

MARS UP CHURCH



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

September 2023

“For God is not unjust. He will not forget how hard you have worked for him and how you have shown your love to him by caring for other believers, as you still do. (Hebrews 6:10)”

Most of you are already aware that my father passed away on July 29th and was laid to rest on August 3rd. Life changes when you lose a loved one. My family is not new to the grief process having lost my oldest brother to cancer six years ago, but this latest round has caused me to reevaluate a few things and to appreciate the process that led to this most recent exposure to grief. One thing I have realized is, we as Christians, as the church, must do more to support caregivers. Over the past two years I have looked on as my father received excellent care. Care from hospitals, from nursing homes, from rehab facilities, and most of all from my mother who dedicated every waking hour of her life to caring for his needs. To these caregivers and many family friends I owe an immeasurable debt for the care and love they gave my father. That said, nursing care facilities all over are short staffed; yet they work hard and are underappreciated. Nurses and nursing aides and house-keeping staff all work tirelessly doing the work of the church by caring for others. We should do better at celebrating, honoring, and supporting these professions. As important as these workers are to the care of humanity, particularly in end of life situations, the family and friend caregivers must be acknowledged and celebrated even more. There are many family members who care for and love individuals in their family through medical crisis and through the struggles of aging. Being a caregiver is hard. It is hard to constantly pour yourself out to others. It takes a physical toll. It takes a mental, emotional, and spiritual toll as well. Questions of ‘why’ and ‘how come’ are inevitable. As struggles prolong, feelings of anger and frustration can seep in. All of this while the work is unrelenting. And then, after giving all that a person can give, caregivers are often confronted with either a great loss or an impossible decision. There is no doubt that being a care giver is hard and that the body of Christ should be lifting up those who do this vital work in prayer and in support, through acts of kindness and love. If you have any ideas of how the body of believers can do better to lift up and support those who do this vital work of caregiving, please share them with me or the session or the deacons because this is too important to leave unaddressed.

In the wake of my father’s passing I began rereading a book titled “Good Grief” by Granger E. Westberg. It is a good book that I recommend for anyone dealing with loss of any kind. In the book’s introduction Westberg seeks to reframe a familiar verse found in 1 Thessalonians 4:13. That verse begins with the words, “Grieve not” which has led many Christians to feel insufficient or inadequate when they experience those feelings of sadness, loss, and grief. Westberg points out that when we read the whole verse it is not asking Christians to be stoics like the ancient Greeks. Indeed, Jesus himself wept in the Gospel of John. Instead the book “Good Grief” seeks to help us see the passage from Thessalonians this way, “Grieve, not as those who have no hope” with a pause after the word ‘grieve’. It is a reminder that we as Christians do live differently, we do caregiving differently, we do grief differently because in the end we still have hope.

If you are currently giving care to a family member or friend, I pray that today you are reignited with hope. Because **the God we serve is not an unjust God. God will not forget how hard you have worked for Him or how you have shown your love.** If you are dealing with the mental trauma of having to recently make some hard choices for the betterment of your loved ones, I pray that you receive hope from our Lord Jesus because... **the God we serve is not an unjust God. God will not forget how hard you have worked for Him or how you have shown your love.** If you are currently grieving, for any reason, I pray you are filled with the hope of our Lord because though we must grieve, we grieve as those who have hope.

May the hope we have in Jesus Christ fill your heart, and know I am praying for you.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Rally Day – Sunday, September 10th



Our 2023–2024 kick-off will be held on Sunday, September 10th. We will be celebrating our Church Picnic on Sunday also. The picnic will be at the Adams Township park. Sunday School will start on Sunday, September 17th.

Classes offered for adults will be: Robyn Beckwith's class will be studying The Book of John. This class meets in the church basement Sunday school room next to the Fellowship Hall.

The NNN class led by Herb Wellman will be studying the Wired Word. Relating current events to scripture is the bases for the curriculum. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact the office for more details.

WHICH WOULD YOU LIKE TO ATTEND?????



World Wide Communion Sunday, October 1st



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP

Children's Sunday School will also start on September 17th. Children will be learning about the Stories of the Bible from the Old and New Testaments.

St. Johns Lutheran Church and Mars UP will working together to have Youth Group at Mars UP Church. The first Youth group will be on October 8th at 1:00 until 2:30. They will meet every other Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact the office or talk to Pastor Brian

AUGUST SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

1. Charter Homes will be completing some volunteer work at the Church Property as a Community Project for MySchool PreSchool - upgrades to Playground and to Classrooms.
2. MSPS Polar Express Fundraiser will be December 2 - 3
3. Lenten Lunch Proposal - Going to attempt to join with other area Churches in Mars Area to have a lunch at each Church along with a Speaker not affiliated with host church
4. Rev. Hauser will be beginning his Wednesday evening Bible Study in October - site to be determined
5. Ashley Hauser will be starting a Young Adult Bible Study, for young parents
6. A Camp "Change-a-Life" jar will be placed in Tarry & Talk to collect loose change to help fund costs of sending kids to camp in the summer
7. Session Prayer List:
Prayers – Lou Beckwith, Paige Barbour, Pat Jackson's Family, Reid Hall, Isabel Boynton, Rev. Hauser's Family, Skyla, Bob Danner, Paige Lauten Dave Davidson, Linda Lees, Sandy Whal, Mrs. McCartney and Lindy (Lisa Barbour's mother and sister), Jack Barkley (Jenny's Father – 6 hour surgery for hiatal hernia/stomach), Maryann Croop – knee surgery; Nancy Govan and Augustine family
8. Rally Day/Church Picnic will be held Sunday, September 10th @Adams Park Pavilion
9. The two volunteer days at Pine Valley Camp were very successful
10. Living Nativity will be held in Conjunction with St. John's Lutheran Church and also in Coordination with MSPS Christmas Program - Complete with live animal display
11. New Ice machine has been delivered and installed in the kitchen
12. Rotary Breakfast has been approved for November 3-4
13. Bids are being requested for permanent repair of Bell Tower roof
14. Parking Lot Proposals were reviewed and Session accepted the Bid from Wiest Paving and Bauer Excavating to build a water retention system per Engineer Study and pave the parking lot.



APPLEFEST

October 7th

10am—4pm

Stop over at the Mars UP booth. If you are interested in helping, please see the office.

GriefShare Sessions for **Fall 2023**

Griefshare will begin at Mars UP Church on Monday, September 18th in the Board Room at 6:30 pm. There are 13 sessions, held every Monday until December 4th. Everyone is invited and if you have any questions, please contact Denise at the email provided below.



Held at: Mars United Presbyterian Church,
232 Crowe Avenue, Mars, PA 16046

Sponsored by McDonald-Aeberli Funeral Home, 238 Crowe Avenue, Mars, PA 16046. John Hanovick, *Supervisor*. Please call 724-625-2900 to register or email the facilitator, Denise, at ddemarco5@yahoo.com. There is no childcare available.

Beginning on **Sunday Sept. 17th**



nursery care (kids through kindergarten) will be available for the entire Church hour if parents so desire. Children may also come

down to the nursery after the Children's Chat or remain in Church if parents prefer. The nursery will be staffed by an adult and a teenage helper. Rev. Brian will be putting out a sign-up genius for adult volunteers to sign up. Please support this effort and volunteer!



The First Bible study will begin on September 11th in the Board Room at 1:30pm. The Bible Study meets on the 1st Monday every month. All ages are WELCOME!

The topic of discussion is: God's Love is Law

If you have any further questions, please see Nancy Huggins or contact the office.

A DAY OF VOLUNTEERING





STELLAR VBS REUNION



Happy
Labor
Day
Office
will be
Closed!



DID YOU KNOW?

The ministry of Mars UP Church exceeds far beyond our walls! Your generous contributions MAKE A DIFFERENCE

in OUR CHURCH & in these organizations and projects:

**MHY Family Services St Johns Specialty Care Center Hosanna Industries
Salvation Army Urban Impact The Lighthouse Foundation
Compassion International Brother's Brother
Pine Valley Bible Camp Antioch Partners (Shawn Harmon)
The Beaver Butler Presbytery Mission Greater Europe Mission (Greg Nichols)
Glade Run Food Bank (The Boaz House)
Boys Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, AA, Griefshare, Rotary are just to name a few
who use our church on a regular basis.**



80 + DINNER

WHEN: September 17th

WHERE: Mars UP Church

**TIME: Immediately following
Worship**

**WHO: Everyone over 80 and a
Guest**

Watch for Invite via Mail

Sanctuary Flowers for September and October

September 3—Not Available

October 1-Open

September 10-Picnic

October 8-Not Available

September 17-Open

October 15-Open

September 24-Open

October 22-Open

October 29-Open

A 2024 Flower Chart is available in Tarry N talk for Sign-ups



SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ SEPTEMBER 3—COMMUNION SUNDAY
- ♦ SEPTEMBER 4—LABOR DAY-OFFICE CLOSED
- ♦ SEPTEMBER 6— MOPS BEGINS
- ♦ SEPTEMBER 10-RALLY DAY/CHURCH PICNIC
- ♦ SEPTEMBER 11-WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS
- ♦ SEPTEMBER 17-SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS
- ♦ SEPTEMBER 17-80+ DINNER
- ♦ SEPTEMBER 18— GRIEFSHARE BEGINS



Contact Us

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

Mars UP Church

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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

Prayer Chain:
mjaiken@zoominternet.net

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