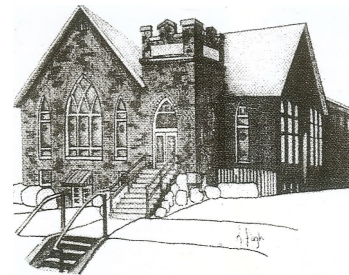


# MARS UP CHURCH



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

June 2018

***Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off (Proverbs 23:18).***

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each month I ask God to tell me what to write for the newsletter. This month, God is telling me to ask you, “*Now what?*”

Mars UP Church has been through a time of struggle and trauma. Folks were angry (some still are), many are grieving, some left our fellowship (some have returned, thanks be to God!). Of those who remain, many are faithful in leadership, worship, and participation. Others are not so sure: Someone told me, “There are a lot of good people at our church who are silently waiting to see what will happen.”

I have spent many hours listening, receiving opinions from all sides. *Not that it matters, since this is what I am called to do*, but the process has been overwhelming. Like many of you, I often found myself emotionally, spiritually, or physically exhausted.

Mars UP truly needs to heal, and needs hope for the future.

***Let me emphasize*** – I recognize, appreciate, and honor your emotions, your anger, your grief, your frustration, and any other feelings or opinions you might have. Whatever you feel, it is real, and it belongs to you.

Having said all that, *now what?* Do we continue to personalize things? Do we continue to blame others? Do we continue to think, if a few folks leave, our problems will go away? Whose “fault” was it, anyhow? Is it better to focus on the past, hoping things might have turned out differently?

My friends, the past is part of us, but it is just that, the past. What happened *happened*, and we need to name it and own it. If you have left our fellowship, I hope and pray you have landed somewhere else. If you are still searching, please pray about coming back – you will be welcomed. I admit there are dozens I need to meet, so if you would like to talk, please call me. Regardless of the outcome, you will be heard (and listened to!)

Very soon, we will form a Transition Team (this is NOT the Pastor Nominating Committee) to lead us through the Interim Process. Much work lies ahead, especially the process of *Coming to Terms with our History*: as a community of faith, we need to consider and take ownership of everything that has happened (not just recently, but over the past fifty years).

My brothers and sisters, *surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off*. How do I know this? God told me so, and he told me to tell you! But in order to move forward, we need to take the first steps – together.

I pray you will join me.

In Christ,

***Pastor Jim***

**MARS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**REGISTER at  
WWW.MARS-UP.ORG**



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2018 SHIPWRECKED**

June 18 thru June 22

6:00 UNTIL 8:30P.M.

AHOY! "Shipwrecked: Rescued by Jesus" is our theme this year and we are so excited about sharing God's word with your children, grandchildren, friends, and family. Join us on an adventure to an uncharted island where kids are anchored in the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.

### **Mars UP CHURCH VBS**

Every Year our Vacation Bible School reaches out to the community to share God's Word to the children. Our VBS is FREE to all those who attend. In order to continue this, we need YOUR help!! If you are able to donate to this community project, please send a check marked "VBS" to Mars UP Church or put in the offering plate. If you are unable to donate funds, we are still looking for volunteers. Please contact the office @ 724-625-1365 or email to [marsup@mars-up.org](mailto:marsup@mars-up.org)

# Happy Birthday To Everyone Born in June!

June 1st Steve McDonald

June 4th Adam McElhinny

June 5th John Ivory

June 6th Peter Wells

June 6th June Stirling

June 7th Robyn Beckwith

June 9th Lauren Haley

June 15th Donald Aiken

June 19th Nancy Huggins

June 21st Marlene Edwards

June 22nd Lisa Foster

June 23rd Luke Barbour

June 23rd Sean McElhinny

June 28th Doris Keefer





## Volunteers for 2018

### June Nursery

June 3- Katie Olsen/Cord Bocheff

June 10-CHURCH PICNIC

June 17-Sue Cook

June 24- Karen Stack

### June Greeters

Elder- Alice Leonberg and Deacon-Caroline Kopar

### June Tarry N Talk Hosts

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

### June Muffin Crew

June 3- Graduation Sunday

June 10-Church Picnic

June 17- Pam Kennedy & Linda Lees

June 24-Pam Kennedy & Linda Lees

### June Flowers for Worship

Available Sundays are June 17th and June 24th

*The greatest gift  
I ever had  
came from God  
I call him Dad*

## June Monthly Reminders

Worship Hours: 8:30am and 10:00am starting June 3rd

Deacon Kindness Offering: Every Second Sunday (June 10, 2018) of the month.

Food Bank Collection: Every First Sunday—June 3, 2018

Youth Group Events as Scheduled (watch for Emails)

# CHURCH WIDE PICNIC

## June 10th

**One Worship service at 10am  
with lunch following**

**Join us for a wonderful time  
of fellowship at  
ADAMS TOWNSHIP PARK!**

**Location: Adams Township Park  
Township Pavilion  
(near Playground)**

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Beverages Provided,  
Everyone bring a covered dish.**



### **THANK YOU CHOIR!**

When you see a choir member on Sunday be sure to thank them for their time and commitment to our church! The choir will return in early fall and is always looking for more members!

Have you ever wanted to help in worship, but didn't know how? Have you ever wanted to learn more about music and singing?

Take some time, pray about becoming part of this powerful ministry and joining the choir!

### **2017-2018 MARS U.P. CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR**

#### **Sopranos**

June Stirling

Lisa Foster

Linda Lees

Pat Jackson

#### **Altos**

Nancy Penney

Sue Morris

Linda Riefer

Sue Cook

Linda Moody

#### **Tenors**

John Ivory

#### **Bass**

Karl Kennedy

### **A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...**

The Stewardship Committee would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has paid their per capita. The response has been wonderful! If you haven't taken the opportunity to pay yours, there is still time. As a reminder, the per capita amount per confirmed member is \$39.47



# Mother's Day



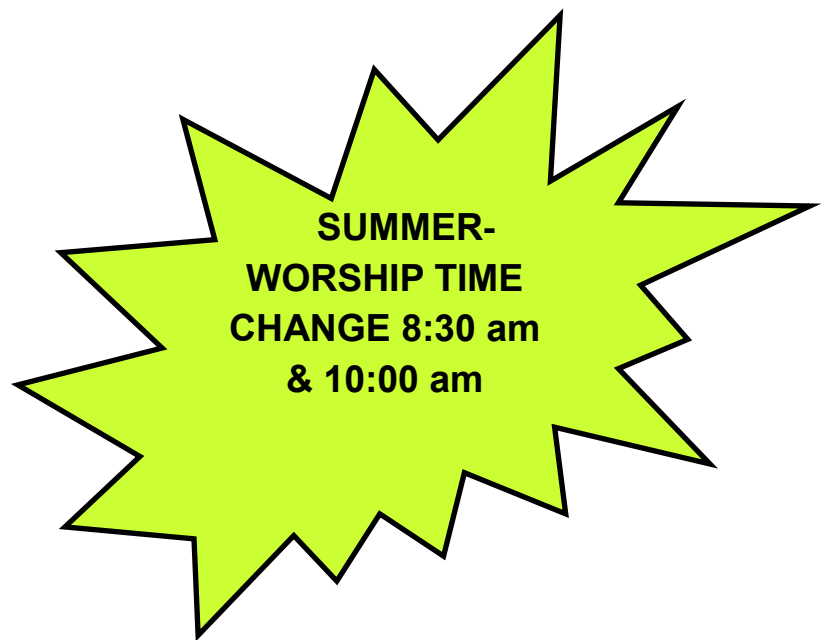
A SPECIAL THANK YOU  
TO TOM MCMEEKIN  
(QUALITY GARDENS) FOR  
ALL THE BEAUTIFUL  
FLOWERS DONATED FOR  
MOTHER'S DAY !!

STOP BY QUALITY GARDENS FOR ALL YOUR  
SUMMER PLANTING NEEDS!





The Pfeifer family wishes to thank the MUP family for the prayers and support through Amanda's surgery and recovery. If anyone wants to know if those prayers worked and comforted, just ask us!



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Youth Group upcoming service project of making cookies and serving at Pine Valley, July 2
2. My School Preschool to begin moving in June 2. All are welcome to help.

Registration continues – only 13 openings left for fall classes

3. Stay tuned to follow plans for a possible Adult weekly community wide Bible study, taught by Rev. Steiner, to begin in the Fall. Further details to come .....

Thanks,

Ira

Vacation Bible School is looking for volunteers to provide a meal for the staff each night of VBS. If you could provide a meal, (hoagies, pizza, sandwiches, casserole) please contact Jenny Ivory at 724-713-7050 or email at [jjivory@zoominternet.net](mailto:jjivory@zoominternet.net).

They will need the dinners at approx. 5:00 pm.

Your help is greatly appreciated!!



My School Preschool will be moving all their supplies to the church on June 2nd and the following weeks. If you are able to help them move, especially on June 2nd, Please contact the office or just come to the church that Saturday. They will begin at 7am.

Many hands do light work!!!!

We Welcome MY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL to MARS UP CHURCH!



# Graduates

**GRADUATION  
SUNDAY JUNE 3RD**



**Addison Veronica Staskiewicz**- Addison graduated Summa Cum Laude from Oakland Catholic High School. She was a member of the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars, National Honor Society, Girls Who Code, Latin, Math, and Science clubs. She played four years on the Ultimate Frisbee team and was captain for the team both junior and senior year. Addison will attend Penn State at University Park in the fall to study Engineering



**Andrew Ivory** -Andrew has graduated in 2018 from Mars High School with honors. While in school he participated in Future Business Leaders of America. He was also a four year letterman and captain of the Mars Swim Team. He plans to continue his love of swimming in college. He will attend Washington & Jefferson College and study Business and Pre-Law.



**Amanda Pfeifer** - Amanda Pfeifer is a 2018 graduate of Mars Area High School. She was a member of the French Club and REACH. During her high school years, she volunteered in the Life Skills class and she taught in Planet Preschool. She is presently employed at Chick Fil A and Precious People Daycare and will attend Slippery Rock University in the fall majoring in Early Education and Special Education.



**Abigail Louise Staskiewicz** – Abigail graduated Summa Cum Laude from Oakland Catholic High School. She was a member of the Joan of Arc Society of Scholars, National Honor Society, Latin, Math and Science Clubs. She played four years on the varsity tennis team and was captain for the team senior year. Abigail will attend Ohio Northern University in the fall to study Pharmacy.



**Maxwell (Max) Quaicoe** – Max is an exchange student with AFS (American Field Service International). He comes from the country of Ghana in West Africa. He is a senior at Mars Area High School and an honor student. He has participated in soccer and track for the high school. He will leave to return to Ghana on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He plans to begin college in Ghana in the fall. Mary Ann and Howard Croop are his host parents.

**2018**



GOD SAVED US THROUGH THE WATER OF REBIRTH AND RENEWAL BY THE HOLY SPIRIT. Titus 3:5

# CONFIRMATION



**Confirmation Class Joins MUP:** On May 20, two young persons joined our fellowship. Braeden Croop and Bethany Harmon were examined by session, and were approved for membership. Below are their Statements of Faith and some information on each of them. Please welcome our newest members!

**Braeden Croop Statement of Faith:** I believe in the Holy Trinity; God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe that God's son is Jesus and I believe in Heaven and Hell. I believe Jesus died for our sins on the cross and that he rose again from the dead. I believe in Baptism and the Holy Communion. I believe that Mary is the Virgin Mother of Christ. I will to the best of my ability, uphold my Christian faith and the church's ideals and beliefs in my daily life.

My name is Braeden Croop, I am in 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Mars. My favorite school subjects are English, Language Arts, Science, and Gym. My extracurricular activities include running Cross Country for Mars, running 5K's and playing Soccer for the Mars community team. I am also a Star Scout in Troop 400. My other leisure activities include Swimming, Biking, Kayaking, and Video Games. My Parents are Ann and Brian Croop and my Grandparents are Mary Ann and Howard Croop.

**Bethany Harmon Statement of Faith:** I believe in God the Father, who is the maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ and that through him and his sacrifice our sins are forgiven so that one day we may go home when our time comes.

My name is Bethany Harmon. I'm 17 years old and in 11<sup>th</sup> grade. I have a brother who is 14 named Caleb, and two wonderful parents named Dan and Colleen. The Badger-Sanders family is like my second family and they are the ones who introduced me to this church which I have grown to love. I have played soccer since I was 4 years old. I am involved in the church's youth group, and an officer in two school clubs, our school choir,



# 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!*

## June

**JUNE 3 - GRADUATION SUNDAY**

**JUNE 3 TIME CHANGE FOR WORSHIP 8:30 & 10:00**

**JUNE 7 MARS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION!**

**JUNE 10—CHURCH PICNIC @ ADAMS PARK**

**JUNE 10—WORSHIP SERVICE AT ADAMS PARK/10am**

**JUNE 17—FATHER'S DAY**

**JUNE 18—VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

## Pine Valley Camp

*Rebuilding broken lives through Christ*

On July 2nd the MUP youth will be taking cookies and serving dinner at the Pine Valley Bible Camp. Details will be provided via emails from Miss Angela!

Keep the Mars UP Youth Group in your prayers during this time of transition. We have begun to look for our next Youth Director . Postings have been placed at local Christian College websites.

Do you know someone who has a passion to help young people grow spiritually, lots of creative ministry ideas, knowledge of cutting-edge technology? The position will be part time which provides more of an opportunity for various people to apply. If you know of someone, please contact the office or Alma Staskiewicz at [tna81@zoominternet.net](mailto:tna81@zoominternet.net)





# June 2018

**Tarry N Talk Host:** Worship/  
Membership: Linda Moody, June  
Stirling, Louise Fox, Janie Aiken,  
Bonnie McElhinny, Linda Lees,  
Carol Kopar, Amy Lauten

					1	2
<b>3</b> 8:30 Early Worp 10:00 Morning Wor- ship/Graduation 11:15 CE/MO mtg Communion both services YOUTH GROUP <b>Nursery: Katie Olsen</b>	<b>4</b> 1:30 <b>Women's  Bible Study</b>	<b>5</b> 9am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	<b>6</b> 9:00a.m. Material Girls	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>One Service</b> 10:00 Morning Wor- ship @ Adams Twp Park 11:00 Church Picnic immediately follow- ing service	<b>11</b> 6:30 <b>Griefshare</b>	<b>12</b> 9am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	<b>13</b> 9:00a.m. Material Girls	<b>14</b> 6:00 pm <b>Stewardship</b>  7:00 pm <b>Deacons</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:30 Early Worp 10:00 Morning Wor- ship <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> <b>Nursery: Sue Cook</b>	<b>18</b>  6:00 pm VBS	<b>19</b> 9am A-Team  6:00pm VBS	<b>20</b> 9:00a.m. Material Girls  6:00 pm VBS	<b>21</b>  6:00 pm VBS	<b>22</b>  6:00 pm VBS	<b>23</b>  6:00 pm VBS
<b>24</b> 8:30 Early Worship 10:00 Morning Wor- ship  <b>Nursery: Karen  Stack</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 8:00 am WIC 9 am A-Team  7:00 p.m. AA	<b>27</b> 9:00a.m. Material Girls	<b>28</b>  7:00 pm <b>Session</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ June 3rd  
Communion  
Both Services
- ♦ June 3rd Time  
change Services  
8:30 & 10:00 am
- ♦ June 3rd  
GRADUATE  
SUNDAY
- ♦ June 10- Wor-  
ship/CHURCH  
PICNIC @ 10:00  
am
- ♦ June 17-Fathers  
Day
- ♦ June 18 thru  
June 22nd VBS



**Carol Kopar and Susan Cox showing their patriotic spirit!**

## 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 & 10

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

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Mars, PA 16046