

MARS UP CHURCH



We are your hometown church: Faithful to Tradition, Loving in Fellowship & Reaching for Tomorrow! February 2018

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1).

Dear Friends in Christ,

This letter is a brief introduction about me and my hopes for Mars UP Church. I am excited about being your pastor, and I am even more excited about what lies ahead. We anxiously wait for God, through the Holy Spirit, to lead Mars UP into the future.

First and foremost, my sincere thanks to Session for hiring me. I suspect they are as anxious for me to begin my work as I am! I have been impressed with their devotion, commitment, and love for Mars UP Church – continue to pray for them and their leadership.

Second (and probably just as important), my sincere thanks and appreciation to Tom McMeekin for offering the Word each week since the departure of Pastor Ed. The only thing Tom loves more than Mars UP Church is the Lord! He is a true man of God and an important asset to the Body of Christ. We both look forward to see what else God has in store for him.

My job as Interim Pastor is to guide you through the Interim Process, so when a new leader is finally identified, it will be clear you have found the one chosen by God. Your next pastor is out there, serving the Kingdom (or perhaps languishing in Seminary), not knowing that he or she will be called by God to come to Mars UP. My prayer will be that, in God's timing, it will be made obvious whom God is calling.

I was called to Seminary later in life, after twenty-seven years in Business. I have a lifetime of analytical and organizational skills, but the most important lesson I have received in ministry is: ***We are NOT a non-profit organization, we are the Body of Christ.*** If our life skills are not empowered by the Holy Spirit, nothing will happen – we will remain adrift, rudderless without Christ.

Mars UP is my ninth church in thirteen years – frankly, there is nothing I haven't seen. Personally and professionally, I have encountered a multitude of challenges and opportunities in ministry. I am not afraid – God will lead us through our current challenges and (again) into a brighter future.

I have many thoughts on how to proceed (once I figure out the keys and the light switches), but my first task will be to meet as many of you as possible, to hear your thoughts and ideas – not just on the past, but on the future. The other thing on my list is to ***earn the right to be heard.*** If we are to work together, there must be an environment of trust, openness, clarity, and unity. Otherwise, nothing will happen.

One more thing – first and foremost, I will be your pastor. In spite of my experience, I am a pastor, not a consultant coming in to “fix” Mars UP. I look forward to building relationships with every one of you.

No one, least of all me, knows what lies ahead. But I DO know God is in charge, and even though we cannot see the future, we must remain hopeful and be certain that God will bless our steps.

It will be my honor and privilege to serve you and the Body of Christ called Mars UP Church.

Please join me in the journey.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Change

I have been told many times over the years that change is good or we all need to change, or change is inevitable. I have also been told that change hurts and comments like “if it ain’t broke don’t fix it” always imply a degree of reluctance to change. Like a lot of things there are two sides to the change coin.

I suspect that we all know that for our church change has come. Some of us welcome the change some of us don’t. One of my favourite movies is *Fiddler on the Roof* where Tevye, the father, struggles with change. The wonderful song *Tradition* speaks to his comfort with the way things are for him and how he doesn’t want anything to change.....for him. But as the story unfolds he does change as the reality of the world around him changes. I don’t think Tevye ever welcomes the change, but since he walks and talks with God he accepts the changes in his life knowing that God walks with and before him.

I have tried in my preaching this past month to highlight the transformative power of Jesus Christ. And how our faith in Him can bring a change in our lives and how we, as believers, can go into the world to bring change to our family, our community, our church, and our world. We know that Jesus came not to be transformed by this world, but to be the transformer, the agent of change for His world and all who live in it. So, as we accept Him and all that He did AND DOES for us we must accept, welcome and embrace the change that is coming to us and our church.

Please know that while we and our church may change, HE CHANGETH NOT. My prayer for all of us is that we have that part of Tevye in us that knows God is always with us, has a plan for us, and that the promises He made to his children are certain.

I am very excited to welcome Rev Jim Steiner and I would ask that we all pray for Jim and his ministry at the Mars United Presbyterian Church. Jim is a big part of God’s plan for us. Of that I am certain.

Peace

Tom





Welcome Jim Steiner, Interim Pastor – Mars UP welcomes the Rev. James Steiner, our new Interim Pastor. Jim comes to us after serving Hill Church, Butler. In his nearly fourteen years of ministry, Mars UP will be his ninth church, eighth as Interim.

After earning a B.S. in Marketing and an M.B.A., Jim worked for twenty-seven years in Sales and Marketing Management. In 2001, Jim lost his job. After a few weeks of uncertainty, he felt a very strong call to enroll at Seminary. Jim attended Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he received his Master of Divinity in 2004. Jim's first call was to an Associate position.

God called Jim to Interim Ministry, and he feels especially suited for such a call. Given his life skills and education, Jim feels this is a natural fit. Jim has been married 43 years, and has two adult sons and four grandchildren. Please welcome Jim as he begins his ministry at Mars UP.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Colossians 3:12 | NIV

Dear Members of the Mars United Presbyterian Church,

It has been a trying time in the life of our church and we, respectfully, are asking for patience in your hearts as we heal and move on. The Session has approved an interim minister, Reverend Jim Steiner, who will join us on this journey, February 14th for Ash Wednesday services. He is excited to begin the building process and we are excited for this transition as well.

Please continue to worship. Pray for patience and above all else keep Mars UP in your prayers.

Yours *together* in our church family and Christ,

The Mars UP Membership Committee

Linda Moody, Chair

February Birthday's

Mackenzi Courson—1st

Matthew Straley—19th

Karen Purvis—3rd

Ann Carter—19th

Diana Wells—7th

Paige Lauten— 23rd

Jadon Cuyar— 7th

Lisa Engle— 25th

Sue Cook—8th

Barbara Templeton— 27th

Addison Sanders— 9th

Sam Moore— 9th

Jay Wilson— 11th

Lou Beckwith—11th

Garrett Mallick— 12th

Mary Emmett— 13th

Michael Bocheff— 14th

Marsha Haley— 15th



Deacon Kindness

Deacons Kindness Offering (separate offering) will be on February 11, 2018

Please consider helping with this outreach project.

Deacons use this funding to help those who have special financial needs in the community and surrounding areas.

The Deacons at year-end support the local schools, MHY, and others with a year end donation. Look for a summary in March Newsletter.

Food Bank

Food Bank Collection every first Sunday of the month. Please drop off items in the Tarry N Talk. All non-perishable items welcomed.

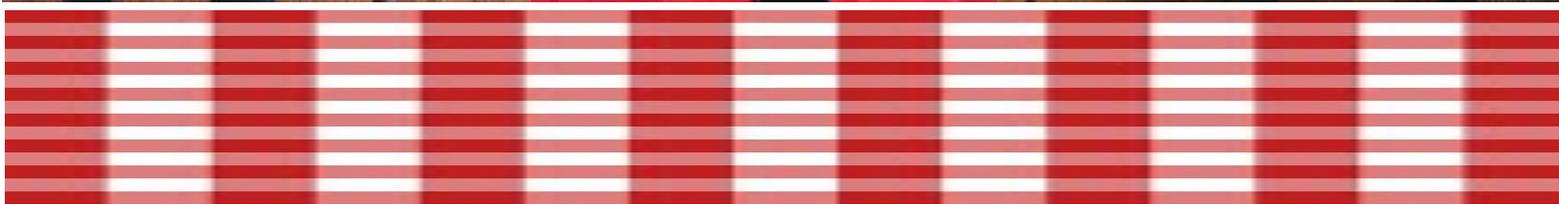
Thank You for your support!



SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER



MORE SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER PHOTOS



Basket Winners

GET FIT BASKET—SALLY OLSEN

SNUGGLE UP—PAT JACKSON

AVON—CAROL COONEY

PAMPER YOURSELF— BETHANY HARMON

SPRING SHOPPING—DEB JACKSON

KITCHEN STUFF—DICK URBAN

FEEL LUCKY—TOM MCMEEKIN

BOYS JUST WANTA HAVE FUN— JOHN HANOVICK

VALENTINE DAY— JUNE STIRLING

DATE NIGHT— GARY AND MARIA CLINGERMAN

APPLE OF MY EYE— MARK MACRI

CHICK-FIL- A—EMILY IVORY

WOOF WOOF— LINDA MOODY

PICNIC FUN— ELLA HEETER

KITCHEN, KITCHEN— RUTH WILSON

DINNER IS SERVED— HEATHER TURNER

EASTER—SUSAN AND BOB COX



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JENNY IVORY AND ALL THOSE WHO DONATED THE BASKETS FOR OUR SPAGHETTI DINNER! THE BASKETS ARE LOVED BY EVERYONE ATTENDING!!!



CAROL COONEY



MARK MACRI



SALLY OLSEN



TOM MCMEEKIN

Volunteering for 2017

February Nursery

February 4– Lisa Aaron

February 11-

February 18-Carolyn Golden

February 25-Mary Snow

February Greeters

Elder– Marie Matthews and Deacon-Jay Wilson

February Tarry N Talk Hosts

Worship/Membership Committee: Linda Moody, June Stirling, Louise Fox, Janie Aiken, Bonnie McElhinny, Linda Lees, Carol Kopar, Amy Lauten

February Muffin Crew

February 4-

February 11–

February 18– Pam and Linda

February 25-Pam & Linda

February Flowers for Worship

Sundays available February 11th and 25th

Pastors Schedule for February

February 4th and 11th—Tom McMeekin

February 14th—Ash Wednesday– Pastor Jim Steiner

February 18th and 25th– Pastor Jim Steiner

Per Capita Assessment

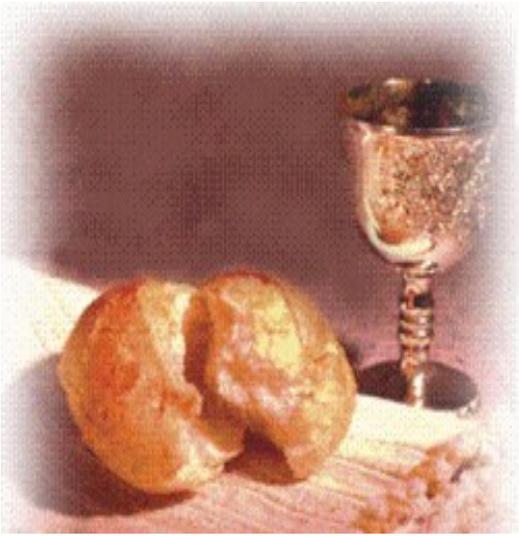
It is that time of year, our individual Per Capita Assessment is due to the Butler Beaver Presbytery. We are requested to pay **\$39.47** to them **per member** of congregation of confirmation age and older. You can place your assessments in the offertory and ear mark it for your Per Capita Assessments. Many wonder what this money does for us.... As many of you may know, the BBP helped us locate an Interim pastor for the transition we are now in. Pastor Jim Steiner will be starting on February 14th (Ash Wednesday). In addition, they provide support in negotiating salaries, insurances and pensions with our pastors and employees. Most importantly they provide a resource for us to tap into when we are in need of guidance. Please consider paying your Per Capita Assessment as soon as possible as we partner with our Presbytery to become stronger, smarter and more cohesive. As always, we give thanks for your generosity and support.

Thank You Mars UP Church from Glade Run Food Bank

Dear Friends,

Thank You very much for your support of the Food Bank/Clothing Place. It is the community's way of sharing God's love and warmth. May all of you have a Blessed New Year.

With Christian Love,
The Boaz House
Sally McIntyre, treasurer



Walk-In Communion—February 14 (5pm to 7:30pm)

Our Ash Wednesday service is a very informal, personal worship. We've invited you to attend as you are able, come as you are, and depart when you desire. Our worship service will be made of three components which are: Preparation: Take time to quietly read a few worship aids which will be provided. These will help you to prepare for the partaking of the elements of the Last Supper. Meditation: Periodic readings from young The Celebration of Communion. When you feel your are ready, come forward to receive the elements.

Lenten Lunches—Every Friday at 12 noon

Every Friday at 12 noon the community is invited to enjoy lunch and a special guest speaker. There is no charge for the lunch; however donations will be received. Come and Fellowship with us on February 16th for our first Lenten Lunch. We will be serving soups, sandwiches, salads and dessert.



Upcoming Lent and Easter

February 14th	5pm	Ash Wednesday—Walk-In Communion
2/16 thru 3/30	12pm	Lenten Luncheon with various Speakers
3/25	8:30 & 11am	Palm Sunday Worship Services
3/29	TBD	Maundy Thursday
3/30	12pm	Good Friday Luncheon with Worship Services
April 1st	8:30 & 11am	Easter Worship Services

God
IS
LOVE

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!***

February 2018

**2/4—Super Bowl Party @ 6:00 p.m. Badger Home
156 Huch Road**

2/11-Normal Youth Group—Ski Deposit Due!

2/14-Ash Wednesday Service @ 5:30 pm

2/16—First Lenten Lunch @ 12am

2/16—17—Lock-in with Bakerstown Pres. (MS only)

2/18- Normal Youth Group

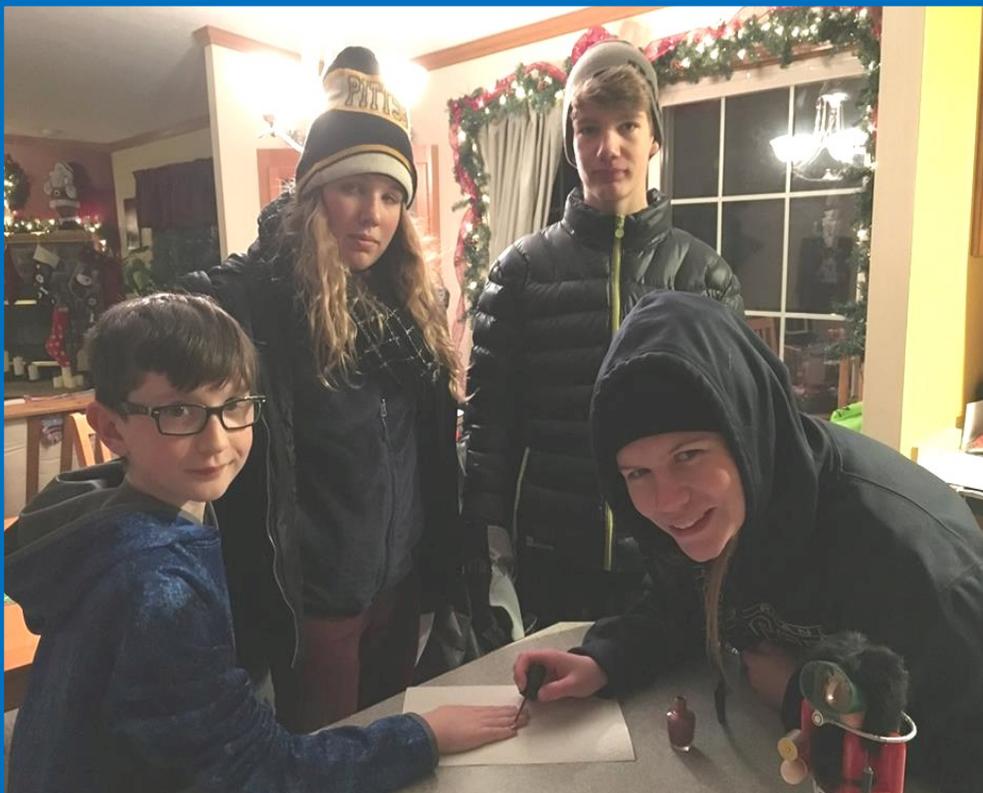
2/24- Service Project—TBD

2/25 -Hidden Valley Ski Trip @ 11am

***Thank You everyone
who came to support
our Spaghetti Dinner
Fundraiser last
Month!!***

***We raised a strong por-
tion of what we need to
get us started towards
our mission trip this
summer***

God Bless!



SAVE THE DATE!

- ◆ **February 4– Communion @ 8:30 Service**
- ◆ **February 14– Ash Wednesday Walk In Communion @ 5:00 p.m.**
- ◆ **February 16 First Lenten Lunch @ 12:00 p.m.**
- ◆ **February 18 Pastor Jim Steiner at 8:30 and 11:00 services 1st Sunday in Lent**
- ◆ **February 25 Hidden Valley Ski trip**
- ◆ **March 4—Congregational Meeting @ 10:00 am**



**Two Fabulous Moms helping with Spaghetti Dinner!
Thank You Angela and Bonnie!**

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

Mars UP Church
232 Crowe Ave
PO Box 805
Mars, PA 16046