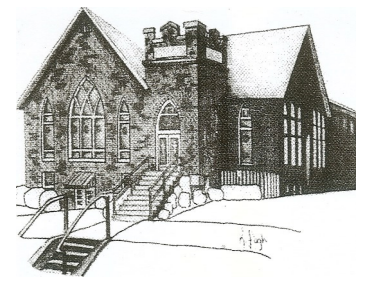


MARS UP CHURCH



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

APRIL 2022

With any new home the first year living there reveals a lot. When we moved in we had no idea that the backyard and the path around the side of the house becomes a four inch deep mud pit when the winter snows melt. That problem is compounded by the reality that it is the daily path for us to walk our dog. So we have been taking our dog Tiger out wearing knee high rubber boots and tracking a yard full of mud into our home. But not all surprises with a new home are bad ones. In the past week we have noticed all sorts of flower buds coming up that we didn't know were planted. We came here in mid-summer and missed the spring bloom last year, so to see all the different kinds of flowers coming up is a beautiful and unexpected gift at our new home.

Spring is a time of new life. The grass begins growing again, the trees change from leafless eye sores to lushes green monuments, the flowers bloom, and all who have hibernated away begin coming back out into the world. This spring seems even more life giving as Covid-19 finally seems to be taking a back seat as life marches onward. It is no accident that Easter, the realization of new life, comes to us in the Spring time.

For many Christians the Easter celebration is the most important celebration of our faith. For them, the resurrection is the single greatest event in the human history as Christ paid for sin and broke the power of sin and death. For others Good Friday is the pivotal moment when Christ gave His life for ours. In either case, Resurrection Sunday is a wonderful reminder of the life Christ offers. It reminds us that we worship a living savior. It reminds us that life wins and that life is freely offered to us through Jesus Christ. It is a reminder that our sins have been fully cleansed, and that through Jesus we are promised a new and glorious life.

One of the highlights of Easter Sunday in the church are the beautiful flowers that decorate our sanctuary. These flowers are beautiful and serve to honor and remember loved ones and friends. Lilies and mums and tulips shine forth the radiant glory of our God. And as we sing songs words like "He Lives" we gaze upon the living plants that proclaim the beauty of resurrected life. Their very presence in our worship space is a testament to our claim of new life for all.

And so I will not complain about the muddy mess around my home. Nor will I worry about the darkness, pain, and death that forever seems to be pressing in on us. Because I know new life comes in the spring. I know that roses will bloom again. I know that life gets the final word!

As you look out your windows and see the new growth around your home, neighborhood, and church I hope it reminds you of the new and everlasting life Christ won for you. I pray that the beauty of the flowers will help you to reflect upon the beautiful love of a savior. A love that went to all ends so that we could live, and live abundantly. The world may seem like a muddy mess, but be patient, new life is coming. Christ is Risen!

Happy Easter!

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Youth Group “Lock-In” approved for April 1 at MUP
- Process begun for new MSPS Director – 22 applicants have submitted a resume. Interviews to begin.
- Session has approved investigation of starting a MOPS – Mothers of Pre-School Children – group at MUP for the Mars Area.
- Session approved the use of Wine, in addition to Grape Juice, for Communion on Easter Sunday
- Rev. Hauser will begin a class for New Members – 3 people have asked to join MUP
- Session approved a \$1000 donation to the collection for Ukraine via the Brothers Brother Organization. This increases MUP’s donation to \$2,500.
- Session approved a 5 year commitment to the Capital Campaign for Pine Valley Bible Camp in the amount of \$2000/year
- Easter Egg Hunt will occur on Palm Sunday after Worship Services for youth of the Church and Surrounding community.
- VBS tentative dates are June 26 – July 1, 2022...
- MUP’s Insurance Policies have been changed to Brotherhood Mutual for more effective coverage at a less expensive cost
- Bell Tower Leak has been fixed for the short term. The Bell Tower roof was not involved in the recent roof replacement. A permanent solution is being studied.



Mars Area Sunrise Service

Community Easter Service

Sunday, April 17th @ 6:30 am

Rotary Pavilion

Adams Township Park on Three Degree Road



Sponsored by the Mars Area Ministerium



On April 9th

We will be meeting from 9am to ? to spruce up the church. There are jobs for people of all abilities, some example jobs: cleaning windows; dusting the altar area, polishing the pews and etc. If you see things that need to be cleaned or fixed, please tell Mike Bocheff or Pastor Brian and we will add it to our list. Many hands make light work, please join us if you can!

 *Holy Humor Sunday*

Join us on Sunday April 24th as we continue to celebrate the joy of the resurrection with Holy Humor Sunday. Jokes and funny anecdotes will be shared throughout the service. Appropriate jokes may be shared by the congregation. It is sure to be a fun and uplifting service in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! All are welcome!



Annual Mars UP Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 10th

After church @ Mars UP Church

Bring your baskets & a friend!!!

Dyeing of Eggs and a visit from the

Easter Bunny

Special Visit and Story from Mars Borough Officer Andra Schmid

Refreshments provided after the egg hunt.

JOIN US FOR LENTEN/ EASTER SERVICES

MAUNDY THURSDAY -- April 14th at 7:00 pm

This solemn time we can reflect on the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples. The sacrament of communion will be offered.

GOOD FRIDAY — Rev. Brian Hauser and other pastors in our community will participate in the Mars Community Good Friday service on April 15th at 12:15pm. This service will be held at Mars UP Church.

EASTER SUNDAY — On Sunday, April 17th we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Join us in person & live stream at 10:00 am. Rev. Brian Hauser will be leading the worship. Communion will be offered this Sunday.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. ... John 3:16

He Is Risen!

SAVE THE DATE



Combined Sunday with St. John's Lutheran
Church

May 1st at 10:00 am

Service at Mars UP Church

More Details to Follow!!

Come out to Mars UP Church Sunday, May 15th from 4 to 7 to help support the My School Preschool Fundraiser by attending the spaghetti dinner.

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

\$10 per person, \$40 max per family

Dine in or take out available

More details to follow and check out the facebook page @superskyla

Baskets raffle will also be offered and displayed at Mars Area Library



Note about MSPS director

As you probably know Jill Ceasar, the director of My School Preschool, announced earlier this year that she would be leaving to pursue other activities at the conclusion of this academic year. Jill has served the church and preschool well since bringing My School to Mars-UP in 2018. Over the past weeks the board of advisors have undergone an extensive search and interview process to find Jill's replacement. Knowing that the new director would have big shoes to fill we reviewed a lot of resumes and interviewed highly qualified individuals for the job. In the end, the process confirmed that the best candidate to lead the My School Preschool in the years to come was already close by.



The Mars United Presbyterian Church and My School Preschool Board of Advisors are pleased to announce that Heidi Beahm will be the new director of our preschool! Heidi has spent the last twenty years running a very successful after school program, being incredibly active in her church, and for the past 9 years has served as the Assistant to the Director at My School Preschool. She knows our school; but perhaps more importantly she has a passion for children and a heart for education. We look forward to a bright future with Heidi at the helm, and are excited for all the possibilities that her expertise bring to the table. If you get a chance, be sure to welcome Heidi anew to the MUP family and thank her for her continued commitment to our school.



Have you Noticed our NEW Coffee Bar??

If not, it is located in Tarry N Talk

Please feel free to enjoy a cup of coffee or other warm beverage during worship.



Boy Scout Sunday



Thank you to **BILL GUESMAN** for your many years devoted to the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts of Mars.



RESERVED

RESERVED
SCOUTS



Notes from the Choir Loft

April, 2022

From Jamie Daugherty, Director of Music

As we witness what is unfolding in Ukraine, we are reminded that it only takes a moment for a once peaceful nation to stumble into a terrible war. It tells how dangerous the unjustified imperialistic ego of one leader can cause so many sufferings to all people who unexpectedly fall into this unfortunate circumstance. We learned thousands of lives have already been lost. Millions of lives have already turned to refugees escaping to neighboring countries without knowing if they can return to their homes. Our heavy prayers go with the Ukraine people.

We are grateful to be living in a peaceful nation. How fortunate we are to live our daily lives without worrying about dropping bombs and destruction. The war and lost lives remind us of the vulnerability of our lives in this world.

As the Chancel Choir moves through the final weeks of Lent, we learn that there is hope in the Lord for all who suffer and need help. We find our hope and comfort from the Lord's footprints in the sand that lead to Calvary and resurrection.

The Chancel Choir will be singing "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds" for this coming Sunday, April 6th. This simple, but elegant new setting of the familiar John Newton text is lyrical and flowing. Its beautifully expressive and charming harmony by composer R. Christopher Teichler will provide solace to the ear.

Palm Sunday is a day of rejoicing and welcoming Jesus to Jerusalem. Our Choral Introit will declare "The Messiah Has Come!" and prepare us for the Palm Sunday anthem "Blessed is He Who Comes" from Lloyd Larson's Cantata, "Wondrous Love". "This is love; not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:9-10).

For Maundy Thursday, the Chancel Choir will offer a musical meditation, "There Was No One There", words and music by Barry Talley. The soulful stepwise melody and steady rhythm of the anthem will remind us of the steps and paths Jesus had gone through from the garden to Mount Calvary.

Easter Sunday will have the Chancel Choir beginning the service with the introit "Easter Alleluia!" and singing the anthem "Alleluia! He is Risen!" This joyous anthem of celebration is the work of composer Anna Laura Page. I hope that all members of MUP will be able to come celebrate Christ's resurrection with the joyful music provided by our Chancel Choir! He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Our final anthem for April 24th is titled "I Will Rise." The powerful text proclaims the glory of the resurrection and how it enables Christ's people to rise above the storms of life. With words and music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Louie Giglio & Matt Maher, the dynamic choral setting was written by Lloyd Larson. I hope you enjoy these anthems for April.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Jamie Daugherty

Save the Date:

April 3rd—Communion

April 10th—Easter Egg Hunt

April 14th— Maundy Thursday Service @ 7:00pm

April 15th—Good Friday Service with Mars Ministerium @ 12:15 pm

April 17th—Easter Sunday

April 24th—Humor Sunday

May 1st—Communion and Joint Sunday with St. John Lutheran Church

Contact Us

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

Mars UP Church

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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

10:00 am

Prayer Chain:

mjaiken@zoominternet.net



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