

# *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](mailto: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, October 22, 2023*

*Twenty – First Sunday After Pentecost  
Laity Sunday*



*Breast Cancer Awareness Month*  
*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*



## *Order of Service*

*Ushers:*

*Thomas Matthews and Ralph Laquerre*

*Jaime Whitfield-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 .....Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

Leader: Make a Joyful noise to God!

**People: Sing the glory of God's name.**

Leader: Come and see all God has done.

**People: Sing the glory of God's name.**

Leader: God's steadfast love holds us safe forever.

**People: Sing the glory of God's name.**

**ALL: Let us all sing together to the Glory of God!**

**Hymn of Praise ..... St. Mark's Choir / Congregation**

***"Blessed Assurance"***

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

***Refrain:***

- This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.
2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (***Refrain***)
  3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. (***Refrain***)

**Litany For Laity Sunday** (*In Unison*)

Leader: From the beginning, God entered into covenant with the human family with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Deborah, Ruth, and Jeremiah.

**People: Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us into the covenant and makes us ministers of Christ's righteousness.**

Leader: All Christian ministry is Christ's work of outreaching love. It demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship.

**People: All Christians are called to Christ's servanthood in the world, to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.**

Leader: The Church, as the community of the new covenant, participates in Christ's ministry of grace.

**People: It stretches out to human needs wherever service may convey God's love and ours.**

Leader: In our ministry of servanthood is this ultimate concern:

**People: That all may be renewed in the image of their Creator, and that all Christians are called to minister in deeds and words that heal and free. Amen.**

**The Lord's Prayer** (*Sung*)

**The Invocation**.....**Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

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

**The Prayer of Illumination** (*In Unison*)

God source of all light, by your Word you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding that our hearts and minds may be open to hear the written Holy words this day. **Amen.**

**Scripture Reading #1** .....**Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

*(Exodus 32:1-14, Common English Bible)*

**32** The people saw that Moses was taking a long time to come down from the mountain. They gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come

on! Make us gods who can lead us. As for this man Moses who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we don't have a clue what has happened to him."

<sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, "All right, take out the gold rings from the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup> So all the people took out the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He collected them and tied them up in a cloth. Then he made a metal image of a bull calf, and the people declared, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"

<sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf. Then Aaron announced, "Tomorrow will be a festival to the Lord!" <sup>6</sup> They got up early the next day and offered up entirely burned offerings and brought well-being sacrifices. The people sat down to eat and drink and then got up to celebrate.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses: "Hurry up and go down! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, are ruining everything! <sup>8</sup> They've already abandoned the path that I commanded. They have made a metal bull calf for themselves. They've bowed down to it and offered sacrifices to it and declared, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "I've been watching these people, and I've seen how stubborn they are. <sup>10</sup> Now leave me alone! Let my fury burn and devour them. Then I'll make a great nation out of you."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses pleaded with the Lord his God, "Lord, why does your fury burn against your own people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and amazing force? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'He had an evil plan to take the people out and kill them in the mountains and so wipe them off the earth'? Calm down your fierce anger. Change your mind about doing terrible things to your own people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, whom you yourself promised, 'I'll make your descendants as many as the stars in the sky. And I've promised to give your descendants this whole land to

possess for all time.”<sup>14</sup> Then the Lord changed his mind about the terrible things he said he would do to his people.

**Scripture Reading #2 .....Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**  
*(Philippians 4:1–9, Common English Bible)*

**4** Therefore, my brothers and sisters whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord.

Loved ones, <sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I’m also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life.

<sup>4</sup>Be glad in the Lord always! Again I say, be glad! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. <sup>7</sup>Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>From now on, brothers and sisters, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. <sup>9</sup>Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.

**Selection .....St. Mark’s Choir**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /**

**Announcements .....Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**

**Blessing of the Offering .....Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**  
**Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Jaime Whitfield-Coffen**  
*(Matthew 22:1–14, Common English Bible)*

**22** Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding party for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent

his servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn't want to come. <sup>4</sup> Again he sent other servants and said to them, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Look, the meal is all prepared. I've butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything's ready. Come to the wedding party!"' <sup>5</sup> But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. <sup>6</sup> The rest of them grabbed his servants, abused them, and killed them.

<sup>7</sup> "The king was angry. He sent his soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. <sup>8</sup> Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren't worthy. <sup>9</sup> Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.'

<sup>10</sup> "Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. <sup>11</sup> Now when the king came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. <sup>12</sup> He said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But he was speechless. <sup>13</sup> Then the king said to his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.'

<sup>14</sup> "Many people are invited, but few people are chosen."

**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 ..... Rev. Eugene Matthews**

**Hymn of Preparation ..... St. Mark's Choir**

**Inspirational Message ..... Sister Darlene Washington**

*Lay Leader*

*Franklin United Methodist Church, Churchton, MD*

**Invitation / Praise and Concerns**

**Altar Call ..... Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

**Benediction**

## *Darlene M. Washington*

Darlene is a native of Anne Arundel County, born in Shady Side, Maryland to the late Charles McKinley and Myrtle Matthews Thompson. She now resides in West River, Maryland and is the widow of the late Rev. Johnnie Washington, the mother of two sons, John R. Miller, Jr. and Quincy J. Miller, raised one granddaughter Michelle Miller Turner as her daughter and has eight other grandchildren and three great grands.



Darlene was educated at a time of segregation in Anne Arundel County, therefore was educated in all black schools; Shady Side Elementary, graduated from Wiley H. Bates High School, Annapolis, Maryland and Cortez Peters Business College, Washington, DC. She has numerous certifications from Anne Arundel Community College in Computer Software and Principles of Management and Supervision.

Darlene retired after working 38 years. She was employed from 1964 to 1972 as the first black female hired by the Davidson Transfer and Storage Company, Washington, D.C. The last thirty years of employment was with Anne Arundel County. In 1984 she was promoted as the first African-American female to hold the position of Recreation Supervisor. It was in this capacity that she provided a broad scope of quality and innovative recreation and enrichment programs for the citizens of Anne Arundel County, for which she received numerous awards and citations and was recognized as the Department's Employee of the Year on several occasions. She is especially proud to have provided employment opportunities for so many African-American youths in Severna Park, Downs Park, Annapolis, Quiet Waters Park and in the South County region of Anne Arundel County.

Darlene serves her local church as well as the Baltimore-Washington Conference of the United Methodist Church as the Registrar for the Annual Conference. She is the Lay Leader, Certified Lay Speaker, and former Church Administrator for Franklin U.M.Church, Churchton, Maryland. Darlene is the former Administrator of the Har-Pearl Spruill Foundation, Inc. Summer Enrichment Program held at five church locations in Annapolis and in the Churchton-Shady Side community. She has been dedicated to the youth of her church, community, and with the Annapolis District and Baltimore-Washington Conference, serving as Registrar and a team leader with the BWC Youth ROCK Retreat.

Presently she is serving as the Treasurer of the Annapolis Chapter, Delicados, Incorporated, Financial Secretary and past President of the National Delicados, Inc. This is a civic organization that provides academic scholarships to high school graduates, financially supports National Council of Negro Women, Community Health Projects, National Negro College Fund, Sickle Cell Foundations, HIV/AIDS, and disaster projects, i.e. American Red Cross among other community outreach projects. Darlene serves on several community Boards: The Community Health Center of Parole, Inc., Bay Community Health, and the Har-Pearl Spruill Foundation, Inc.

Recognition for her volunteer work in the community, she was the recipient of numerous awards to include the 2009 NAACP Freedom Fund Award, 2019 Sigma Gamma Rho Eta Zeta Sigma Chapter's Woman of Excellence Award, 2020 General Assembly Citation for dedication and



advocating for the Southern Anne Arundel County Community, 2021 Fannie Lou Hamer Award sponsored by the MLK, Jr. Committee.

Darlene spends most of her time serving the community, whether it is church, civic organizations, or personal interests. She has a servant lifestyle; it is part of her being. As long as she can remember, her parents and paternal grandparents always outreached to the community; taking others in their home to live, raising farm animals and planting fields of vegetables to feed others. Her father and grandfather employed and trained others in their trade of oystering and building boats in the family's former marina on Chester Ave in Eastport. She says that service to others has been ingrained in her; it is what her parents taught her from an early age and what God has commanded that she do!

## *“A Great Day... Praise God”.*

This expression represents the marvelous and spiritual celebration of the 133<sup>rd</sup>.observance of the Anniversary of St. Mark’s UMC that was experienced last Sunday. The message delivered by Rev. Terry McCain was both powerful and relevant. The music under the direction of Rev. Henry Tindal was very moving. A thoughtful and concise reflection of St. Mark’s history was offered by Sister Sandra Johnson. The spiritual atmosphere within the walls of the sanctuary was electrifying.

Also incorporated within the worship service was the observance of Pastor’s Appreciation Month led by Sister Jaime Coffen, SPRC Chairperson. Rev. Dr. Louis Shockley, Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord and Rev. Dr. Eugene Matthews were recognized. Rev. Matthews was presented with two tickets to the November 12 Baltimore Ravens game. He was shocked and surprised!

The celebration ended with a scrumptious, sit- down meal prepared by the Culinary Ministry under the leadership of Brother Larry Powell and Sister Tina Thomas Matthews.

*Thank  
You*

# Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 10/15/2023	
In-Person	63
YouTube	12
Total	75

## 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, our youth and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



**Tuesday Women's Roundtable** (6:30 p.m.) — **Book Study** — **Purpose Driven Life**. 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, October 26<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir Rehearsal**



**Volunteers Needed!** Decorate your car and/or bring a few bags of candy! Let Tina Matthews know how you can help! Candy being collected today and Tues. or Thurs. from 10am to 2pm or bring it with you to the event.

**Bring your kiddos to Sunday Service and come back for Trunk or Treat!**

Hope to see you there!

**Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat**, April 25<sup>th</sup>–April 27<sup>th</sup> at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum. For information and reservations, please see Nena Hughes. \$100 deposit (by October 22<sup>nd</sup>) will hold your reservation.

**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>)



*“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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net).

Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, 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, Beverly Wright, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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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