

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, May 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday

Ushers: Tyrone Mundell and Daryl Smith

Order of Service

Sister Venita Stratford-Smith, Worship Leader

Prelude Elder Kelvin Brown

Lighting of the Candles

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 Venita Stratford-Smith

Leader: Let us rejoice today in god's presence.

People: Let us sing praises to God.

Leader: Let us rise up and dive away all fear.

People: Let us sing praises to God.

Leader: Let us praise God who brings unity and prosperity.

People: Let all heaven and earth sing praises to God. Let our praise and adoration be pleasing to the Lord our God.

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, our hearts inspire:

ALL: By your Spirit's power, O Lord bring us joy and healing. Bless the Lord, O My Soul Let Us Praise God.

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

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Refrain:

Every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.
Yes, every time I feel the spirit moving in my heart, I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain, my Lord spoke, out his mouth came fire and smoke. All around me looks so shine, ask my Lord if all was mine. ***(Refrain)***
2. Jordan river runs right cold, chills the body, not the soul. Ain't but one train on this track, runs to heaven and right back. ***(Refrain)***

Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*

Again today, God, we will hear that " when the day of Pentecost had come the disciples gathered together. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Help us to be aware that you are present with us, as real today as on this day of Pentecost as to the first disciples in ancient Jerusalem. Give us a sense of expectation and excitement in our gathering this morning. Help us to live in the assurance that your spirit gives us new beginnings and that your love is always available to your people. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer *(Sing)*

The Invocation.....Sister Venita Stratford-Smith
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 your peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1Sister Venita Stratford-Smith
(Acts 2:1–21, Common English Bible)

2 When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. ⁴ They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

⁵ There were pious Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd gathered. They were mystified because everyone heard them speaking in their native languages. ⁷ They were surprised and amazed, saying, “Look, aren’t all the people who are speaking Galileans, every one of them? ⁸ How then can each of us hear them speaking in our native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; as well as residents of Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the regions of Libya bordering Cyrene; and visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), ¹¹ Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the mighty works of God in our own languages!” ¹² They were all surprised and bewildered. Some asked each other, “What does this mean?” ¹³ Others jeered at them, saying, “They’re full of new wine!”

¹⁴ Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words! ¹⁵ These people aren’t drunk, as you suspect; after all, it’s only nine o’clock in the morning!

¹⁶ Rather, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ *In the last days, God says,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your young will see visions.
Your elders will dream dreams.*

¹⁸ *Even upon my servants, men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days,
and they will prophesy.*

¹⁹ *I will cause wonders to occur in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,*

blood and fire and a cloud of smoke.
²⁰ *The sun will be changed into darkness,
and the moon will be changed into blood,
before the great and spectacular day of the Lord comes.*
²¹ *And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*

Scripture Reading #2 **Sister Venita Stratford-Smith**
(*Romans 8:22–27, Common English Bible*)

²² We know that the whole creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now. ²³ And it's not only the creation. We ourselves who have the Spirit as the first crop of the harvest also groan inside as we wait to be adopted and for our bodies to be set free. ²⁴ We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit comes to help our weakness. We don't know what we should pray, but the Spirit himself pleads our case with unexpressed groans. ²⁷ The one who searches hearts knows how the Spirit thinks, because he pleads for the saints, consistent with God's will.

Selection **St. Mark's Choir**

**Acknowledgement of Visitors /
Announcements** **Sister Venita Stratford-Smith**

The Blessings of Motorcycles

Brother Daryl Smith: I present these Motorcycles to be dedicated to the Glory of God, who is the source of all blessings.

People: **We pray for your blessings and enablement and that these motorcycles may be used as God's instruments and purpose.**

Pastor: To the glory of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit we come to bless these motorcycles today.

People: **We present these motorcycles to be blessed to the Glory of God.**

Pastor: To the realization of their potential for service of the families and those who are in possession of the cycles.

People: We pray for your protection as well as for your blessings.

Pastor: In grateful acknowledgement of all who assisted in the acquisition of these motorcycles.

People: We now pray for more blessings upon their lives that they may continue to be instruments of God's purpose.

Pastor: As the dedication of these motorcycles is in vain without the solemn concentration of those whose gifts it represents, let us now give ourselves anew to the service of God.

People: We give ourselves anew to Christ for service and ministry so that our lives will bring glory to his name and bring blessings wherever we go.

Pastor: I now consecrate and bless these motorcycles and ask safety and protection upon those who will ride them these blessings I pray in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

ALL: Praise God from who all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Blessing of the OfferingSister Venita Stratford-Smith
Offertory**

**Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Venita Stratford-Smith
(John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15, Common English Bible)**

²⁶“When the Companion^[a] comes, whom I will send from the Father—the Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the Father—he will testify about me. ²⁷You will testify too, because you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴But I have said these things to you so that when their time comes, you will remember that I told you about them.

“I didn’t say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I go away to the one who sent me. None of you ask me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶Yet because I have said these things to you, you are filled with sorrow. ⁷I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don’t go away, the Companion won’t come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸When he comes, he will show the world it was wrong about sin, righteousness, and judgment. ⁹He will show the world it was wrong about sin because they don’t believe in me. ¹⁰He will show the world it was wrong about righteousness because I’m going to the Father and you won’t see me anymore. ¹¹He will show the world it was wrong about judgment because this world’s ruler stands condemned.

¹²“I have much more to say to you, but you can’t handle it now. ¹³However, when the Spirit of Truth comes, he will guide you in all truth. He won’t speak on his own, but will say whatever he hears and will proclaim to you what is to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and proclaim it to you. ¹⁵Everything that the Father has is mine. That’s why I said that the Spirit takes what is mine and will proclaim it to you.

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

“Change”

“When Pentecost Day arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. (Acts 2:1–2 (CEB))

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection

Benediction

Please congregation and YouTube participants remain seated for a brief meeting from SPRC

Announcements

Worship Attendance — 05/12/2024

In-Person	66
YouTube	11
Total	77

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.



Thank You

Rev. DeFord would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for supporting his book by purchasing or your encouraging words.

Tuesday Women's Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — On hiatus

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, May 23rd (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**



Sunday, May 26th — **“Peace with Justice”** is a denomination-wide celebration intended to raise awareness that even in a world plagued by war and terror, violence and destruction, people of faith have a clear call to build peace with justice. **Special offering will be taken.**

Monday, June 3rd (7:30 p.m.) — Farewell Committee Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433720948>;

Meeting ID: 854 3372 0948

This is not goodbye,
This is not Farewell...* **Sunday, June 23rd (10:00 a.m.)— Pastor's Goodbye/Farewell.** The theme is **"I'm Done – Stick A Fork In It!"** — *Well done, good and faithful servant!* A barbeque is being planned to feature some of Pastor Matthew's favorite foods. Please come out and share this celebration with us.

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.

*Condolence to the family of the late
Bernadette (Susie) King*

*Howell Funeral Home
10220 Guilford Road
Jessup, Maryland 20794*

Celebration of Life

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Viewing: 10:00 a.m. — Funeral: 11:00 a.m.

*Condolence to the family of the late
Shawn Settles*

*Howell Funeral Home
10220 Guilford Road
Jessup, Maryland 20794*

Celebration of Life

Friday, May 24, 2024

Viewing: 10:00 a.m. — Funeral: 11:00 a.m.

Rico Harper, Delores Stratford, Keith Davis, Elba Hernandez, Nathaniel Watkins, Judith James, 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, 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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