

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

Students, Educators and School Support Personnel Recognition Day

**"Champions don't
become champions when
they win an event, but in
the hours, weeks, months
and years they spend
preparing for it."**

Michael Jordan



St. Mark's UMC Students!

Remember you have everything you need to be a champion. You were created by God and therefore, you are fearfully and wonderfully made. It's not always going to be easy, and nothing will be handed to you. It takes grit, perseverance, commitment and most importantly faith. Put in the work, prepare for your blessing, be a positive example and light to others, be steadfast, and know that God is always with you. He will direct your path and YOU WILL WIN... You're a Champion! Congratulations on a wonderful school year.

We love each of you and we are proud of you!

Pastor Matthews & St. Mark's UMC Congregation



Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, July 9, 2023

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers:

Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews

Order of Service

Principal Jaime Coffen, 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 Worship Principal Jaime Coffen

Leader: By faith, we trust that we were created in the image of God.

People: By faith, we hope and dream and make plans.

Leader: By faith, we face our fears and insecurities.

People: By faith, we till the soil of our lives and plant seeds of love.

Leader: By faith, we follow where God leads.

People: By faith, we trust that God is present in our midst.

All: By faith, we gather in this place to worship God together.

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"This Is the Day"

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice, let us rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made. ***(repeat)***

I will enter His gates with thanksgiving in my heart, I will enter His courts with praise, I will say this is the day the Lord hath made I will rejoice for He has made me glad. ***(repeat)***

He has made me glad, He has made glad, I will rejoice for He has made me glad. He has made me glad, He has made glad, I will rejoice for He has made me glad. ***(repeat)***

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice, let us rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made. ***(repeat)***

Prayer of Confession and Assurance. Eli Coffen

Leader: Faith, "is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen". It is *by faith* that we are able to confess our sins before God and each other. It is *by faith* that we trust in God's love, mercy and forgiveness. Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, We are not always people who live *by faith*. We know that we were created in your image, but we treat ourselves and each other in ways that do not honor your presence within us. We know your laws and your commandments, but we choose to disobey you and to act in ways that harm our neighbors. We hear your call to reach out to those most in need, but instead we turn our backs on them and on you. Forgive us, O God, and help us day by day to become more faithful followers and the people you created us to be. In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Leader: What we have hoped for is true. What we cannot see has been made known. God’s forgiveness is certain and sure. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to God!

The Lord’s Prayer

The Invocation **Principal Jaime Coffen**
Song of Meditation.....**St. Mark’s Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

God of Infinite Wisdom, You have been faithful to your people throughout time. Calm our minds. Open our ears and our hearts this day that we might still hear of your faithfulness. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Jaylah Robertson** (*Middle School*)
(*Joshua 1:1–9, NIV*)

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: ²“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Scripture Reading #2David Burley, III (*Elementary School*)
(1 Timothy 4:12–16, NIV)

¹² Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. ¹³ Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. ¹⁴ Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

¹⁵ Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that everyone may see your progress. ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.

***Recognition of Early Childhood, Elementary
and Middle School Students***

Jaime Coffen and Rev. Eugene Matthews

SelectionSt. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Principal Jaime Coffen

Blessing of the Offering Principal Jaime Coffen
Offertory

***A Word About Summer Slide –
What Is It and Why It Matters!***

Jaime Coffen

***Recognition of Middle School Graduates, High School
Students and Graduates, and College***

Jaime Coffen and Rev. Eugene Matthews

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Jaden Coffen (*College Student*)
(Luke 2:41–52, NIV)

⁴¹ Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. ⁴² When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³ After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴ Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹ "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

⁵¹ Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

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.**

*Recognition of Educators and
School Support Personnel*

Jaime Coffen and Rev. Eugene Matthews

Hymn of Preparation St. Mark's Choir

Inspirational MessageRev. Eugene W. Matthews

“You Are Never Too Young”

Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.

1 Timothy 4:12 (NIV)

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 — 06/25/2023

In-Person	41
Zoom	14
Total	55

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 13th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

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.

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/stmarksmd>)

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.

*Condolence to the family of
Brother Eric F. Moore*

9455 Lanham Severn Rd | Lanham, MD

Visitation: Friday, July 14, 2023 (10:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m.)

Funeral: 11:00 a.m.

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

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301.312.7465 (Grace cell)

A Prayer for Students, Educators and School Support Personnel

Gracious God, thank you for teaching us. You give us wisdom now to help us in the future. We are grateful for this new year in which we may grow in faith, friendship, and the love of Jesus. We pray for all students in our community. Thank you for their curiosity, hope, and kindness. Help our students to listen for your voice, as they explore Scripture and seek to live what they believe. We pray for all teachers. Thank you for giving them dedication, experience, and insight. Sustain them by your Spirit with creativity, patience, peace, and joy. Continually guide and bless all parents, families, and the whole congregation throughout this year. We ask this in the name of Jesus, who asked and answered many questions. **Amen.**

“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future” (Proverbs 19:20).

“After three days they found [Jesus] in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers” (Luke 2:46-47).

"Champions don't become champions when they win an event, but in the hours, weeks, months and years they spend preparing for it."

Michael Jordan

