

**Apostles’ Creed**  
*I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**Gloria Patri**  
*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. Amen.*

**Mars UP Church**  
*Come Holy Spirit, Come*

*The service of worship begins with the prelude; quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship. As a community that prays with and for one another, we invite you to share your joys and concerns by using the prayer cards available in the pew. Those parts of the Service of Worship in which the congregation participates in word are noted in bold type.*

**Prelude**  
The beginning of the prelude is a call to silent, personal preparation for the worship of God.

(\*Please stand, if able.)

**Choral Introit(11 am) Chancel Choir**  
*“Love Came Down at Christmas”*

**Welcome and Mars Message**

**\*The Call to Worship**

Leader: Fill our souls with joy, O Lord  
**People: Gladden our hearts as your servants**  
Leader: For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
**People: Abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.**  
Leader: Teach us your way, O Lord, that we may walk in your truth;  
**People: Give us joyful hearts to worship your name, O God.**  
Leader: We give thanks to you, O Lord, with our whole heart,  
**People: And we will glorify your name forever.**

**\*Hymn of Praise 270**  
*“Joy to the World”*

\*Invocation

**The Advent Wreath Candle Lighting:**  
8:30 am Jack and Lisa Barbour  
11:00 am Nancy Huggins & Sharon Gibbs

*The Lord’s Prayer*

Our Father,  
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 debts,  
as we forgive  
our debtors;  
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 Doxology*

Praise God  
from whom  
all blessings flow;  
praise Him  
all creatures  
here below;  
praise Him above,  
ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son,  
and Holy Ghost.  
Amen.

Speaker: Advent is marked by a spirit of joy and celebration.  
**Congregation: With joyful hearts we celebrate the Coming King.**  
Speaker: Advent is a time to open our eyes to our many blessings.  
**Congregation: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.**  
Speaker: Advent is a time to appreciate the bonds of human love.  
**Congregation: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.**  
Speaker: Advent is a time to remember the promise of God.  
**Congregation: With joyful hearts we celebrate the coming King.**

**Corporate Prayer of Confession**  
Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son.

Silent, Personal Confession  
Assurance of God’s Grace and Pardon

**\*The Affirmation of Faith Apostles’ Creed**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Words of Welcome and Mars Messages**  
*Children may come forward at this time*  
**Moment with Children (11 am)**

**Choral Anthem(11am) Chancel Choir**  
*“A Song in the Air”*

Old Testament Lesson Psalm 126

Church Staff

Mr. Andrew Higginson  
Director of Youth &  
Children’s Ministries  
[youth@mars-up.org](mailto:youth@mars-up.org)  
724-553-9595

Ms. Jamie Daugherty  
Choir Director &  
Organist  
Jamie2199@comcast.net

Mrs. Shelly Bocheff  
Administrative Assistant  
marsup@mars-up.org

Mars United  
Presbyterian  
Church

232 Crowe Ave  
PO Box 805  
Mars, Pennsylvania 16046  
724-625-1365  
[www.mars-up.org](http://www.mars-up.org)  
marsup@mars-up.org

Church Office Hours:  
Mon -Thurs from 9 a.m. -3 p.m.

**Hymn of Preparation** **269**  
*“How Great Our Joy!”*  
**Offering**  
**Doxology**  
**Prayer of Dedication**  
**Offertory Response(11:00)** **Chancel Choir**  
*“All Things Come of Thee”*

New Testament Lesson                      Philippians 4:4-7

**Sermon** **Lay Pastor Tom McMeekin**  
*“How near is near?”*  
**\*Hymn of Commitment** **271**  
*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You”*

**\*Benediction**  
**\*Congregational Response**(Everyone sings)  
The time has come, O Lord, for us to leave this place;  
    Guide us and protect us and lead us in Thy grace;  
    Wherever life may take us as we go our separate ways;  
Help us share with others the things we’ve shared today;  
    May the peace of God the Father  
    And the love of Christ His Son  
Guide us in the days ahead and strengthen us each one;  
    May the blessings of the Spirit fill us from within;  
God bless us and return us to this fellowship once again. Amen.

**\*Postlude**  
  
***Flowers are provided to the Glory of God and  
in loving memory of Rinaldi Segreti, father of  
Marie by George and Marie Matthews***

***\*\*In Memory\*\****  
***Janet C. Dize***  
***February 16, 1922 – December 09, 2017***  
***Member, Deacon***

## CALENDAR: December 17th – December 24th

*Church Office Hours: Monday -Thursday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.*

### Today, December 17, 2017 3rd Sunday of Advent

**8:30 am** EARLY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

10:00 am Congregational Meeting

**11:00 a.m.** THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

6:00 p.m. MS/HS Youth Group Christmas Party

### Monday, December 18, 2017

6:30 p.m. BoyScouts

### Tuesday, December 19, 2017

9:00 a.m. A-Team

7:00 p.m. AA

### Wednesday, December 20, 2017

9:00 a.m. Material Girls

7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 21, 2017

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

### Friday, December 22, 2017

### Saturday, December 23, 2017

### Sunday, December 24, 2017 4th Sunday of Advent

**8:30 am** THE EARLY SERVICE

9:45 am Sunday School for All ages

**11:00 a.m.** THE MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

**7:00 p.m.** CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH  
CHANCEL CHOIR

**11:00 p.m.** CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH  
COMMUNION

### VOLUNTEERS☺

**GREETERS:** (D) Janie Aiken

(E ) Linda Moody

**NURSERY THIS WEEK:**

Angela Guesman

**NURSERY NEXT WEEK:**

Pat Auld

**JR CHURCH THIS WEEK:**

Andrew Higginson

**MUP MUFFINS:** Pam

Kennedy & Linda Lees

**TARRY 'N TALK HOST:**

Mission & Outreach

**LAST SUNDAY'S**

**ATTENDANCE:** 101

**LAST SUNDAY'S COLLECTION:**

Operating Funds: \$4099.50

Mission: \$95.00

MUP Van: \$20.00

Kindness: \$135.00

Bldg Improv: \$5.00

Total: \$4354.50

## PRAYER – JOYS & CONCERNS

Lou Beckwith

Wanda Jones

Terry Moore (Sam's cousin)

Maria Elizabeth McKaveney (June Stirling's niece)

Reid Christopher Hall (June Stirling's nephew)

Paige Barbour (daughter of Andrew and Steph Barbour)

Kennedy (Great Granddaughter of Marlene Edwards)

Ellaina May Sacony (great niece of Dee Shupsky)

Emma Libert (friend of the McElhinny's)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**SANCTUARY FLOWERS 2018** The new sign up list for 2018 is available in the Tarry 'n Talk. Please be sure to indicate (by circling the "S") if your flowers can be delivered to shut-ins.

**TARRY 'N TALK REFRESHMENTS/MUFFINS 2018** Please be sure to stop and sign up if you are willing to provide refreshments on Sunday morning. You can use the church kitchen or your own, or even bought goodies are appreciated.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** Christmas Eve morning worship services will begin at 8:30am and 11:00am. Sunday School will also be held. Adults Classes, please check with your individual teachers. Christmas Eve Candlelight Services will be celebrated with two traditional services at 7:00 p.m. with Chancel Choir, and 11:00 p.m. with Communion. Lay Pastor Tom McMeekin will be officiating at all services.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICE PROJECTS** Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for the Salvation Angel Tree and / or the Lighthouse Toy Drive this Christmas season. Please know that your gifts will be greatly appreciated by those less fortunate in our area. Mission and Outreach Committee

**UPDATE** The Session has met with Rev. Moran and Rev. Adams and will be instituting changes in our committee structure and code of operations which will be discussed in further detail during a congregational meeting in January. The Session is in the process of interviewing candidates for our Interim position. Please feel free to ask any Session member if you have any questions.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

