

# MARS UP CHURCH



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

**December 2018**

**Dear Friends in Christ,**

**Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).**

**Happy New Year! By the time you read this, the Advent season will have begun. Advent is the beginning of the Church Year – it comes from the Latin Adventus, which means “coming.” Advent is a time of preparation in the life of the church, when all Christians prepare for the coming of Christ.**

**To help you prepare, I encourage you to refer to the daily Scripture readings elsewhere in this newsletter. As you read, pray that God will reveal a message of anticipation and hope. Find a quiet time, perhaps with your morning coffee, or before you turn off your light each evening. This is a great time of the year to come closer to God in Christ.**

**This Advent, my sermons will consider the anticipation of the Messiah:**

**December 2: “Mixed Message?”**

**December 9: “Sending the Messenger”**

**December 16: “The Messenger Speaks”**

**December 18: “The Birth of a King”**

**We will spend time looking at ancient prophecies about the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, the Anointed One. Through the ages, God has spoken about the coming of his beloved Son. Please make every effort to join us each Sunday.**

**Plan also to participate in the Living Nativity, December 7-8 – a MUP tradition is being revived, to bring the birth of Christ to the community. If you would like to help, please contact Alma Staskiewicz. Many hands make light work!**

**This is an exciting time in the life of our church. The Transition Team has been meeting in earnest – I hope you have read their letter. If you have questions or comments, please contact a Team member. We will soon post a Timeline of our history in the Tarry ‘N’ Talk area, to receive comments on key events from the past twenty-five years. Next, we will conduct a number of congregational surveys, both written and in conversation, to get the mood of the membership and to know where God is calling us.**

**Much work and many conversations need to take place before we elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. Before that, we need to discuss and answer the following questions:**

**Who is Mars U.P. Church today (not 25 or 50 years ago)?**

**What is happening in our community?**

**What do we as the Body of Christ want to accomplish in the next five years?**

**What sort of pastor do we need to lead us into that future?**

My brothers and sisters, we **WILL** get there. Your next pastor is out there, but we need to be patient – *if we don't know who we are looking for, how will we know it when we find him or her?*

Maybe things are going slower than you like. Maybe you believe we should be reading resumes by now. Maybe you think the new pastor should be here already. The Interim Process, if done correctly, is sometimes difficult and time-consuming, but it is *necessary*. The timing is God's, not ours (or mine!) MUP is working through our past and our present, and looking to the future.

In the meantime, continue to be in prayer as we prepare – for the coming of Christ, and for a bright future at Mars Church. I continue to hold this great church, and all of you, in my prayers.

May God shower you with abundant blessings this Christmas, and in the New Year.

In Christ,

*Pastor Jim*



## **TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS EVE** **SERVICES**

*Celebrate the birth of Christ and the great light that has come into the world at Mars UP Church!*

*Regular worship services Sunday Morning at  
8:30 am and 11:00 am*

Two traditional, candlelight services:

- ♦ **7pm**—Candle Light Service with Special Music from the Chancel Choir
- ♦ **11pm**—Candle Light Service with the Celebration of Communion

***Bring friends, family and neighbors!!***

***As you prepare for the coming of Christ, take a moment each day to read God's Word***

**1st Week of Advent**

**Sunday 2:**

Morning: Ps. 24; 150; Isa. 1:1-9

Evening: Ps. 25; 110; 2 Peter 3:1-10;  
Matt. 25:1-13

**Monday 3:**

Morning: Ps. 122; 145; Isa. 1:10-20

Evening: Ps. 40; 67; 1 Thess. 1:1-10; Luke 20:1-8

**Tuesday 4:**

Morning: Ps. 33; 146; Isa. 1:21-31

Evening: Ps. 85; 94; 1 Thess. 2:1-12; Luke 20:9-18

**Wednesday 5:**

Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1-11; Isa. 2:1-4

Evening: Ps. 53; 17; 1 Thess. 2:13-20;  
Luke 20:19-26

**Thursday 6:**

Morning: Ps. 18:1-20; 147:12-20; Isa. 2:5-22;  
1 Thess. 3:1-13

Evening: Ps. 126; 62; Luke 20:27-40

**Friday 7:**

Morning: Ps. 102; 148; Isa. 3:1 – 4:1

Evening: Ps. 130; 16; 1 Thess. 4:1-12;  
Luke 20:41—21:4

**Saturday 8:**

Morning: Ps 90; 149; Isa 4:2-6

Evening: Ps 80; 72; 1 Thess. 4:13-18;  
Luke 21:5-19

---

**Second Week in Advent**

**Sunday 9:**

Morning: Ps. 24; 150 Isa. 5:1-7

Evening: Ps. 25; 110; 2 Peter 3:11-18;  
Luke 7:28-35

**Monday 10:**

Morning: Ps. 122; 145; Isa. 5:8-17

Evening: Ps. 40; 67 1 Thess. 5:1-11;  
Luke 21:20-28

**Tuesday 11:**

Morning: Ps. 33; 146 Isa. 5:18-25

Evening: Ps. 85; 94; 1 Thess. 5:12-28;  
Luke 21:29-38

**Wednesday 12:**

Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1-11; Isa. 6:1-13

Evening: Ps. 53; 17; 2 Thess. 1:1-12;  
John 7:53 – 8:11

**Thursday 13:**

Morning: Ps. 18:1-20; 147:12-20; Isa. 7:1-9; 2 Thess. 1:1-12

Evening: Ps. 126; 62; Luke 22:1-13

**Second Week in Advent (continued)**

**Friday 14:**

Morning: Ps. 102; 148 Isa. 7:10-25

Evening: Ps. 130; 16; 2 Thess. 2:13 – 3:5;  
Luke 22:14-30

**Saturday 15:**

Morning: Ps. 90; 149 Isa. 8:1-15

Evening: Ps. 80; 72; 2 Thess. 3:6-18;  
Luke 22:31-38

---

**Third Week in Advent**

**Sunday 16:**

Morning: Ps. 24; 150 Isa. 13:1-13

Evening: Ps. 25; 110; Heb. 12:18-29; John 3:22-30

**Monday 17:**

Morning: Ps. 122; 145; Isa. 8:16 – 9:1

Evening: Ps. 40; 67; 2 Peter 1:1-11; Luke 22:39-53

**Tuesday 18:**

Morning: Ps. 24; 150; Isa. 11:1-9; Eph. 6:10-20

Evening: Ps. 25; 110; John 3:16-21

**Wednesday 19:**

Morning: Ps. 122; 145; Isa. 11:10-16; Rev. 20:1-10

Evening: Ps.40; 67; John 5:30-47

**Thursday 20:**

Morning: Ps. 33; 146; Isa. 28:9-22;

Rev. 20:11 – 21:8

Evening: Ps. 85; 94; Luke 1:5-25

**Friday 21:**

Morning: Ps. 50; 147:1-11; Isa. 29:9-24;

Rev. 21:9-21

Evening: Ps. 53; 17; Luke 1:26-38

**Saturday 22:**

Morning: Ps. 18:1-20; 147:12-20; Isa. 31:1-9;

Rev. 21:22 – 22:5

Evening: Ps. 126; 62; Luke 1:39-56

---

**Fourth Week in Advent**

**Sunday 23:**

Morning: Ps. 102; 148; Isa. 33:17-22;

Rev. 22:6-11, 18-20

Evening: Ps. 130; 16; Luke 1:57-66

**Christmas Eve:**

Ps. 132; 114; Isa. 59:15b-21; Phil. 2:5-11

**Christmas Day:**

Morning: Ps. 2; 15; Zech. 2:10-13; 1 John 4:7-16

Evening: Ps. 98; 96; John 3:31-36

## Volunteers for December 2018

### December Nursery

December 2 – Carolyn Golden

December 9– Jenny Ivory

December 16–

December 23—Jill Cooper

December 30 –

### December Greeters

Elder– Linda Moody Deacon– Bonnie McElhinny

Elder-Marie Matthews

### December Tarry N Talk Hosts

Christian Ed/MissionOutreach– Alma Staskiewicz

Lisa Barbour, Angela Badger, Jenny Ivory, Jill Cooper

### December Muffin Crew

December 2 -

December 9 -Linda Lees, Pam Kennedy

December 16–

December 23-Linda Lees, Pam Kennedy

December 30 -

### Sundays available for Flowers

December 30, 2018

## Mission & Outreach Christmas Service Outreach

### *“Be an Angel”*



For many years, through incredible generosity of this church, needy families in our community have been blessed by the gifts and food we supply through the Salvation Army Angel Tree, local food bank, and the Lighthouse. Share the JOY of Christmas with others. Consider one or all of these options to be a visible face of Christ in our community

- ♦In Tarry N Talk there will be an Angel tree with tags.

Select a tag for a local senior citizen. Return the unwrapped gift (tag attached) and leave it under the tree by Sunday, December 9th. The Salvation Army will deliver these gifts to the senior citizens at Christmas.

- ♦Also, in Tarry N Talk are tags for Christmas toys for children of all ages. Please bring the toys by December 9th. This year the Lighthouse is again requesting donations for toys. Last year the Lighthouse foundation was able to supply toys for 750 children throughout the community. Help us, help them exceed this amount and brighten the lives of many more children and families with the love of Christ.
- ♦Please remember the local food bank at Glade Run Church. There is always a need for non-perishable items but during the holiday season the need is even greater. Please drop off items at the church or stop by the food bank with your donations or even a monetary gift.

## Time of Year Again.....Christmas Flowers

Mars United Presbyterian Church

Your order for Christmas poinsettias will help to enhance the beauty of our church sanctuary. Poinsettias are available in 6" pots for \$7.75. You may take your flowers with you following worship on Christmas Eve. Orders must be placed by December 16, 2018.



Marble (Pink & White mixed) \_\_\_\_\_(Limited Availability)

Red: \_\_\_\_\_

Pink: \_\_\_\_\_

White: \_\_\_\_\_

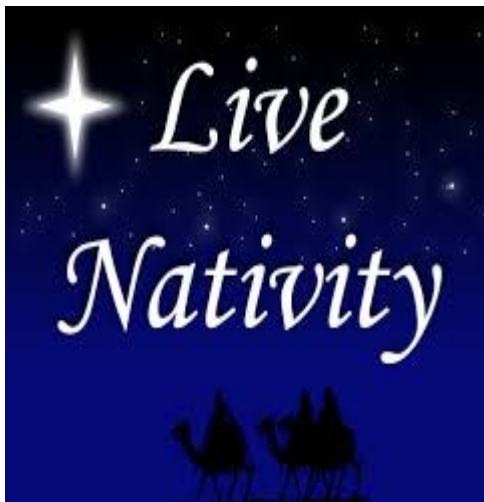
In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Please prepay your order and place it in the offering basket, or bring it to the church office.

## LIVING NATIVITY



*Watch the story come alive at Mars UP Church!*

***Friday, Dec 7th from 6pm—8pm***

***Saturday, Dec 8th from 6pm—8pm***

***Everyone is Welcome and Refreshments provided!***

# Mars UP Annual Turkey Bash



# MARS UP STUDENT MINISTRY PAGE

*Let's Check out the next couple months  
for Mars UP Student Ministry!*

Dec. 2nd No Youth Group/Return Laurelville

Dec. 9th - Normal Youth Group

Dec. 16th— Youth Group Christmas Party! 6-8pm

**\*\*Details to come in Student MUPdate Email**

Dec 23rd—No Youth Group

Dec. 25th— Merry Christmas!!

Dec. 30th—No Youth Group

Jan. 1st— Happy New Year!!

Jan. 6th—First Youth Group of 2019

**\$75 Deposits Due for Peak n Peak**

## PEEK N' PEAK

### SKI RETREAT

**Date—** January 25th—January 28th

**Where?** - Peek N' Peak Ski Resort in Clymer, New York (2.5 hr. drive)

**Who?**- EVERYONE! Not just our Youth

**How and What is it?**

*Talk to Zach or Alma **ASAP** and let them know that you or your Family wants to go! We will spend the weekend Skiing, Snowboarding, Tubing, and yes of course...Eating! This weekend is such an incredible opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family amongst the Mars UP Church Family! Just ask anyone who has come with us before... You don't want to miss this!!*



## Annual Youth Christmas Party

**When:** December 16th

**Where:** Youth Room

**Time:** 6:00 until 8:00pm

**Food, Fun and Fellowship**

*Please bring a "white-elephant" gift wrapped. (no more than \$10).*

**Questions?** Please talk to Zach

**PEEK N' PEAK is BACK!!!**

**SKI RETREAT**

**Date— January 25 thru January 27, 2019**

**Where? - Peek N' Peak Ski Resort in Clymer, New York (2.5 hr. drive)**

**Who?- EVERYONE! All ages and families, not just the Youth**



**How and What is it?**

**Talk to Zach, Alma or Shelly ASAP and let them know that you or your Family wants to go! We will spend the weekend Skiing, Snowboarding, Tubing, and yes of course...Eating! This weekend is such an incredible opportunity to spend quality time with friends and family amongst the Mars UP Church Family! Just ask anyone who has come with us before...You don't want to miss this!!**



***Please Remember to Support the Glade Run Food Bank and the Deacon Kindness Collection this month of December.***

***With the Holiday fast approaching, Christmas dinner supplies and baking ingredients are especially needed at the food bank.***

***The Deacons will be working with the schools and local agencies to determine various needs in the community during this Christmas season.***

***Help make this Christmas extra special this season by helping support these two MUP community outreach projects.***

***Sunday, December 2nd—Food Bank Collection***

***Sunday, December 9th—Deacon Kindness Collection***



# December 2018

**Tarry N Talk Hosts:**  
**Christian Ed/MO Com-**  
**mittee:** Alma Staskie-  
 wicz, Lisa Barbour, An-  
 gela Badger, Jenny Ivo-  
 ry, Jill Cooper

						1
2 8:30 Early Worp 945 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wor- ship NO YOUTH GROUP	3 1:30 pm Wom- en's Bible Study 6:30 pm Griefshare	4 9am Ateam 7pm AA	5 9am Material Girls 7pm Chancel Choir	6	7 6:00 pm Liv- ing Nativity	8 6:00 pm Liv- ing Nativity
9 8:30 Early Worp 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Worship 12:15 CE/MO mtg 12:15 B& G mtg 7:00 Youth Group	10 6:30 pm Griefshare	11 9am Ateam 7pm AA	12 9am Material Girls 7pm Chancel Choir	13 6pm Stewardship 7pm Deacon Meeting	14	15
16 8:30 Early Worp 945 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wor- ship 6::00 Youth Christ- mas Party	17	18 8am WIC 9am Ateam 7pm AA	19 9am Material Girls 7pm Chancel Choir	20 7pm Session Mtg	21	22
23 8:30 Early Worp 945 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wor- ship NO YOUTH GROUP	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed Merry Christmas	26 9am Material Girls	27	28	29
30 8:30 Early Worp 945 Sunday School 11:00 Morning Wor- ship NO YOUTH GROUP	31					

## SAVE THE DATE!

- ◆ Communion at both Services    December 2nd
- ◆ Living Nativity - December 7th and 8th @ 6pm
- ◆ Youth Christmas Party @ 6pm—December 16th
- ◆ Christmas Eve Evening Services - December 24th 7:00 pm and 11:00 p.m.
- ◆ Merry Christmas—December 25th
- ◆ Peek n Peak—January 25th thru January 27th



Mars UP Church  
232 Crowe Ave  
PO Box 805

Mars, PA 16046

## 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 8:30 am &  
11:00 am

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