

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@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, June 11, 2023

Second Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers: Jacqueline Vaughn and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, Worship Leader

Prelude Rev. Henry Tindel

Lighting of the Candles.....Usher

Gathering SongSt. 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: Lord, we come to you loaded down with the busyness of our agendas.

People: **What then shall we do?**

Leader: Lord, we come to you lonely for relationships broken and loved ones
seemingly as busy as we are.

People: **What then shall we do?**

Leader: Lord we come to you confessing our failing to do right.

People: **What then shall we do?**

Leader: Compassionate God, have mercy on us and give us eyes to see the "Joy"
in the presence of your Son.

ALL: **We come into your Holy presence seeking peace of mind.**

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
 what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

 Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
 O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms. (*Refrain*)
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
 I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms. (*Refrain*)

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*Unison*)

Creative God, your presence is unfailing, and our perspective is limited. We have sought our own answers instead of seeking your wisdom. We have bowed to the idols of wealth and materialism rather than answering to the invitation to participate in community service in your name. For the sake of your Son, help us to start anew; please close the gap between us through the cross of Christ. Forgive us and make us whole. **Amen.**

The Invocation **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

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

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Lord, God, may the hearing of your WORD today inspire us to see you high and lifted up so that our lights may shine brightly into the world around us.

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**

(*Exodus 3:1–10, Common English Bible*)

3 Moses was taking care of the flock for his father-in-law Jethro, Midian's priest. He led his flock out to the edge of the desert, and he came to God's mountain called

Horeb. ² The Lord’s messenger appeared to him in a flame of fire in the middle of a bush. Moses saw that the bush was in flames, but it didn’t burn up. ³ Then Moses said to himself, Let me check out this amazing sight and find out why the bush isn’t burning up.

⁴ When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!”

Moses said, “I’m here.”

⁵ Then the Lord said, “Don’t come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground.” ⁶ He continued, “I am the God of your father, Abraham’s God, Isaac’s God, and Jacob’s God.” Moses hid his face because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷ Then the Lord said, “I’ve clearly seen my people oppressed in Egypt. I’ve heard their cry of injustice because of their slave masters. I know about their pain. ⁸ I’ve come down to rescue them from the Egyptians in order to take them out of that land and bring them to a good and broad land, a land that’s full of milk and honey, a place where the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites all live. ⁹ Now the Israelites’ cries of injustice have reached me. I’ve seen just how much the Egyptians have oppressed them. ¹⁰ So get going. I’m sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.”

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Acts 2:42–47, Common English Bible)

⁴² The believers devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. ⁴³ A sense of awe came over everyone. God performed many wonders and signs through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were united and shared everything. ⁴⁵ They would sell pieces of property and possessions and distribute the proceeds to everyone who needed them. ⁴⁶ Every day, they met together in the temple and ate in their homes. They shared food with gladness and simplicity. ⁴⁷ They praised God and demonstrated God’s goodness to everyone. The Lord added daily to the community those who were being saved.

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Blessing of the Offering Sister Cynthia Whitfield
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(John 4:19–24), Common English Bible)

¹⁹ The woman said, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you and your people say that it is necessary to worship in Jerusalem.”
²¹ Jesus said to her, “Believe me, woman, the time is coming when you and your people will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You and your people worship what you don’t know; we worship what we know because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the time is coming—and is here!—when true worshippers will worship in spirit and truth. The Father looks for those who worship him this way. ²⁴ God is spirit, and it is necessary to worship God in spirit and truth.”

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 PreparationSt. Mark’s Choir

Inspirational MessageRev. Eugene W. Matthews

“We Are on Holy Ground”

⁴ When the Lord saw that he was coming to look, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” Moses said, “I’m here.” ⁵ Then the Lord said, “Don’t come any closer! Take off your sandals, because you are standing on holy ground.” (Exodus 3:4–5)

Praise and Prayer Concerns.....Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call.....Rev. Eugene W. Matthews
Invitation Selection

BenedictionRev. Eugene W. Matthews

St. Mark's United Methodist Church
Dedication of Civil Rights Trail Sign

Pastor Matthews: Brothers and Sisters in Christ we have come for the purpose of dedicating this Civil Rights trail sign in the name of our Creator God.

People: We give thanks to God who has brought us this far by Faith.

Song of Faith

We've Come This Far By Faith

Purpose and Recognition of Day

Sister Sandra Johnson, Church Historian

Presentation and Background of Civil Right's Sign

Ms. Meagon Baco and Ms. Ann Bennet

Sister Sandra Johnson: I present this Civil Rights sign to be dedicated in honor and memory of our fore parents and to the honor of God.

Brother David Burley, Sr. (Trustee Chairman): We, the St. Mark's Trustees, accept this Civil Rights Sign as a sacred trust and will guard it reverently in loving memory of our founding fore parents and to the honor of God.

Congregation: Blessed be the name of God, whose WORD has long been proclaimed within this hallowed place. We give you thanks, O God. As generations have worshipped on this Holy Ground, your spirit has blessed countless worshipers and from this place have gone forth ministries to the community and world. For this and many other endeavors which have sprung from this historical place, WE GIVE YOU THANKS, O GOD.

Pastor Matthews (Benedictional Prayer): Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept, we pray the gift of this Civil Rights Trail Sign as a marker of the faithful witness of many generations. May those who read this sign be impacted because of the faith of our fore parents, who despite many challenges, continued to proclaim your name for more than a century from this Hallowed place. Above all may we also remain faithful in your service in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

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 — 06/04/2023

In-Person	48
Zoom	9
Total	57

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.) — **On hiatus until September.**

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, June 15th (7:00 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Saturday, June 24th (9:00 a.m.) — **Car Wash** sponsored by Emancipation Committee. Come get your lunch, good fellowship and have your car wash (for a moderate donation).



Sunday, June 25th (following service) — A presentation will be made by **Mr. Hilton Mills, On Air Applications**. The presentation will focus upon the expansion and addition to our multimedia Ministry (Digital Evangelism). Additional information will be provided each week leading up to the meeting. Please answer and pray on the following questions below and share with anyone who may be interested.

1. Do you or someone you know have a passion or interest in working with audio visual equipment?
2. Do you or someone you know have a desire to learn new skills as it relates to audio visual and virtual platforms?
3. Are you or someone you know able to commit time to learn and execute skills for the betterment of the church?
4. Would you or someone you know like to problem solve while working with a team on a weekly basis in a Christian environment?
5. Would you or someone you know want to learn how and help our church reach the world on a virtual platform?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, please submit your name to Pastor Matthews or Min. Nena Hughes for consideration as a member of this ministry.

Registration for the 11th Annual St. Mark's Emancipation Day In-Person and Virtual Diabetes 5K Run/Walk/Fun Walk is open. To register or donate go to <https://bit.ly/stmarks5k>. There will also be a native plant giveaway at the finish line. For additional information, please contact Jackie Jones.

Sunday, July 16th (3:00 p.m.) — **Celebrating the 40th Year Anniversary for Rev. Dr. William E. Butler** (Queens Chapel UMC). *Additional information on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.*

Note from Finance: First, 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.

St. Mark's UMC Emancipation Day

REV. EUGENE W. MATTHEWS, PASTOR

**11TH Annual In-Person and Virtual
Diabetes 5k Run/ Walk/ Fun Walk**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023



8:00 AM Rain or Shine



**Alice B. McCullough Field
Montgomery & Eighth Street
Laurel, MD**

USATF Certified Course Professionally
Timed by Blue Cheetah Sports Timing, LLC

Register here: <https://bit.ly/stmarks5k>

**Native plant
Giveaway at finish
line**





***"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.

Carol Quick, Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette and Elaine Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Shawn Settles, Floyd Hughes Sr., Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Chantel Ashley, Beverly Wright, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Francis Desouza 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

1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Grace Elaine Catchings

15505 Clayburn Drive
Laurel, MD 20707
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560