

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

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 18, 2023

Third Sunday After Pentecost



Ushers: Chandler and Christian Tindel and Isaiah Brooks

Order of Service

Brother Thomas Matthews, 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 Brother Thomas Matthews

Leader:O Lord, our relationship with our fathers can be complicated.

People:For some of us, our Father's love is like God's love.

Leader:God's love is too deep, too long, too wide and too strong to comprehend.

People:Some of our Father's are here and some were never here.

Leader:Lord, all of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our
Father.

People:On this day when we remember what it means to have a Father or be a
Father, we recognize the importance of Fathers in our communities.

All: We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the Fathers among us that they may be able to manifest the love of God in all they do.

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"Faith of Our Fathers"

1. Faith of our fathers, living still, in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword; O how our hearts beat high with joy whene'er we hear that glorious word! Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.
2. Faith of our fathers, we will strive to win all nations unto thee; and through the truth that comes from God, we all shall then be truly free. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.
3. Faith of our fathers, we will love both friend and foe in all our strife; and preach thee, too, as love knows how by kindly words and virtuous life. Faith of our fathers, holy faith! We will be true to thee till death.

Prayer for Father's Day (*Unison*)

Loving God, you who art our Father and Mother, we thank you that you have shown us how important it is to follow your example as we continue to grow in our faith. We come today treasuring our Christian fathers who are guardians of your creation. Many of our Fathers have endeavored to be models of faith, freedom and strength for our families. In the name of the Fathers who have loved and raised us, we give you thanks and praise. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation Brother Thomas Matthews
Song of Meditation St. Mark's Choir

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

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

Scripture Reading #1 Brother Thomas Matthews
(Genesis 22:1–14, Common English Bible)

22 After these events, God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!"

Abraham answered, "I'm here."

² God said, "Take your son, your only son whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah. Offer him up as an entirely burned offering there on one of the mountains

that I will show you.” ³ Abraham got up early in the morning, harnessed his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, together with his son Isaac. He split the wood for the entirely burned offering, set out, and went to the place God had described to him.

⁴ On the third day, Abraham looked up and saw the place at a distance. ⁵ Abraham said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey. The boy and I will walk up there, worship, and then come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the entirely burned offering and laid it on his son Isaac. He took the fire and the knife in his hand, and the two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, “My father?”

Abraham said, “I’m here, my son.”

Isaac said, “Here is the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the entirely burned offering?”

⁸ Abraham said, “The lamb for the entirely burned offering? God will see to it, my son.” The two of them walked on together.

⁹ They arrived at the place God had described to him. Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He tied up his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to kill his son as a sacrifice. ¹¹ But the Lord’s messenger called out to Abraham from heaven, “Abraham? Abraham?”

Abraham said, “I’m here.”

¹² The messenger said, “Don’t stretch out your hand against the young man, and don’t do anything to him. I now know that you revere God and didn’t hold back your son, your only son, from me.” ¹³ Abraham looked up and saw a single ram caught by its horns in the dense underbrush. Abraham went over, took the ram, and offered it as an entirely burned offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ Abraham named that place “the Lord sees.” That is the reason people today say, “On this mountain the Lord is seen.”

Scripture Reading #2 Brother Thomas Matthews
(*2 Corinthians 6:11–18, Common English Bible*)

¹ Corinthians, we have spoken openly to you, and our hearts are wide open. ¹² There are no limits to the affection that we feel for you. You are the ones who placed boundaries on your affection for us. ¹³ But as a fair trade—I’m talking to you like you are children—open your hearts wide too.

¹⁴ Don’t be tied up as equal partners with people who don’t believe. What does righteousness share with that which is outside the Law? What relationship does

light have with darkness? ¹⁵ What harmony does Christ have with Satan? What does a believer have in common with someone who doesn't believe? ¹⁶ What agreement can there be between God's temple and idols? Because we are the temple of the living God. Just as God said, *I live with them, and I will move among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people.* ¹⁷ Therefore, *come out from among them and be separated, says the Lord. Don't touch what is unclean. Then I will welcome you.* ¹⁸ *I will be a father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.*

SelectionSt. Mark's Choir

Special Presentation Jaime Whitfield-Coffen

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsBrother Thomas Matthews

Blessing of the OfferingBrother Thomas Matthews

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Brother Thomas Matthews

(Luke 15:11–20), Common English Bible)

¹¹ Jesus said, “A certain man had two sons. ¹² The younger son said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the inheritance.’ Then the father divided his estate between them. ¹³ Soon afterward, the younger son gathered everything together and took a trip to a land far away. There, he wasted his wealth through extravagant living.

¹⁴ “When he had used up his resources, a severe food shortage arose in that country and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ He hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to eat his fill from what the pigs ate, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have more than enough food, but I’m starving to death! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I no longer deserve to be called your son. Take me on as one of your hired hands.” ’ ²⁰ So he got up and went to his father.

“While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him.

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

"Be There"

²⁰ So he got up and went to his father. "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with compassion. His father ran to him, hugged him, and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)

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

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

Invitation Selection

BenedictionRev. Eugene W. Matthews

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 — 06/11/2023	
In-Person	75
Zoom	7
Total	82

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.



THANKS TO MY ST. MARK'S FAMILY: You filled my day with acts of love through cards, telephone calls and various text messages with a variety of colorful balloons and birthday wishes. The birthday expressions began early in the morning and continued until the evening hour (11p.m.). The month of June has been rich as I have had the opportunity to receive birthday gifts from the Birthday Coordinator, Sister Carolyn Jones, and the supreme gifts were all of the expressions that I have expressed in this note of thanks.

May God continue to bless The St. Mark's Congregation

Pastor Matthews

Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — On hiatus

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 22nd (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 — Special Offering (Peace with Justice) — Your Peace with Justice Sunday gifts change lives in places where the joy of knowing Christ is mixed with the tragedy of violence. United Methodists relate to this special Sunday by seeking peaceful solutions, creating and supporting peace-related ministries in their conference and learning about peaceful, just efforts around the world.

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.

Sunday, July 9th (morning service) — Student Recognition. We will be recognizing our children for the 2022/2023 school year. Please send all achievements to Jaime Whitfield-Coffen, through church email or 240.535.1336.

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.

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



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.



***"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

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240.245.4560

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Grace Elaine Catchings

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



Fathers

by Alicia Anderson

*Father's are the strength of the family,
To bond us and hold us together.*

*Always there to mediate the household,
A determined mentor we look to lead altogether.*

*He's the bodyguard that protects us,
And gives us comfort from all harm.*

*He constantly offers compassion,
Always offering up his arm.*

*To stand behind us endlessly,
Though at times in darkness we tend to fall.*

*He's always there to guide us to the light,
For us to follow from his call.*

*With years to come, day by day,
We grow from the nest we grew.*

*In hopes to become something great,
For I hope to someday be like you.*

*A Father's love is never ending,
Always there with a heart pure of gold.*

*I love you Dad forever,
I know you'll always be my stronghold.*

Happy Father's Day