

# MARS UP CHURCH



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

February 2018

Dear Friends in Christ,

*Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. (Colossians 3:12-15).*

As you know, the Mars Transition Team continues its work. The survey responses have been heartfelt, honest, and enlightening. The Team is still collecting comments, and we hope to present the full results to the congregation in March. Our plan is to have a single service March 17: after worship, we will present the findings (and our conclusions), then we will all go to the Social Hall for more discussion.

Some of you have expressed frustration with how slowly things are moving. You ask, "Why haven't we started to interview candidates yet?" My answer: If we cannot articulate where we hope to be in the future, how will we know when we meet the person who will take us there? We are still working on describing our current condition – we are not yet ready to describe the type of person we think we need.

The Team will prepare and present a Mission Study, and the ENTIRE CONGREGATION will vote to approve it. The eventual date is somewhat of a "moving target," but we hope to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee by May-June.

One of the things that jumps out to the Team is the diversity of responses and opinions from the Mars members. There seems to be a lack of consensus, perhaps a lack of unity – the answers and comments are all over the map!

My brothers and sisters, we (you?) need to find something to unify around! Our focus should no longer be on the past (particularly 2017), but where we are NOW, and where we hope to be in the future. Of course, looking to our history is helpful, but we should not be held hostage by the past. Mars will only move forward if we engage in open and honest conversations about who we are TODAY, and (again) how we can come together as a unified Body of Christ.

First and foremost, please PRAY for the work of the Transition Team. These eight persons are devoted and committed members, and they are working very hard to lead the process. To be sure, our meetings have been lively, engaging, even argumentative. But the Team is (again) fully committed to presenting a frank assessment of:

- Who Mars UP Church is
- What is happening in our community
- The challenges we face
- Our hopes and dreams

And what type of pastor we need

What can the rest of us do? Please refer to the passage above....

In Christ,

**Pastor Jim**

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. ANYONE wishing to serve as a nonvoting member on a Session committee, please contact the office for information. Session welcomes input from the congregation, and you need not be a deacon or elder. Please take the opportunity to see how the committee system works. Session would love to have you.

2. Keep on the lookout for more info about Tournament Night—March 10th @ 6:30 to 8pm at our church

3. Consider attending an exciting Worship, sponsored by Victory Church—300 Church Initiative March 22, 2019, Details at [XCHANGEATVICTORY.COM](http://XCHANGEATVICTORY.COM)

***“Faith is taking the first step even when you don’t see the whole staircase.”***

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

### 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!



## Volunteering for 2019

### February Nursery

February 3– Jill Cooper

February 10–Keith Cuyar

February 17–Jenny Ivory

February 24–Marsha Haley

### February Greeters

Elder–Bob Riefer and Deacon-Jay Wilson

### February Tarry N Talk Hosts

Worship/Membership Committee: June Stirling, Louise Fox, Keith Nichols, Bonnie McElhinny, Linda Lees, Carol Kopar

### February Muffin Crew

February 3

February 10–Pam and Linda

February 17–

February 24– Pam and Linda

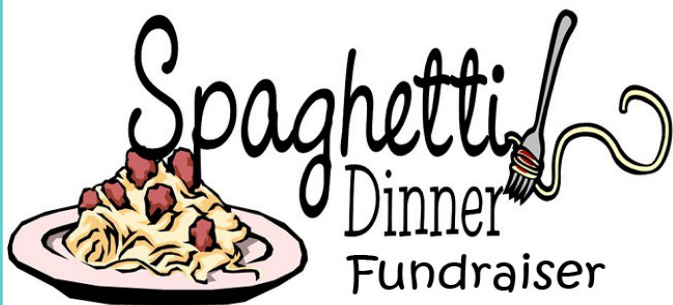
### February Flowers for Worship

Sundays available February 17th and 25th

## 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 **\$40.69** 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 provides 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.

## February 10th from 5 to 7



Come out to Mars UP Church Sunday, February 10 from 5 to 7 to help support our Student Ministry by attending our **ALL YOU CAN EAT** spaghetti dinner.

Dinner includes: pasta, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert, and refreshments.

Adults: \$10 and children 9 and under \$5.

Proceeds will support the Mars UP Student fellowship retreats & Summer 2019 mission trip to West Virginia, and continued student growth as a ministry.



## Walk-In Communion—March 6th (5pm to 7:30pm)

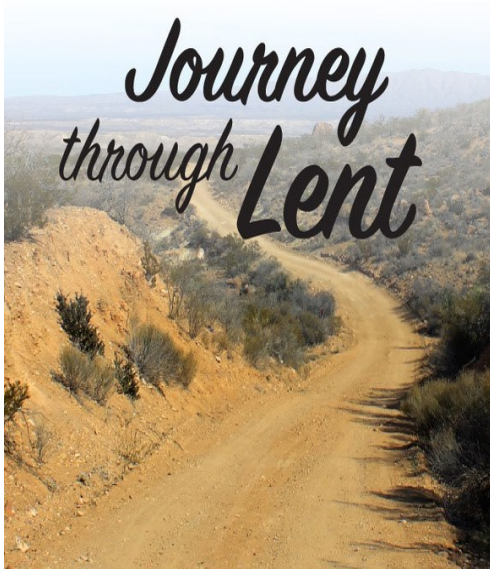
Our Ash Wednesday service is a very informal, personal worship. We've invited you to attend as you are able, come as you are, and depart when you desire. Our worship service will be made of three components which are: Preparation: Take time to quietly read a few worship aids which will be provided. These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



## Lenten Lunches—Every Friday at 12 noon

### Starting March 8th

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

March 6th	5pm	Ash Wednesday—Walk-In Communion
3/8 thru 4/19	12pm	Lenten Luncheon with various Speakers
4/14	8:30 & 11am	Palm Sunday Worship Services
4/18	TBD	Maundy Thursday
4/19	12pm	Good Friday Luncheon with Worship Service
April 21st	8:30 & 11am	Easter Worship Services



## CHURCH WIDE TOURNAMENT NIGHT



*All are Invited!!*

*March 10th at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall*

*Corn Toss and Board games provided*

*If you have a favorite board game, feel free to bring along.*

*Refreshments provided and Prizes awarded.*

*Mark your Calendars for the fun night out with your Mars UP Family!*

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

## Mars United Presbyterian Church GriefShare Sessions for Spring 2019

Session Number	Date	Time
Session 1	Monday, February 11, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 2	Monday, February 18, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 3	Monday, February 25, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 4	Monday, March 04, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 5	Monday, March 11, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 6	Monday, March 18, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 7	Monday, March 25, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 8	Monday, April 01, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 9	Monday, April 08, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 10	Monday, April 15, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 11	Monday, April 22, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 12	Monday, April 29, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Session 13	Monday, May 06, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS (If the group is interested)	Monday, May 13, 2019	6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

### SEMINAR TOPICS

Each week your group will watch a video seminar on DVD. The GriefShare videos cover topics essential to your recovery from the hurt of grief and loss. The videos are produced in a compelling television magazine format and feature interviews with grief recovery experts, dramatic reenactments, on-location video and real-life stories of people who have experienced the death of a loved one. Here is a list of the weekly topics: Continued on the next page!!

# Mars United Presbyterian Church GriefShare Sessions for Spring 2019

## LIVING WITH GRIEF — SESSION 1

This session introduces you to GriefShare. It also explains what living with grief is like, why you shouldn't be ashamed of your grief and why you shouldn't rush through your healing.

## THE JOURNEY OF GRIEF — SESSION 2

This session prepares you for what to expect along the journey of grief. At the same time, it emphasizes that everyone's journey is unique and warns against comparing grief experiences.

## THE EFFECTS OF GRIEF — SESSION 3

You're probably surprised at how debilitating grief is. This session explains that this is normal and suggests practical ways to find comfort.

## WHEN YOUR SPOUSE DIES — SESSION 4

If you've lost your spouse, this session helps you think through the critical issues involved in your healing. It also begins preparing you to face the difficult transition into a new reality without your spouse.

## YOUR FAMILY AND GRIEF — SESSION 5

This session shares how to keep your family afloat when its members are drowning in grief. It also presents some of the unique issues involved if you're grieving the death of a child.

## WHY? — SESSION 6

Just because God doesn't answer all of your questions doesn't mean He won't answer any of them. This session answers the "Why" questions and encourages you to begin asking other questions as well.

## THE UNIQUENESS OF GRIEF, PT. 1 — SESSION 7

This session explores how the causes of, and your responses to, your loved one's death affect your grief. Topics addressed include suicide, long-term illness, murder and false guilt.

## THE UNIQUENESS OF GRIEF, PT. 2 — SESSION 8

Relationships, past and present, affect your grief. This session helps you address insensitive comforters and unresolved conflict with a deceased loved one.

## GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR GRIEF — SESSION 9

The bereaved are often overwhelmed by the advice they receive from others. And often, what goes unnoticed is what God says about healing. This session tells you how to position yourself to experience God's healing.

## STUCK IN GRIEF — SESSION 10

It's easy to get stuck along the journey of grief. This session explains how to keep moving on the path to healing.

## TOP TWENTY LESSONS OF GRIEF, PT. 1 — SESSION 11

In this session, those who've walked the journey of grief will share what they've learned and how they've grown from their grief experience.

## TOP TWENTY LESSONS OF GRIEF, PT. 2 — SESSION 12

In this session you'll hear the most significant lessons that can be learned during grief.

## HEAVEN — SESSION 13

This session gives practical advice on how to tap into, and hold onto, the source of hope in this disappointing world.

# 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 2019***

**2/3—Super Bowl Party @ Church—6pm**

**2/10-Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser @ 5pm**

**2/17-Normal Youth Group**

**2/24—Normal Youth Group**

**3/3—Communion 8:30am and 11:00 am during  
Worship**

**3/3—Normal Youth Group**

**3/6—Ash Wednesday**

## **SPAGHETTI DINNER**

**February 10th from 5  
to 7**

***All youth are encouraged and  
expected to help with this  
fundraiser. Please contact  
Zach with your availability to  
help.***



# February 2019

**Tarry N Talk Hosts WORSHIP COMMITTEE**—June Stirling, Louise Fox, Keith Nichols, Bonnie McElhinny, Linda Lees, Carol Kopar

					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:30 Early Wsp 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wsp 12:15 Bldg & Gr Mtg 6:00 Youth Group Super Bowl Party  <b>Nursery: Jill Cooper</b>	<b>4</b> 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study  6:00 pm Boy scouts	<b>5</b> 9am Ateam  7pm AA	<b>6</b> 9am Material Girls 6:30 Cub Scouts 7pm Pastor Bible Study 7pm Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 9:30 Pastor Bible Study  7:00 Cub Scouts 7:15pm Deacon Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 8:30 Early Wsp 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wsp 12:15 CE/MO Mtg 5:00 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser <b>Nursery: Keith Cuyar</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 pm Boy scouts 6:00 Cub Scouts 6:30 Griefshare	<b>12</b> 9am Ateam  7pm AA	<b>13</b> 9am Material Girls 7pm Pastor Bible Study 7pm Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 9:30 Pastor Bible Study 6:00 Stewardship Meeting Happy Valentines Day!	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30 Early Wsp 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wsp 12:15 Worship/Membership Mtg 7:00 Youth Group  <b>Nursery: Jenny Ivory</b>	<b>18</b> 6:00 pm Boy scouts 6:30 Griefshare	<b>19</b> 9am Ateam  7pm AA	<b>20</b> 9am Material Girls 7pm Pastor Bible Study  7pm Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 9:30 Pastor Bible Study 7:00 Session Meeting 7:00 pm Cub Scouts	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 8:30 Early Wsp 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wsp 7:00 Youth Group  <b>Nursery: Marsha Haley</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00 pm Boy scouts 6:30 Griefshare	<b>26</b> 9am Ateam  12 Noon AA	<b>27</b> 9am Material Girls 7pm Pastor Bible Study 7pm Chancel Choir	<b>28</b> 9:30 Pastor Bible Study		



## SAVE THE DATE!

- ◆ February 3— Communion @ 8:30 Service
- ◆ February 10— Spaghetti Dinner
- ◆ February 11 First Session of Spring Griefshare
- ◆ March 3—Communion at both Services
- ◆ March 6—Ash Wednesday Walk in Communion



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## Contact Us

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

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.mars-up.org](http://www.mars-up.org)

We're also on Facebook!!

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

**PRAYER CHAIN**  
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