

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 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter



*Ushers: Alexandra Dustin, Kamille Quick,
Jalah and Jalani Robertson,*

Order of Service

Sister Jaime Coffen, 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 Jaime Coffen

Leader: Mothers come in many forms and today we celebrate all mothers.

People: Thank God for Mothers.

Leader: Everyone here is either a son or daughter of a Mother.

People: Thank God for Mothers.

Leader: For those Mothers who have joined God in Heaven.

People: Thank God for Mothers of the past.

Leader: For every woman who is working to raise her children.

People: Thank God for Mothers of today.

ALL: WE have gathered to celebrate all Mothers.

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

"Faith of Our Mothers"

1. Faith of our mothers, living still,
in spite of dungeon, fire, and sword;
O how our hearts beat high with joy
whene'er we hear that glorious word!

Refrain:

Faith of our mothers, holy faith!
We will be true to thee till death.

2. Faith of our mothers, we will strive
to win all nations unto thee;
and through the truth that comes from God,
we all shall then be truly free. ***[Refrain]***
3. Faith of our mothers, we will love
both friend and foe in all our strife;
and preach thee, too, as love knows how
by kindly words and virtuous life. ***[Refrain]***

Litany for Mother's Day (*Unison*)

Leader: For all expectant Mothers.

People: Thank God for soon to be Mothers.

Leader: For women who are Mothers via adoption or foster care.

People: Thank God for Mothers with big hearts.

Leader: For women who have lost a child through death.

People: Thank God for women who are strong.

Leader: For all women who have wanted to have children of their own but chose instead to mother other children.

ALL: We thank you Lord, for women who have influenced our lives in so many ways. We pray that we will continue and honor all women everywhere on this MOTHER's DAY. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*Sing*)

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

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path of faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope and love in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 Sister Jaime Coffen
(Proverbs 31:24–31, Common English Bible)

- ²⁴ She makes garments and sells them;
she supplies sashes to traders.
- ²⁵ Strength and honor are her clothing;
she is confident about the future.
- ²⁶ Her mouth is full of wisdom;
kindly teaching is on her tongue.
- ²⁷ She is vigilant over the activities of her household;
she doesn't eat the food of laziness.
- ²⁸ Her children bless her;
her husband praises her:
- ²⁹ "Many women act competently,
but you surpass them all!"
- ³⁰ Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting,
but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.
- ³¹ Let her share in the results of her work;
let her deeds praise her in the city gates.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Jaime Coffen
(1 John 5:9–13, Common English Bible)

⁹ If we receive human testimony, God’s testimony is greater, because this is what God testified: he has testified about his Son. ¹⁰ The one who believes in God’s Son has the testimony within; the one who doesn’t believe God has made God a liar, because that one has not believed the testimony that God gave about his Son. ¹¹ And this is the testimony: God gave eternal life to us, and this life is in his Son. ¹² The one who has the Son has life. The one who doesn’t have God’s Son does not have life.

¹³ I write these things to you who believe in the name of God’s Son so that you can know that you have eternal life.

Selection St. Mark’s Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Jaime Coffen

“Recognition of Mothers”

Blessing of the Offering Sister Jaime Coffen
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)..... Sister Jaime Coffen
(John 17:6–19, Common English Bible)

⁶ “I have revealed your name to the people you gave me from this world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸ This is because I gave them the words that you gave me, and they received them. They truly understood that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

⁹ “I’m praying for them. I’m not praying for the world but for those you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ Everything that is mine is yours and everything that is yours is mine; I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ I’m no longer in the world, but they are in the world, even as I’m coming to you. Holy Father, watch over them in your name, the name you gave me, that they will be one just as we are one. ¹² When I was with them, I watched over them in your name, the name you gave to me, and I kept them safe. None of them were lost, except the one who was destined for destruction, so that

scripture would be fulfilled. ¹³ Now I'm coming to you and I say these things while I'm in the world so that they can share completely in my joy. ¹⁴ I gave your word to them and the world hated them, because they don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁵ I'm not asking that you take them out of this world but that you keep them safe from the evil one. ¹⁶ They don't belong to this world, just as I don't belong to this world. ¹⁷ Make them holy in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ I made myself holy on their behalf so that they also would be made holy in the truth.

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

“Praise God: For Women and Mothers”

²⁸ Her children bless her; her husband praises her: ²⁹ “Many women act competently, but you surpass them all!” ³⁰ Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. (Proverbs 31:28–30 (CEB))

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Invitation Selection

Benediction

Announcements

Worship Attendance — 05/05/2024	
In-Person	53
YouTube	21
Total	74

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 until September

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 16th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**

Sunday, May 19th (morning service) — **Blessing of Motorcycles**



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.**

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

The opportunity to **VOTE** will exist twice this year: The Primary Election (**May 14th**) and the General Election (**November 12th**). Many persons have marched, protested and died in order that we now have the privileges to cast our ballots. Please be informed, pray, **VOTE** and encourage your family and friends exercise their right to “**VOTE**”

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/stmarks/md>)

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.

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, 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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