

MARS UP CHURCH



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

March 2023

I still remember my first bicycle. That first bike, to me it was the first big thing that was mine. It wasn't a hand-me-down, it wasn't used, it was new and it was mine. The red paint shined bright against the black pedals; it was beautiful. My parents made a big deal about how this was a new bike and about how they expected me to take good care of it. I couldn't leave it out in the rain anything like that. It was a nice new bike and I had to be responsible for taking care of it and making sure nothing happened to it. Soon after getting it, I had to take it over to my friend's house. My friend lived just through the woods and we often got together to play throughout the summer. So I rode my bike to his house to show it off. It wasn't long before we were riding around his house, and the woods, and everywhere else. So there I was riding with my friend and we were seeing who could ride further down the steep hill behind his house. Not wanting to be outdone I rode a little too far and too fast and lost control and started down the steep hill. About halfway down the front wheel turned sideways throwing me into the air and leaving the bike twisted up on the hill side. I remember my friend's dad came running down the hill to see if I was okay, which I was, at least until I saw my bike. The front wheel was turned 90 degrees off from the front handle bars. I had broken the brand-new bike my parents had trusted me with. I was heartbroken, I was distraught, I think I even asked my friend's parents if I could move in with them so that my parents wouldn't kill me. I remember the neighbor carrying me inside and calling my mom to let her know what happened. She drove the old station wagon up to get me. I think I spent the next day or two in hiding. I had such guilt over breaking my brand new bike. Mom noticed that I was moping around and asked what was wrong. I didn't know how to respond so I just said, "the bike". Mom had a puzzled look on her face so I clarified. "aren't you mad about what I did to the bike?" She said, "the bike? What's wrong with the bike?" I said, "I broke it remember". She said, "Oh that, I had forgotten all about that. The neighbor fixed it when I picked you up the other day, it's in the shed ready to go". That bike is still at my parent's home, and yes, my children have ridden it.

What stands out to me in this story is not that a little kid's bike was easily fixed, but that my mother had so quickly forgotten an offense that I thought would land me in a guillotine. She had forgotten my crime. The terrible deed I had done was no longer in her memory. She remembered it no more! As I got older the frequency and severity of my faltering increased; but thankfully, mom never stopped being my mom, and I never stopped being her son. Forgiveness is the main reason for that. The scriptures use this kind of language in Jeremiah to describe the relationship between God and God's people. **Jeremiah 31:33-34 says, "This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time," declares the Lord. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."**

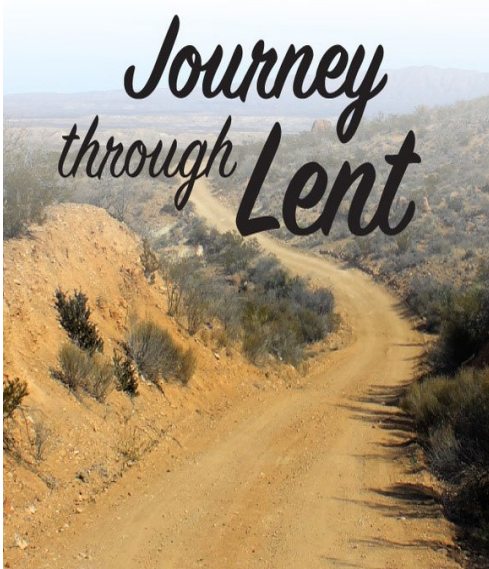
God will be our God and we will be God's people! God will remember our sins no more! Friends, as we go through this season of lent I invite you to seek forgiveness from your God. For your God is the most loving parent imaginable and is eagerly waiting your confession of guilt. And God promises that when we confess and repent from our wrong doing, God will no longer remember the mistakes we have made. This means that no matter how bad you think you were, no matter what you have done or what skeletons lie in your past, confess and be freed. Feel the forgiveness won for us through Jesus Christ, and know that God is ready to forget any faults you may have. God promises, "I will remember their sin NO MORE"! Which begs the question, if God is ready to forget our sin, why aren't we?

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Lenten Lunches—Every Friday at 12 noon

Starting February 24th

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 24th for our first Lenten Lunch. We will be serving soups, sandwiches, salads and dessert.



Upcoming Lent and Easter

February 24th thru April 7th Lenten Luncheon with various Speakers

April 2nd Palm Sunday Worship Service @ 10:00 am

April 6th Maundy Thursday

April 7th Good Friday Worship Service @ 12 noon

April 9th Easter Sunday Worship Services @ 10:00am

Annual Mars UP Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 2nd

After church @ Mars UP Church

Bring your baskets & a friend!!!

Refreshments provided after the egg hunt.



*Congratulations
on your
Engagement* ♡♡

Congratulations to Pastor Katie McNeal from
St. John Lutheran Church on her recent
engagement!!

We wish you all the Best!!

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 11th
BEFORE you go to Bed!!

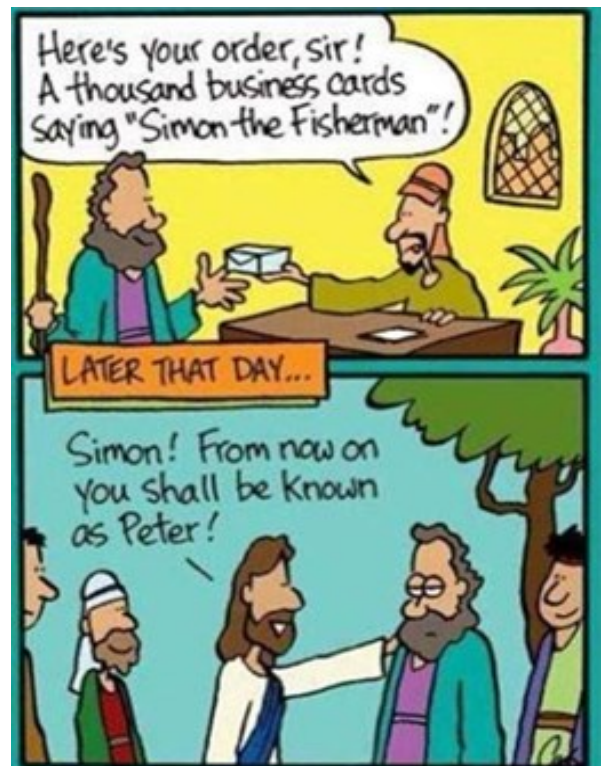
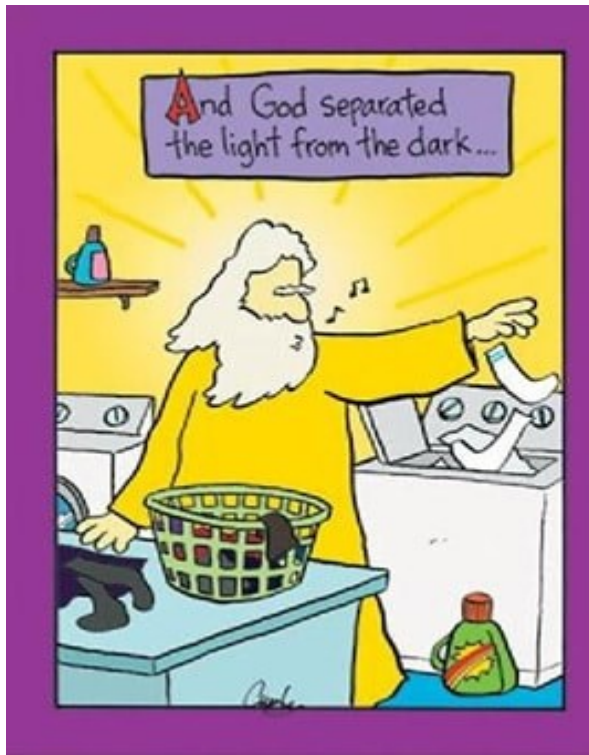
Daylight Savings Time begins
on Sunday, March 12th

See you at Worship on March
12th @ 10:00 am



Time to Spring Ahead

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!



MUP Church Facelift

It has been long time since the church has received a make-over in some of the areas of the church! Take notice of the front of the sanctuary and the fellowship Hall new paint. Thank you to Weber painting and Turner Painting for our new look! We also want to thank Sally, Jill and Ruth for the new curtains in the Fellowship Hall. Keep on the look out for more updates to come.





MUP



Session Highlights

1. Approved the January, 2023 Session Minutes
2. Approved the February, 2023 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 tentatively scheduled for July
6. Session approved adding a Medical Rider to Insurance Policy for students of MySchool Pre School to cover injuries that might occur.
7. Session approved the matching of funds collected for any fundraiser/special collection, excluding capital campaigns. This is designed for "outward" mission.
8. Session approved the reinstatement of "Camps and Conferences" - any Presbyterian Camp is approved, others to be determined. First year MUP pays 100%; Successive years MUP to pay 50%.
9. Painting of Sanctuary completed - payment approved; Social Hall Baseboard has arrived; Ladies Room renovation will begin sometime in March



SCOUT SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2023

Mars United Presbyterian Church

Daily Lenten Readings 2023

These daily readings are intended to help you cultivate the spiritual practice of reading and studying scripture. This is not a check list, you do not have to feel guilty if you miss a day. This is a tool. We invite you to use these readings and this season to draw closer to God. May God bless you during this Lenten journey!

If you would like, you may begin each day's readings with this simple prayer found in Psalm 19:14—"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer."

Day	Scripture Reading
Thursday, February 23, 2023:	Psalm 51; Jonah 3:1-10; Romans 1:1-7
Friday, February 24, 2023:	Psalm 51; Jonah 4:1-11; Romans 1:8-17
Saturday, February 25, 2023:	Psalm 51; Isaiah 58:1-12; Matthew 18:1-7
Sunday, February 26, 2023:	First Sunday in Lent-send someone a card or let-
Monday, February 27, 2023:	Psalm 32; 1 Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18
Tuesday, February 28, 2023:	Psalm 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10
Wednesday, March 1, 2023:	Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28; Matthew 18:10-14
Thursday, March 2, 2023:	Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; 2 Timothy 1:3-7
Friday, March 3, 2023:	Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31
Saturday, March 4, 2023:	Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10
Sunday, March 5, 2023:	Second Sunday in Lent- Call a neighbor just to
Monday, March 6, 2023:	Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6
Tuesday, March 7, 2023:	Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13
Wednesday, March 8, 2023:	Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53-8:11
Thursday, March 9, 2023:	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23
Friday, March 10, 2023:	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22

Friday, March 10, 2023:	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22
Saturday, March 11, 2023:	Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6
Sunday, March 12, 2023:	Third Sunday in Lent -Go for a walk or sit by a window
Monday, March 13, 2023:	Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; 2 John 1:1-13
Tuesday, March 14, 2023:	Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4
Wednesday, March 15, 2023:	Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39
Thursday, March 16, 2023:	Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32
Friday, March 17, 2023:	Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9
Saturday, March 18, 2023:	Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9
Sunday, March 19, 2023:	Fourth Sunday in Lent -Catch up with an old friend
Monday, March 20, 2023:	Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20
Tuesday, March 21, 2023:	Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14
Wednesday, March 22, 2023:	Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34
Thursday, March 23, 2023:	Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11
Friday, March 24, 2023:	Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19
Saturday, March 25, 2023:	Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53
Sunday, March 26, 2023:	Fifth Sunday in Lent -Do something that makes you smile
Monday, March 27, 2023:	Psalm 143; 1 Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12
Tuesday, March 28, 2023:	Psalm 143; 2 Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10
Wednesday, March 29, 2023:	Psalm 143; Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41; Matthew 22:23-33
Thursday, March 30, 2023:	Psalm 31:9-16; 1 Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11
Friday, March 31, 2023:	Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30
Saturday, April 1, 2023:	Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34
Sunday, April 2, 2023:	Liturgy of the Palms -invite a friend to church



EAST PALESTINE, COLUMBIANA OH FUNDRAISER



PASTOR BRIAN DELIVERED 20 BUCKETS OF CLEANING SUPPLIES FOR THE COMMUNITIES OF COLUMBIANA AND EAST PALESTINE, OH. HE ALSO DELIVERED A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4620.00 TO FURTHER HELP THE COMMUNITIES.

If you would still like to contribute to this , we will be sending additional funds coming in to the church! Any questions, please contact the office.



2023 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, 2023

Easter Lilies \$8.50 _____

Tulips \$7.50 White _____ Yellow _____

Red _____ Pink _____

Daffodils \$7.50 _____

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 on
March 31st thru April 1st

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

More info to follow!!



Youth Activities



SKI TRIP

Church Cleanup



THANK YOU TO
ALL!!

SAVE THE DATE!

- ◆ Glade Run Food Bank Collection— March 5th
- ◆ Lenten Lunch every Friday —March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st and April 7th
- ◆ Good Friday Worship Service—12 noon April 7th



Contact Us

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

Mars UP Church

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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
mjaiken@zoominternet.net

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