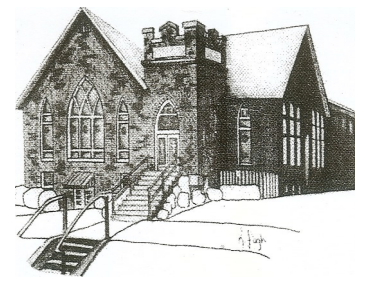


MARS UP CHURCH



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

May 2023

What I learned from an irritating Plant

At some point during all of the windstorms we have been having over the past month or so, a tree fell in my parents' yard. About a week ago after my brother and I visited with my father in the hospital we decided to go ahead and take care of the fallen tree. On a side note my father is home; thank you for your prayers. Anyway, we set to work cutting and dragging the tree and limbs out of the yard. Fortunately, my parents do not need any firewood so we were just cutting the tree into manageable lengths to be hauled out of the yard and dumped in the woods. The thicker pieces of the tree's trunk we loaded onto a tractor and dumped deep in the woods out of sight. The smaller pieces and the top branches of the tree were just dragged into the woods along the edge of the field. It was a nice day to be working outside, and I felt good after we had accomplished our task. That is, I felt good until a little bit later that evening when I caught myself scratching at my leg. Sure enough I had come close enough to that pesky irritating plant known as poison ivy! Now I am someone who gets poison ivy badly. Whenever anyone mentions the word out loud I seem to get it, so I knew immediately that I was in trouble. The spot of poison ivy on my leg was pretty small though, probably about the size of a half dollar; or at least that is how big it was that first night. The entire tube of hydrocortisone cream I went through in two days did not slow the progression of rash that kept being aided by my incessant scratching. Within a week my shins, calves, knees, and thighs were covered with either fresh bouts of poison ivy or dry red scabs from my constant scratching. As someone who has struggled with getting rid of poison ivy for many years you'd think I would know better, but no matter how hard I try it just seems to spread and spread and spread. I just can't stop scratching it!

Since Easter I have been reading through the book of Acts. I have been reminded about how quickly the good news of Jesus Christ spread throughout the region. This of course is nothing new. The gospels talk about how word of Jesus spread across the country side from town to town. It turns out, that the Good News of Jesus Christ's resurrection will spread if given an opportunity. And so while I have been reflecting on this irritating rash that covers my legs, I have been thinking that Christians are called to be more like poison ivy. Not that we are to leave scratch marks and irritate people, but we are to spread! Instead of spreading a rash or dry crusty scabs we are called to spread love and joy and hope. This is our Easter opportunity. To spread the word of God, the truth of God, the promises of God to a generation that has largely grown-up without knowledge of the scriptures.

I am well aware that this will not be my last bout of poison ivy for the summer, and I hope this is not the last time you feel drawn to spreading the Good News of the resurrection. I pray that this message of hope is contagious enough to infect your soul, and that you will carry it and spread it with a vigor that covers the community. I pray that the knowledge you have of our Lord Jesus Christ would drive you to action, to scratch and claw until His love breaks forth in miraculous ways. I pray that today, as in the days of the first Christians, that the Easter promise spreads and spreads and spreads.

Acts 6:7a "So the word of God spread..." May it be forever so...

Blessings, Pastor Brian

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 14, 2023

CHURCH WIDE PICNIC

SAVE THE DATE

September 10th at Adams
Township Park

More Details to Follow!

MAY REMINDERS

- ♦ First Sunday of the month, May 7th....Food Bank collection

Suggestions on the following page!!

- ♦ Second Sunday of the month, May 14th...Deacon Kindness



CALLING ALL GRADUATES

If you or someone in our church that you know is graduating from high school, college or another post-high school program, please let us know in the church office.

We would like to celebrate these graduates. More details to follow.



May 14, 2023

Flowers will be given out to the women of our congregation in honor of all Mothers.

The Special Adult choir will provide music.



Food Bank Items. . .

Some items are in high demand at the food bank and you may not realize it. Because they aren't essentials, the staff doesn't publicly ask for them. A survey on Reddit.com asked volunteers what items people would be most appreciative of and we've listed the top 10 below. If you're looking for an easy way to help out, pick some of these up while shopping for our monthly food bank collection.

1. Spices.

Think about it. People who rely on the food bank eat a lot of canned food, rice, oatmeal, white bread, etc. They love spices. Seasoned salt, cayenne pepper, chili powder, cumin, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, oregano, basil and so on.

2. Feminine Products.

Can you imagine being worried about affording these? Pads, tampons, panty liners, etc. Recommended: Buy in bulk at Costco for donating.

3. Chocolate.

People don't need it, but think about being in their shoes and how nice it would be to be given a chocolate bar or brownie mix along with your essentials.

4. Toiletries.

Grocery stores are great about donating surplus or unsold food, but they have no reason to donate toilet paper, tooth paste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc. Food stamps often don't cover these.

5. Canned meats and jerky.

This isn't true of all food banks, but some struggle to give users enough protein.

6. Crackers and tortillas.

They don't spoil and everybody likes them.

7. Baby toiletries.

Diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, baby shampoo, baby soap, baby food, bottles, etc.

8. Soup packets.

Sometimes you look at rice, beans, instant potatoes, and cans of vegetable and think, "What do I make with this?" Hearty soup is a complete meal.

9. Socks.

From a former homeless person: "Socks mean the world to you. They keep you warm, make you feel like you have something new, and just comfort you."

10. Canned fruit other than pineapple.

Food banks get a lot of pineapple donated. Their clients love it when other kinds of fruit are available.

PLEASE WELCOME ELIZABETH HIXON



Elizabeth Hixon lives in Renfrew with her family including 4 brothers and a twin sister! She is a senior at Seneca Valley High School where she serves a drum major for the marching band. Elizabeth also plays piano in the Sv Jazz band, clarinet in the Wind Ensemble and sings with many choirs including Madrigals and the Beauty Shop Quartet! Liz has been playing piano and singing since she was very young. She will attend SRU in the fall to pursue degrees in Music Education and Piano Performance.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS/April 20th

- 1 - Parking Lot - Waiting for report from Engineering Firm as to various options.
- 2 - Electronic Sign - Mars Boro Zoning Board Hearing for a Variance to Boro Zoning concerning Electronic Signs to be held on Thursday April 27 @6:00 pm
- 3 - Approval of March Session Minutes
- 4 - Easter Day Communion served to 95 people
- 5 - Sunday Services to return to "normal" now that Lent has passed
- 6 - Discussed various Mission/Service opportunities available with Pine Valley Camp
- 7 - Discussion continuing on replacement of ice machine in kitchen
- 8 - Ladies Room renovation is progressing. New flooring has been installed; painting has been completed; new toilets to be installed on Tuesday 4/25; vanity with sinks and hardware to be delivered on Thursday April 27

There will be Infant Baptism on Sunday, July 2nd during worship Service.

The sacrament of *Infant Baptism* enables each of us to *welcome* your child into the family of God.

If you have a child that would like baptized on this Sunday, please notify the office



SUNDAY, May 28th

Day of Pentecost

**CELEBRATE AND WEAR
RED**

Mars UP Church's



NEW 2 U SALE

Saturday June 3rd

All proceeds will be going towards updating the office décor and Tarry N
Talk kitchen!

More details to Follow!

MUP's New to You Sale- Spring Cleaning yet? Donations will be accepted after April 29th. Watch for upcoming details as to donation acceptance date!

Items not accepted: Televisions, Couches, Mattresses, Large Appliances, Computers, Clothing, Exercise Equipment and please no Junk!!

If you have any questions about the sale or donations, please contact the office.



ST JOHN & MARS UP CHURCHES

VBS 2023



SUNDAY, July 9th – THURSDAY, July 13th 2023

6:00-8:20 PM

SPECIAL OPENING SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Families join us for a HOT DOG BEAN kickoff

5:00pm MUP Fellowship Hall

**GET a preview of the great VBS decorations,
music and games!**

REGISTRATION WILL BE FORTHCOMING!

WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS

SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ May 14th— Mother's Day
- ♦ May 21st—Last Sunday School
- ♦ May 28th—Pentecost Sunday
- ♦ June 3rd—New to You Sale
- ♦ June 18th —Father's Day
- ♦ July 2nd—Baptism Sunday
- ♦ July 9th thru July 13th—VBS

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 Face-
book!!

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

Prayer Chain:



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