

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, August 6, 2023

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

Ushers:

Sharon Thomas and Jacqueline Vaughan

Order of Service

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 Sister Jaime Coffen

Leader: How vast are the works of your hand, O Lord!

People **The heavens themselves declare your glory!**

Leader: How close you draw to us in the life of your Son.

People: **With all creation we sing your praises!**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit draw us into your presence.

People: **Come, let us worship in the Spirit and in truth.**

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"Whole World in His Hand"

- 1 He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- 2 He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the wind and the rain in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- 3 He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.
He's got the little tiny baby in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- 4 He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got you and me, brother, in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- 5 He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got you and me, sister, in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.
- 6 He's got everybody here in his hands.
He's got everybody here in his hands.
He's got everybody here in his hands.
He's got the whole world in his hands.

Prayer of Confession and Assurance *(In Unison)*

Holy God, every moment of our lives you are with us. But in worship we are especially aware of your presence. May we listen to you today with open minds and hearts. It must hurt you when you see the attention that we give to the voices around us, quiet our spirits that we may be

able to hear you more clearly. Help us to fully appreciate how you bridged the communication gap in Christ. Inspire us to take full advantage of the unlimited data, text, and voice plan that you give us. Let us know we don't have to wrestle at all and that your presence is right next to us. In the Name of Jesus, we pray. **Amen.**

The Invocation **Sister Jaime Coffen**
Song of Meditation.....**St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Jaime Coffen**
(*Genesis 32:23–31, Common English Bible*)

²³ He took them and everything that belonged to him, and he helped them cross the river. ²⁴ But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. ²⁵ When the man saw that he couldn't defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob's thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob's thigh as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ The man said, "Let me go because the dawn is breaking."

But Jacob said, "I won't let you go until you bless me."

²⁷ He said to Jacob, "What's your name?" and he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then he said, "Your name won't be Jacob any longer, but Israel, because you struggled with God and with men and won."

²⁹ Jacob also asked and said, "Tell me your name."

But he said, "Why do you ask for my name?" and he blessed Jacob there. ³⁰ Jacob named the place Peniel, "because I've seen God face-to-face, and my life has been saved." ³¹ The sun rose as Jacob passed Peniel, limping because of his thigh.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Jaime Coffen
(Romans 9:1–5, Common English Bible)

9 I’m speaking the truth in Christ—I’m not lying, as my conscience assures me with the Holy Spirit: **2** I have great sadness and constant pain in my heart. **3** I wish I could be cursed, cut off from Christ if it helped my brothers and sisters, who are my flesh-and-blood relatives. **4** They are Israelites. The adoption as God’s children, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the worship, and the promises belong to them. **5** The Jewish ancestors are theirs, and the Christ descended from those ancestors. He is the one who rules over all things, who is God, and who is blessed forever. Amen.

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Jaime Coffen

Blessing of the Offering Sister Jaime Coffen
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Sister Jaime Coffen
(Matthew 14:13–21, Common English Bible)

13 When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. **14** When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. **15** That evening his disciples came and said to him, “This is an isolated place and it’s getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.”

16 But Jesus said to them, “There’s no need to send them away. You give them something to eat.”

17 They replied, “We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish.”

18 He said, “Bring them here to me.” **19** He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish,

looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. ²¹ About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

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

“Wrestling With God”

²⁴ But Jacob stayed apart by himself, and a man wrestled with him until dawn broke. ²⁵ When the man saw that he couldn’t defeat Jacob, he grabbed Jacob’s thigh and tore a muscle in Jacob’s thigh as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ The man said, “Let me go because the dawn is breaking.” But Jacob said, “I won’t let you go until you bless me.”

Genesis 32:24–26, CEB

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

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

Holy Communion
Thanksgiving and Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth, And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for

many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray...

The Lord’s Prayer *(sung by choir)*

Breaking the Bread

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

Giving the Bread and Cup

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.

The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

Dismissal with Blessing

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**



Happy Birthday and Anniversary August Members



Birthday

Jacqueline Jones – 1st
Vicki Cager – 2nd
Jason Wright – 2nd
Vaughn Johnson – 6th
Venita Stratford – 7th
Aniya Latney – 9th
Tiara Matthews – 9th
Larry Powell – 11th

Andrea Gibson – 11th
George Gibson, Sr. – 11th
Nakia Austin – 14th
Jazmen Dustin – 22nd
Gloria Thomas – 26th
Ravon Roy – 26th
Sherman Roy – 28th
Wayne Coffen – 29th

Anniversary

Bob & Grace Catchings –
53 yrs. – 8/8
Vaughn & Sandra Johnson
52 yrs. – 8/21

Tyrone & Patricia Mundell –
45 yrs. – 8/25)
Troy Sr. & Andrea –
35 yrs. – 8/27
Sherman & Erica Roy –
30 yrs. – 8/28

Heavenly Birthday

Emory Gibson – 4th
Tyrone Mundell – 11th

Eunice Harding – 29th
Mildred Awkward – 7th

Announcements

Wearing a mask while in the sanctuary is at your discretion.

Worship Attendance — 07/30/2023	
In-Person	43
Zoom	13
Total	56

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, August 10th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

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/stmarks1md>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.

CRAB FEAST

RIDGELY RUN
COMMUNITY
CENTER

8100 MISSION
ROAD
JESSUP, MD 20794

\$75

PER PERSON

Contacts for Tickets:

Ina 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



*“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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