

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*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, August 28, 2022

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Order of Service

Ushers: Joseph Daniels and Thomas Matthews

Brother Floyd Hughes, Jr., 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 WorshipBrother Floyd Hughes, Jr.

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.

“My Hope Is Built”

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand: all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand.

- 2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace; in every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. ***[Refrain]***

- 3 His oath, his covenant, his blood, support me in the whelming flood; when all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. ***[Refrain]***

- 4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found: dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. ***[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)* **St. Mark's Choir**

The Invocation.....**Brother Floyd Hughes, Jr.**
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 #1Brother Floyd Hughes, Jr.
(*Jeremiah 2:4–13, Common English Bible*)

⁴ Listen to the Lord's word, people of Judah, all you families of the Israelite household.

⁵ This is what the Lord says:

What wrong did your ancestors find in me that made them wander so far? They pursued what was worthless and became worthless.

⁶ They didn't ask, "Where's the Lord who brought us up from the land of Egypt, who led us through the wilderness, in a land of deserts and ravines, in a land of drought and darkness, in a land of no return, where no one survives?" ⁷ I brought you into a land of plenty, to enjoy its gifts and goodness, but you ruined my land; you disgraced my heritage. ⁸ The priests didn't ask, "Where's the Lord?" Those responsible for the Instruction didn't know me; the leaders rebelled against me; the prophets spoke in the name of Baal, going after what has no value. ⁹ That is why I will take you to court and charge even your descendants, declares the Lord. ¹⁰ Look to the west as far as the shores of Cyprus and to the east as far as the land of Kedar. Ask anyone there: Has anything this odd ever taken place? ¹¹ Has a nation switched gods, though they aren't really gods at all? Yet my people have exchanged their glory for what has no value. ¹² Be stunned at such a thing, you heavens; shudder and quake, declares the Lord. ¹³ My people have committed two crimes: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water. And they have dug wells, broken wells that can't hold water.

Scripture Reading #2Brother Floyd Hughes, Jr.
(*Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16, Common English Bible*)

Our acts of service and sacrifice

¹³ Keep loving each other like family. ² Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it. ³ Remember prisoners as if you were in prison with them, and people who are mistreated as if you were in their place. ⁴ Marriage must be honored in every respect, with no cheating on the relationship, because God will judge the sexually immoral person and the person who commits adultery. ⁵ Your way of life should be free from the love of money, and you should be content with what you have. After all, he has said, *I will never leave you or abandon you.* ⁶ This is why we can confidently say,

*The Lord is my helper,
and I won't be afraid.
What can people do to me?*

⁷ Remember your leaders who spoke God's word to you. Imitate their faith as you consider the way their lives turned out. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever!

Tithes and Offering

Blessing of Offering.....Brother Floyd Hughes, Jr.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Scripture Reading #3Brother Floyd Hughes, Jr.

(Luke 14:1, 7–14, Common English Bible)

14 One Sabbath, when Jesus went to share a meal in the home of one of the leaders of the Pharisees, they were watching him closely.

Lessons on humility and generosity

⁷ When Jesus noticed how the guests sought out the best seats at the table, he told them a parable. ⁸ “When someone invites you to a wedding celebration, don't take your seat in the place of honor. Someone more highly regarded than you could have been invited by your host. ⁹ The host who invited both of you will come and say to you, ‘Give your seat to this other person.’ Embarrassed, you will take your seat in the least important place. ¹⁰ Instead, when you receive an invitation, go and sit in the least important place. When your host approaches you, he will say, ‘Friend, move up here to a better seat.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all your fellow guests. ¹¹ All who lift themselves up will be brought low, and those who make themselves low will be lifted up.”

¹² Then Jesus said to the person who had invited him, “When you host a lunch or dinner, don't invite your friends, your brothers and sisters, your relatives, or rich neighbors. If you do, they will invite you in return and that will be your reward. ¹³ Instead, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they can't repay you. Instead, you will be repaid when the just are resurrected.”

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..... Minister Nena Hughes

Invitation / Altar Call Minister Nena Hughes

Invitation Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Praise and Prayer Concerns

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.



Rev. Matthews on vacation through **September 3rd**

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:

August 29th – September 4th

Day 241 — Matthew 21:1–17

Day 242 — John 12:20–36

Day 243 — John 12:37–50

Day 244 — Mark 11:20–33

Day 245 — Matthew 21:28–46

Day 246 — Matthew 22:1–14

Day 247 — Luke 20:20–40

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

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

Thursday, August 25th (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**.

Saturday, September 3, 2022 — Emancipation Day 2022. A fun-filled day for the family. Free and for sale activities. Shirts are available for this event. Price: **\$10** (youth); **\$15** (adult small to XL); **\$17** (2X); **\$20** (3X). **Friday was deadline**, but check with Tina Thomas-Matthews to see if you can still order.



There are **Volunteer** sheets in the Fellowship Hall, please sign up or reach out to Millicent on Tuesday or Thursday to fill you in. **There will be a meeting Tuesday, August 30th (7:00 p.m.) for committee members and volunteers.**

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.



***"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, Lafayette Harvey, Anthony Latney, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Chantel Ashley, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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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