

# *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*

*601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707*

*301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@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***

*401.379.0600 | 443.257.2710 (cell) | [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net)*

***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, September 5, 2021*

*Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost*

## *Order of Service*

*Sister Cynthia, Worship Leader*

**Prelude** ..... **Fernando G. Allen, Sr.**

**Lighting of the Candles** ..... **Usher**

**Gathering Song**..... **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**

Leader: O Lord, we come seeking your healing and deliverance.

**People: Great is your faithfulness.**

Leader: We know our destiny is in your hands.

**People: Great is your faithfulness.**

Leader: Our confidence is based on your love and mercy’

**People: Great is your faithfulness, O Lord.**

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

### **“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”**

- 1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father.  
There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not.  
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.



*“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...  
Equipping disciples to transform the world”*

**Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List:** If you hear of anyone that is in need of special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730 (cell), 410.379.0600 (home), [reveugene@comcast.net](mailto:reveugene@comcast.net))

*Condolence to the family of*

***Eunice Harding***

*(Gemma’s Mother)*

**Special prayers** for **Sister Laura Dotson** who suffered a stroke this week. She is in Johns Hopkins, Baltimore ICU.

Mary Taylor (LáAngel’s Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Shelford Henry, Francis Desouza (Gemma’s son), Eric Smith, Brian Bailey, Joyce Gibson, Nena Hughes, Gloria Thomas, Jeanette Reeves, Rev. George F. DeFord, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone / Pat Mundell, Joan Moore, Larry Powell, Ernestine Gibson, Mildred Awkward, Grace Elaine Catchings, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Phillip Reese, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Nancy Daniels, Hannah Polk

**Eunice Dumas**  
1909 Sheffield Ct.  
Severn, MD 21144  
410.551.2435

**Umbrenda Fisher**  
9160 Charlton Pl.  
Douglasville, GA 39135

**Laura Dotson**  
7246 Guilford Rd.  
Clarksville MD 21029

**Ruth Miller**  
1206 Peachwood Ln.  
Bowie, MD 20716  
240.245.4560

**Mrs. Edlin Chambers**  
14904 4<sup>th</sup> St.  
Laurel, MD  
347.423.2764

**Patricia Briggs**  
(Cindy’s Sister)  
Largo Nursing and  
Rehabilitation Center  
600 Largo Road  
Largo, MD 20774

**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, place in the mailbox (Cynthia and David Burley check it regularly) **(This will save you postage)**
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>)
4. Reach out to member of finance, they will try to accommodate you.

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

**Refrain:**

Great is thy faithfulness!  
Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.  
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **[Refrain]**

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow;  
blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **[Refrain]**

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance** (*Unison*)

Gracious Provider, despite the witness of your wonders, we find ourselves searching for healing. We suffer affliction and continue trying to heal ourselves. In our hearts we know that you are the source of all that is good, yet our heads lead us into confusion and doubt. Now we come to you in humility, begging you to strengthen our faith. Feed us this morning with the crumbs of your goodness that we might resist temptations and avoid evil. God restore us and forgive us of our sins. **Amen.**

**The Invocation**..... **Sister Cynthia**  
**Song of Meditation**..... **Choir**

**Blessing of Offering**..... **Sister Cynthia**  
**Offertory**

**The Prayer of Illumination** (*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.**

**Education Litany.....Sister Cynthia**

Leader: Let us remember that “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of all wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding.” (*Psalm 111:10*)

**People: Lord God, Giver of wisdom, hear our prayer.**

Leader: Thank you, God, for the education we have received and for opportunities to increase our knowledge. We bless our parents who introduced us to reading, relationships, and life skills.

**People: “Train children in the right way and when old, they will not stray.” (*Proverbs 22:6*)**

Leader: We thank you, God, for good teachers, good books, public libraries, and the educational programs of television and radio.

**People: “Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but those who hate to be rebuked are stupid.” (*Proverbs 12:1*)**

Leader: We pray for our pre-schools, for the teachers, the students and the workers.

**People: God of steadfast love, hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for the members of this congregation who are involved in all aspects of education: teachers, counselors, principals and other administrators, board members, secretaries, custodians, and nurses.

**People: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (*Proverbs 3:5–6*)**

Leader: We pray for universities, colleges, and other institutions of adult learning. We pray for their students. Make us aware of the injustices in our society about which so many students complain.

**People: We pray for those in developing countries who do not enjoy the tremendous educational opportunities of this nation. Expand their educational enterprise.**



## Happy Birthday and Anniversary September Members

### Birthdays

*Brenda Jackson – 1<sup>st</sup>*

*Tina Thomas Matthews – 21<sup>st</sup>*

*Shimaine West – 10<sup>th</sup>*

*Olivia Burley – 25<sup>th</sup>*

### Anniversaries

*Shaun & Kja Settles – 2<sup>nd</sup> (19)*

*Adrian & LáAngel – 13<sup>th</sup> (24)*

*Wayne & Jaime – 9<sup>th</sup> (21)*

*Carlton & Shimaine – 18<sup>th</sup> (22)*

## Announcements

### 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.



**“A FRESH START (NOW)”** —We desire to have many members as possible active in all of the various areas of Ministry.

**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, September 9<sup>th</sup> (7:00 p.m.) — Choir Rehearsal**

**Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> (6:30 p.m.) — Church Council** will meet virtually. Meeting log-in information forthcoming.

**Sunday September 26<sup>th</sup> (10:00 a.m.) — Annual Homecoming — “God of the Past, God of the Present, and God of the Future”.** **Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord** will be our morning preacher. We are asking for a special Homecoming offering to be given by each member.

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> (6:00 p.m.) — Annual Church Conference** (This will be virtual)

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Choir, #270*)

**BREAKING THE BREAD**

*The pastor breaks the bread in silence, or while saying:*

Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

*The pastor lifts the cup in silence, or while saying:*

The cup over which we give thanks is a sharing in the blood of Christ.

**GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*The bread and wine are given to the people, with these or other words being exchanged:*

The body of Christ, given for you. Amen.  
The blood of Christ, given for you. Amen.

*The congregation sings hymns while the bread and cup are given.*

*When all have received, the Lord's table is put in order.*

*The following prayer is then offered by the pastor or by all:*

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

**Leader:** We pray for literacy programs, for Bible societies and distributors of Christian literature at home and abroad.

**People:** **“There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that hurry to run to evil, a lying witness who testifies falsely, and one who sows discord in a family.”** (*Proverbs 6:16–19*)

**Leader:** We pray for the teaching and preaching ministries of our congregation. Create in those who are called to instruct your people, a mind and a heart committed to studying your Word.

**People:** **May these ministries improve relationships and inspire greater entrepreneurship.**

**Leader:** We pray that the increase of knowledge and education may not make us intellectually proud or spiritually barren.

**People:** **God, Creator of all wisdom and knowledge, make us productive citizens and responsible stewards of your gifts and graces.**

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

**Scripture Reading #3** ..... **Sister Cynthia**  
(*Matthew 15:21–28, Common English Bible*)

**Canaanite woman**

<sup>21</sup> From there, Jesus went to the regions of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from those territories came out and shouted, “Show me mercy, Son of David. My daughter is suffering terribly from demon possession.” <sup>23</sup> But he didn't respond to her at all.

His disciples came and urged him, “Send her away; she keeps shouting out after us.”

<sup>24</sup> Jesus replied, “I've been sent only to the lost sheep, the people of Israel.”

<sup>25</sup> But she knelt before him and said, “Lord, help me.”

<sup>26</sup> He replied, “It is not good to take the children's bread and toss it to dogs.”

<sup>27</sup> She said, “Yes, Lord. But even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall off their masters’ table.”

<sup>28</sup> Jesus answered, “Woman, you have great faith. It will be just as you wish.” And right then her daughter was healed.

**The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (Hymnal, #70)**

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**

*“Practice Your Faith”*

**Praise and Prayer Concerns**

**Invitation / Altar Call**

**Invitation Selection**

*Holy Communion  
Thanksgiving and Communion*

**TAKING THE BREAD AND CUP**

*The pastor takes the bread and cup, and the bread and wine are prepared for the meal.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the

face of the earth, And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.