

134th Church Anniversary



*Sunday, October 20, 2024
10:00 a.m.*

*St. Mark's United Methodist Church
601 Eighth Street
Laurel, Maryland*

Rev. Walter L. Smith, Jr., Pastor

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarksmd@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. Walter L. Smith, Jr., Pastor

301.776.8885 | waltsmith561@gmail.com

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

*District Superintendent
for the Southern Annapolis Region*

134th Church Anniversary
“The Race Set Before Us!”

(Hebrews 12:1–2)

Twenty-Second Sunday After Pentecost



Breast Cancer Awareness Month
Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Ushers:

*Ralph Laguerre, Thomas Matthews,
and Tyrone Mundell*

Order of Service

Sister Sandra Johnson, Worship Leader

- Prelude** Brothers Gary Barham, Steve Andre Baily
and Justin Carter
- Lighting of the Candles** Brother Larry Powell
- Processional** St. Mark’s Choir and Clergy
- Greeting** Sister Sandra Johnson

Opening Hymn **Hymnal, #351**
“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”

Prayer **Minister Matilda Kamara**

Greeting/Call to Worship **Sister Sandra Johnson**
(please stand)

Leader: We gather, looking back to see the paths taken,

People: **looking forward to see our path.**

Leader: We honor those who have gone before us,

People: **learning from their successes and failures.**

Leader: We celebrate who we are today,

People: **and welcome the possibilities and opportunities
before us.**

Leader: We gather to worship God,

People: **the God of yesterday, today and tomorrow.**

Selection **St. Mark’s Choir**

Passing of the Peace

*As Christ came to serve, so now Christ invites us to serve one
another with peace and love. Share signs of this service with words
of peace and acts of love.*

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements **Sister Tina Thomas-Matthews**

Pastor’s Moment

Overview of Church History **Sister Sandra Johnson**

Selection **St. Mark’s Choir**

Offering Prayer **Sister Sandra Johnson**

Offering

Special Offering – Church Anniversary

Offertory

Scriptures **Sister Erica Roy**

Old Testament – *Job 38:1–7*

New Testament – *Mark 10:35–45 (please stand)*

Introduction of Speaker Sister Sandra Johnson
Sermonic Selection (*please stand*) **St. Mark's Choir**
Sermon **Minister Nena Hughes**
St. Mark's United Methodist Church

“The Race Set Before Us”

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, ² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1–2)

Invitation / Altar Call Rev. Walter L. Smith, Jr.
Invitation Selection

Recessional / Closing Hymn Rev. Walter L. Smith, Jr.
St. Mark's Choir

Extinguishing of Candles..... Brother Larry Powell

Benediction

Minister Nena Hughes



Minister Nena Hughes is originally from Laurel, Maryland where she along with her husband, Floyd Jr. and their family attend St. Mark's United Methodist Church. Minister Nena is a mother and a grandmother. She grew up here at St. Mark's and have served on various ministries since she was a child. She currently serves as Chair of the Church Council. Minister Nena firmly believes it makes no difference what may happen or how big a problem, the answer is always in God!

Receiving her call to ministry in 1999, Minister Nena has never stopped working for the Lord. Receiving her license in 2004, through the leadership of the beloved late Pastors William and Bridgette Thomas of Open Bible Ministries in Forestville, Maryland. She has always believed the pulpit is wherever you are—you don't need a microphone to share the Good News, just a willing heart.

Minister Nena loves to worship the Lord and fellowship with others, exchange of praise and worship is priceless! Minister Nena is dedicated and committed to the service of the Lord and has decided to go further in ministry as a candidate for Local Pastor. One of her favorite scriptures is *Isaiah 6:8*, "*I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here I am send me.*"

History of St. Mark's United Methodist Church

In 1890, the spirit of the Lord led Frank Carter and his wife Sarah (Hebron) Carter to organize the home mission known as **St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church**, as it was first called. Their home was located at 628 8th Street, then known as Church Street. The mission, which consisted of 28 parishioners, was organized under Rev. McHenry J. Naylor's supervision. Rev. Naylor, a circuit rider preacher, was appointed on trial to the all-black Washington Conference and assigned to the Bladensburg Circuit. From its founding in 1890 until 1965, St. Mark's belonged to an all-Black jurisdiction within the Methodist Church called the Washington Annual Conference.

Shortly after the mission was organized the congregation moved into a hall, given by the Hebron family, located at 599 Church Street. Later on, the congregation had the hall moved directly across the street to where St. Mark's Church is situated now and had it remodeled. In 1893, Rev. Steward A. Lewis was appointed the first pastor of St. Mark's Church. St. Mark's and Queen's Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church became the Laurel Charge, sharing the same minister. In 1895, Bacon's Chapel (now known as Mt. Zion) was added to the Laurel Charge. In 1898 St. Mark's Methodist Episcopal Church filed for incorporation. In 1901 the Laurel Charge acquired a parsonage for the Pastor at 603 8th Street, which was moved in 1960 to 804 West Street.

The cornerstone was laid for the original edifice on November 8, 1908. In 1912, electric lights were installed. On November 13, 1920, the church which accommodated 50 to 75 people was dedicated.

The congregation outgrew the original edifice, and in 1921 the building was sold to the Abraham Lodge and moved across the street. In 1921 the cornerstone was laid for a new sanctuary. The new church, which accommodated up to 150 people, was built at a cost of \$10,480, and was consecrated in the fall of 1923. The ruggedly handsome edifice is constructed of hand-molded cement blocks. Hanging in the belfry is one of three antique bells in Laurel churches. In preparation for the District Conference, which met at St. Mark's, toilets were installed in 1939.

In 1939, our church became **St. Mark's Methodist Church**, upon the merger of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and the Methodist Protestant Church.

Under Rev. Dr. Levi B. Miller's tenure, the offering envelopes were introduced, and our first organ was purchased. During Rev. Joseph Haskins' tenure (1953-1959), the Annual Homecoming (4th Sunday in September) became a tradition.

Rev. John Evans was appointed to the Laurel Charge from 1960–1969. In 1968, our church became **St. Mark's United Methodist Church** upon the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren.

In 1969, Mt. Zion separated from the Laurel Charge; becoming a station church with its own pastor. In 1976, Rev. Douglas Logan was appointed the first pastor of St. Mark's as a *station church* when the Laurel Charge was dissolved. Under Rev. Logan's leadership, construction plans were made for a renovation and expansion of the church. On Sunday, December 9, 1979, consecration services were held for the remodeled sanctuary and newly built Fellowship Hall.

In June 1982, Rev. George F. DeFord was appointed to St. Mark's as a part-time pastor. In January of 1993, Rev. DeFord became the first full-time pastor of St. Mark's. Rev. DeFord's tenure lasted 11 years. Rev. DeFord organized the acolyte and liturgist ministries and became involved in counseling family members of the incarcerated.

In July 1993, Rev. Patricia Pride became our first female pastor. In July 1994, Rev. Robert E. Walker, Jr. was assigned. Unfortunately, it was necessary to return to having a part-time pastor. In 1997, St. Mark's returned to having a full-time pastor with Rev. Vera Mitchell.

In July 2001, Rev. John T. Jennings II was appointed to St. Mark's. In 2002, St. Mark's began the "*Ordained To Build*" campaign to construct a new church.

Rev. Robbie Morganfield served from 2008–2014. On October 19, 2008 in honor of the church's 118th Anniversary, the parsonage was remodeled and named **The Level Place Ministry Center**.

Rev. Dr. Sonia L. King was appointed in July 2014. Rev. King served from 2014–2019. To provide opportunities for our members to spiritually grow, the following ministries were initiated or

continued: Winter Shelter for Men and Women who are homeless, Bible Study, Prayer Ministry, Christian Education, Adoption or James Harrison Elementary School, provided space for Bernadette's House, partnership with New Day and the Laurel Police Department, and obtained architectural drawings for church renovation.

In July 2019, St. Mark's welcomed Rev. Eugene Matthews as a part-time pastor. In March 2020, the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic shut down the world. For two Sundays, March 15 and March 22, worship services were held through telephone conference calls. Beginning March 29, 2020, our worship service was held virtually through ZOOM; facilitators, Jaime Whitfield-Coffen and Cynthia Whitfield. The pandemic did not stop us from moving forward. Remodeling projects were completed during the pandemic in the fall of 2020. The sanctuary was painted, and all lights were changed to LED. All church exterior doors were weather stripped. The Fellowship Hall was painted, and LED lights and engineered floors were installed. The kitchen was painted, and new cabinetry was installed. Both bathrooms were painted, ceramic floors and new sinks and toilets were installed. The bathroom entrance doors were also made to be handicapped accessible.

Outdoor services were held on the church parking lot on Sundays June 6, 2021, and July 4, 2021, with pandemic safety protocols in place. The other Sundays in June and July were held virtually on ZOOM. After 17 months, on Sunday August 1, 2021, our Worship Service was held in the sanctuary with pandemic safety protocols in place. Members could either attend the Worship Service in the Sanctuary or view the service virtually through ZOOM. Because of a new variant of Covid-19, St. Mark's returned to only virtual ZOOM services from December 26, 2021 until February 27, 2022. On March 6, 2022, Worship Service in the sanctuary resumed; ZOOM was also an option.

In March 2022, Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, our former Pastor from 1982–1993, became Pastor Emeritus.

On July 1, 2024, Rev. Walter Lee Smith, Jr. was assigned as Pastor.

St. Mark's has been led by 30 Pastors and 7 Assistant Pastors. Upon their retirements, Rev. John Evans, Rev. Louis Conway, and Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord served as **"Pastors Emeritus."**

Announcements

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

Worship Attendance — 10/13/2024	
In-Person	60
YouTube	20
Total	80

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.



Today, Sunday, October 20th (3:30 p.m.) — **134th Church Anniversary Gospel Concert.**

Monday (6:30 p.m.) — **Drop-In Bible Study.** The theme will be **Faith and Breast Cancer Awareness.** Led by Sister Jacqueline Jones.

Tuesday (6:00 p.m.) — **Women's Roundtable.** Led by Minister Nena Hughes. Join Zoom Meeting <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81636690166?pwd=ND8RYcSgUrBxg5e11aNwVV21Ms2B1l.1>; Meeting ID: 816 3669 0166; Passcode: 002740

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

Thursday, October 24th (6:30 p.m.) — **Choir rehearsal**



Saturday, October 26th (5:00 p.m.) — **Trunk or Treat.** From Rev. Smith: Kindly asking it to be absolutely no representative of the devil, ghost, goblins, witches, etc. We want to make this a Christian event making it safe for children to receive candy. **We are not celebrating Halloween!** You may dress up in a biblical theme or children friendly costumes. Thank

you for understanding. **Volunteers Needed!** Decorate your car and/or bring a few bags of candy! Let Tina Thomas-Matthews know how you can help!

Sunday, October 27th (10:00 a.m.) — **Breast Cancer Awareness Day.** **All wear pink.** Special offering to be donated to Breast Cancer Research.

Sunday, November 3rd (10:00 a.m.) — **All Saints Day.** The names of any members or family members who transition from Nov. 1, 2023–Oct. 31, 2024, will be recognized. You can contact Sandy either by phone/text (410.530.0399) or email: sandra7767@msn.com. **Information needed: person's name, date they transition, and relationship to you (husband, son, cousin, etc.).**

Sunday, November 3rd (following service) — **Bake Sale** sponsored by Women of St. Mark's.

Note: In preparation for Women's Day, we are seeking **ladies to sing in the choir**, please let Ms. Cynthia or Tina know. There will be 2 rehearsals — dates and time will be provided as soon as they become available.



Prayer Breakfast

*St. Mark's United Methodist Church
601 Eighth Street | Laurel, MD 20707
Rev. Walter L. Smith, Jr., Pastor
Sister Cynthia Augustus, Women's Day Chair*

Saturday, November 9, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

Donation: \$15.00

*Guest Preacher
Minister Matilda Kamara
St. Mark's United Methodist Church*



Annual Women's Day

*St. Mark's United Methodist Church
601 Eighth Street | Laurel, MD 20707
Rev. Walter L. Smith, Jr., Pastor*

Sunday, November 17, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

Guest Preacher

*Rev. Jenifer Butler, United Methodist Conference
John Wesley United Methodist Church
Abington, Maryland*

Sister Cynthia Augustus, Women's Day Chair

Women's Day Giving

Sacrificial donation of \$100 (women) and \$50 (men).

Tuesday, November 12th (6:00 p.m.) — A tour has been set up for members of the congregation to tour the Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center (9900 Washington Blvd N, Laurel, MD 20723, next to Home Depot). If you are interested, please contact Sister Jacqueline Jones. Along with the tour, we will be informed about ways that we can support the center.

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/stmarks1md>)

4. [Scan the barcode](#)



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

Preparing to VOTE

You can vote in person during early voting. Early voting will be held from **Thursday, October 24, 2024**, through **Thursday, October 31, 2024**. Check your area to see where you can vote. Early voting centers will be open from 7:00 a.m.—8:00 p.m.

You have to **request a mail-in ballot**, for additional information: (<https://www.elections.maryland.gov/voting/absentee.html>)

Election Day — Tuesday, November 5th (Hallelujah!!!)

Volunteers Needed

Ushers Needed — Youth and adults, please speak with Sister Gemma DeSouza-Ottley

President and Vice President for the **St. Mark's United Methodist Men**. Please see Rev. Smith for more information.

People are needed to join the **Communion Steward's** ministry please see Rev. Smith.

When you're told you have breast cancer:

- Exactly what [type of breast cancer](#) do I have?
- How big is the cancer? Where exactly is it?
- Has the cancer spread to my lymph nodes or other organs?
- What is the [stage](#) of my cancer? What does it mean?
- Will I need any other tests before we can decide on treatment?
- Do I need to see any other doctors or health professionals?
- What is the [hormone receptor status](#) () of my cancer? What does this mean?
- What is the [HER2 status](#) of my cancer? What does this mean?
- What is the [grade](#) of my cancer? What does this mean?
- How do these factors affect my treatment options and long-term outlook (prognosis)?
- What are my chances of survival, based on my cancer as you see it?
- Should I think about [genetic testing](#)? What are my testing options? Should I take a home-based genetic test? What would be the reasons for and against testing?
- How do I get a copy of my pathology report?
- If I'm worried about the costs and [insurance coverage](#) for my diagnosis and treatment, who can help me?

Note: The links in these facts will work, but you can also go to: <https://www.cancer.org/> and add:

Type of Breast Cancer: [cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/types-of-breast-cancer.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/about/types-of-breast-cancer.html)

Stage: [cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/stages-of-breast-cancer.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/stages-of-breast-cancer.html)

Hormone Receptor Status: [cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/breast-cancer-hormone-receptor-status.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/breast-cancer-hormone-receptor-status.html)

HER2 Status: [cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/breast-cancer-her2-status.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/breast-cancer-her2-status.html)

Grade: [cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/breast-cancer-grades.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/types/breast-cancer/understanding-a-breast-cancer-diagnosis/breast-cancer-grades.html)

Genetic Testing: [cancer/risk-prevention/genetics.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/risk-prevention/genetics.html)

Insurance Coverage: [cancer/financial-insurance-matters/understanding-health-insurance.html](https://www.cancer.org/cancer/financial-insurance-matters/understanding-health-insurance.html)

The Baltimore-Washington Conference is in Partnership with Project SPIRIT Sickle Cell, Inc. and the American Red Cross to host a blood drive at the Baltimore-Washington Conference Mission Center in Fulton, on **Saturday, November 2, 2024, from 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.** You may remember that this initiative was voted on and approved at Annual Conference this past May.



Blood Drive
Baltimore-Washington
Conference
United Methodist Church

Fiesta 1,2,3
 11711 E Market Place
 Fulton, MD 20759

Saturday, November 2, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

In Partnership: Project Spirit Sickle Cell, Inc.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: "Spirit BWC" to schedule an appointment.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.

Your blood can save lives. We'd like to thank all donors at this blood drive for coming to give blood to help meet the urgent need for blood in the Black community. Get a \$20 Gift Card by email from our friends at Amazon.



All donors receive a free health screening prior to donating.*
 1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org/OurBlood | #TeamUp4SickleCell | #BlackBloodDonorsNeeded

* Free health screening will check temperature, blood pressure, pulse rate and hemoglobin (iron) levels. © 2021 The American Red Cross | 2021-APL-009-4 | 018601-MS-02

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*“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. Walter L. Smith, Jr. (301.776.8885), waltsmith561@gmail.com

Barbara Hughes, Brent Matthews, Barbara Mason, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, 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., Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Eric Smith, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

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