

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*

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

Ushers:

*Gemma DeSouza-Ottley, Deborah Harper, Daryl Smith
Ralph Laguerre, Tyrone and Patricia Mundell*

Order of Service

Brother Thomas Matthews, Worship Leader

Prelude **Brothers Dre Bailey & Justin Carter**

Lighting of the Candles **Brother Larry Powell**

Processional **St. Mark's Choir and Clergy**

Greeting **Brother Thomas Matthews**

Lighting of the Advent Candle —

“Love Anticipates”

Cynthia Whitfield and Larry Powell

Opening Hymn **“I Know It Was the Blood”**
(AAH Hymnal, #267)

Prayer **Brother Anthony Latney**

Greeting/Call to Worship **Brother Thomas Matthews**
(please stand)

Leader: Wait for God.

People: We wait for the promise of new life.

Leader: Wait for God

People: We wait for the promise of security.

Leader: Wait for God.

People: We wait for God's love to be born anew.

Leader: God's love is everlasting.

People: God's promises are true.

Alleluia Hymnal, #186

Affirmation of Faith (*The Apostles Creed*)..... Hymnal, #881

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Passing of the Peace

*May God increase your love for one another and strengthen
our hearts in holiness, as we greet one another in peace*

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements Sister Tina Thomas-Matthews

Pastor's Moment

Selection St. Mark's Choir

Offering Prayer Brother Thomas Matthews

Offering

Offertory

Scriptures Sister Venita Stratford-Smith

Old Testament – *Psalm 25:1–10*

New Testament – *Luke 21:25–36 (please stand)*

Sermonic Selection (*please stand*) St. Mark's Choir

Sermon Rev. Walter L. Smith, Jr.

“Blessed By the Best”

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

Invitation Selection

Holy Communion Hymnal, #13

A Service of Word and Table II, beginning at The Great Thanksgiving)

Recessional / Closing Hymn Rev. Smith and Ministers

St. Mark's Choir

Extinguishing of Candles..... Brother Larry Powell

Benediction



Birthday

<i>Davon Wilson – 3rd</i>	<i>Starr Kenney – 24th</i>
<i>Sandra Johnson – 4th</i>	<i>LáAngel Hall – 25th</i>
<i>Jane Matthews – 8th</i>	<i>Eugenia Matthews – 26th</i>
<i>Reginald Matthews – 14th</i>	<i>Sylvia Kenney – 27th</i>
<i>Dwayne Simms – 15th</i>	<i>Erica Roy – 27th</i>
<i>Kyenndi Smith – 18th</i>	<i>Ellen Hall – 29th</i>
<i>Grace Elaine Catchings – 21st</i>	<i>Keith Wright, Jr. – 29th</i>
<i>Lynn Jennrich – 22nd</i>	<i>Joyce Gibson – 30th</i>
<i>Tenaya Gibson – 23rd</i>	

Anniversary

Michael & Janet Carey (41 yrs.) – 14th
Horace & Tasman Allen (6th yr) – 31st

Heavenly Birthdays

<i>Delores Tyler – 2nd</i>	<i>Theodore Whitfield – 18th</i>
<i>Tracy Valle – 5th</i>	<i>Ancil Harding – 23rd</i>
<i>Marvin Hebron – 5th</i>	<i>Douglas Powell – 26th</i>
<i>Melva (Peaches) King – 9th</i>	

Announcements

Worship Attendance — 11/24/2024

In-Person	68
YouTube	15
Total	83

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.



Pastor Smith would like to meet with all ushers in his office following service.

Monday (6:30 p.m.) — Drop-In Bible Study. This study will be on hiatus until January. 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=ND8RYcSgUrBxg5e1laNwVV21Ms2B1l.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, December 5th (6:30 p.m.) —Choir rehearsal

Donations Needed: The Craig A. Moe Laurel Multiservice Center needs men and women undergarments. Please, during this season of giving, donate. **(Sister Jackie Jones has volunteered to deliver undergarments that are donated by December 1st.)** There is also a need for **winter clothing and boots, coats, scarves, hats, gloves and blankets.** To make the above donations in red, you will need to make an appointment to drop off (204 Fort Meade Road, Laurel) by

calling 301.974.3010 or visiting the website at info@laurelmsc.org.
For additional giving, checkout an Amazon Wish List by scanning
this barcode



Family Fun Night
Saturday, December 14, 2024
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Donation:
\$10 and dish to share

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PLEASE WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS SWEATERS



**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE
"CHRISTMAS MUSICAL CELEBRATION CHOIR" REHEARSALS.**

All of our family and friends are welcome to join us.
Our Annual Christmas Musical Celebration will be held at
Queen's Chapel United Methodist Church
Sunday, December 22nd @ 5:00 p.m.

REHEARSAL DATES
Friday, December 6, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 13, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.
Friday, December 20, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m.

Point of Contact: Charles Mathews, Jr.
(cell phone) (240) 416-2041
chucktunes@hotmail.com

Queen's Chapel UMC - 7410 Old Muirkirk Road - Beltsville, MD, 20705 - Rev. Dr. William E. Butler, Pastor
Church Office: (301) 210-9038 - Website: qcumc.org



Laurel Winter Shelter Volunteers Needed: Laurel Winter Shelter for both men and women will be held at the new Laurel Multiservice Center from December 2024 thru March 2025. Every night there will be a need for two volunteers for check-in (7–10 p.m.) and two (1 male and 1 female) for overnight (10 p.m.–8 a.m.). You must get a **Background Check** (the Shelter Board will pay the cost). If you wish to volunteer on behalf of St. Mark’s, please send your email address to Sandy Johnson (sandra7767@msn.com or 410.530.0399). Your background check form will then be emailed to you.

LARS Holiday Program: St. Mark’s is participating in the LARS “Adopt A Family” Christmas Holiday Program. In lieu of purchasing toys and gifts, please donate **gift cards (any denomination)** or **monetary donations** no later than **Sunday, December 14th**. You may use the envelope provided in the bulletin and place in the offering plate. **Thank you in advance.**

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)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarksmd>)

4. Scan the barcode



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

Volunteers Needed

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

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



*“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

Tyrone Awkward II, Molone Adams, All branches of the Military, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Mason, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Rachel Hughes, Rico Harper, Delores Stratford, Keith Davis, Elba Hernandez, Judith James, Joseph Ballard, Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, Janet Carey, Lafayette and Elaine Harvey, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Floyd Hughes Sr., Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams, Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Eric Smith, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas
1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Edlin Chambers
14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Ruth Miller
1206 Peachwood Lane
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Umbrenda Fisher
9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

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

Melvin Reese
5918 Appleton Court
Virginia Beach, VA 23464