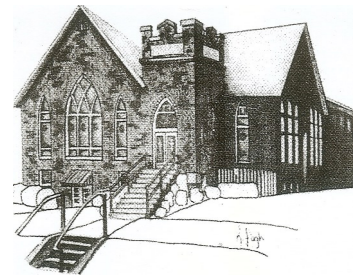


# MARS UP CHURCH



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

**October 2018**

*"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me"* (Matthew 28:18).

Dear Friends in Christ,

Several years ago, I attended a seminar on leadership at Seminary. The speaker asked, "What are the characteristics of a leader?"

Several persons responded: A leader is...

- Willing to take risks;
- Able to articulate a vision;
- Dynamic;
- Confident.

Someone spoke up and said, "A leader must have followers."

My friends, if an organization has leaders, but no followers, what is it? Too many leaders and no followers, the result is chaos. No leaders but just followers, nothing gets done!

Mars U.P. Church is at an important point in her life. In November, we will elect elders and deacons to join their respective boards and serve for the next three years. The men and women you elect have been called by God to be your leaders. But in order for them to *lead*, the rest of us must agree to *follow*.

Another important part to this – look at the words of Jesus at the top of the page – "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*" Jesus leads with authority, not just power. (Of course, Jesus has power – after all, he's God! But it's much better following someone who leads with authority instead of power.)

## **Let's compare power vs. authority:**

- Power is taken
- Authority is given
  
- Power means control
- Authority means freedom
  
- People resist power
- People submit to authority

In the past, I suspect some followers at M.U.P. felt or believed the leaders had seized power, instead of the followers accepting their authority. Considering the comparisons above, this did not make for a healthy situation (or congregation!) Who wants to follow someone who leads from power?

If M.U.P. is to heal and move into the future, our leaders must *lead with authority*, not with power.

But in order for this to work, the rest of us, the followers, must *accept and follow the authority of the leaders*.

A few observations:

- Mistakes were made on all sides in 2017.
- There is plenty of blame and responsibility to go around.
- “The Church” (whoever that is) could have done a better job.
- Communication should have been better.

There needs to be (and will be!) more transparency and openness.

Moving forward, you have my commitment that I will watch how things get done like a hawk. Your *leaders* are ready and willing to serve, and they will be honored if you give them the *authority to lead*. But remember, if you give them that authority, you also must be willing to submit to that authority (please refer to the six comparisons noted above).

If the leaders don’t change, the outcome is obvious. But again, if the followers don’t change either, guess what?

Elsewhere in this newsletter, I have reprinted my lead article from May 2018, discussing Presbyterian Polity, and how our Constitution instructs us to should operate. We have a process, and it’s a good one. Mars U.P. must stand on this process if we are to become a healthier Body of Christ.

My brothers and sisters, let us share the authority given to us by God himself, and let us serve each other...

To the benefit of Mars U.P. Church and the Kingdom of God.

In Christ,

**Pastor Jim**



Elena Matthews- October 4th

Linda McDonald—October 7th

Cherry Sauers—October 7th

Ira Baumgartel—October 11th

Roseann Marshall October 13th

Amanda Pfeifer—October 27th

Bob Riefer—October 21st

Lisa Aaron—October 28th

Marg Kennedy—October 23rd

John Augustine—October 30th

Keith Nichols—October 24th

Herb Wellman—October 25th



## October Volunteers for 2018

### October Nursery

October 7-Pat Auld

October 14-Angela Guesman

October 21-Keith Nichols

October 28-Marsha Haley

### October Greeters

Elder-Keith Cuyar and Deacon

### October Tarry N Talk Hosts

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

### October Muffin Crew

October 7-

October 14 - Linda Lees & Pam Kennedy

October 21-

October 28- Linda Lees & Pam Kennedy

### October Flowers for Worship

Sundays available are: October 21st

### Pastors Schedule for October

October 7th—Tom McMeekin

October 14th—Rev. Liddy Barlow

October 21st & 28th—Rev. Jim Steiner

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Session is beginning to consider a single Sunday worship service
2. Coming soon : Pastor's Bible study to begin October 24, 2018 - Wednesday pm and Thursday am
3. Our Youth Director Zach, has begun his work with our Youth
4. Our Transition Team continues with their valuable work
5. My School Preschool brings many exciting young children into our Church building daily
6. Our upcoming Applefest booth will be shared with My School Pre-school.

## 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. **If Raining, come to the Church Fellowship Hall.**

All ages are welcome! Please invite friends and family! Also, dress warm, bring a flash-light, forks for cooking hot dogs 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 .**





# RALLY DAY 2018





*Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God (Romans 13:1).*

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month, I want to talk about *Presbyterian Polity*, or how we govern ourselves. At Mars UP Church, we have two elected bodies – the Session (comprised of Ruling Elders) and Deacons.

Here are some definitions, from our Constitution, *The Book of Order*:

**Deacon:** “The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.”

**Ruling Elder:** “Ruling elders are so named not because they “lord it over” the congregation (Matthew 20:25), but because they are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life. Ruling elders, together with [Ministers], exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships. When elected by the congregation, they shall serve faithfully as members of the Session.”

Deacons and Elders are elected by the congregation, but they do not have “constituencies.” Our leaders do not represent certain age groups, genders, or geographic areas; in their deliberations, they vote their conscience. On the other hand, as *servant leaders*, they are encouraged to keep their ears open to the opinions and feelings in the congregation. Further, they should be present and available to those they serve – this means participating in the work and worship of the church (hard to be a servant leader if you’re not around!)

**What about Authority and Responsibility?** Our *Book of Order* is quite clear about who has, and who does not have authority, and who is responsible for what.

**The Congregation’s authority:** “Business to be transacted at meetings of the congregation shall be limited to matters related to the following:

- a. electing ruling elders, deacons, and trustees;
- b. calling a pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor;
- c. changing existing pastoral relationships, by such means as reviewing the adequacy of and approving changes to the terms of call of the pastor or pastors, or requesting, consenting to, or declining to consent to dissolution;
- d. buying, mortgaging, or selling real property;
- e. requesting the presbytery to grant an exemption as permitted in this Constitution
- f. approving a plan for the creation of a joint congregational witness, or amending or dissolving the joint congregational witness.”

**What about the Pastor's authority?** Again, from the *Book of Order*: “The Pastor has certain responsibilities which are not subject to the authority of the Session. [Regarding] worship, the pastor is responsible for:

- the selection of Scripture lessons to be read;
- the preparation and preaching of the sermon or exposition of the Word;
- the prayers offered on behalf of the people and those prepared for the use of the people in worship;
- the music to be sung (in coordination with the Choir Director);
- the use of drama, dance, and other art forms.”

Essentially, the Pastor only has authority (or responsibility) for things related to worship. As you read above, the congregation also has limited authority. So outside the congregation and the pastor, we can conclude that *Session is responsible for everything else*.

***So why am I taking the time to go through all this? I hope you are still reading!***

As your Pastor, I certainly have experience and opinions, but decisions are made by the Session, and by the congregation as noted above. And unless the Session *specifically decides* to give me authority for something, I don't have it.

Mars UP Church is not congregational – we are *Presbyterian*. The Presbyterian form of government is representative and consultative. Leaders are elected out of the body, and the membership agrees to *submit to the authority* of the leaders. An important part of leadership is *followership*.

***ALL THAT BEING SAID, LET ME EMPHASIZE SOMETHING:*** I fully realize improvements can be made regarding how we get things done, and how we communicate with each other. Everyone agrees we need to have more trust and transparency. Perfection may not be possible, but things can, should, *and will* be done better in the future. But please be patient.

As we move forward through this Interim time, I want everyone to be clear regarding who has authority, and who does NOT. And as Paul reminds us, we are all under the authority of Christ, who is the Head of the Church.

If we strive to follow the words of the Apostle, the Body of Christ called Mars UP Church will be much healthier.

In Christ,

***Pastor Jim***

# WHAT'S HAPPENING in the Life of Mars UP Church this Weekend in October!!

World Wide Communion  
Sunday, October 7th

both 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.  
Worship Services.

Lay Pastor Tom McMeekin  
will be our guest minister.

October 7th — Collection for  
Glade Run Food Bank can



AppleFest – Saturday, October 1

10am until 4pm

Stop over at the Mars UP “Walking  
Taco” booth with pumpkin painting  
and more!!



# WHAT'S HAPPENING in the Life of Mars UP Church later in the Month of October!!

Heritage Sunday, October 21, 2018

Heritage Sunday is wonderful day that  
celebrates both the rich heritage of  
Mars UP Church and faith tradition.

During the 11:00 Service, we will be  
recognizing the 25yr and 50 year anni-  
versaries of church members. Included  
in the 11am service will be a special  
performance by George Balderose on  
the bag pipes. Mr. Balderose also per-  
formed for last year's Sunday service.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF  
80+ MEMBERS**

**AFTER THE 11:00 SERVICE, THERE WILL BE  
A CELEBRATION IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL  
FOR ALL THOSE OVER 80 YEARS YOUNG.**



## MONTHLY DEACON KINDNESS COLLECTION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

These funds are used to help those in our community who may need some assistance. Please consider contributing to this worthwhile program.



## COME VISIT THE CHURCH LIBRARY



Now let me ask you a question, do you know where our church library is located? It's the first door on the left as you enter from the back of the church – you can't miss it . . . or have you walked right by without noticing?

We hope it wets your appetite for some good reading. We invite you to come visit the church library again . . . for the first time!

The quarterly Quiet Hour is also available in our library.



Pastor Jim will begin his Bible Study on **Wednesday, October 24, 7:00 PM**. This will be a one-hour study. Also, the same study will take place **Thursday mornings at 9:30 AM**. We will begin with a look at the Parables of Jesus. Regarding food, we will let things develop on their own. If anyone wants to organize refreshments, the group can decide. Please join us!



# 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!*

**October**

**10/6- Mars Apple Fest**

**10/7 - Worldwide Communion**

- Normal YG @ 7:00 pm

**10/14 –Normal Youth Group**

**10/21- \*\*\*ALL YOUTH GROUP meet at Quality Gardens 5  
-7pm for MUP Church Bonfire. Games, food, music, and  
the glow of a bonfire!**

**10/28— Normal Youth Group**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN  
ATTENDING

**LAURELVILLE?????**

**DATE: WEEKEND OF  
NOVEMBER 30TH**

**PLEASE SEE ZACH OR CONTACT  
THE OFFICE IF YOU ARE INTER-  
ESTED IN ATTENDING.**

**WE NEED TO SIGN UP NOW,  
BUT IN ORDER TO DO THAT WE  
NEED COMMITMENTS FROM  
YOU!!!!!!**

**MORE INFO CAN BE FOUND AT:**

**[https://  
www.pittsburghkidsfound  
ation.org/pittsburgh/?](https://www.pittsburghkidsfoundation.org/pittsburgh/)**



# October 2018

**Tarry N Talk Hosts:** Worship/Membership Committee

Linda Moody, June Stirling,  
Louise Fox, Janie Aiken,  
Bonnie McElhinny, Linda

	1	2 9am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	3 9:00a.m. Material Girls  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4	5	6 Mars Applefest 
7 WORLDWIDE COMMUNION 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 7:00 MS/HS Youth Group <b>Nursery: Pat Auld</b>	8 1:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study  6:30 Griefshare 6:30 BoyScouts	9 9am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	10 9:00a.m. Material Girls  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	11 6:00 Stewardship Meeting 7:00 Deacons Meeting	12	13
14 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 12:15 CE/MO MTG 7:00 MS/HS Youth Group <b>Nursery: Angela Guesman</b>	15  6:30 Griefshare 6:30 BoyScouts	16 9am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	17 9:00a.m. Material Girls  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	18 7:00 Session Mtg	19	20
21 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 80+ DINNER 5:00PM Bonfire @Quality Gardens <b>Nursery: Keith Nichols</b>	22  6:30 Griefshare	23 9am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	24 9:00a.m. Material Girls  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	25 9:30am Pastor Bible Study	26	27
28 8:30 Early Worship 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 7:00 MS/HS Youth Group <b>Nursery: Marsha Haley</b>	29  6:30 Griefshare 6:30 BoyScouts	30 8:30 WIC 9am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	31 9:00a.m. Material Girls  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal			

## SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ OCTOBER 6th— MARS APPLEFEST (DOWNTOWN MARS)
- ♦ OCTOBER 7th— WORLD COMMUNION— Lay Pastor TOM MCMEEKIN
- ♦ OCTOBER 14th— GUEST MINISTER— Rev. LIDDY BARLOW
- ♦ OCTOBER 21st—HERITAGE SUNDAY/80+ DINNER
- ♦ OCTOBER 21st—"FALL FEST/BONFIRE" QUALITY GARDENS



**GIRL POWER! INSTALLING THE MEN'S BATHROOM FLOOR**

## 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](mailto:marsup@mars-up.org)

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:  
[mjaiken@zoominternet.net](mailto:mjaiken@zoominternet.net)

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