might be saved.

**ALL:** Give us your wisdom to employ our gifts for good and spread the good news of Jesus Christ!

Hymn of Praise..... Choir/Congregation

### *“We’re Marching to Zion”*

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

***Refrain:***

We’re marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion;  
we’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad.

***(Refrain)***

3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets.

***(Refrain)***

4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we’re marching through Emmanuel’s ground, we’re marching through Emmanuel’s ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. ***(Refrain)***

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** *(Unison)*

We confess on this Sabbath, Lord, that we have not always been as faithful as we might have been, nor have we been willing in all opportunities to risk being faithful. You have called us, like those in the scripture, to be persons willing to go where you show us and when you call us. Sometimes – too often – our pride gets in the way of our seeing and hearing. Forgive us and put us back on the path that leads to you. **Amen.**

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

**The Invocation** ..... **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

**Song of Meditation** ..... **St. Mark's Choir**

**The Prayer of Illumination** (*Unison*)

Guide us , O GOD, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** ..... **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**  
(*Isaiah 5:1–7, Common English Bible*)

**5** Let me sing for my loved one  
a love song for his vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

**2** He dug it,  
cleared away its stones,  
planted it with excellent vines,  
built a tower inside it,  
and dug out a wine vat in it.

He expected it to grow good grapes—  
but it grew rotten grapes.

**3** So now, you who live in Jerusalem, you people of Judah,  
judge between me and my vineyard:

**4** What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I haven't done for it?

When I expected it to grow good grapes,  
why did it grow rotten grapes?

**5** Now let me tell you what I'm doing to my vineyard.  
I'm removing its hedge,  
so it will be destroyed.

I'm breaking down its walls,  
so it will be trampled.

**6** I'll turn it into a ruin;  
it won't be pruned or hoed,  
and thorns and thistles will grow up.

I will command the clouds not to rain on it.

**7** The vineyard of the Lord of heavenly forces is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah are the plantings in which God  
delighted.

God expected justice, but there was bloodshed;  
righteousness, but there was a cry of distress!

**Scripture Reading #2 .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**  
(*Hebrews 11:29—12:2, Common English Bible*)

<sup>29</sup> By faith they crossed the Red Sea as if they were on dry land, but when the Egyptians tried it, they were drowned.

<sup>30</sup> By faith Jericho's walls fell after the people marched around them for seven days.

<sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute wasn't killed with the disobedient because she welcomed the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> What more can I say? I would run out of time if I told you about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and the prophets. <sup>33</sup> Through faith they conquered kingdoms, brought about justice, realized promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> put out raging fires, escaped from the edge of the sword, found strength in weakness, were mighty in war, and routed foreign armies.

<sup>35</sup> Women received back their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured and refused to be released so they could gain a better resurrection.

<sup>36</sup> But others experienced public shame by being taunted and whipped; they were even put in chains and in prison. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death, they were cut in two, and they died by being murdered with swords. They went around wearing the skins of sheep and goats, needy, oppressed, and mistreated. <sup>38</sup> The world didn't deserve them. They wandered around in deserts, mountains, caves, and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> All these people didn't receive what was promised, though they were given approval for their faith. <sup>40</sup> God provided something better for us so they wouldn't be made perfect without us.

**Let's also run the race**

**12** So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, <sup>2</sup> and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

**Tithes and Offering**

**Blessing of Offering.....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

**Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir**

**Scripture Reading #3 .....Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

*(Luke 12:49–56, Common English Bible)*

<sup>49</sup> “I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it’s completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. <sup>52</sup> From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. <sup>53</sup> Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

<sup>54</sup> Jesus also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, ‘It’s going to rain.’ And indeed it does. <sup>55</sup> And when a south wind blows, you say, ‘A heat wave is coming.’ And it does. <sup>56</sup> Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret the present time?

**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. Herbert Watson, Jr.**

*Retired, United Methodist Pastor*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call ..... Rev. Herbert Watson, Jr.**

**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.



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

**Note:** Pastor Matthews on vacation. Returning Sunday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>



## Happy Birthday and Anniversary August Members



### Birthday

*Vicki Cager – 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Jacqueline Jones – 1<sup>st</sup>*  
*Vaughn Johnson – 6<sup>th</sup>*  
*Venita Stratford – 7<sup>th</sup>*  
*Mildred Awkward – 8<sup>th</sup>*  
*Aniya Latney – 9<sup>th</sup>*  
*Tiara Matthews – 9<sup>th</sup>*

*Larry Powell – 11<sup>th</sup>*  
*Andrea Gibson – 11<sup>th</sup>*  
*George Gibson, Sr. – 11<sup>th</sup>*  
*Nakia Austin – 14<sup>th</sup>*  
*Jazmen Dustin – 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Wayne Coffen – 29<sup>th</sup>*

### Anniversary

<i>Bob &amp; Grace Catchings – 52 yrs.</i>	<i>Troy Sr. &amp; Andrea – 34 yrs.</i>
<i>8/8</i>	<i>8/27</i>
<i>Vaughn &amp; Sandra Johnson - 51 Yrs.</i>	<i>Sherman &amp; Erica Roy – 29 yrs.</i>
<i>8/21</i>	<i>8/28</i>



### Heavenly Birthday

*Emory Gibson – 4<sup>th</sup>*  
*Tyrone Mundell – 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Eunice Harding – 29<sup>th</sup>*



The following Bible selections are provided for this week:

**August 15<sup>th</sup> – August 21<sup>st</sup>**

Day 227 — Luke 15:11–32

Day 228 — Luke 16: 1–18

Day 229 — Luke 16:19–31

Day 230 — John 11: 1–36

Day 231 — John 11:37–57

Day 232 — Luke 17:1–19

Day 233 — Luke 17:20–37

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

**Wednesday Night Experience — On hiatus**, *classes resume September 7<sup>th</sup>*

**Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** (7:00 p.m.) — **No Choir** rehearsal



**Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** (8:00 a.m., Rain or Shine) — **10<sup>th</sup> 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 **RunsSignup.com/Race/MD/Laurel/EmancipationDay5k**.

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



***"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))

All branches of the Military, Lafayette Harvey, 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

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