

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarksmd@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

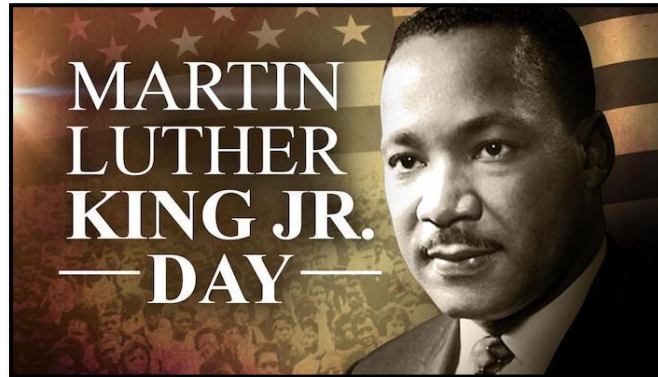
Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, January 15, 2023

Human Relations Sunday



Ushers:

Joseph Daniels and Sharon Thomas

Order of Service

Sister Charlotte Thomas, 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 WorshipSister Charlotte Thomas

Leader: God is our refuge and strength.

People: God is a present help in times of troubles.

Leader: We thank God for sending Dr. Martin Luther King
among us.

**People: As we observe this Human Relations Sunday, we also
celebrate Dr. King's Birthday.**

Leader: We celebrate God's presence among all humanity today.

**People: And we come together worshipping the creator of all
humankind.**

**ALL: The Lord of host is with us, and the God of Jacob is
our refuge.**

Hymn of Praise Choir / Congregation

"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
Through the storm, through the night,
Lead me on to the light:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear,
Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call,
Hold my hand lest I fall:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Now and then, O God, we must confess that instead of thinking too highly of ourselves, we think too little of ourselves. Instead of being beaten down with preaching and hymns of threat, we need encouragement and hope that we can do what you call us to do. Let there be for us no more Moses moments of “I stutter.” A gift like Aaron will smooth it out. Let there be no more “I am a man of unclean lips.” Thank you, God, for affirming our personhood and our potential for becoming true servants for your kingdom building. **Amen.**

The Lord’s Prayer.....**St. Mark’s Choir/Congregation**

The Invocation.....**Sister Charlotte Thomas**
Song of Meditation **St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Almighty God, allow us to hear these words in order that we may become strong and active servants for you. As you have used Dr. King, so may we be used for your Glory and Honor. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1**Sister Charlotte Thomas**
(*Isaiah 49:1-7, Common English Bible*)

49 Listen to me, coastlands;
pay attention, peoples far away.
The Lord called me before my birth,
called my name when I was in my mother’s womb.
² He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
and hid me in the shadow of God’s own hand.
He made me a sharpened arrow,
and concealed me in God’s quiver,
³ saying to me, “You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I show my glory.”
⁴ But I said, “I have wearied myself in vain.
I have used up my strength for nothing.”
Nevertheless, the Lord will grant me justice;
my reward is with my God.
⁵ And now the Lord has decided—
the one who formed me from the womb as his servant—
to restore Jacob to God,
so that Israel might return to him.

Moreover, I'm honored in the Lord's eyes;
my God has become my strength.
⁶ He said: It is not enough, since you are my servant,
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to bring back the survivors of Israel.
Hence, I will also appoint you as light to the nations
so that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.

⁷ The Lord, redeemer of Israel and its holy one,
says to one despised,
rejected by nations,
to the slave of rulers:
Kings will see and stand up;
commanders will bow down
on account of the Lord, who is faithful,
the holy one of Israel,
who has chosen you.

Scripture Reading #2Sister Charlotte Thomas
(*1 Corinthians 1:1-9, Common English Bible*)

1 From Paul, called by God's will to be an apostle of Jesus Christ,
and from Sosthenes our brother.

² To God's church that is in Corinth:

To those who have been made holy to God in Christ Jesus, who are
called to be God's people.

Together with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus
Christ in every place—he's their Lord and ours!

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always for you, because of God's grace that was
given to you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ That is, you were made rich through
him in everything: in all your communication and every kind of
knowledge, ⁶ in the same way that the testimony about Christ was
confirmed with you. ⁷ The result is that you aren't missing any
spiritual gift while you wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be
revealed. ⁸ He will also confirm your testimony about Christ until
the end so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus
Christ. ⁹ God is faithful, and you were called by him to partnership
with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Charlotte Thomas

Blessing of the OfferingSister Charlotte Thomas

Special Offering — Human Relations Sunday

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Charlotte Thomas

(John 1:29–42, Common English Bible)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is the one about whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is really greater than me because he existed before me.’ ³¹ Even I didn’t recognize him, but I came baptizing with water so that he might be made known to Israel.” ³² John testified, “I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it rested on him. ³³ Even I didn’t recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit coming down and resting is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ I have seen and testified that this one is God’s Son.”

³⁵ The next day John was standing again with two of his disciples. ³⁶ When he saw Jesus walking along he said, “Look! The Lamb of God!” ³⁷ The two disciples heard what he said, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸ When Jesus turned and saw them following, he asked, “What are you looking for?”

They said, “Rabbi (which is translated *Teacher*), where are you staying?”

³⁹ He replied, “Come and see.” So they went and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.

⁴⁰ One of the two disciples who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated *Christ*). ⁴² He led him to Jesus.

Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon, son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which is translated *Peter*).

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.**

The Baptismal Covenant III

*Holy Baptism for Those Who Can Answer for Themselves,
Confirmation, Reaffirmation of Faith, Reception into the United
Methodist Church, Reception into a Local Congregation*

Introduction to the Service

The Church is of God,
and will be preserved to the end of time,
for the conduct of worship
and the due administration of God’s Word and Sacraments,
the maintenance of Christian fellowship and discipline,
the edification of believers,
and the conversion of the world.
All, of every age and station,
stand in need of the means of grace which it alone supplies.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

Do you in the presence of God and this congregation
renew the solemn vow and promise
made at your baptism?

I do.

Do you truly and earnestly repent of your sins?

I do.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
[who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.]**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.]**

Do you receive and process the Christian faith
as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

I do.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you,
to keep God's holy will and commandments
and walk in the same all the days of your life
as a faithful member of Christ's Holy Church?

I do.

Reception into the United Methodist Church

Let those persons who are members of other communions
in Christ's holy Church
and who now desire to enter
into the fellowship of this congregation,
present themselves
to be received into the membership
of The United Methodist Church.

Will you be loyal to The United Methodist Church,
and uphold it by your prayers, your presence,
your gifts, and your service?

I will.

Reception into the Local Congregation

Let those who are members of other congregations
of The United Methodist Church,
and who now desire to enter

into the fellowship of this congregation,
present themselves to be welcomed.

Commendation and Welcome

Brothers and sisters

I commend to your love and care

Sister Yvonne Borders who we this day receive
into the membership of this congregation.

Do all in your power to increase her faith,
confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

We rejoice to recognize you

**as a member of Christ's holy Church,
and bid you welcome to this congregation
of The United Methodist Church.**

**With you we renew our vows to uphold it
by our prayers, our presence,
our gifts, and our service.**

**With God's help we will so order our lives
after the example of Christ**

**that, surrounded by steadfast love,
you may be established in the faith,
and confirmed and strengthened in the way
that leads to life eternal.**

God, the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit
bless, preserve, and keep you,
now and evermore. **Amen.**

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

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

"Why Me"

49 Listen to me, coastlands; pay attention, peoples far away. The
Lord called me before my birth, called my name when I was in my
mother's womb.

Isaiah 49:1, 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 — 01/01/2023	
In-Person	47
Zoom	16
Total	63

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.



Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHRlYlJxK284Zz09>,

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, January 19th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Sunday, January 22nd (morning service) — **An Invitation to Worship Sunday** (your opportunity to ask someone to join you in service or invite them to Zoom) and **An Order for Installation of Officers and Leaders**

Sunday, January 29th (following morning service) — Conversation with members from **Sacred Gardens**. Need additional information, please speak with 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/stmarks1md>)

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
Brother John B. Catchings*

***Celebration of Life:** Saturday, January 21, 2023 – 2:00 p.m.
C.W. Morris – J.W. Henry Funeral Home
12700 Hamilton Avenue * Highland Park, MI 48203
(www.morrishenryfuneralhome.com)*

Note: The service will be streamed live. There will be a viewing at the funeral home on Friday, January 20, 2023, from 1:00 pm–8:00 pm.

*Condolence to Rev. David and Beverly Shelton on the
passing of their daughter, Monique*

*Expressions of Sympathy can be sent to:
154 Goulding Avenue | Buffalo, NY 14208*

*Condolence to Sister Lynn Jennrich
on the passing of her cousin, Steve Scroggs*

*Travel mercy as she travels to Durham, NC for his Celebration of Life on
Saturday, January 21st*

Elizabeth Day, Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette Harvey, David Burley Sr., All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Shawn Settles, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, 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

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Umbrenda Fisher

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Ruth Miller

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Edlin Chambers

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Grace Elaine Catchings

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