

# Task Force Deactivated

## TASK FORCE THANK YOU

They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

God's promise, as stated in Joshua 1:5 is, "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." In 2020, Bishop Easterling tasked local churches to form a Re-Entering Well Task Force to conduct the intentional planning to safely re-enter our church buildings while putting a priority on life amid the Coronavirus Pandemic. While we worked on creating a plan to phase-in our reopening to in-person worship, we also worked to ensure our congregation and community continued to feel the church's seamless presence.

Since March 2020, God has equipped the Re-Entering Well Task Force with the faith and patience to ensure St. Mark remained open in the eyes and hearts of our church family and community throughout the Pandemic and beyond.

Though COVID is not gone, by the grace of God it has become far more manageable. We must all continue to do everything we can to ensure the safest environment possible, realizing most of the responsibility continues to fall on individuals to determine what is most comfortable for you and your fellow congregants.

We the members of the Re-Entering Well Task Force thank you for the opportunity to have served in this capacity, and though the Task Force is currently inactive, we can be called together, at any time, should a need arise and are also available to assist at any time.

## GUIDELINES MOVING FORWARD

Extended building usage. The building is now available for Ministry meetings on Saturdays from 9:00am—1:00pm. Please remember all Saturday meetings must be reserved thru the church office to ensure the building will be open and space is available. If nothing is scheduled, the building will NOT be open.

While Contact Tracing is **NO LONGER** required for any activity/gathering in the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall, **MASKS are still required** in the Sanctuary, or for any gatherings in the Fellowship Hall with more than **50** attendees.

We are pleased to advise that St. Mark is once again open for funeral services. If you would like to hold services at St. Mark, please contact the church office, Pastor Weaver, and the Trustees for availability. Also regarding funeral services, in Sanctuary capacity limits will be determined by the Usher President in coordination with the Pastor. Once capacity limit has been reached, the Ushers will direct guest to Over-flow seating in the Fellowship Hall. Repasts are **NOT** available at St. Mark, at this time.

The Call Connect system will be used to notify of any Worship Service cancellations, as well as any other immediate need information.



*We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.*

*Hebrews 6:12*

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Masks are still required**
- **Lenten Service Schedule**

## IN RECAP

- ◆ Sunday worship services continued (Virtual services via Facebook Live, our Website, Zoom, and YouTube, and via our Tele Worship services). Tele Worship Services resulting from the vision of Min Michael Simms ran from March 29, 2020—September 25, 2022. Min Simms' theme for Tele Worship —St. Mark continues to be ... One body, Many Members (1st Corinthians 12)
- ◆ To ensure the congregation was prepared for special services, drive-thru distributions of Communion Elements, Imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, Distribution of Palm prior to Palm Sunday, as well as Mothers and Fathers Day tokens of love. Distribution of "Our Daily Bread" Devotional Guides and drop-off of church envelopes were also conducted during Communion Element distributions.
- ◆ Food distribution ministries (SHARE, LOH Food Center and Pantry-On-The-Go), after a minor shutdown to determine logistics, programs continued to serve our membership and community.
- ◆ Finance Ministry counters met to ensure offerings were received and properly ac-counted for each week. Finance also enhanced plans for electronic giving.
- ◆ In lieu of the Annual Memorial Day Service at Saints Rest, a newsletter was sent out to ensure the day remained on the hearts and minds of our membership. It was also a means of providing information regarding the Cemetery, including any changes in fees or policies.
- ◆ Vaccine clinics held at St. Mark. Test kits were also made available during the 2022 Juneteenth Celebration.
- ◆ Outdoor special programs offerings included Food Truck Fridays, Lights on the Lawn, Juneteenth, Easter Egg (Scripture) Hunt, and Father's Day allowing oppor-tu-nities to bring our congregation and community together in a safe environment, even while the church building was not open to large gatherings.
- ◆ Annual Lenten Services were continued virtually.
- ◆ Drive-Thru Good Friday Fish Fry hosted by the UMM were held in 2021 and 2022.
- ◆ With the opening of the Sanctuary on Sunday, August 1, 2021, for In-Person Wor-ship, guidelines were developed (to include mandatory masking, temperature checks, and contact tracing logs).
- ◆ With enhanced building usage, the Sign Language class once again held monthly in-person training for optimal effectiveness.
- ◆ April 2022, our first major gathering as a congregation was held at The Hotel at Arundel Mills on Resurrection Sunday. What a glorious time coming to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus, as well as feeling a re-birth after being locked down from COVID. Masking was required.
- ◆ Special Christmas events (St. Mark Post Office, Angel Tree, and for 2022 a very special Youth & Young Adult Christmas Eve program).
- ◆ A special outdoor reception was also held to bid farewell to our longest term pastor, Pastor Herbert W. Watson, Jr., who retired after 24 years of service at St. Mark.
- ◆ Stewardship Ministry developed a monthly Call Connect Zoom Celebration to allow our congregation and friends to come together for a time of fellowship, to share our joys and cares, and to simply greet one another.
- ◆ Our new Call Connect system was launched to allow immediate sharing with the congregation any important information by phone/text message.
- ◆ Our new Pastor, Rev. Kendrick D. Weaver, was appointed in July 2022.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Below is a list of upcoming activities/events. Please continue to monitor the Friday E-Blast for complete details as well as additional upcoming activities/events.

- ◆ Pastor Weaver's "Dig Deep" sessions
- ◆ Black History Month—Presentations TBD
- ◆ Lenten Services - Churches United For Christ Cluster
  - Ash Wednesday, February 22 (see below schedule)
  - Wednesday, March 8, 7:00pm - St. Mark @ Mt. Zion-Magothy
  - Full Schedule (see below, and check the Friday E-Blast for updates)
- ◆ March—Women's History Month—Presentations/Activities TBD
- ◆ April—
  - April 2—Palm Sunday
  - April 7—Good Friday Fish Fry
  - April 8—Easter Egg (Scripture) Hunt
  - April 9—Easter (Resurrection Sunday)
  - April 26—DS Missional Meeting @ St. Mark, 6:30pm

## LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE—2023

Churches United For Christ Cluster 33rd Lenten Worship

Theme: ***“Just Do What He Tells You To Do”***

DATE	12:00noon Worship	7:00pm Worship
	All @ John Wesley UMC— Glen Burnie	
February 22, 2023	Rev. Patricia Turnage “Fill The Pots”	Asbury Town Neck Rev. Dr. Tori Butler “Count It All Joy”
March 1, 2023	Pastor Jerome Howard “Wait On the Lord”	Halls UMC Pastor Jesse E. Young “Lift Him Up”
March 8, 2023	TBA	Mt. Zion UMC-Magothy Rev. Dr. Kendrick Weaver “Stand Still”
March 15, 2023	Rev. Stephen Tillett Abraham...”Leave thy country”	Asbury Broadneck UMC Pastor Joseph Brown “This Same Jesus”
March 22, 2023	Pastor James Gosnell “The Woman with the Barrel of Flour & Oil”	Wayman Good Hope AME Pastor Kenneth Moore “If My People”
March 29, 2023	TBA	Metropolitan UMC-Severn Pastor Harry Smith “Follow the Directions”
April 5, 2023	Bishop Larry Lee Thomas “Roll the Stone Away”	Mt. Calvary UMC-Arnold Pastor Johnnie Randolph “Go Ye Therefore Into the Highways”



***Good Friday***

***April 7, 2023 @***

***12 Noon***

***Seven Last Words***

***Asbury Town Neck UMC***