

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | [stmarksfmd@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksfmd@gmail.com)*



*"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*

*Celebrating our Beloved Pastor,  
Rev. Dr. Eugene W. Matthews*



*July 2019 — June 2024*

*Welcome, as we gather here to worship!*

*Sunday, June 23, 2024*

## *Fifth Sunday After Pentecost*

*Ushers:*

*Brothers Francis DeSouza, Thomas Matthews, Daryl Smith*

### *Order of Service*

*Sister Nena Hughes, Worship Leader*

**Prelude ..... Elder Kelvin Brown**

**Lighting of the Candles**

*Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors*

**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 Nena Hughes**

**Leader:** When I think of God's presence in the world, I am grateful:

**People:** Grateful for the presence of hope; grateful for the gift of life.

Leader: And when I think of God's presence in my life, I am humbled:

**People: Humbled by the gift of grace; humbled by the invitation to begin again.**

Leader: And when I think of God's presence in this community, I am glad:

**People: Glad to be surrounded by holy people worshipping our Holy God. Thank you all; thank you, God.**

**Hymn of Praise..... Choir / Congregation**

### *“Down at the Cross”*

1 Down at the cross where my Savior died,  
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
Singin', Glory to His name!

***Refrain:***

Glory to His name, Precious name.  
Glory to His name, Precious name  
There to my heart was the blood applied;  
singin' Glory to His name, His name!

2 I am so wondrously saved from sin,  
Jesus so sweetly abides within;  
There at the cross where He took me in;  
singin' Glory to His name, His name! ***[Refrain]***

3 Oh, precious fountain that saves from sin,  
I am so glad I have entered in;  
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean;  
singin' Glory to His name, His name! ***[Refrain]***

4 Come to this fountain so rich and sweet,  
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet;  
Plunge in today, and be made complete;  
singin' Glory to His name, His name! ***[Refrain]***

**Prayer for Retirement** (*Unison*)

Heavenly Father! Thank you for allowing us to gather here today on this joyous occasion. Bless this happy re-union, in which we ask that you impart your blessing upon each of us. And we implore that you bestow a special blessing to our pastor, **Rev. Eugene Matthews** in this new road ahead entering his retirement. We also request that you grant your approval for everything that will be done here today and also impart your blessing on his family in an equal way. Through Jesus Christ our Lord we prayed. **Amen.**

**The Invocation**.....**Sister Nena Hughes**  
**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 Nena Hughes**  
(2 Corinthians 6:1–13, *Common English Bible*)

**6** <sup>1</sup> Since we work together with him, we are also begging you not to receive the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup> He says, *I listened to you at the right time, and I helped you on the day of salvation.* Look, now is the right time! Look, now is the day of salvation!

<sup>3</sup> We don't give anyone any reason to be offended about anything so that our ministry won't be criticized. <sup>4</sup> Instead, we commend ourselves as ministers of God in every way. We did this with our great endurance through problems, disasters, and stressful situations. <sup>5</sup> We went through beatings, imprisonments, and riots. We experienced hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger. <sup>6</sup> We displayed purity, knowledge, patience, and generosity. We served with the Holy Spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup> telling the truth, and God's power. We carried the weapons of righteousness in our right hand and our left hand. <sup>8</sup> We were treated with honor and dishonor and with verbal abuse and good evaluation. We were seen as both fake and real, <sup>9</sup> as unknown and well known, as dying—and look, we are alive! We were seen as punished but not killed, <sup>10</sup> as going

through pain but always happy, as poor but making many rich, and as having nothing but owning everything.

<sup>11</sup> Corinthians, we have spoken openly to you, and our hearts are wide open. <sup>12</sup> There are no limits to the affection that we feel for you. You are the ones who placed boundaries on your affection for us. <sup>13</sup> But as a fair trade—I'm talking to you like you are children—open your hearts wide too.

**Scripture Reading #2 (Gospel).....Sister Nena Hughes**  
*(Mark 4:35-41, Common English Bible), please stand*

<sup>35</sup> Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, “Let’s cross over to the other side of the lake.” <sup>36</sup> They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.

<sup>37</sup> Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. <sup>38</sup> But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him up and said, “Teacher, don’t you care that we’re drowning?”

<sup>39</sup> He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, “Silence! Be still!” The wind settled down and there was a great calm. <sup>40</sup> Jesus asked them, “Why are you frightened? Don’t you have faith yet?”

<sup>41</sup> Overcome with awe, they said to each other, “Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!”

**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.**

**Blessing of the Offering .....Sister Nena Hughes**  
**Offertory**

**Selection ..... St. Mark’s Choir**

# Reflections

## Family

*Reginald A. Matthews – Son*  
*Surprise Guest*

## Church Affiliations

*Barbara Bowman – Cecil Memorial UMC, Annapolis, 1965–1975*  
*Marvel Phyll – Central Summerfield UMC, Baltimore, 1975–1978*  
*Darlene Washington – Franklin UMC, Churchton, 2008–2015*  
*Marion Beckwith – Arlington Lewin UMC, Baltimore, 2015-2019*

## Pastor Affiliations

*Dr. Lavon Kincaid – Former District Superintendent*  
*Dr. Louis Shockley*  
*Minister Rose Thompson*  
*Rev. Terry McCain*

**Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir**

## Letters of Encouragement

*read by Sister Sandra Johnson*

*Rev. Sarah Schlieckert, District Superintendent*  
*for the Southern Annapolis Region*

*Anita King- Spann – Metropolitan UMC, Buffalo, NY 1978–1984*  
*Stephanie Lee – Sharp Street UMC, Baltimore, 1984–1988*  
*Carol Travis – Asbury UMC, Washington, DC, 1992–2004*  
*Dr. David Argo – Former District Superintendent*  
*Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord – Pastor Emeritus, St. Mark's-Laurel*

## Community and Church Organizations

*Laurel Police Department*  
*Church Council*  
*Outreach Ministry*  
*St. Mark's Choir*

**Selection ..... St. Mark's Choir**

**Morning Message ..... Sister Jaime Whitfield-Coffen  
Chair, SPRC**

***"I'm Done — Stick A Fork In It!"***

*"His master replied, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful servant. You've been faithful over a little. I'll put you in charge of much. Come, celebrate with me.'*

*Matthew 25:23. CEB*

**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	06/16/2024
<b>In-Person</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>YouTube</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>56</b>

## 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.



**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.

**Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>** (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.

**Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>** (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**



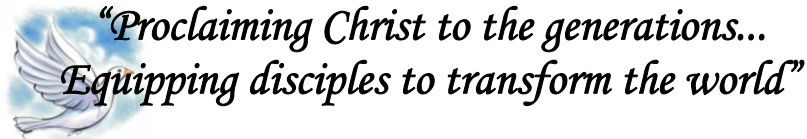
**Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup>** (morning service) — **Youth, Young Adults, Educators and School System Personnel Celebration.** We will celebrate these special individual's educational endeavors and accomplishments, big and small. Please submit all student accomplishments by today, June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Jaime Coffen. We don't want to exclude anyone from this celebratory Sunday.

**Save the Date Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** (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/stmarkslmd>)

Again, thank you. Just remember, even during the pandemic, the church building still has obligations that need to be met.



**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).

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

**Eunice Dumas**  
1909 Sheffield Court  
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410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**  
9160 Charlton Place  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Edlin Chambers**  
14904 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764

**Grace Elaine Catchings**  
15505 Clayburn Drive  
Laurel, MD 20707  
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)

**Ruth Miller**  
1206 Peachwood Lane  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

# *You Will Be Missed*

*C.A. Lynch*

*You'll be missed, dear pastor, beyond measure,  
A guide, a friend, a spiritual treasure.  
May your retirement be blessed and bright,  
Filled with joy, serenity, and God's light.*

*In the quiet moments, reflections of the past,  
May you find peace, joy, and love that'll last.  
Wishing you blessings, as you retire,  
A life well-lived, you are truly admired.*

**“I’M DONE — STICK A FORK IN IT!”**

*Well done, good and faithful servant!*

*Matthew 25:23*

