

MARS UP CHURCH



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

March 2024

Isaiah 40:31: “But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”

New Tires

When I was a young boy my family had a small four wheeler quad that my brothers and I would ride in the wooded trails behind my parent’s home. Many summer and fall days were spent with the wind blowing by my face racing through the trails. Now, almost thirty years later, I still enjoy taking my children for rides. The old machine still runs pretty good, though there is one slight problem. The tires have become old and worn. For the past two decades the tires have had slow air leaks, making it so that they would need inflated about every hour of riding. Before getting the quad out, we would have to pump up the tires. Now the tires have been patched multiple times throughout the years and I can’t tell you how many cans of fix-a-flat have been used, but for the most part we have been able to nurse along the original tires up to this point. That was until the end of last summer. One day my nephews were riding in the woods when a stick punctured through one of the rear wheels. It’s not surprising given how thin the rubber has been worn. The hole it made was larger than a quarter, and since that particular tire already had two patches in it, the decision was made that we would have to get new tires. We don’t like getting “new” things, so this was a drawn-out decision. Of course, making the decision to get new tires is not the same as getting them. So, after waiting seven months, I finally went down and took the tires off the quad so that I could order new ones. We found new ones online and replacing them came out to about forty dollars (\$40) per tire. Only \$40 to fix a problem that has been frustrating us for years. I was expecting a much higher price given how costs have increased so dramatically, and so I was thrilled that for a minimal cost the quad will have brand new tires to continue its journeys through the woods. I am also a little embarrassed. If it cost \$40 today, what would new tires have cost ten or fifteen years ago? It turns out getting new tires probably should have been done a long time ago, but now the quad is renewed, ready to be enjoyed by the next generation of children, and honestly me too.

Putting off this relatively simple repair of the old four-wheeler has made me think about what other maintenance I have been putting off for too long. We are now in the heart of the Lenten season, a season perfect for checking ourselves over and doing the maintenance that we may have been putting off for years. Lent is an opportunity to think about what needs renewed, replaced, or fixed in our faith journeys. It is a time to fix what is broken in our relationship with God and others. A time to be renewed for the remainder of the journey. Isaiah 40:31 says that “those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength”. May this lent be a time of renewal for you! What hopes do you have for yourself, for your faith, for your church? In what ways do you need “new tires” put on? A worn down, patched together faith life may have brought us this far, but we have the opportunity to put on new tires for the race marked out before us. We can renew our strength by placing our trust and hope in the Lord. By focusing on God’s word to us found in the scriptures, and by inflating our faith through prayer and devotion. Now is the time to repair our faith practices so that we will be ready for the greatest ride of our lives, sharing the good news of the empty tomb and the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Blessings, Pastor Brian

PLEASE
CLEAN UP
Your Mess!
OUR
Kitchen Fairy
is on
vacation

“Kitchen Reminders”

The MUP kitchen is a busy place and is used by many groups, organizations, and events. This is a good thing! If you have any upcoming MUP Church sponsored event, please try and clean up your leftover food and the kitchen area which was used.

All garbage needs to be taken to the outside garbage cans for our weekly trash pick-up.

Also,

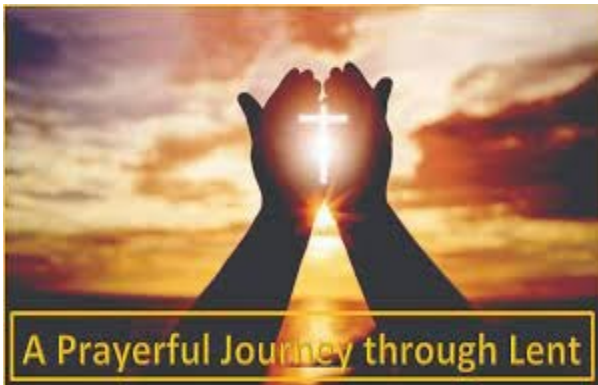
Please begin labeling ALL FOOD that is left in the refrigerator and freezers. Please put the group name and date. If it is extra and not needed by your event anymore notes are helpful, so others know what the intentions are. Food that is not labeled will be discarded when appropriate.

Thank you for your help in keeping the kitchen running smoothly!!!

Lenten Lunches—Every Friday at 12 noon

Starting February 16th

Every Friday at 12 noon the community is invited to enjoy lunch and a special guest speaker. There is no charge for the lunch; however donations will be received. Come and Fellowship with us on February 16th for our first Lenten Lunch. We will be serving soups, sandwiches, salads and dessert.



Upcoming Lent and Easter

February 16th thru March 29th Lenten Luncheons with various speakers listed below. This year we will try something new with the lunch at various locations throughout the community. The schedule is listed below:

February 16th—Mars UP Church—Speaker Rev. Katie McNeal

February 23rd—Penn Mar Plaza— Speaker Rev. Brian Hauser

March 1st—St. John Lutheran Church—Speaker Mayor Greg Hartung

March 8th—Penn Mar Plaza— Speaker Rev. Paul Aiello

March 15th—St. John Lutheran Church— Speaker Chaplain Jimmy Fong

March 22nd— Penn Mar Plaza —Speaker Pastor Jim Gascoine

March 29th—Mars UP Church—Rev. Peter deVries



Annual Mars UP Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 24th

After church @ Mars UP Church

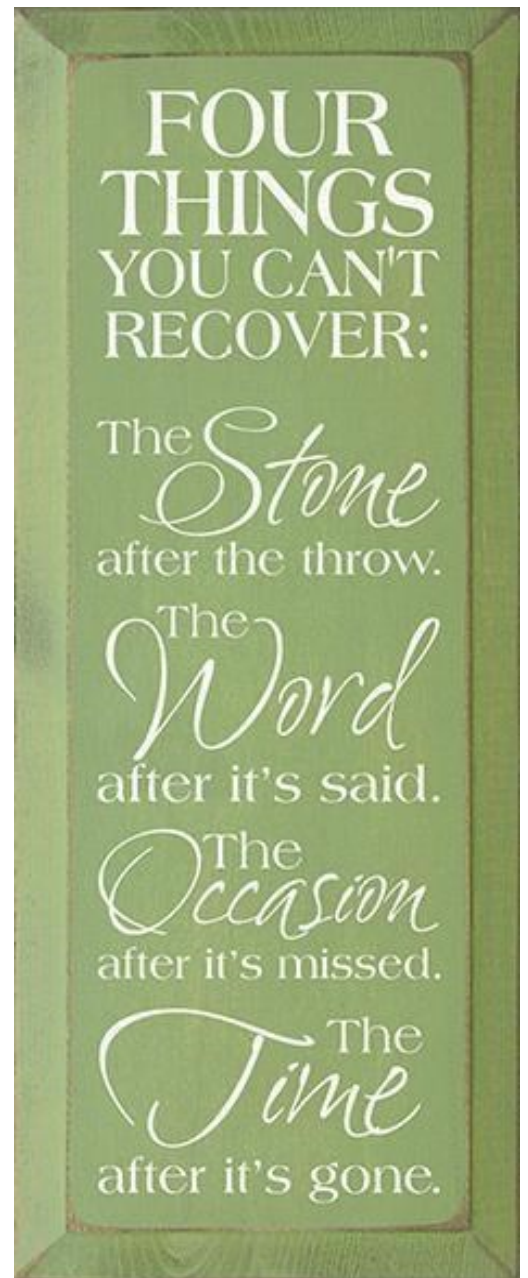
Bring your baskets & a friend!!!

Refreshments provided after the egg hunt.

March

MARCH 2024 EVENTS

- AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH
- NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
- NATIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH
- NATIONAL ETHICS AWARENESS MONTH
- ESSENTIAL TREMOR AWARENESS MONTH
- NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH
- 1ST EMPLOYEE APPRECIATION MONTH
- 3RD WORLD WILDLIFE DAY
- 6TH DENTIST'S DAY
- 8TH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY
- 10TH—16TH NATIONAL PULMONARY REHAB WK
- 12TH NATIONAL GIRL SCOUT DAY
- 13TH REGISTERED DIETITIAN NUTRIIONIST DAY
- 14TH PI DAY
- 17TH ST. PATRICK'S DAY
- 17TH 23RD NATIONAL POISON PREVENTION DAY
- 18TH—24TH HEALTH INFO PROFESSIONALS WK
- 19TH CERTIFIED NURSES' DAY
- 19TH APRIL 8TH MARCH MADNESS
- 19TH FIRST DAY OF SPRING
- 21ST WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY
- 24TH WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY
- 30TH EARTH HOUR
- 30TH DOCTOR'S DAY
- 30TH BASEBALL SEASON STARTS
- 31ST EASTER SUNDAY



Mission Trips

Have you ever thought that you'd like to participate in a mission trip?

Are you willing to share your gifts and talents to share God's love to a community? We have the opportunity for you to attend a mission trip. Upcoming Richmond, West Virginia and Savannah, Georgia mission trips may be what you are looking for!!

When and Where: YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Savannah, Georgia June 23-28, 2024

ADULT MISSION TRIP

Richmond, West Virginia July 21-26, 2024

Examples of What you may be doing.....

In Savannah, teams will serve a portion of their day supporting the Salvation Army and their ministries. These include children's ministry & other social outreaches. Experience Mission may hold an organized Kids Club, depending on the specific needs of the week you serve. Teams will be notified several months before their trip if Kids Club is an opportunity during their trip. If Kids Club is included as an opportunity for your team, participation will be optional. If your team chooses to participate in Kids Club, Experience Mission will provide the curriculum for your team's use. This Kids Club curriculum will be emailed to Team Leaders in the months before your trip.

Teams participating in Kids Club will be responsible for bringing the craft supplies needed for their specific crafts and should budget appropriately. While we do our best to ensure craft materials are cost-effective, teams may feel free to augment any materials to make them more suitable to their budget. Experience Mission will supply scissors, staplers, and paper hole punches. There are plenty of opportunities to connect with local children through games like soccer or Frisbee. Tuck in a hacky sack, football, or jump rope as they will surely come in handy!

Pull up a chair and chat with a neighbor in the close-knit town of Richwood, West Virginia. Your team will instantly feel welcomed by the residents of this small Appalachian town where everyone seems to know everyone. You'll see how neighbors look out for one another and take pride in their community, while also struggling with the upkeep of old homes and trailers, leading to unsafe living conditions.

Many homes were not built to withstand the ever-changing mountain weather, and families often cannot afford basic repairs. But your team can make a difference one home at a time as you serve side-by-side with homeowners. Not only will your work make a practical impact, but you will also have the chance to make a spiritual impact as you share the love of Jesus through your selfless actions.

Interested?? Contact Pastor Brian or the Informational Meeting on March 3rd after Worship

Making a Difference

Here are a few ways to make an impact in the community and in our church during Lent:

- **Feed the Hungry**—each month we collect non-perishable food items to be given to a local food bank. The second Sunday of each month, we take up an additional offering (The Deacon's Kindness Offering) to help support those in financial distress.
- **A-Team** - a Tuesday morning group of retirees who do great in and around the church building (*go A-Team!*).
- **Sunday School** - classes are available for every age and on a variety of topics. A great way to deepen your faith and get to know other people in the church!
- **Prayer Chain** - emails are sent supporting individuals, families, situations in the power of prayer.

TAKE THE LENTEN CHALLENGE!

Find ONE person during Lent and invite them to come with you to Sunday School and church. The best way to make a difference is to encourage someone to claim their faith in Jesus Christ!



Don't forget to Turn your Clocks ahead on March 9th BEFORE you go to Bed!!

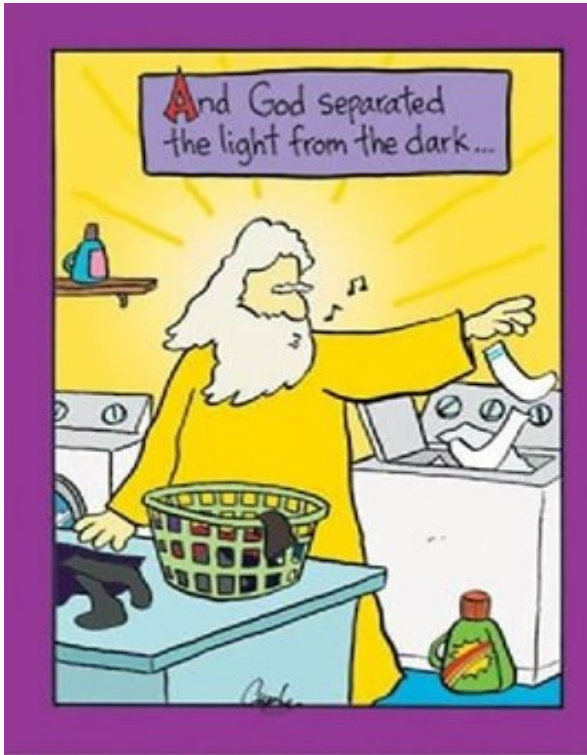
Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10th

See you at Worship on March 10th @ 10:00 am



Time to Spring Ahead

HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY - Join us on Sunday April 7th 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!



Session Highlights

1. Approved the January, 2024 Session Minutes
2. Approved the February, 2024 Congregational Meeting Minutes
3. Approved Communion the First Sunday of each month; with exception of April - Communion will be Easter Sunday
4. Approved Communion for Ash Wednesday Service
5. VBS scheduled for July 14-17, 2024
6. Approved Seminary Student to help serve three churches (Old Union, Mars UP and Crestview) 10 weeks plus special occasions to educate future leaders
7. Deacons joining committees again
8. Gavin Miller to fill pulpit . Currently student at Grove City College
9. New Members class
10. Maundy Thursday service held in Social Hall
11. Youth Group 30 hour famine held on Feb. 23rd and 24th
12. Easter Egg Hunt on March 24th
13. MSPS to help correspond with children from Compassion International
14. Holy Humor Sunday, April 7th
15. Electronic Sign in agreement with Borough
16. Updating Prayer Chain
17. Bell Tower flat roof leaving– process of getting quotes

HOAGIE FUNDRAISER The MSPS is conducting a hoagie sale in March. The 8” hoagies are packaged in individual containers, (lettuce, tomato & dressing are bagged separately). Orders are due by **Friday, March 22nd**. Order forms are available in Tarry N Talk and also in the upcoming bulletins. Hoagies can be picked up on **Tuesday, April 9th at 9am** in the basement Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please contact Heidi Beahm our preschool director for more information at 724-272-9911.



2024 Easter Flowers



Your order for Easter Flowers will help to enhance the beauty of our church sanctuary. You may take your flowers with you following worship on Easter Sunday or designate them for a shut-in by checking the line below. Orders must be placed by Sunday, March 26th, 2024

Easter Lilies \$9.00 _____

Tulips \$8.00 White _____ Yellow _____

Red _____ Pink _____

Daffodils \$8.00 _____

Shut-in _____

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.



Pastor Brian is planning a Youth Lock-in from

8pm—March 28th to

11am on March 29th

If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor Brian.

SAVE THE DATE!

- ◆ Glade Run Food Bank Collection— March 3rd
- ◆ Mission Informational Meeting—March 3rd
- ◆ Lenten Lunch every Friday —March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
- ◆ Easter Egg Hunt—Palm Sunday—March 24th
- ◆ Good Friday Worship Service—12 noon March 29th
- ◆ Easter Sunday Worship—March 31st



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
pastor@mars-up.org

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