

# MARS UP CHURCH



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

March 2022

“Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho.  
Joshua fought the battle of Jericho and the walls came tumbling down.

I used to love this bible school song. If I'm being honest, I have always loved the conquest of the promised land. The Israelite people are wandering, for so long they are a people without a home. They face all manner of trials and struggles in the wilderness and have finally come to, and entered, the land that God promised to their ancestors. Joshua enters to lead the people into the promised land. As a child, I had an image in my mind of this superhero Joshua, this conquering hero, this great man of God. Joshua was the first larger than life character I found in the scriptures. His faithfulness, his military prowess, his leadership, were all qualities I was conditioned to love and respect. I never questioned the glory of Joshua and the Israelites invasion of the land. And maybe it is as glorious and wonderful as it used to be in my mind.

But now, when I see Russian tanks, guns, and military personnel strategically aligning themselves around the borders of Ukraine, and the incursion of the country, I can't help but wonder if my praise of Israel's conquest was misplaced. There is much in the scriptures that when reflected upon with sober adult eyes can be challenging. Israel was an invading army! The story of Noah is a story of genocide of all the people on the planet! David is celebrated, at least in part, because he was a great war lord! There are parts in the scripture we may struggle to accept or understand. These violent passages are on the list. As are stories like Jephthah and his daughter. (look it up) I want you to know it is “OK” to struggle to understand God's involvement and place in some of these stories.

It is not always easy to see, understand, or accept God's role and involvement in the world. Where do we see the hand of God in the mess we see in Ukraine? How do we see God working in the suffering of a child with cancer? How do we reconcile a loving God with the pain of a pandemic or the death of a loved one? It is necessary for Christians to address and wrestle with these questions in our faith walks.

March 2nd is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Lent is a time of reflection leading to the pain of Good Friday, when Christ died on the cross, to the ultimate joy of Easter morning, with a resurrected Christ. Lent is a time of discipline, as we prepare ourselves to be followers of Jesus. As such I have to think this is a great time for us to explore these challenging questions as we take a critical look at our faith. As we evaluate our own understanding of difficult scripture, perhaps we can apply the lessons of this Lenten season. Perhaps knowing that this Lenten journey concludes in violence, suffering, blood and death; but also in resurrection, hope, and new life, will help us see God's presence and glory not just in the light, but also in the dark. Perhaps struggling with uncomfortable scripture will help us connect with God not just in the celebration of the empty tomb, but also in the conflict of Jesus and the money changers or the betrayal of Judas. Perhaps we will learn, that in all aspects of life, and in all situations of the world, and in all things, good and bad, God is present! God is good! Death is never the final word.

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” ~Romans 8:28

Look for God in the pain and suffering you see in the world. Sometimes that is where we see Christ the clearest!

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian



***Join with us as we embark upon a Lenten journey toward the cross. Mark the following dates and times on your calendar, invite friends and family to come with you.***

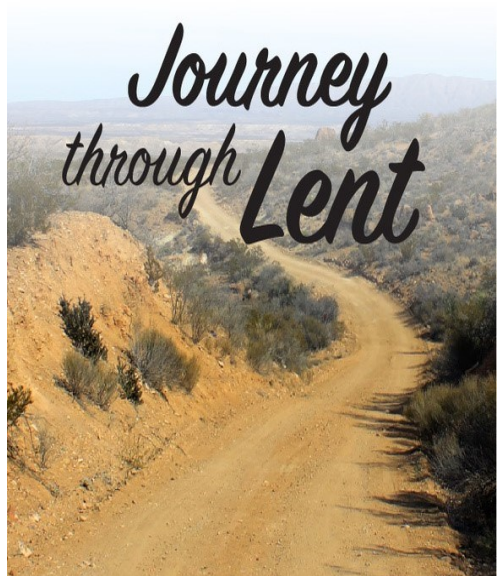
**Feb 2nd ASH WEDNESDAY**

**-Walk-in Communion** (5pm -7pm) – Celebrate the Lord's Supper in small groups. Communion will be celebrated once every 15 minutes.

**Make this Lent a special experience for you and your family. You are encouraged to invite friends and neighbors to attend with you!**

## Lenten Lunches—Every Friday at 12 noon Starting March 4th

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 March 4th for our first Lenten Lunch. We will be serving soups, sandwiches, salads and dessert.



### Upcoming Lent and Easter

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| March 2nd 5:00 to 7:00 pm                           | Ash Wednesday—Walk-In Communion       |
| March 4th thru April 15th                           | Lenten Luncheon with various Speakers |
| April 10th Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am   |                                       |
| April 14th Maundy Thursday                          |                                       |
| April 15th Good Friday Worship Service @ 12 noon    |                                       |
| April 17th Easter Sunday Worship Services @ 10:00am |                                       |



## **Fridays at 12noon**

Speaking Schedule:

March 4th —Chaplain Jimmy Fong

March 11th—Rev. David Champ

March 18th—Rev. Brian Hauser

March 25th—Gary Weston

April 1st—Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk

April 8th—Rev. Dr. Peter DeVries

April 15th—Good Friday Service—Mars Ministerium

\*Every Friday during Lent, Lunch will begin at 12noon. Following each lunch a speaker from the community will present. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

There is no charge, but donations are appreciated!

### **MENU**

**March 4th** Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle, Sloppy Joes

**March 11th** Potato Soup, Corned Beef & Cabbage, Reuben's

**March 18th** Potato Soup, Mushroom Barley Soup, Ham Bar B Q

**March 25th** Potato Soup, Stuffed Pepper Soup, Egg Salad/Ham Salad Sandwiches

**April 1st** Potato Soup, Tortellini Soup, Chicken Salad Sandwiches

**April 8th** Potato Soup, Corn Chowder, Doggie Tails

**April 15th** Potato Soup, Tomato Soup, Egg Salad and Tuna Salad Sandwiches

\*\*Every week Salad, Grilled Cheese, Chips, & Dessert

**Where:** Mars United Presbyterian Church 724-625-1365  
232 Crowe Avenue, Mars

## NOTES FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

# March, 2022

**From: Jamie Daugherty, Director of Music**

There is no doubt that MUP is blessed with a small but mighty Chancel Choir! In these still uncertain times of COVID, we are grateful for the volunteer singers that rehearse each week to provide anthems to our congregation.

The Chancel Choir will continue its Wednesday evening rehearsals in the choir room at 7 P.M. through the Easter Season and part of May. We always welcome new faces! All you need is a nice singing voice and the desire to learn while enjoying fun and fellowship through the gift of music that God has blessed us with.

We are sorry to lose Pat Jackson in the Soprano section as she is now residing at the Masonic Village in Sewickley. Pat has been an integral part of our choir for many years and her voice and smiling face will be missed. Please continue to keep Pat in your prayers or to send her a card thanking her for her service. Her address is 1038 Masonic Drive, Room #G237, Sewickley, PA 15143.

For the first Sunday in March, the Chancel Choir will offer “*Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands*” with music by Joel Raney and based on words by Mother Teresa. This anthem was dedicated to a pastor and wife team for their retirement from pastoral life after more than 4 decades in ministry by the congregation of Richmond Hill United Methodist Church in June, 2018.

On Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Choir will sing “*Never a Step Will You Walk Alone*” with words and music by one of my favorite composers, Pepper Choplin. This soulful anthem tells us “Faith will lead down a road less traveled and unknown. But though you travel on a way uncharted, never a step will you walk alone.”

The Third Sunday of Lent, March 20<sup>th</sup> the Chancel Choir will offer “*Answer to Our Prayer*” by Mary McDonald and Rose Aspinall. The ladies challenge believers to serve, love, and live in faith with a heart of gratitude in this gently rhythmic anthem. Singers and listeners alike will appreciate its encouraging message: “Gratitude will find us, God’s love all around us. He’s the answer to our prayer.”

Our anthem for March 27<sup>th</sup> features an arrangement by Doug Nolan and is titled “*I Have Seen Jesus in You*”. Written in 2019, this anthem contains a pivotal lesson for the life of faith. The innocent melody carries the sentiment straight to the heart, with a guitar-like accompaniment bathing the arrangement in a spirit of serenity. The last verse is a challenge to “let others see Jesus in you.” A sermon in song!

Soli Deo Gloria,

Jamie



## UPDATES ON OUR MUP FAMILY

**PATTY JACKSON has moved to:**

**Masonic Villages**

**Rm G237**

**1038 Masonic Drive**

**Sewickley, PA 15143**

**ISABEL BOYNTON is at Concordia for rehab due to a fall**

**Concordia Lutheran Service**

**Rm 2303**

**134 Marwood Road**

**Cabot, PA 16023**

**\*\*\*\*CARDS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED FOR BOTH\*\*\*\***

Don't forget to Turn your  
Clocks ahead on March 12th  
BEFORE you go to Bed!!

Daylight Savings Time begins  
on Sunday, March 13h

See you at Worship on March  
13th @ 10:00 am



Time to  
Spring Ahead



# 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.
- **Chancel Choir** - the choir meets for practice Wednesday evenings at 7pm. We have a wonderful choir and are always looking for more people!
- **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!



Annual Mars UP Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 10th

After church @ Mars UP Church

Bring your baskets & a friend!!!

Refreshments provided after the egg hunt.

**NEW MEMBER CLASS** Are you looking to become a member of Mars UP Church? Pastor Brian will be holding two confirmation class tracts. The first tract is for anyone joining a church for the first time and will meet March 6th, 20th and April 3rd from 11:00am until noon. The second tract is for all others wishing to join Mars UP and will meet Sunday March 13th and 27th from 11:00am until noon. All who are interested should contact Pastor Brian.

## 2022 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, April 10, 2022

Easter Lilies \$8.50 \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips \$7.25    White \_\_\_\_\_    Yellow \_\_\_\_\_

Red \_\_\_\_\_    Pink \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils \$7.25 \_\_\_\_\_

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.



**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!

“Why do we have to be quiet in Church?

Because Jay is sleeping!!!



Pastor Brian is planning a Youth Lock-in on April 1st thru April 2nd.

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

More info to follow!!



## Saturday, April 9th

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!



## SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ Glade Run Food Bank Collection— March 6th
- ♦ Ash Wednesday—Communion –March 2nd
- ♦ Lenten Lunch w/Chaplain Jimmy Fong—March 4th
- ♦ Lenten Lunch w/Rev. David Champ-March 11th
- ♦ Deacon Kindness Sunday Collection-March 13th
- ♦ Lenten Lunch w/Rev. Brian Hauser-March 18th
- ♦ Lenten Lunch w/Gary Weston— March 25
- ♦ Lenten Lunch w/ Rev. Dr. Jim Kirk-April 1
- ♦ Lenten Lunch w/Rev. Dr. Peter DeVries—April 8th



## 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](mailto:marsup@mars-up.org)

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)

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232 Crowe Ave  
PO Box 805  
Mars, PA 16046