



SAINT MARK

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

God's Grace Transforming Lives

Sunday, February 11, 2024
Nine O'clock

Transfiguration Sunday

Transfiguration Sunday is a day when we remember when Jesus' appearance changed, and he shone bright with God's glory.



9 AM Morning Worship

**You are invited to stand as you are able in body and spirit.*

The Gathering

Words of Welcome and Grace

We welcome each of you to this service! Maybe you've been here more times than you can count. Maybe it's been a while, maybe never. Here is what matters: No matter who you are or where you are from, you are a child of God, and you are welcome here!

*Hymn of Praise

UMH No. 519 v. 1 & 3 | Lift Every Voice and Sing

*The Passing of the Peace

One: The Peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, be with you.

All: And also, with you.

Let us offer each other signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

Ministry Moment

What Black History Means to Me

Ken Mills

Concerns and Celebrations of the Congregation

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Our Father (God), who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Scripture Lesson

Proverbs 2:2-6

One: The Word of God for the people of God

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Bent By God

Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas

Response to God's Word

One: God in us, We know the miracle inherent in our existence.

All: We are here, our beauty stretching out and dwelling within us.

One: But it is hard to believe in one's dignity when the systems and societies to which we belong are content to destroy us.

All: We have heard lies of our worthlessness in the explicit and implicit ways the world interacts with our bodies, stories, and homes.

One: It is incessant – this lie of our own inadequacy, this charade of our inferiority.

All: Remind us that our dignity does not wane or bud in relation to anyone's belief in it, including our own.

One: Let us rest in the knowledge that we have nothing to prove; our dignity, perpetual as it is divine.

All: We will not shrink. We expand. Remind us of our making. For we too contain the divine. Amen.

Response adapted from "Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human." Cole Arthur Riley

Holy Communion

Sending Forth

*Hymn of Dedication

UMH No. 62 v. 1, 5, & 7 | All Creatures of Our God and King

*Benediction

Congregational Response
Amen

Postlude

Worship Team

Preaching: Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas, *NGUMC Central South District Superintendent*

Liturgists: Rev. Dr. Carolyn Stephens, *Senior Pastor*
Rev. Andy Peabody, *Associate Pastor*

Music: Justin Bowen, *Interim Director of Fine Arts and Organist*

Communion Steward: J.W. Mozley

Usher Team: Terry Davis


Greeter: Scott Lee



Attendance

Please sign the attendance pad located at the end of your row or scan this QR code to register your attendance and share prayer requests using our online Connection Card.

Music reproduced within this document is done so with permission under license A-740638.

	<p>February 14, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Imposition of Holy Ashes Front Steps - Terrace 7:00 – 8:30 AM Front Steps - Terrace 12:00 – 1:00 PM• Ash Wednesday Service Sanctuary 6:30 PM
---	---

Chili & Soup Cookoff | After this Service

Downstairs Wade Hall - Vote for your favorite

After the 11:00 AM Service, return to Wade Hall, find out who won and enjoy larger serving portions of the delicious dishes!



We Invite You to Stay Connected with Saint Mark

Visit www.stmarkumc.org and subscribe to the newsletter on the homepage. We send our Remarks newsletter every Wednesday, a message from our Senior Pastor every Friday, and a Sunday Morning at Saint Mark email.

Tithes & Offerings

Please place your offering in the plate during this morning's service, or use one of the QR codes below. Your generosity allows us to love, accept and serve the people of our community.

- Using your Smartphone's camera, scan the QR Code. & follow the prompts.

SecureGive



PayPal



Venmo



Text to Give



- To give via text, scan the QR code, and replace the \$\$ in the text with the amount you would like to give. For example, to give \$25, text operating 25.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners

For reservations, please email **Robert Gilleo** at RJGilleo@stmarkumc.org or complete the Microsoft Forms survey (<https://forms.office.com/r/29Xbv198wy>) no later than 5 PM Tuesday.

Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Program begins at 6:00 PM.

Tickets: \$10 for seniors, \$11 general

In honor of Black History Month: North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal Hush Arbor

DuWanna Thomas | Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Viewing Begins at 4:00 PM | Interview: 6 PM

What is a Hush Arbor?

"The hush arbors served as the location where slaves could combine their African religious traditions with Christianity. It was safe to freely blend the components of each religion in these meetings. The enslaved blacks could let go of all their hardships and express their emotions. Here is where Negro spirituals originated. The songs created by enslaved blacks were known to contain a double meaning, revealing the ideas of religious salvation and freedom from slavery. The meetings would also include practices such as dance. African shouts and rhythms were also included."

Visit the NGBMCR Website at <https://ngbmcrumc.org/hush-arbor>



Clint Clark-Duke: Songs of Love and Heartache

Join us for an unforgettable evening of "Songs of Love and Heartache" with **Clint Clark-Duke** on Wednesday, February 28, 2024!

Current COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

If you are sick, please stay home. If you have come into contact with someone positive for COVID-19, follow the precautions recommended by the CDC. In order to care for our collective well-being, we strongly recommend that anyone who is eligible to be vaccinated do so, especially before participating in indoor activities.

Welcome New Members

“We give thanks for all that God has already given you
and we welcome you in Christian love.”



Doug Widener



Victoria McRay



Michael Hirschmann



Tiffany and Nikki Baltazar

Not Pictured
Ken Mills

2024 Publix Marathon

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Please take time now to plan your route to church. The links below will give you “turn by turn” and road block information. After entering in the link information, you will receive a prompt asking you to download the file, click “OK.”

Turn by Turn & Road Block listings

<http://tinyurl.com/2mm9c22k>

Course Map

<http://tinyurl.com/4yvu7kpz>



Rev. Dr. Byron Thomas currently serves as District Superintendent of the Central South District in the North Georgia Conference which covers DeKalb, Henry, Newton, and Rockdale Counties. He is chair of the North Georgia Conference Delegation to the 2020 General and Jurisdictional Conferences.

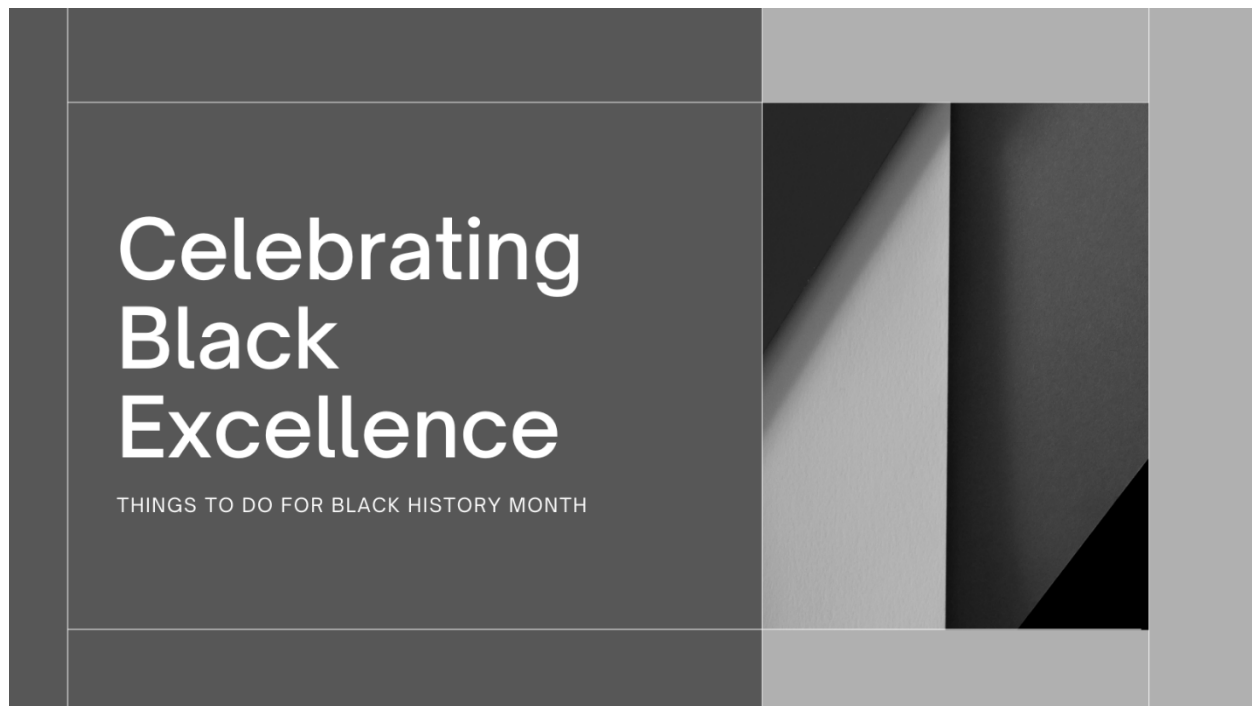
Rev. Dr. Thomas has served appointments as senior pastor at Ben Hill UMC in Atlanta and Central UMC in Atlanta, as Associate Director in the North Georgia Conference Office of Connectional Ministries, and as pastor at Fort Street United Methodist Church in Atlanta. He also served an appointment in the then Little Rock Annual Conference, planting a new church.

He has served in numerous leadership roles in the North Georgia Conference and the Southeastern Jurisdiction including Chairperson of the Committee on Related Agencies, Chairperson of the Committee on Ethnic Local Church Concerns, Chairperson of the Advocacy Committee, and Member of the Board of Directors of the Hinton Rural Life Center in Hayesville, North Carolina.

He served on the District Board of Ordained Ministry and as the Chair of the District Committee on Superintendency. He has twice served as Chaplain and Educational Liaison at Wellroot and has chaired the Board of the Interfaith Children's Movement (ICM). He is a recipient of the Malone Dodson Award given by the Foundation of Wesley Woods to a clergyperson who best exemplifies visionary and committed leadership with respect to older adults. He has served as president of the North Georgia Black Methodists for Church Renewal and coordinator for the Southeastern Jurisdiction Black Methodist for Church Renewal. He has served as a Clergy Delegate to the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences and the 2019 Special Session of the General Conference.

A native of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, Rev. Dr. Thomas is a veteran of the United States Air Force. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religion and Philosophy from Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia and a Master of Divinity degree from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He also holds a Certificate in Executive Leadership from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. In 2016, Pastor Thomas graduated from the Association of Chicago Theological Schools (ACTS) program with a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min) in Preaching through McCormick Theological Seminary.

He is married to DuWanna and they are the proud parents of two wonderful sons.



February 2nd-11th, 2024

Down In Mississippi

Where: Marietta Theatre in the Square

Time: Various Times

Cost: Price Varies

Description: Down in Mississippi takes place during the Freedom Summer campaign to register African Americans to vote in the dangerous, segregated world of Mississippi in 1964. Three young civil rights activists leave the safety of their northern homes in an attempt to change the world; only to discover they must first change themselves.

February 8th

Black Magnolias

Where: Historic Oakland Cemetery

Time: 1pm

Cost: Free

Description: This guided walking tour explores the history, lives, and labors of Atlanta's African American women.

The Color of Friendship

Where: Atlantic Station

Time: 7pm

Cost: Free

Description: This powerful movie explores the themes of friendship, understanding, and unity, highlighting the importance of embracing diversity.

February 9th, 2024

We Shall Overcome: African American Stories from Civil War to Civil Rights

Where: Historic Oakland Cemetery

Time: 1pm

Cost: Free

Description: This tour explores the lives and accomplishments of outstanding and ordinary African Americans who fought to overcome the effects of slavery and discrimination to help shape the history of Atlanta.

February 10th, 2024

Black Heritage Festival

Where: Shorty Howell Park, Duluth

Time: 1pm – 4pm

Cost: Free

Description: Visit with merchants while you enjoy music and food in this celebration of African American history and culture.

February, 2024 – All Month Long

Black History Month

Where: Children's museum of Atlanta

Time: Various Times

Cost: Price Varies

Description: They will highlight African American leaders in science, art, and innovation.

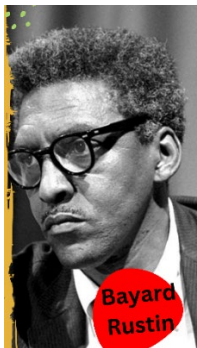
Dunwoody's Black History Month Mural Exhibit

Where: Brook Run Skate Park

Time: Various Times

Cost: Free

Description: Murals created by African American artists.



This month we are celebrating the contributions of Bayard Rustin. An African American leader in civil rights, gay rights, and nonviolence.

He played a pivotal role in assembling the March on Washington, but because of his outward sexuality he was usually kept out of public view.

Please enter the follow information to watch a short video on the life of Bayard Rustin... <http://tinyurl.com/2s3heubx>