

# MARS UP CHURCH



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

December 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

The season of Advent begins on November 29, 2020. There are four Sundays in Advent leading up to the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. At Mars United Presbyterian Church we will be lighting the Advent candles each week as we anticipate the day of celebration of God's gift of His Son.

Many churches follow the prescribed lectionary readings for each week to prepare their minds and hearts for the coming of the Savior. Below you will find the recommended readings for each week. I invite you to read them and *use them as a personal discipline* during these weeks leading up to our celebration of Christmas.

The Suggested Bible readings during Advent:

## **First Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 64:1–9

Psalms 80:1–7, 17–19

1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Mark 13:24–37

## **Second Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 40:1–11

Psalms 85:1–2, 8–13

2 Peter 3:8–15a

Mark 1:1–8

## **Third Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Psalms 126 or Luke 1:46b–55

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

John 1:6–8, 19–28



## **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16

Luke 1:46b–55 or

Psalm 89:1–4, 19–26 Romans 16:25–27

Luke 1:26–38

## **Christmas Eve/Nativity of the Lord,**

Proper I

Isaiah 9:2–7

Psalm 96

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

## **Christmas Day/Nativity of the Lord, Proper II**

Isaiah 62:6–12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4–7

Luke 2:(1–7) 8–20

## **Christmas Day/Nativity of the Lord, Proper III**

Isaiah 52:7–10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1–4 (5–12)

John 1:1–14



May this time of preparation be a blessing to you so that when The Day arrives, your heart will rejoice with all who declare JOY TO THE WORLD, THE LORD HAS COME!

Rev Paul Aiello  
Interim pastor MUP

# TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

*Celebrate the birth of Christ and the great light that has come into the world at Mars UP Church!*

*Regular worship services Sunday Morning at 10:00 am also Live Stream via Facebook*

Two traditional, candlelight services:

- ♦ **7pm**—Candle Light Service with Special Music from the Chancel Choir
- ♦ **11pm**—Candle Light Service with the Celebration of Communion
- ♦ Rev. Karl Kennedy will be leading the Worship Services



Looking for Advent Readers

Would you like to help with the Advent readings during worship?

Sunday the 13th, 20th, 27th and Christmas Eve Services @ 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm all need readers!

Please let the office know if you are willing to help!

## Mission & Outreach Christmas Service Outreach

### *"Be an Angel"*

For many years, through incredible generosity of this church, needy families in our community have been blessed by the gifts and food we supply through the Salvation Army Angel Tree, local food bank, and the Lighthouse. Share the JOY of Christmas with others. Consider one or all of these options to be a visible face of Christ in our community

♦In Tarry N Talk there will be an Angel tree with tags.

Select a tag for a local senior citizen. Return the unwrapped gift (tag attached) and leave it under the tree by Sunday, December 6th. The Salvation Army will deliver these gifts to the senior citizens at Christmas.

♦Also, in Tarry N Talk are tags for Christmas toys for children of all ages. Please bring the toys by December 6th. This year the Lighthouse is again requesting donations for toys. Last year the Lighthouse foundation was able to supply toys for 750 children throughout the community. Help us, help them exceed this amount and brighten the lives of many more children and families with the love of Christ.



♦Please remember the local food bank at Glade Run Church. There is always a need for non-perishable items but during the holiday season the need is even greater. Please drop off items at the church or stop by the food bank with your donations or even a monetary gift. Monetary gifts can be made out to the SOUTH CENTRAL BUTLER COUNTY FOOD BANK, 1091 PITTSBURGH ROAD, VALENCIA, PA 16059

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a Congregational Meeting at 11:00 am (after Worship) on December 13, 2020 for the election of officers and the presentation of the Preliminary 2021 Budget. We invite all to attend.

## Session Highlights from October Meeting

- 1 - Sharon Gibbs Placed on Rolls as Active Member
- 2 - Heritage Sunday Special Guest To Be Christopher Wu
- 3 - Due to Covid19 restrictions there will be no Turkey Bash this year
- 4 - Veterans Day Service will include Boy Scout Troop #400 and a Flag Ceremony by the American Legion. Candles will be lit in honor/memory of members and family members who were/are Veterans.
- 5 - Carillon delayed for software upgrades.
- 6 - Bell Tower renovations continue
- 7 - Living Nativity will take place this year
- 8 - Annual Bonfire will take place on Sunday Oct. 25 @ Quality Gardens At 5:00 pm

## Session Highlights from November Meeting

- 1 - Congregational Meeting scheduled for December 13 following Worship Service for election of Officers and 2021 Preliminary Budget.
- 2 - Marge Nicklas and Steve Martin have returned from South Carolina and Have re-joined the church as active members.
- 3 - Hanging of the Greens will be Friday Nov. 27 @ 9:00 am
- 4 - Per Capita for the coming year is due.
- 5 - We are upgrading the Wi-Fi service in the Office and Church buildings to better accommodate our on-line Worship Service and activities.
- 6 - It is encouraged that we wear masks during Worship Service in the S Sanctuary per guidance of the Health Dept. in regards to meetings.
- 7 - Carillon has been installed
- 8 - Bell Tower renovations have been completed
- 9 - Living Nativity will be held in conjunction with St. John's Lutheran Church in MUP's parking lot on Friday, Dec. 4 and Saturday Dec. 5 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Hot chocolate will be served. Volunteers are gratefully accepted.
- 10 - The Angel Tree has been set-up in the Tarry and Talk area to collect gifts for Salvation Army and Lighthouse.





## Time of Year Again.....Christmas Flowers

Mars United Presbyterian Church

Your order for Christmas poinsettias will help to enhance the beauty of our church sanctuary. Poinsettias are available in 6" pots for \$8:00. You may take your flowers with you following worship on Christmas Eve. Orders must be placed by December 13, 2020

Red: \_\_\_\_\_

Pink: \_\_\_\_\_

White: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please prepay your order and place it in the offering basket, or bring it to the church office.



*Watch the story come alive at Mars UP Church!*

***Friday, Dec 4th from 6pm—8pm***

***Saturday, Dec 5th from 6pm—8pm***

***On December 5th we will enjoy caroling by the Greater Men's Chorus.***

***Chorus performance around 6:30 pm***

***Everyone is Welcome and Refreshments provided!***

# MUP Family Pictures



## OUR LOVELY 80+ LADIES LUNCHEON

**Marlene Edwards, Doris Keefer, Ann Carter,  
Isabel Boynton, Alice Leonberg and  
Ruth Wilson**

**Dee and Paul (looking "smart" in his uniform)**

**At the 80+ luncheon**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**









*Please Remember to Support the Glade Run Food Bank and the Deacon Kindness Collection this month of December.*

*With the Holiday fast approaching, Christmas dinner supplies and baking ingredients are especially needed at the food bank.*

*The Deacons will be working with the schools and local agencies to determine various needs in the community during this Christmas season.*

*Help make this Christmas extra special this season by helping support these two MUP community outreach projects.*

*Sunday, December 6th—Food Bank Collection*

*Sunday, December 13th—Deacon Kindness Collection*



**DEACON KINDNESS HAS FINANCIALLY SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING THIS PAST YEAR:**

Mars Home for Youth Foundation—Impact through Technology

The Lighthouse Food Bank

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

Help for individuals unable to work due to life-threatening illnesses.

Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

Mars Home for Youth

South Central Butler County Food Bank

Riding for the Handicapped of Western PA



## SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ Communion on December 2nd with Karl Kennedy
- ♦ Living Nativity - December 4th and 5th @ 6pm
- ♦ Christmas Eve Evening Services - December 24th 7:00 pm and 11:00 p.m. Karl Kennedy leading Worship
- ♦ Merry Christmas—December 25th



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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 10:00 am

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