

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, July 23, 2023

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers:

Ralph Laguerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

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 WorshipSister Cynthia Whitfield

Leader: We have come to worship our Creator God.

People: Our week has been challenging as we strived to serve you.

Leader: We live with expectations from others and ourselves.

People: However, today we find peace in the one who has created us.

Leader: Come, may your steps be steady and purposeful.

People: We are precious in the Lord's sight.

ALL: We have come to bless you and to hear your promises!!

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided;
great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

- 2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. ***Refrain***

- 3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! ***Refrain***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*In Unison*)

Holy God, your truth challenges us to see the reality of who we are in our sinfulness. Our thoughts are not your thoughts, nor our ways your ways. Because we fail to keep clear the difference between being loyal citizens of an earthly nation and citizens of your realm, we easily lose the perspective of Jesus. But you call us to be salt and leaven, to speak and live the gospel in the society in which we live and to give what is due to Caesar but to God what is to be given to God. Forgive, O God, for all of our failures and cleanse us of our sins. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Invocation **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
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 many servants for your ministry in this world, so may we be used for your Glory and Honor. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
(*Joshua 24:14–24, Common English Bible*)

¹⁴ “So now, revere the Lord. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “God forbid that we ever leave the Lord to serve other gods! ¹⁷ The Lord is our God. He is the one who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage. He has done these mighty signs in our sight. He has protected us the whole way we’ve gone and in all the nations through which we’ve passed. ¹⁸ The Lord has driven out all the nations before us, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.”

¹⁹ Then Joshua said to the people, “You can’t serve the Lord, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God. He won’t forgive your rebellion and your sins. ²⁰ If you leave the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn around and do you harm and finish you off, in spite of having done you good in the past.”

²¹ Then the people said to Joshua, “No! The Lord is the one we will serve.”

²² So Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the Lord.”

They said, “We are witnesses!”

²³ “So now put aside the foreign gods that are among you. Focus your hearts on the Lord, the God of Israel.”

²⁴ The people said to Joshua, “We will serve the Lord our God and will obey him.”

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(2 Corinthians 9:6–14, Common English Bible)

⁶ What I mean is this: the one who sows a small number of seeds will also reap a small crop, and the one who sows a generous amount of seeds will also reap a generous crop.

⁷ Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn’t give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ God has the power to provide you with more than enough of every kind of grace. That way, you will have everything you need always and in everything to provide more than enough for every kind of good work. ⁹ As it is written, *He scattered everywhere; he gave to the needy; his righteousness remains forever.*

¹⁰ The one who supplies seed for planting and bread for eating will supply and multiply your seed and will increase your crop, which is righteousness. ¹¹ You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous in every way. Such generosity produces thanksgiving to God through us. ¹² Your ministry of this service to God’s people isn’t only fully meeting their needs but it is also multiplying in many expressions of thanksgiving to God. ¹³ They will give honor to God for your obedience to your confession of Christ’s gospel. They will do this because this service provides evidence of your obedience, and because of your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone. ¹⁴ They will also pray for you, and they will care deeply for you because of the outstanding grace that God has given to you.

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
(Luke 9:57–62, Common English Bible)

⁵⁷ As Jesus and his disciples traveled along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸ Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and the birds in the sky have nests, but the Human One has no place to lay his head.”

⁵⁹ Then Jesus said to someone else, “Follow me.”

He replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰ Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead. But you go and spread the news of God’s kingdom.”

⁶¹ Someone else said to Jesus, “I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say good-bye to those in my house.”

⁶² Jesus said to him, “No one who puts a hand on the plow and looks back is fit for God’s kingdom.”

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

“A Challenge To Be Faithful”

“But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the Lord.”

Joshua 24:15, CEB

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 — 07/16/2023

In-Person	37
Zoom	11
Total	47

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**

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — **On hiatus**

Thursday, July 20th (7:00 p.m.) — **No Rehearsal. Be in sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 30th.**

Sunday, August 13th (2:00 p.m.) — **Crab Feast** to benefit Emancipation Day. (8400 Mission Rd, Jessup MD). **Donation:\$75 per person.** For tickets or additional info: Tina Thomas-Matthews, Patricia Mundell, Larry Powell. **Flyer on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.**

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>.

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/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 needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730), reveugene@comcast.net.

Marken Smith (friend of Gemma), 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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Umbrenda Fisher

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Grace Elaine Catchings

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Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

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**



CRAB FEAST

**RIDGELY RUN
COMMUNITY
CENTER**

**8400 MISSION
ROAD
JESSUP, MD 20794**

\$75

PER PERSON

Contacts for Tickets:

Tina Thomas-Matthews (301) 775-0837

Patricia Mundell (410) 227-3156

Larry Powell (443) 422-1274

MENU

- * CHICKEN
- * ROAST BEEF
- * COLE SLAW
- * TOSSED SALAD
- * CORN ON THE COB
- * CHESAPEAKE CHIPS
- * CAKE
- * WATERMELON
- * SODAS + WATER

AUGUST 13 2023

2PM

UNTIL

6PM

MUSIC PROVIDED
BY GUEST
DJ