



A New Face

The months of November and December are always busy times of year for the church. November has Thanksgiving and the ramping up of mission projects and preparations for Advent and Christmas; and December is full of events, worship services, and year end things. In addition to the normal seasonal events, this year had several special projects added into this already busy season. We had a new church sign installed on Monday November 18th to replace the wooden sign that was in the middle stages of wood rot. And we started the long process that will eventually result in a new church photo directory. I have been thinking this week about how both of these projects, in their own ways, represent the face of the church. The sign, because of its bright colors and flashing appeal will be the first thing many in the community see about Mars UP. The community will learn about our mission projects, our service opportunities, and our church events through the animated sign. It is without a doubt a bright new face for Mars UP. On the other hand, the church is not the building it is the people. In that light the directory is a far better showing of the face of the church because it shows the actual church, YOU. The directory will help unite the members of the body of the church through communication and will allow the church, that is the people, to be easily identified and known by new members and visitors alike. Both of these projects include shining up a new face. The sign was freshly painted, carefully wrapped in plastic until it was set in place. The church name is back lit to draw people's gaze and the lower section is vibrant to draw people in. Consider it a makeover of sorts for the front of our property. Likewise, when folks came in to have their picture taken what did they do? They got their hair cut, put on their best outfits, carefully applied make-up or took extra care as they shaved. Some even asked if they could reuse the picture from the last directory so they would appear younger. Why do all of that? To put our best faces forward. We all want to look our best and be our best when it comes to serving in and through the church.

I wonder what other ways we can put our best face forward to showcase the work of God and the presence of God in our midst. After all this is our common calling. Not to vainly try to make ourselves look younger, but to put forward the best versions of ourselves in service to Christ. I'm reminded of the letter of First Timothy when Paul is encouraging Timothy not to let anyone despise his youth. Paul tells him to "set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." He is telling Timothy to put his best face forward as an example of what it means to be a follower of Christ. During the holiday season there is always an uptick in people seeking the benefits of faith and service. There is no better time than now for all of us to put our best face forward. Not to show off our beauty, but to show the world a different way of living, a new way of living, a way grounded in Christ. Whether it is at church functions or around the family table or working extra hours to pay for Christmas; we must remember that we are the face of the church. We may be the only bible another person ever reads, the only example of Christ someone will ever see! We must put our best face forward to draw all people into the kingdom and fellowship of God's church. So be sure to put your best face forward in all that you do, giving thanks to God for every opportunity to showcase God's magnificent power. Merry Christmas everybody!!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian





Christmas Flower Order 2024

Poinsettias are a beautiful enhancement to the church during Christmas and a wonderful way to honor or remember that special person in your life or the life of the church.

Poinsettias are available in 6” pots for \$9.50.

Red: _____ **Pink:** _____ **White:** _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

By: _____



Orders must be placed by December 8, 2024.

Please place payment and order form in the offering basket, or bring it to the church office. You may take your flowers with you following worship on Christmas Eve.



MY SCHOOL PRESCHOOL LIVING NATIVITY & *Christmas Program*

Friday, December 13th 6-8 pm

Each class will be assigned a specific time for our short but entertaining Christmas Program.

Mrs. Nolan's Classes will take the stage first with arrival at 5:30 and the program at 5:45.

Mrs. Kelly's Classes will arrive at 6:30 for a program start time of 6:45 and finally,

Miss Suzanne's class will have a 7:00 arrival time with the program starting at 7:15 pm.

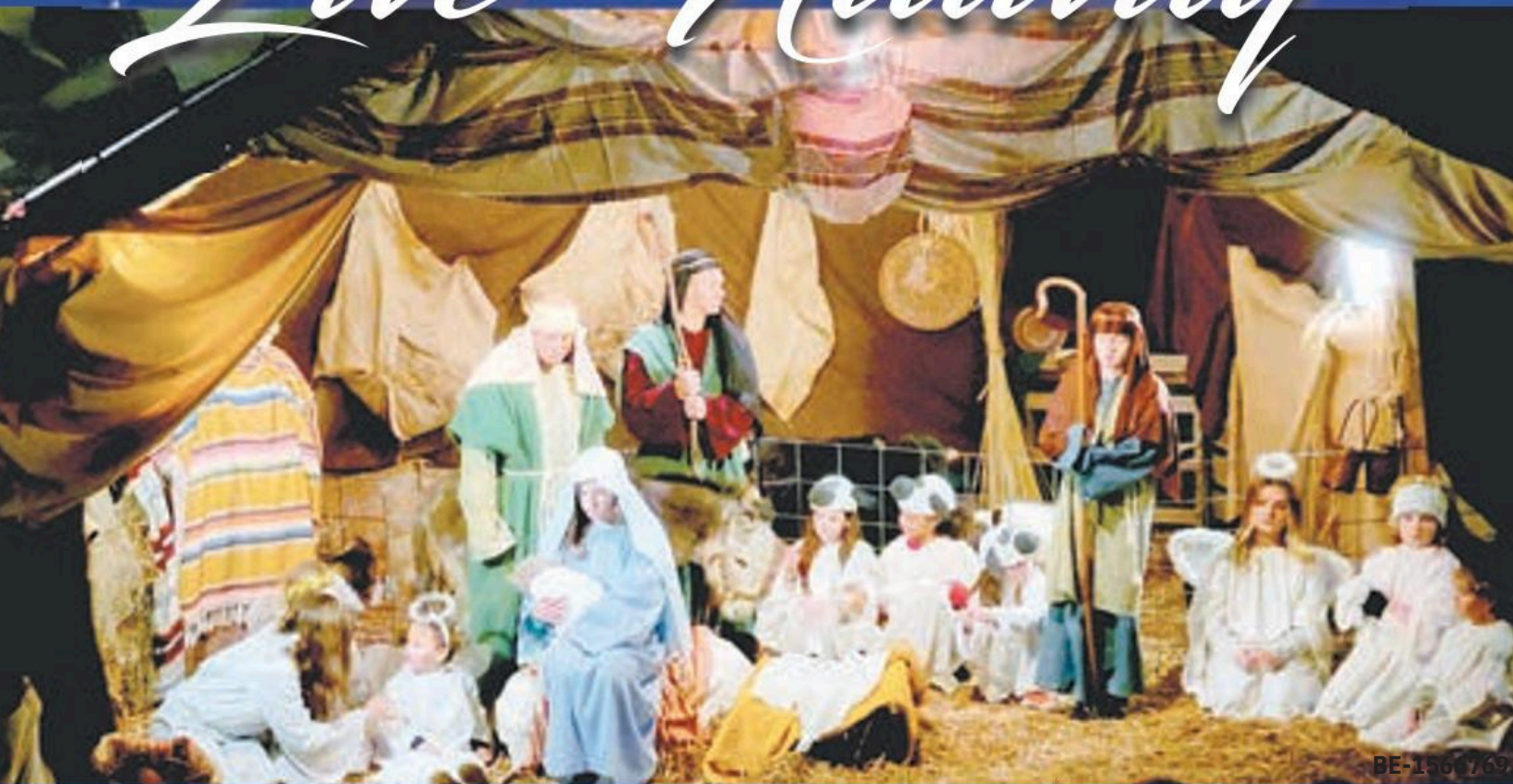
The programs will only take about 15 minutes per class, then we encourage you to stay for a showing of the living nativity followed by cookies and coco/coffee in the fellowship hall in the church basement. Parking will be limited due to space needed for a barn & live animals so leave a bit of extra time so you don't miss the show!

MARS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Friday, December 13th from 6-8pm

- Nativity story re-enacted every half hour
- Living Nativity with live animals, interaction with animals after each performance
- Community is invited and the event is FREE
- Refreshments Available
- Christmas skits performed by the children of My School Preschool

Live Nativity



232 Crowe Avenue • Mars

For Further Info, Call the Church office at 724-625-1361

reverse *Advent*

Each day ADD an item to a box or bag.
Bring to worship on Christmas Eve!

- December 1 - box of cereal
 - December 2 - peanut butter
 - December 3 - stuffing mix
 - December 4 - boxed potatoes
 - December 5 - macaroni and cheese
 - December 6 - canned fruit
 - December 7 - canned tomatoes
 - December 8 - canned tuna
 - December 9 - dessert mix
 - December 10 - jar of applesauce
 - December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
 - December 12 - cranberry sauce
 - December 13 - canned beans
 - December 14 - box of crackers
 - December 15 - package of rice
 - December 16 - package of oatmeal
 - December 17 - package of pasta
 - December 18 - spaghetti sauce
 - December 19 - chicken noodle soup
 - December 20 - tomato soup
 - December 21 - can of corn
 - December 22 - can of mixed vegetables
 - December 23 - can of carrots
 - December 24 - can of green beans
- Approximate cost - under \$40



Reverse Advent Calendar Challenge -

If we collect 75 boxes Pastor Brian will dress as an elf for worship on Dec. 29. Let's get collectin'!!
Bring to Christmas Eve worship.



Advent Sundays

December 1
December 8
December 15
December 22

Blue Christmas

December 21

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 pm
7:00 pm
11:00 pm



Advent Scriptures:

Dec. 1 - Luke 21:25-36
Dec. 8 - Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 15 - Philippians 4:4-7
Dec. 22 - Titus 2:11-14



CRANBERRY
MEN'S CHORUS

Join us for some holiday harmony...

**The Magic of
Christmas**



**Dec 19
7:00 pm**

Mars Presbyterian Church
232 Crowe Ave
Mars, PA

FREE ADMISSION
A free will offering will be taken to benefit the ministries of the venue

Highlights

Oct. 31 Trunk or Treat



Toy Swap/giveaway

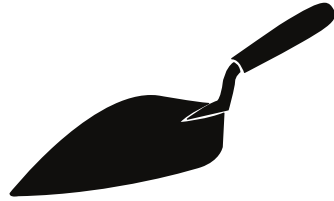


Youth led worship



Highlights

Concrete, sidewalk, and sign



Turkey Bash



**Candy
Making
Memories**



Dates for your Calendar

Date	Event	Time
December 8	Youth Group	1-2:30
December 8	Poinsettia orders due	
December 8	Hard Tack Candy Orders due	
December 10	Directory Photos	
December 13	Living Nativity	6-8 pm
December 19	Cranberry Men's Chorus	7:00 pm
December 21	Blue Christmas Service	7:00 pm
December 22	Youth Christmas Caroling	1:00
December 24	Kid Friendly Christmas Eve Service	5:00 pm
December 24	Traditional Christmas Eve Services	7:00 & 11:00
December 25	CHRIST IS BORN MERRY CHRISTMAS	
February 8	Youth Ski Trip	



DATES TO KNOW

- December 1- Communion
- December 13- Living Nativity
- December 21- Blue Christmas Service
- December 24- Christmas Eve Services

December

Merry Christmas



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

Visit us on the web at
www.mars-up.org

We're also on Facebook!!

Join us for Worship
Sunday's at 10:00am

Prayer Chain:
pastor@mars-up.org

