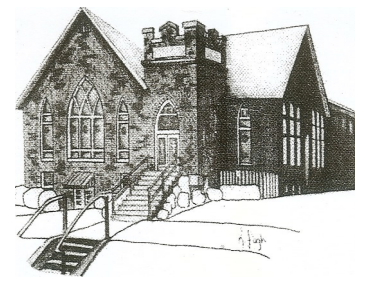


# MARS UP CHURCH



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

APRIL 2023

## Ephesians 3:20

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us.

The word “abundant”, or some variation, is used frequently throughout the scriptures and can be found from Genesis to Revelation. Sometimes it is talking about an abundance of water or cautioning about putting your trust in the abundance of possession. Other times the word abundant is referring to the gifts of God such as abundant hope, abundant love, abundant grace, or abundant mercy. The word abundant means plentiful or having more than is needed. Today I wanted to remind you that being Easter people means we believe in the God of abundance, the God without limits, the God of birth and creation. We believe that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us!

But before we get to deep into the abundance that God offers, I want to provide for you a quarterly checkup on the missional progress our church family has been doing so far this year. You may remember that last year, 2022, was a great year for missional giving at MUP. For the first time in memory the church more than tithed its annual budget in mission giving. This is mission funds that were sent out into the community or around the world. This does not include the ‘mission’ that we do ‘in house’ through bible studies, Sunday school, Myschool Preschool, worship services, church events, etc. Mission giving last year was up almost twenty five percent over 2021! In short last year MUP did a great job of being a missional church.

As we entered this year the stewardship and mission committees discussed a desire to keep the momentum going. However, they realized there are some real challenges to that goal. We knew that this year would see a significant increase in building expenses in a variety of ways. The utilities at the church have seen a major increase. There are a number of building projects that have been discussed and there are a few large projects that may be on the horizon. With the major expense of potentially pursuing a new parking lot as well as already approved projects like replacing the trim in the church social room, painting the front of the sanctuary, and remodeling the lady’s room on the first floor; there are major expenses being allocated to maintaining and enhancing our building. So far this year we have already spent/approved expenditures of over six thousand dollars for building projects. The fear has always been that when spending increases on building maintenance and improvements it might take away from the progress we have been making in being a missional church. I am overjoyed to share that so far this year, that has not been the case. Our missional giving so far this year is right around ten thousand dollars! This is a forty percent increase compared to the first quarter of last year! We have done this while staying on track with our budgeting goals.

Friends, this is what it means to believe in the abundance of our God. Many church leaders I speak to have remarked about the tightening of purse strings due to economic uncertainty. But you all have trusted God; and have committed yourselves, your time, your talents, and your treasure to the good work being done by this covenant community of believers. This isn't to claim that there is an endless amount of resources or to promote some watered-down version of the prosperity gospel. This is a thank you for the faithfulness of this congregation who is living into the good news of God's abundance. As a congregation we will continue to do our due diligence in using the resources God has entrusted to our care, and together we will continue to grow the circle of love that is emanating from Mars UP. Thank You for trusting God! Thank you for your generosity! Thank God that we are Easter people who receive abundant grace!

Blessings,

Pastor Brian

## **MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- 1- Music Committee hired Elizabeth Hixon to help us with the music program through August
- 2- Session to pay up to \$500 per child for cost of summer camp this summer
- 3- Spaghetti Dinner to benefit the Jim Ellis Firefighter Training Center at Adams District Fire Company #42 will be held at MUP on April 29
- 4 - Communion will be served during the Maundy Thursday Service
- 5 - Palm Sunday Service will feature a Youth Bell Choir of youth from MUP and MSPS
- 6- Church Picnic/Rally Day will be Sunday September 10 @ Adams Park
- 7- Christian Ed/Mission Outreach Committee is looking for local mission opportunities - if you know of something or someone in need of help let us know.
- 8 - MUP collected \$2000 for the people of East Palestine, OH affected by train derailment. Session matched that amount. We also sent 10 5 gallon baskets filled with cleaning supplies to East Palestine, supplied by members of the church.
- 9- Renovation of the Ladies Rest Room on the main floor has been approved by Session. New Flooring has been ordered and work will begin shortly.
- 10- Session has approved the usage of an phone APP that will create a Church Directory, called Instant Church Directory, free to use by each Congregation Member, at a cost of \$8/month to MUP...

Mars Area Sunrise Service

*Community Easter Service*

Sunday, April 9th @ 6:30 am

Veterans Pavilion

Adams Township Park on Three Degree Road



Sponsored by the Mars Area Ministerium



**YOUTH-LOCK IN** Pastor Brian is planning a Youth Lock-in on March 31<sup>st</sup> thru April 1st If you are interested in attending, please talk to Pastor Brian. More into to follow!



*Holy Humor Sunday*

Join us on Sunday April 16th 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!





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday to you  
 Happy birthday to you  
 Happy birthday, dear *ISABEL*  
 Happy birthday to you

ISABEL celebrated her 97th birthday on March 28, 2023  
*She is the oldest member of our MUP Family!!*

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**VBS—JULY 9TH THRU**  
**JULY 13TH**





## Annual Mars UP Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 2nd

After church @ Mars UP Church

Bring your baskets & a friend!!!

Dyeing of Eggs and a visit from the

Easter Bunny

Refreshments provided after the egg hunt.

## JOIN US FOR LENTEN/ EASTER SERVICES

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** — April 6th at 7:00 pm

This solemn time we can reflect on the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples. The worship service will be held in the Fellowship Hall. The service will be held during the meal of soup and bread. Sacrament of communion will also be offered at this time. More details to follow.

**GOOD FRIDAY** — Rev. Brian Hauser and other pastors in our community will participate in the Mars Community Good Friday service on April 7th at 12:15pm. This service will be held at Mars UP Church.

**EASTER SUNDAY** — On Sunday, April 9th 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

April 23rd at 10:00 am

Service at Mars UP Church

More Details to Follow!!

Come out to Mars UP Church Sunday, April 29th from 11am to 7pm to help support the **FUTURE JIMMY ELLIS FIRE FIGHTER FOUNDATION** Fundraiser by attending the spaghetti dinner hosted by Adams Area Fire District.

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

\$10 per person, kids under 6 \$5

Dine in or take out available

For parties of 10 or more, please call for  
Reservations 724-689-3412

Basket Raffle, 50/50 & More



## New Mevo Cameras

The church purchased a Mevo Camera starter pack with the hope of improving our audio and visual display for recorded worship services. The new system provides three cameras that allow us to utilize various camera angles as well as a picture in picture option to display the words to songs while still viewing worship leaders. A unique feature of this system is that we are able to plug our sound system directly into the audio output so those watching our services on Facebook will receive a higher quality sound without all of the background noise that exists in the sanctuary. Check out our videos on the church's Facebook page and let us know what you think.



Please keep in mind that the system is new and there may be some learning pains as we try to implement this new technology.



**Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>** Mini golf at Bethel

Meet at Mars UP and car pool to Bethel to play mini golf. After mini golf we will come back to the church for pizza and ice cream.

**VBS July 9<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>** SAVE THE DATE!

**July 14<sup>th</sup>** Pool Party for all Kids club and Youth Group Members and new members!

**August 19<sup>th</sup> (Tentative)**

The Youth Group is planning a rafting trip on the middle Yough River at Ohiopyle, PA. If you or your family are interested in joining us please let Pastor Brian know. This event is open to all families of the church. Details of cost and transportation will be forthcoming.

### Save the Date:

April 2nd—Children's Bell Choir and Easter Egg Hunt

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

April 7th—Good Friday Service with Mars Ministerium @ 12:15 pm

April 9th—Easter Sunday with Communion

April 16th—Humor Sunday

April 23rd— Joint Sunday with St. John Lutheran Church

May 7th—Communion

## Contact Us

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

### **Mars UP Church**

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[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

10:00 am

Prayer Chain:

[mjaiken@zoominternet.net](mailto:mjaiken@zoominternet.net)



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