

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

The Church I Grew Up In

Song by Tasha Cobbs Leonard

Songwriters: Kalley Heiligenthal, Jessie Early, Anna Golden

[The Church I Grew Up In \(Performance Video\)](#)

*There's a little, white church in Georgia with the steeple still attached.
When all those cars drive by they don't know what they just passed. No
fancy signs, one service time and the doors always unlocked. It's the first
place that I saw the hand of God.*

Chorus

*You couldn't tell me there wasn't healing in those walls. You couldn't tell
me angels didn't walk those halls. On a Wednesday night or Sunday
morning we didn't have much, but Jesus loved it
If you wanna know why I am the way I am, It's the church I grew up in.*

*There's tear stains still in the carpet. Communion in the back,
And none of us were perfect, but we all tried our best. The mothers'
prayers still in the air for the ones who've walked away. And the only
thing that kept us was God's grace. (Chorus)*

*From wedding vows to funerals. The church bells, they still ring. It's
where I learned the gospel and my mom taught me to sing. And you can
try to tell me the church isn't alive today, but I know that it is so I'll tell
my kids (Chorus)*

*God's church is still alive today, oh His power is still here. His power is
still here and you can try to tell me the church isn't alive today, but I
know that it is and I'll keep telling my kids.*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, September 24, 2023

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Annual Homecoming

“God Is Not Through With Us Yet”

“I’m sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus”.

Philippians 1:6 (CEB)

Order of Service

Ushers:

Ralph Laguerre, Thomas Matthews, Tyrone Mundell

Sister 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: O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come.

People: **You are our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.**

Leader: A thousand ages in thy sight, are like an evening gone.

People: **Short as the watch that ends the night, before the rising sun.**

Leader: To God be the Glory for the great things he has done.

ALL: **Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!, Praise the Lord.**

Hymn of Praise St. Mark's Choir / Congregation

"To God Be the Glory"

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!
So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

- Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the earth hear his voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!
2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,
to every believer the promise of God;
the vilest offender who truly believes,
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (*Refrain*)
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;
but purer, and higher, and greater will be
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (*Refrain*)

Homecoming Prayer *(In Unison)*

This morning we gather on this **Homecoming Sunday** to celebrate who we are and give thanks as we gather again in this Holy Space. We celebrate our spirituality and the High God who has traveled with us all of our days. We affirm that we are on a journey, often from can't to can. We can do this because **"GOD IS NOT THROUGH WITH US YET"**. We still have a song to sing. We have a story to tell. We have heroes and heroines to recall. We also have our own faith journey to share and our own rituals to rehearse. We have a God to praise, we have a Christ to uplift, and we have a Holy Spirit to magnify. Above all we have come to praise God for another Homecoming celebration at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Praise God! **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(sung)*..... **St. Mark's Choir/Congregation**

The Invocation..... **Sister Jaime Coffen**

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

The Prayer of Illumination *(In Unison)*

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. May we find the power and wisdom of God in the words we hear today. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Sister Jaime Coffen**
(1 Kings 19:2–15, Common English Bible)

² Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah with this message: "May the gods do whatever they want to me if by this time tomorrow I haven't made your life like the life of one of them."

³ Elijah was terrified. He got up and ran for his life. He arrived at Beer-sheba in Judah and left his assistant there. ⁴ He himself went farther on into the desert a day's journey. He finally sat down under a solitary broom bush. He longed for his own death: "It's more than enough, Lord! Take my life because I'm no better than my ancestors." ⁵ He lay down and slept under the solitary broom bush.

Then suddenly a messenger tapped him and said to him, "Get up! Eat something!" ⁶ Elijah opened his eyes and saw flatbread baked on glowing

coals and a jar of water right by his head. He ate and drank, and then went back to sleep. ⁷ The Lord's messenger returned a second time and tapped him. "Get up!" the messenger said. "Eat something, because you have a difficult road ahead of you." ⁸ Elijah got up, ate and drank, and went refreshed by that food for forty days and nights until he arrived at Horeb, God's mountain. ⁹ There he went into a cave and spent the night.

The Lord's word came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁰ Elijah replied, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too!"

¹¹ The Lord said, "Go out and stand at the mountain before the Lord. The Lord is passing by." A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the Lord. But the Lord wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the Lord wasn't in the earthquake. ¹² After the earthquake, there was a fire. But the Lord wasn't in the fire. After the fire, there was a sound. Thin. Quiet. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his coat. He went out and stood at the cave's entrance. A voice came to him and said, "Why are you here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He said, "I've been very passionate for the Lord God of heavenly forces because the Israelites have abandoned your covenant. They have torn down your altars, and they have murdered your prophets with the sword. I'm the only one left, and now they want to take my life too."

¹⁵ The Lord said to him, "Go back through the desert to Damascus and anoint Hazael as king of Aram."

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Jaime Coffen
(*Philippians 1:1–6, Common English Bible*)

1 From Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.

To all those in Philippi who are God's people in Christ Jesus, along with your supervisors and servants.

² May the grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

³ I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. ⁴ I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. ⁵ I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. ⁶ I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus.

SelectionSt. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Jaime Coffen

Blessing of the Offering Sister Jaime Coffen

**Special Offering — Homecoming
Offertory**

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel) Sister Jaime Coffen
(Matthew 16:13–18, Common English Bible)

¹³ Now when Jesus came to the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Human One is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

¹⁵ He said, “And what about you? Who do you say that I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Then Jesus replied, “Happy are you, Simon son of Jonah, because no human has shown this to you. Rather my Father who is in heaven has shown you. ¹⁸ I tell you that you are Peter. And I'll build my church on this rock. The gates of the underworld won't be able to stand against it.

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.**

Introduction of Speaker Sister Cynthia Whitfield

Hymn of PreparationSt. Mark's Choir

Inspirational MessageRev. Robert Morgan
First Bethel Baptist Church, Kettering MD

“So Great the Journey, Why Are You Here”?

Message based on 1 Kings 19:2–15

Praise and Prayer Concerns.....Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord

Invitation / Altar Call.....Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord
Invitation Selection

Benediction

Rev. Robert Morgan

Reverend Robert Morgan was born and raised in Millwood, Virginia. Upon graduating from high school in Northern Virginia, Reverend Morgan attended Career Academy School of Broadcasting located in Washington DC.



After many years of staying away from his roots (the church), Reverend Morgan joined Jericho Baptist Church of Largo MD where he served under Pastor Joel Nelson. It was there that God began to ignite Reverend Morgan's passion for Christ as he served in various ministries. He was lifting his voice in praise on two choirs; he served as a trustee, Sunday school teacher, choir president, Sunday morning devotion leader and much more.

For five years, Reverend Morgan was led to spread the good news of God through outreach ministries at Central Union Mission in Washington DC, and Golden Oaks Senior Home in Laurel MD. He also teamed with Antioch Baptist of NE Washington for three years in their outreach programs. After receiving the call to preach the gospel, Reverend Morgan began his biblical studies at Washington Bible College and North Carolina Theological Institute.

In 1994, Reverend Morgan joined Park View Baptist Church in Landover, MD and was licensed and ordained in 1998. Reverend Morgan served as the Assistant to the Pastor at Park View Baptist Church for 22 years before joining Dr. Lehman Bates in 2018 at First Bethel Baptist Church in Kettering MD. Reverend Morgan is married with three beautiful Daughters and five grandchildren.

His favorite scripture is Galatians 2:20 – *I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ liveth in me...*

“Without the Lord Jesus Christ in my life, the above short BIO is meaningless. God is keeping us alive”

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 09/17/2023

In-Person	31
YouTube	11
Total	42

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. include in your prayer, can include the healing, government leaders, educational youth and most importantly for our and each other.



Some areas to pandemic, racial challenges, our sick and shut-ins

Chair / Co-Chairs needed for **Women's Day**. If you are interested, please let Jackie or Millicent know. Thank you.

Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>; Meeting ID: **885 7118 4455**; Passcode: **459563**

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This study is based on the Upper Room reading for Wednesday. **Call in info:** 267.807.9611, **Access Code:** 331960.

Thursday, September 28th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**

Saturday, September 30th — **Nena's Cold Oven Pound Cake Challenge** is back in memory of Mrs. Mildred Awkward. If you would like to participate, please see Jackie Jones for details and a recipe.

Sunday, October 1st — **World Communion Sunday**. United Methodists, in conjunction with other denominations and believers worldwide, participate in communion to recognize our unity in Jesus

Christ, our Lord and Savior. This universal and inclusive connection is the foundation of the **special offering** for World Communion Sunday.

Sunday, October 15th (10:00 a.m.) — **133rd Church Anniversary** — **“God Is Not Through With Us Yet”**. **Preacher: Rev. Terry McCain, Pastor**, Hopkins/Mt. Gregory Charge UMC. **If possible, a sacrificial offering is \$1 for each year is requested.**

Saturday, October 21st (11:00 a.m.) — **Annual Church Conference**, Nichols Bethel UMC (1239 Murray Road, Odenton, MD). **Asking all reports to be given to the church office to meet the District deadline of October 11th**. All members of the congregation are invited to be present with authorization to have their voice and vote.

Sunday, October 22nd (10:00 a.m.) — **Laity Sunday. Speaker: Sister Darlene Washington, Lay Leader**, Franklin United Methodist Church, Churchton, Maryland.

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.



***“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.

Harold (Bubby) Awkard, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, Diane Gaskin Breedy (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., Chantel Ashley, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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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