

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, June 16, 2024

Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
Father's Day

Ushers:

Brothers Isaiah Brooks, Ralph and Jeremiah Laguerre

Order of Service

Sister Cynthia Whitfield, 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 Cynthia Whitfield

Leader: God of our Fathers and Creator we treasure our Christian Fathers.

People: **They follow in the line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**

Leader: As the Father of Jesus, God, you are the model of perfect love and nurture.

People: **Abba Father, Great Teacher, instruct our fathers in the ways of perfect love.**

Leader: We remember the weathered hands and gentle spirits of our own fathers.

People: In the name of the fathers who have loved and raised us, we give thanks.

Leader: Praise The Lord! Praise the Lord1, Praise The Lord.

ALL: Faith of our fathers is still living. Amen! Amen!

Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation

“Marching to Zion”

1. Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain:

We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion; we're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.

2. Let those refuse to sing who never knew our God; but children of the heavenly King, but children of the heavenly King may speak their joys abroad, may speak their joys abroad. ***(Refrain)***
3. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. ***(Refrain)***
4. Then let our songs abound, and every tear be dry; we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, we're marching through Emmanuel's ground, to fairer worlds on high, to fairer worlds on high. ***(Refrain)***

Prayer for Fathers *(Unison)*

We pray especially for our fathers, those long since departed from the earth and those still living among us. Let us thank God for all the good and faithful in their number, remembering before God their patient love, their ceaseless travail, and their unconquerable hope. Patient God, caring Father, be always present with your Holy Spirit now. Lord, hear the prayers that have been spoken and unspoken on behalf of fathers everywhere; now we beseech you to undergird and strengthen them to be faithful fathers who are living still. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit we pray.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(sing)*

The Invocation.....**Sister Cynthia Whitfield**
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 Cynthia Whitfield**
(1 Samuel 15:34—16:13, *Common English Bible*)

³⁴ Then Samuel went to Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah. ³⁵ Samuel never saw Saul again before he died, but he grieved over Saul. However, the Lord regretted making Saul king over Israel.

Samuel anoints David

16 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long are you going to grieve over Saul? I have rejected him as king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and get going. I’m sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem because I have found my next king among his sons.” ² “How can I do that?” Samuel asked. “When Saul hears of it he’ll kill me!” “Take a heifer with you,” the Lord replied, “and say, ‘I have come to make a sacrifice to the Lord.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will make clear to you what you should do. You will anoint for me the person I point out to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the Lord instructed. When he came to Bethlehem, the city elders came to meet him. They were shaking with fear. “Do you come in peace?” they asked. ⁵ “Yes,” Samuel answered. “I’ve come to make a sacrifice to the Lord. Now make yourselves holy, then come with me to the sacrifice.” Samuel made Jesse and his sons holy and invited them to the sacrifice as well. ⁶ When they arrived, Samuel looked at Eliab and thought, That must be the Lord’s anointed right in front. ⁷ But the Lord said to Samuel, “Have no regard for his appearance or stature, because I haven’t selected him. God doesn’t look at things like humans do. Humans see only what is visible to the eyes, but the Lord sees into the heart.” ⁸ Next Jesse called for Abinadab, who presented himself to Samuel, but he said, “The Lord hasn’t chosen this one either.” ⁹ So Jesse presented Shammah, but Samuel said, “No, the Lord hasn’t chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel, but Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord hasn’t picked any of these.” ¹¹ Then Samuel asked

Jesse, "Is that all of your boys?" "There is still the youngest one," Jesse answered, "but he's out keeping the sheep." "Send for him," Samuel told Jesse, "because we can't proceed until he gets here."¹² So Jesse sent and brought him in. He was reddish brown, had beautiful eyes, and was good-looking. The Lord said, "That's the one. Go anoint him."¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him right there in front of his brothers. The Lord's spirit came over David from that point forward. Then Samuel left and went to Ramah.

Scripture Reading #2 Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Philippians 3:4b-14, Common English Bible)

⁴ though I have good reason to have this kind of confidence. If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more: ⁵ I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews. With respect to observing the Law, I'm a Pharisee. ⁶ With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church. With respect to righteousness under the Law, I'm blameless. ⁷ These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. ¹⁰ The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death ¹¹ so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

¹² It's not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I myself don't think I've reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. ¹⁴ The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

AnnouncementsSister Cynthia Whitfield

Blessing of the OfferingSister Cynthia Whitfield
Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel).....Sister Cynthia Whitfield
(Mark 4:26–34, *Common English Bible*)

²⁶ Then Jesus said, “This is what God’s kingdom is like. It’s as though someone scatters seed on the ground, ²⁷ then sleeps and wakes night and day. The seed sprouts and grows, but the farmer doesn’t know how. ²⁸ The earth produces crops all by itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full head of grain. ²⁹ Whenever the crop is ready, the farmer goes out to cut the grain because it’s harvesttime.” ³⁰ He continued, “What’s a good image for God’s kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? ³¹ Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it’s the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; ³² but when it’s planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade.” ³³ With many such parables he continued to give them the word, as much as they were able to hear. ³⁴ He spoke to them only in parables, then explained everything to his disciples when he was alone with them.

The Doxology– “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”
(*Hymnal*, #95)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation St. Mark’s Choir

Morning Message Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

Brothers and sisters, I myself don’t think I’ve reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13–14, CEB

Praise and Prayer Concerns Rev. Eugene W. Matthews

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

Benediction

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 06/09/2024

In-Person	
YouTube	
Total	

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.



Thanks and much appreciation to the Men's Day Team (Brothers Wayne Coffen, Thomas Matthews and Larry Powell), for a highly Spiritual and up lifting Men's Day celebration!

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.

Monday, June 17th (7:30 p.m.) — Farewell Committee Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85433720948>;
Meeting ID: 854 3372 0948

Thursday, June 20th (6:30 p.m.) — Choir rehearsal

Looking for desserts for Rev. Matthew's celebration. If it is your desire, please let a member of Culinary know. Thank you.

*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.

Tuesday, June 25th (7:00 p.m.) — Special Church Conference. The express purpose of this conference is consideration of Nena Hughes as a candidacy for ministry. The presiding elder to facilitate the conference is Rev. Sarah Schlieckert. **If you would like to vote, you must be on camera.** Zoom information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82712828168>
Meeting ID: 827 1282 8168 (no passcode) **Call-In Number:** 301.715.8592.



Sunday, June 30th (morning service) — **Youth, Young Adults, Educators and School System Personnel Celebration.**

We will celebrate these special individual's educational endeavors and accomplishments, big and small. Please submit all student accomplishments by June 21st to Jaime Coffen. We don't want to exclude anyone from this celebratory Sunday.

Save the Date Sunday, August 11th (time to be determined — **Crab Feast** sponsored by Emancipation Day Committee.

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/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.

Rachel Hughes, 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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