

MARS UP CHURCH



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

JANUARY 2023

As you are reading this letter I hope that you were able to enjoy the Christmas holiday and are looking forward to the beginning of another new year. In my heart, I know that this was not the reality for all of you, even so, my hope is that the new year brings you new hope for life. That's one of the things about New year's eve and day. They provide a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on the past year, the good and the bad; and to make plans and goals for the new year. This is usually the time when the pastor is supposed to talk about New year's resolutions and how important it is to resolve to follow through on all of the spiritual practices we have been neglecting. And though I do think it is important to read scripture daily, to set a side time for study and devotionals, and to pray often; this article isn't about resolving to begin a new habit. Nor is it about giving up bad habits, at least not specifically.

I know that many use this time either to stop doing something they know they shouldn't do or to start doing something they know they should do, but this week I find those practices a little short sided in nature. The national average on American's following through with their new year's resolution after three months is incredibly low, and it gets even lower if we extend that time out to a year. And so instead of a new year's resolution that is static in nature, I am going to suggest a different mindset for 2023.

New year's resolutions are all about whether you do something or don't do something with very little wiggle room. This often leaves us with negative feelings instead of rejoicing at the progress that we have made. Let's take the individual who resolves to quit smoking as an example. They know smoking is bad for them, and the pack a day they are smoking is pretty expensive, so they make the resolution to quit. And let's say they do great and stay clean for the month of January. Then in February they have a few slip ups, and by the time March rolls around they are smoking half a pack a day. The way we look at resolutions tells us that they failed. The thing is, they didn't! They went a month and a half without smoking, and when they started smoking again they were smoking less. Were they perfect? No, but none of us are. I just think we need to celebrate whatever progress we are able to make, even if we come up short of our ultimate goals.

This is what the life of a Christian is, striving for the unattainable, working to better ourselves knowing that we will never be perfect. We know that we will never truly and fully exemplify the life of Christ in our own lives, but we do it anyway because the perfection we seek isn't really the goal. The goal is the growth we show along the journey toward that perfection, toward Christ, relying on Him throughout the journey. The scriptures encourage Christians to continue on this path of growth. Second Peter chapter three verse 18 tells us to, "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ".

And so instead of setting a resolution that is either accomplished or not, try thinking of goals that lend themselves to making progress. Think in terms of personal growth instead of final destinations. This is the approach I will be encouraging the 2023 session to take in terms of the goals of Mars UP for the coming year. It is my hope that at the end of the year we will be able to see growth in all aspects of the church's ministry. In some areas we will meet and even exceed our goals. In other areas we may come up short of our goals, but we will grow, we will learn, and at the end of the year we will be better for it. At the end of 2023 will you be able to say that you are better than you are today? Will you have spent more time with God? Will you have read a few more pages of scripture than you did last year? Will you spend time this year growing in your relationship with Jesus Christ? Let's make this year about growth! Personal growth, spiritual growth, church growth, and in all other ways; let's grow together, like the seeds planted on good soil. Because that's what we are!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

*** 2023 A NEW YEAR!



Consider sponsoring sanctuary flowers for Sunday Morning church worship services. A new sign up list available in Tarry N Talk. Sponsoring flowers for worship is a great way to recognize a person, significant occasion and honor the memory of a loved one.



Welcome and Thank
You

The new officers who begin serving in January are:

Session/Elders: Jay Wilson, Susan Cox, and John Ivory

Deacons: Jill Cooper, Robyn Beckwith and Missy Wells

Please express thanks to them when you see them.



Beatrice Moore

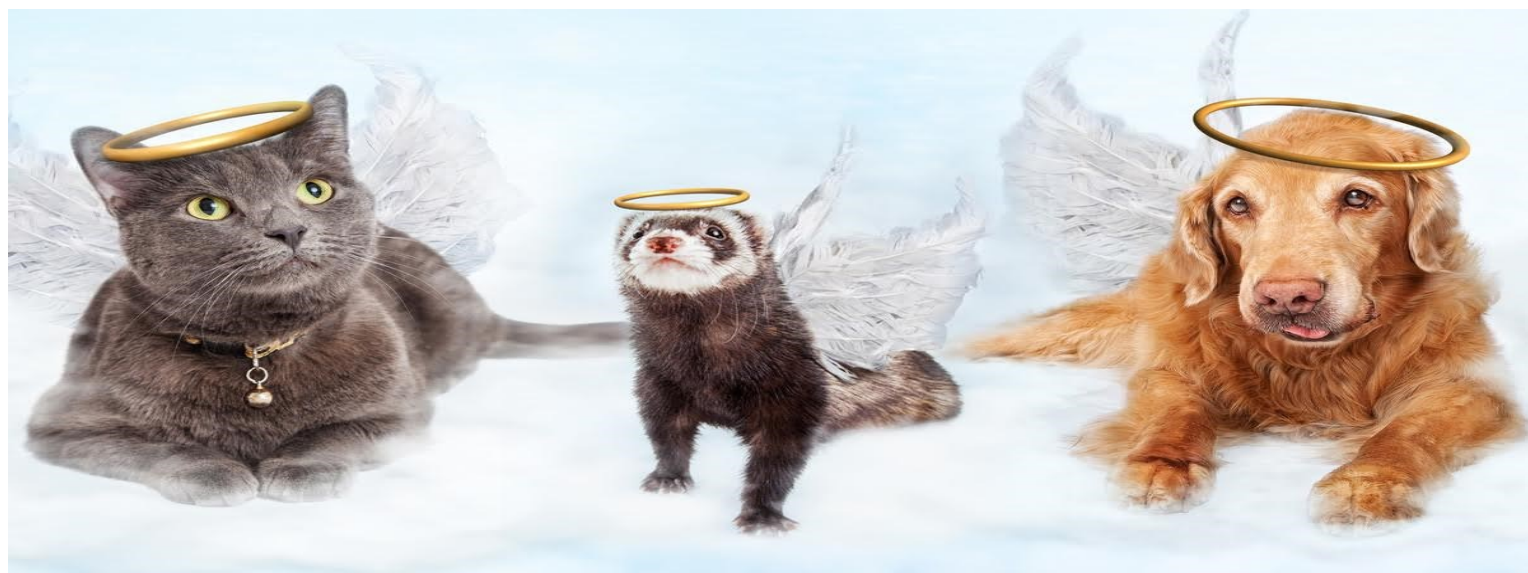
November 18, 1938—September 10, 2022

William Brack

August 24, 1935—October 26, 2022

Harold F. Kennedy

November 21, 1937—November 25, 2022



This year we lost quite a few of our Church Family pets, thus we remember them below.

In Memoriam: Pets of our Church Family



Per Capita—What is it & Why Do it???

Many have asked questions about per capita, What is it? What does it support?

The Per Capita is an important aspect of how we do church. Presbyterians are proud of how our convictions inform our church function and organizational structure. As Presbyterians, we believe in “the priesthood of all believers” and acknowledge that all are called to bring their gifts and talents to God (1 Peter 2:9). And so, we champion this idea “call” throughout all levels of our denomination. On the local church level, church members are called to serve as Elders, Deacons, and pastors. Elders

and pastors of churches in geographical groupings gather as Presbyteries.

There will be a Per Capita envelope in February’s envelope mailing. [The cost per member is \\$43.77](#) In a small but significant way, consider Per Capita as one way YOU and MARS UP CHURCH might be able to respond along with other Christians and churches across the nation, proclaiming the Gospel message that sin, separation and disunity will not have the final answer for us, our church, our denomination OR our world. The final answer is fully in the sovereign hands of God. Indeed, God is greater and more powerful than our broken and foolish ways of sin.

This is Jesus’ prayer and petition for us: “I have told you (plural) these things, so that in me you (plural) may have peace. In this world you (plural) will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Installation of Officers

**Installation of Elders and Deacons will
be held during the worship hour on
Sunday, January 8, 2023**

Those being installed are: ELDERS, John Ivory,
Susan Cox, Jay Wilson

DEACONS, Jill Cooper, Robyn Beckwith,
Missy Wells

The Youth did a “Homeless Event” and through the sponsorship of our church community. Pastor Brian was able to give Robin’s Home a check for \$600.00

Robin’s Home provides a full continuum of care for homeless, unstably housed and low income female veterans and their children.

If you would like to donate further, please send a check to

Robin’s Home, Inc.
P.O. Box 483
Lyndora, PA 16045

THANK YOU ELDERS AND DEACONS

THANK YOU to ELDERS: Michael Bocheff, Susan Cox, Linda Lees and Sally Olsen

DEACONS: Jay Wilson, Pat Jackson, Jenny Ivory

Having fulfilled your term of service, our church thanks you for answering the call, honoring your commitment and for your efforts to help proclaim the love of God! We are better because of YOU!



Thank You Mars Agway and Jack and Merrit Fassick!!





New for MUP this year, was a number of MUP family volunteers rang the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell.

Amy Tebay from the Salvation Army gave us a one day total of **\$693.01** for the Salvation Army!!!

The Red Kettle Campaign is one of the few fundraisers the organization hosts. The money raised is kept local, to continue serving the community. **Donations help to fund food programs, rental and utility assistance, WYStepUp, and more**

Thank you all who helped with this campaign.





2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please make sure to take your name. The entire year will be in your box of envelopes. We also ordered small bundles of offering envelopes if you don't need a full one. Please take if you would like one. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have some, please contact the office.

****OUR MONTHLY OUTREACH ****

- Bring non-perishable food donations the first Sunday of each month to support our local food bank!
- Deacons Kindness Offering (separate offering) is the Second Sunday of the month!
- The Deacon Kindness Fund this year helped numerous organizations and families. To name a few..... Families in Kentucky, VOICE, Dress for Success, Riding for the Handicap, Living Water International, The Lighthouse, Pine Valley Bible Camp, GEM, Shawn Harmon (Italy), Christmas gifts for needy families in Mars, Gift Cards/Gas for patients in local hospitals. The Deacons work extra hard to help those in need each year. Thank you for your continued support!





DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



The
Hixon
Family &
Friends

Provided
Wonder-
ful Music
during
worship
services

Children's
Chat





DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



LEGO TOURNAMENT

**OLD UNION
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Saturday, January 14

10 AM—2 PM

Cost \$5.00 (includes lunch)

Open to all everyone in 1st through 6th grade,
with judging in 3 age categories

You must supply your own materials (they do not need to be Lego brand).

Judging will take place for both pre-built designs, and creations made on-site.

*All work must be original designs!
No kit designs, please.*

Special events during the day:

Timed event for best creativity

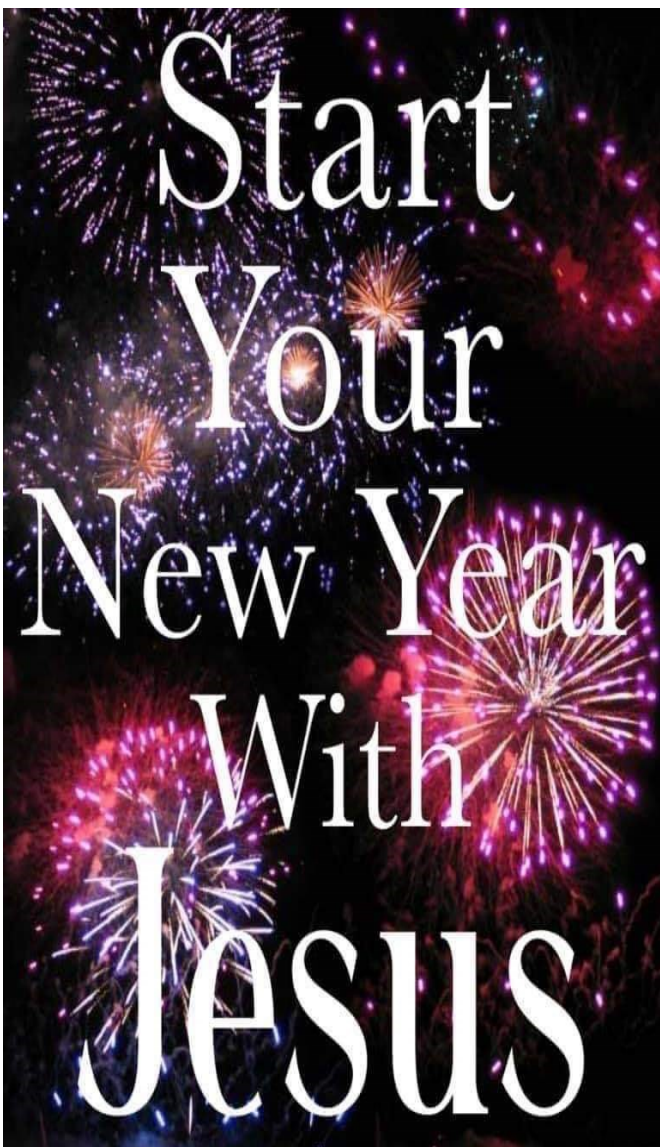
Race to complete a design from a model

Partner construction

Space is limited, so sign up soon!

To sign up or for more information, contact
Old Union Presbyterian Church
724-538-8672

200 Union Church Rd, Mars PA 16046
www.OldUnionChurch.com
OldUnionChurch@gmail.com



vol[•]unteer
do good, feel good

WHERE CAN YOU VOLUNTEER???

- A GREETER AT EACH WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am
- THE ATEAM IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE MEMBERS
- TV MONITORS DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICES
- CREATING THE POWER POINT FOR WORSHIP
- HELPING WITH LIVE STREAM DURING WORSHIP
- VARIOUS "TO DO" JOBS AT MUP
- TEACHING SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE CHILDREN
- HELPING WITH YOUTH GROUP

If you feel that you would like to help the church in any way, please contact the office or place a note in the offering. We would love to make you a part of our MUP Volunteers.

A NEW SESSION OF GRIEF GATHERINGS

GRIEF GATHERINGS WILL BEGIN ON JANUARY 16TH
AND MEET ON THE THIRD MONDAY THRU AUGUST.
THE CLASS WILL BEGIN AT 6:30PM

THE CLASS MEETS IN THE BOARD ROOM OF THE
CHURCH 232 CROWE AVENUE, MARS

Questions may be directed to
Denise DeMarco ddemarco5@yahoo.com



MUP Ski Retreat

It's that time again! It's time for Mars UP Church to take to the slopes for an exciting day of fun and fellowship together at Peak n Peak Ski Resort! The date of the ski retreat will be Saturday, February 11th

This is a ONE DAY EVENT

We will leave the church at 7:00 am and ski/snowboard for the day.

Watch for More information and sign up sheets in Tarry N Talk soon.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

There will be a Congregational meeting on February 5th, 2023 after worship to discuss the annual report from 2022.

Please try to attend!



Secret Sister is a wonderful way to encourage one another, to get to know each other, and to become more involved at Mars United Presbyterian Church. Secret Sister is for those who wish to participate and will be given a name to support, pray for and will send secret gifts/cards throughout the year. At the end of the year there will be a reveal party to see who everyone's secret sister was throughout the year.

Watch for more details to follow or talk to Ashley Hauser.

SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ January 1st— HAPPY NEW YEAR
- ♦ January 8th—Communion
- ♦ January 8th—Installation of Officers



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

Visit us on the web at
www.mars-up.org

We're also on Facebook!!

Join us for Worship
Sunday's at 10:00 am

Prayer Chain:
mjaiken@zoominternet.net

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