

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

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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***

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***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, April 7, 2023*

## *Second Sunday of Easter*

*Ushers: Gemma Desouza-Ottley and Ralph Laguerre*

### *Order of Service*

*Sister Jaime Coffen, Worship Leader*

**Prelude .....Mr. Sheldon King**

**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: You who are thirsty, come to the waters of life.

**People: O God, your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives.**

Leader: You who are hungry, come to God's banquet of love.

**People: O God, your goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our lives.**

Leader: You who are yearning for wholeness, come to God's pasture of peace and unity.

**ALL: O God, your goodness and mercy follows us all the days of our lives**

*“Blessed Assurance”*

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, 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 communion, 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 bless'd,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *[Refrain]*

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

Loving God, we confess that we would like to be great, but doubt enters in. Even more, we would like to be known for our greatness, but doubt enters in. Forgive us of our foolish pride, along with our doubting. May we hear the good news, that we can experience in knowing and feeling the presence of the living Lord. Allow us to believe, without a shadow of doubt, the living presence of the living Lord. In The Name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

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

**Scripture Reading #1 ..... Sister Jaime Coffen**

*(Acts 4:32–35, Common English Bible)*

**Sharing among the believers**

<sup>32</sup> The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, “This is mine!” about any of their possessions, but held everything in common. <sup>33</sup> The apostles continued to bear powerful witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and an abundance of grace was at work among them all. <sup>34</sup> There were no needy persons among them. Those who owned properties or houses would sell them, bring the proceeds from the sales, <sup>35</sup> and place them in the care and under the authority of the apostles. Then it was distributed to anyone who was in need.

**Scripture Reading #2 ..... Sister Jaime Coffen**

*(1 John 1:1—2:2, Common English Bible)*

**Announcement about the word of life**

**1** We announce to you what existed from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have seen and our hands handled, about the word of life. **2** The life was revealed, and we have seen, and we testify and announce to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.

**3** What we have seen and heard, we also announce it to you so that you can have fellowship with us. Our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. **4** We are writing these things so that our joy can be complete.

**The message: God is light**

**5** This is the message that we have heard from him and announce to you: “God is light and there is no darkness in him at all.” **6** If we claim, “We have fellowship with him,” and live in the darkness, we are lying and do not act truthfully. **7** But if we live in the light in the same way as he is in the light, we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from every sin. **8** If we claim, “We don’t have any sin,” we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **9** But if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from everything we’ve done wrong. **10** If we claim, “We have never sinned,” we make him a liar and his word is not in us.

## **Living in the light**

2 My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you don't sin. But if you do sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous one. <sup>2</sup> He is God's way of dealing with our sins, not only ours but the sins of the whole world.

**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**  
*(John 20:19–31, Common English Bible)*

### **Jesus appears to the disciples**

<sup>19</sup> It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

### **Jesus appears to Thomas and the disciples**

<sup>24</sup> Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

<sup>26</sup> After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!”

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don’t see and yet believe.”

<sup>30</sup> Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples’ presence, signs that aren’t recorded in this scroll. <sup>31</sup> But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God’s Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

**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 Preparation** ..... **St. Mark’s Choir**

**Inspirational Message** ..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

***“I Doubt It”***

<sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!”

<sup>28</sup> Thomas responded to Jesus, “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:27–28 (CEB))

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

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

***Holy Communion***  
***The Great Thanksgiving for***  
***Easter Day or Season***

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 formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us on the way of life.

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. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

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."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

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.

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** *(St. Mark's 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 April Members



## Birthday

<i>Alexandra Dustin – 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Francis DeSouza – 14<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Robert Catchings (Mr. Bob) – 2<sup>nd</sup></i>	<i>Patricia Mundell – 20<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Thomas Matthews – 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Jaime Coffen – 21<sup>st</sup></i>
<i>Dwight Jackson – 3<sup>rd</sup></i>	<i>Tashana Johnson Frink – 23<sup>rd</sup></i>
<i>Isaiah Brooks – 4<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Arielle Drew King – 24<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Devin Roy – 6<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Maurice (Michael) Carey – 25<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Deidre Burley-Ballard – 9<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>David E. Burley III – 27<sup>th</sup></i>
<i>Danielle King – 13<sup>th</sup></i>	<i>Janet Carey – 27<sup>th</sup></i>

## Anniversary

<i>Joseph &amp; Deidre Ballard – 8<sup>th</sup></i> <i>(18 yrs.)</i>	<i>Tenaya &amp; Camisha Gibson – 29<sup>th</sup></i> <i>(3 yrs.)</i>
<i>Charles &amp; Barbara Gregg – 12<sup>th</sup></i> <i>(55 yrs.)</i>	

## Heavenly Birthday

*Catherine Burley – 22<sup>nd</sup>*

# Announcements

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

### Worship Attendance — 03/31/2023

In-Person	77
Zoom	16
Total	93

## 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.) — Join Zoom:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84500345294?pwd=TUR4ZGpySU5ub0E1blhUQVNnQW9YQT09>, Meeting ID: 885 7118 4455; Passcode: 459563

**Wednesday Night Experience** (7:15 p.m.) — This is our weekly Bible Study, based on the Wednesday reading in Upper Room. Call in #267.807.9611; Access Code: 331960.

**Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal.** Tina will update the choir through text.

Dr. George DeFord's recent book "**Oh, My Child, My Child**" has just been released. The book is available on Amazon: \$17. I wholly endorse everyone's investment of time and money regarding this writing by Dr. DeFord.

Pastor Eugene Matthews

*This is not goodbye,  
This is not Farewell...*

**Pastor's Goodbye/Farewell** — Additional details forthcoming. Thank you to those congregates who have volunteered to assist with planning. **Meeting Monday,**

**April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Zoom information:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433720948>; Meeting ID: 854 3372 0948

**Note from Finance:** First, let us give a big 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](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net).

*Condolence to the family (Hebron and Gibson) of Brother, Marvin Hebron  
Memorial Service, Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> (11:00 a.m.)  
Phelps Center (8<sup>th</sup> and Montgomery Streets, Laurel)*

Cynthia Whitfield, Delores Stratford, Keith Davis, Elba Hernandez, Nathaniel Watkins, Judith James, Isabella Dustin, Joseph Ballard, Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, 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, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Eric Smith, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk,

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