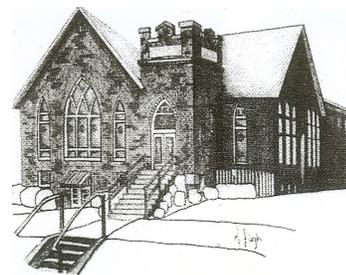


MARS UP CHURCH



We are your hometown church: Faithful to Tradition, Loving in Fellowship & Reaching for Tomorrow!

September 2018

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors” (Matthew 6:12).

Dear Friends in Christ,

At least once per week, we recite this petition as part of the Lord’s Prayer. How many of us really think about what we are saying?

In September, I will be offering two messages on forgiveness, a very important aspect of the Christian life. To prepare, I encourage you to read Genesis chapters 37 and 39-45, the account of Joseph and his time in Egypt.

Years ago, I read a book called *Total Forgiveness: When Everything in You Wants to Hold a Grudge, Point a Finger, and Remember the Pain – God Wants You to Lay it All Aside*, by R.T. Kendall (Charisma House, Lake Mary, Florida, 2007). Dr. Kendall is a well-known evangelist who was the pastor at Westminster Chapel in London for twenty-five years.

Dr. Kendall makes an interesting comment about the verse: “...*the fifth petition, ‘Forgive us our debts...’ has made liars out of more people than other line in human history!*” Is he saying we are lying to God each week when we recite the Lord’s Prayer? Those are pretty strong words, aren’t they?

Let us be honest with each other – when we ask God to forgive us, we know in our hearts, because of the activity of Christ, we are forgiven – *totally!* We are filled with the Holy Spirit, God’s grace falls upon us, and we are renewed to live another day.

But let’s be honest, and ask ourselves, *do we REALLY forgive others as God has forgiven us? We know we receive total forgiveness from God – but when we forgive, is it total? Or do we forgive with our fingers crossed behind our back?*

A more serious question – where would we be if God forgave us the same way we (often) forgive others?

In his book, Dr. Kendall relates what social scientists say about three types of forgiveness:

1. *Detached forgiveness* – a reduction in negative feelings toward the offender, but no reconciliation takes place
2. *Limited forgiveness* – there is a reduction in negative feelings toward the offender, and the relationship is partially restored, though there is a decrease in the emotional intensity of the relationship

Full forgiveness – there is a total cessation negative feelings toward the offender, and the relationship is fully restored

Dr. Kendall goes further than the scientists – he offers a definition of Total Forgiveness, based upon the work of Christ: “*The ultimate proof of total forgiveness takes place when we sincerely petition the Father to let those who have hurt us off the hook – regardless of who they have hurt.*” Further, he tells us that to totally forgive, we must pray that those who have offended us receive God’s blessings!

To make his point, Dr. Kendall offers the following exchange between someone who has been hurt, and God:

- “I prayed for certain people to be forgiven [by God], but after a few minutes, I didn’t feel anything.”
- After a few minutes, the Lord asked, “Do you know what you are asking me to do?”
- I thought I knew the answer to his question – “Yes”
- “Are you now asking me to set them free as if they had done nothing wrong?”
- That sobered me! I needed some time to think, but while I pondered his words, the Lord reminded me of the many sins for which he had forgiven *me*. I became frightened of the possibility that he might reveal – or let come out – some of the terrible things I had done.
- I then humbly prayed, “Yes, Lord, I ask you to forgive them.”
- He then asked, “Do you mean that I should bless and prosper them?”
- Once more, I needed a little time. Then the Lord seemed to say, “What if I forgive and bless *you*, in proportion how you want me to forgive and bless *them*?”
- By this time, I was boxed into a corner, and I surrendered. I began to sincerely pray for them to be forgiven and blessed as though they had caused me no offense. But I cannot truly say my prayer was particularly godly or unselfish.

When we ask God to forgive us, God blesses and prospers us. Do we do the same when we forgive others?

Dr. Kendall offers ten things that Total Forgiveness is NOT (think of it – does God do these things?)

1. Total forgiveness is NOT approval of what they did – God never approves of our sin; God hates sin!
2. Total forgiveness is NOT excusing what they did – we should never cover for the sins of others
3. Total forgiveness is NOT justifying what they did – to justify means “to make right or just”
4. Total forgiveness is NOT pardoning what they did – a pardon releases an offender from his or her actions – sin still has consequences!
5. Total forgiveness is NOT reconciliation – forgiveness and reconciliation are different; reconciliation requires the actions of two people – you don’t need to go on vacation with this person
6. Total forgiveness is NOT denying what they did – some folks live in denial, they refuse to admit the event happened – this is not healthy
7. Total forgiveness is NOT blindness to what happened – the wrong is still there, regardless
8. Total forgiveness is NOT forgetting – it is actually greater when we still remember the sin, and yet still forgive
9. Total forgiveness is NOT refusing to take the wrong seriously – we cannot forgive until we see the sin clearly and understand its seriousness

Total forgiveness is NOT pretending we are not hurt – it is ridiculous to imagine we can keep a stiff upper lip when we have been injured

On the other hand, he offers ten things that Total Forgiveness IS (again, think about it – is this what God does?)

1. Total forgiveness IS being aware of what someone has done and still forgiving them – sooner or later, we must come to grips with reality

1. Total forgiveness IS choosing to keep no record of wrongs – 1 Corinthians says, “Love keeps no record of wrongs” – do we keep track of such things to whip out at an opportune time?
2. Total forgiveness IS refusing to punish – this is the essence of Total Forgiveness
3. Total forgiveness IS not telling others what they did – anyone who truly forgives does not gossip about the offender
4. Total forgiveness IS being merciful – this is the heart of the gospel (Luke 6:36; Matthew 5:7)
5. Total forgiveness IS graciousness – true forgiveness shows grace and mercy at the same time
6. Total forgiveness IS an inner condition – Total Forgiveness must take place in the heart or it is worthless (Matthew 12:34)
7. Total forgiveness IS the absence of bitterness – this is an excessive desire for vengeance that comes from deep resentment; it grieves the Holy Spirit!
8. Total forgiveness IS forgiving God – like it or not, because he is in control of everything, we often blame God for such things

Total forgiveness IS forgiving ourselves – there is no lasting joy in forgiveness if we do not forgive ourselves

Dr. Kendall makes one more point – *Total Forgiveness occurs when we pray that the one who offended us will receive blessings, and prosper.* Don't forget, this is the type of forgiveness we receive from God!

Consider this: when we receive blessings, we often imagine that we receive blessings because we deserve them, or we are nice folks, etc.

But also consider *this*: when we receive blessings, *it might be* because someone whom we hurt has Totally Forgiven us, and has prayed that we would receive blessings! Perhaps it's because someone else has Totally Forgiven us!

“Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors”

With the power of the Holy Spirit, let us mean what we say.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

MaryLou Schwenke is retired and lives at Penn Mar. She enjoys working in the kitchen and cooking. Before she moved, she had a large garden on her farm. MaryLou has eight children, twenty-two grandchildren, sixteen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild (with two on the way!) She joins by Reaffirmation of Faith.

Karen Peterman lives just down the street in Mars, and works at a local screen printing shop. When she is not working, she enjoys camping. Karen has two step-children and six grandchildren. She also joins by Reaffirmation of Faith.

September Volunteers for 2018

September Nursery

September 2– Bonnie McElhinny
September 9-Christi Augustine
September 16-Jenny Ivory
September 23-Karen Stack
September 30-MaryAnn Croop

September Greeters

Elder– Herb Wellman and Deacon-Jay Wilson

September Tarry N Talk Hosts

Stewardship Committee: Sally Olsen, Marie Matthews
Alice Leonberg

September Muffin Crew

September 2-
September 9-Rally Day
September 16-
September 23-
September 30-

September Flowers for Worship

Sundays available are: September 23rd and 30th

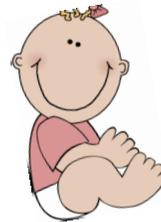
MY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL

The staff at My School Preschool has been busy all summer preparing for our first year here at Mars United Presbyterian Church. We are welcoming approximately 80 children to our preschool. Our school was founded to educate children through hands on learning and we are excited to be continuing this curriculum. Along with this, we will be incorporating a Christian Value curriculum each month. In the month of September, we will focus on friendship. September also brings about many fall activities in which we are looking forward to. Take a look at our website to get to know us better : www.myschoolpreschool.org or if you have any questions please email or give us a call.

WORSHIP SERVICE TIME CHANGE!!!

**Beginning SEPT 16th, worship will
be 8:30am & 11am**

**Sunday School will also start at
9:45 for children and adults**



NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED!

*Can you commit to
ONE or TWO Sundays
out of the YEAR? Just a few more
Adult Volunteers are needed to
help in the Church Nursery during
the 11am worship service. Contact
Jenny Ivory or the office to find out
more!*

Pastor Jim Bible Study

Dear friends in Christ,

As your pastor, I have always felt it's important to lead a Bible Study. After discussions with Session and Christian Ed, we have settled on Wednesday evenings and Thursday mornings (times TBD). The Wednesday evening study will be for those who can't make it during the day, and the Thursday morning study will be for those who can't make it at night! (Gosh, I guess there are no excuses!) We are discussing refreshments and child care.

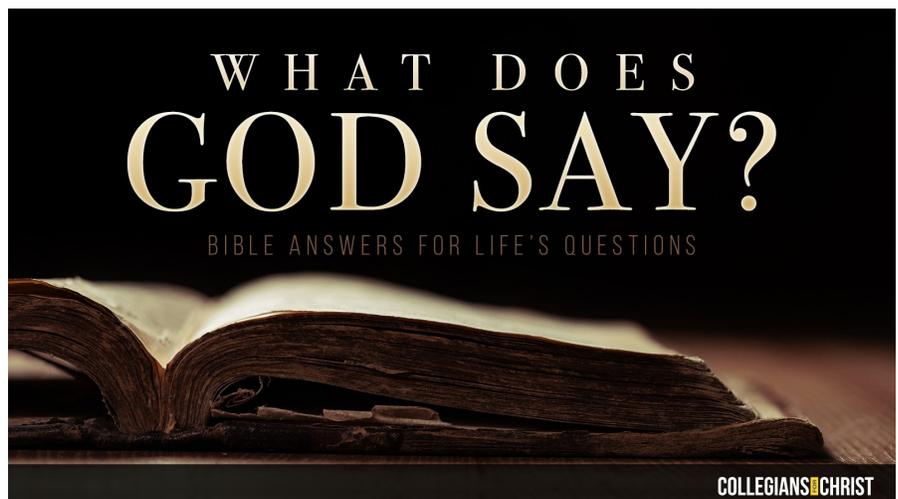
The study will be the same both times – if you can't come to one, you can go to the other. Each study will be approximately 1 hour. The actual studies won't begin until late October, since my September is so busy (for a variety of reasons).

I am still thinking and praying about WHAT to offer, but the topic(s) will allow you to miss and not get terribly behind. As things solidify, we will let you know. If you have any suggestions (parables, miracles, Lesser prophets, Letters of John, various books, historical characters in the Old Testament, lives of those mentioned in the two genealogies, particular topics, etc.), please let me know. I am open for suggestions!

Studying and discussing Scripture is essential to our life and growth as Christians. As important as worship is, you just can't get it all in twenty minutes a week. Please pray about joining us this fall to study God's Word.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim



Rally Day – Sunday, September 9th



Our 2018—2019 Year kick-off will be held on Sunday, September 9th, WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M. Bring your backpacks for the “Blessing of the Backpacks.” Sunday School teachers will also be recognized during the worship service. The Staff and families of My School Preschool will also be invited to share in the festivities. Church members are invited to view the upstairs and see the new Preschool that day also. Following worship, we will celebrate the new school year with a lunch. Bring a side dish to share. Chicken and Mac n Cheese will be provided. Come and hear about our Sunday School Classes for the 2018—2019 school year and meet the My School Preschool families.

Also returning is everyone’s favorite bounce house! Don’t miss this fun filled day

Join us for our “Fall Fest & Bonfire”

October 21st @ 5pm

Enjoy this year’s “Fall Fest & Bonfire” on Oct 21st at 5pm at Quality Gardens. Come out for homemade chili, hotdogs, roasting marshmallows—and many fall oriented fun activities! But, most of all, come out to enjoy the fellowship of our church! Special events for the children.

All ages are welcome! Please invite friends and family! Also, dress warm, bring a flash-light and a chair for sitting around the fire!

Quality Gardens is located on the left off of 228 E, just past the Mars Middle School.



80+Are you 80 or Older? Time to ‘fess up.....

Plans are being made for our 80+ Annual Birthday Celebration on Sunday, October 21st

Call the office or contact Janie Aiken to be added to our birthday list!

World Wide Communion Sunday, October 1st

8:30 and 11:00 services

Tom McMeekin will be leading the
Worship Services

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. New members - We warmly welcome MaryLou Schwenke and Karen Peterman to be received into our membership at the 10 am Service on August 19, 2018
2. My School Preschool continues to brighten up the upper floor of our Church. Please make an effort to walk through the area at your convenience.
3. Looking forward to our new Youth Coordinator, Zach Bailey who will begin his duties on September 4, 2018. Please welcome him to our Church.

APPLEFEST

October 6th
10am—4pm

Stop over at the Mars UP booth with pumpkins, walking tacos and visit with My School Preschool staff too.



In Memorium

Susan A. Bartolac

March 24, 1954—August 23, 2018

Member



DID YOU KNOW?

The ministry of Mars UP Church exceeds far beyond our walls! Your generous contributions

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

in OUR CHURCH & in these organizations and projects:

MHY Family Services St John's Specialty
Hosanna Industries Care
Salvation Army Urban Impact
The Lighthouse Foundation Compassion
International Brother's Brother
Local Christian Camps & Conferences
Heart for Uganda
The Beaver Butler Presbytery Mission

GriefShare Sessions for **Fall 2018**

Griefshare will begin at Mars UP Church on Monday, September 10th in the Library Room. There are 13 sessions, held every Monday until December 10th. Everyone is invited and if you have any questions, please contact Denise at the email provided below.



Held at: Mars United Presbyterian Church,
232 Crowe Avenue, Mars, PA 16046

Sponsored by McDonald-Aeberli Funeral Home, 238 Crowe Avenue, Mars, PA 16046. John Hanovick, *Supervisor*. Please call 724-625-2900 to register or email the facilitator, Denise, at ddemarco5@yahoo.com. There is no childcare available.



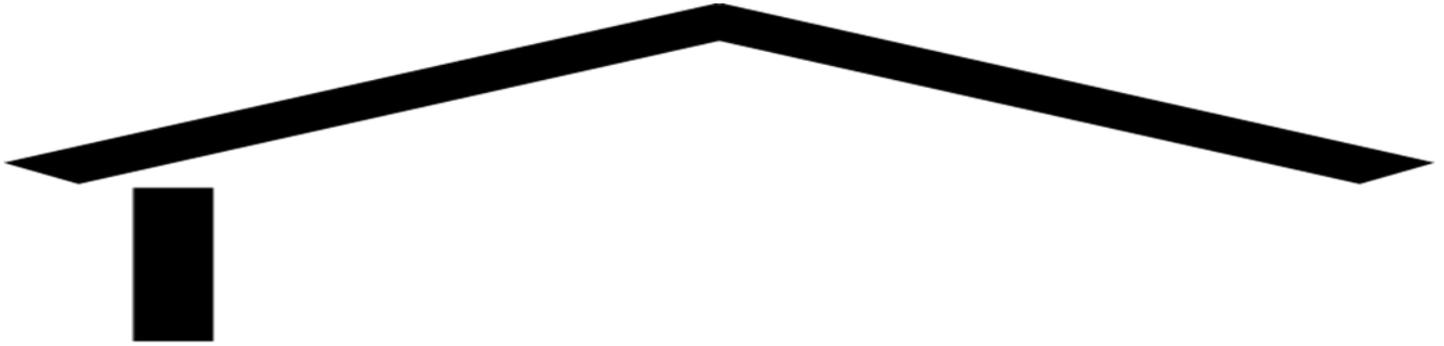
Mars UP Church recycles all plastics, paper, & aluminum products. Please look for the recycling bins to help us help the planet.



The First Bible study will begin on September 10th in the Board Room at 1:30pm. The Bible Study meets on the 1st Monday every month. All ages are WELCOME!

The topic of discussion is: Justice in the New Testament (Bible in Life Series)

If you have any further questions, please see Ann Carter or contact the office.



Dear Friends,

Mars United Presbyterian Church is our home church. In addition to offering Sunday services, the church offers many outreach programs for our community.

Our building is available to local community groups. We host AA meetings, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Griefshare, WIC, Book Group, Material Girls and beginning this September, MySchool Preschool. We are your “hometown church”.

You may be aware the roof of the church will soon be in need of replacement. The estimated cost is \$70,000. Our goal is to raise the funds over the next three years. The existing roof will need to be replaced by that time.

A campaign to raise these funds will begin on Rally Day, September 9, 2018, with an Ice Cream Social. We understand that everyone will help us reach our financial goal in different amounts. We ask that after prayerful consideration, you take a shingle from the display that will be in Tarry and Talk.

Your generous donation will help us replace our roof and preserve an important asset to our community. In addition to financial donations, we hope to have several fundraising events over the next three years. Some of the events we are looking into are: Holiday Gift Wrapping, Panera Fundraiser, Holiday cookie swap and a Church cookbook. If you have any additional fundraising suggestions, please let us know. We need the support of our members and our community to help us reach our goal.

Your ongoing support of the mission of Mars United Presbyterian Church is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stewardship Committee

MARS UP PEACH FESTIVAL



Happy BirthDay!



September 3rd—Jill Cooper

- Abigail Staskiewicz

- Adison Staskiewicz

September 5th—Angela Badger

- Darelene Thurner

September 6th—Elizabeth Sanders

September 9th—Rodney Heeter

September 11th—Andrew Ivory

September 13th—Joe Stoy

September 15th—Ruth Wilson

September 26th—John Heeter

If you do not see your birthday listed above, be sure to let the office know the special day!!

LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD CHOIR MEMBERS!

The 2018-2019 Season of the Mars Chancel Choir is just weeks away. The choir will begin rehearsals on **Wednesday, September 12th at 7 p.m.** and will sing our first anthem for the new year on **Sunday, September 23rd**. We have a few spaces to fill! Are you looking for a new way to serve your church? Please consider joining us each Wednesday, or, inquire about the “Christmas Plan” if you’d like to sing Christmas Anthems and Carols or the “Easter Plan” so you can join us on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. You don’t need to read music (although it really helps!) and you’ll be joining your fellow MUPs serving in a different capacity. We have great fellowship every Wednesday evening and we learn our anthems weeks in advance so you’ll be ready to praise when the time comes!

See me after service, e-mail me or give me a call, there’s always room for one more!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Jamie



MARS UP STUDENT MINISTRY PAGE

What you need to Know About!

Let's Check out what's going on this month for Mars UP Student Ministry!

SEPTEMBER

9/4 Zach Bailey arrives at MUP

9/9 Rally Day

9/16 - 1st Sunday of Sunday School

9/16 - First Youth Group with Zach

MS/HS @ 7:00 until 8:30pm

9/23 - Normal Youth Group

9/30 - Normal Youth Group or Possible Youth Scavenger Hunt in Pittsburgh with BBP



ZACH BAILEY

ZACH BAILEY

Please Welcome

Hi, I'm Zach, I was born and raised in Grove City. I graduated from Grove City College in 2015 with a degree in Biblical and Religious Studies and I have been attending Pittsburgh Theological Seminary since the spring of 2017. I worked for 5 summers at Whitehall Camp and Conference Center which revealed my calling for working with youth. My hobbies include playing, watching, and debating sports particularly football and basketball. Other hobbies of mine include working-out, reading, and playing video games. Some area of interests of mine outside of sports are comics books, Star Wars, Lord of the Rings, as well as others that I am sure will come up in conversation. I am thankful and excited for the opportunity to serve at MUP as the youth leader. I look forward to getting started and seeing the youth program grow and seeing how the Spirit works in life of each youth.

September 2018

Tarry N Talk Hosts:

Stewardship Committee: Sally Olsen, Marie Matthews and Alice Leonberg.

						1
2 8:30 Early Worship 10:00 Morning Worship	3 Labor Day – Office Closed	4 9am A-Team 7:00 p.m. AA	5 9:00a.m. Material Girls	6 1st Day MSPS	7	8
9 8:30 Early Worship 10:00 Morning Worship/Rally Day 11:15 Buildings & Grounds Meeting	10 1:30 p.m. Women’s Bible Study 6:30 Griefshare	11 9am A-Team 7:00 p.m. AA	12 9:00a.m. Material Girls 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 6:00 Stewardship Meeting 7:00 Deacons Meeting	14	15
16 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worp 12:15 Worship/MO Mtg. 7:00 MS/HS Youth Group	17 6:30 Griefshare	18 9am A-Team 7:00 p.m. AA	19 9:00a.m. Material Girls 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 7:00 Session Mtg	21	22
23 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 7:00 MS/HS Youth Group	24 6:30 Griefshare	25 8:00 WIC 9am A-Team 4:00 BBP Mtg 7:00 p.m. AA	26 9:00a.m. Material Girls 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27	28	29
30 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship						

SAVE THE DATE!

- ◆ SEPTEMBER 2– COMMUNION @ 8:30 SERVICE
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 9—RALLY DAY
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 10—GRIEFSHARE STARTS
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 12—CHANCEL CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES
- ◆ SEPTEMBER 16—WORSHIP TIME CHANGE **8:30/11:00**
- ◆ OCTOBER 6—APPLEFEST (DOWNTOWN MARS)
- ◆ OCTOBER 7—WORLDWIDE COMMUNION 8:30/11:00
- ◆ OCTOBER 21– HERITAGE SUNDAY, 80+ DINNER & BONFIRE



Contact Us

Stop by the office, email or give us a call for more information.

Mars UP Church

232 Crowe Ave
PO Box 805
Mars, PA 16046

(724) 625-1365
marsup@mars-up.org

Visit us on the web at
www.mars-up.org

We're also on Facebook!!

Join us for Worship
Sunday's at 8:30 & 11

Prayer Chain:
mjaiken@zoominternet.net

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