

MARS UP CHURCH



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

June 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God (Psalm 43:5)

Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? (Matthew 6:27)

When I write my monthly newsletter article, I always go back and read the previous one. Of course, we didn't have one for May, so I went to April. WOW! We were just entering the pandemic, and things were certainly confusing and chaotic. But two months ago, I encouraged everyone to remain hopeful – no matter what, God was (and IS!) still in control.

Much has happened since my last letter. As you read this, we have had EIGHT Zoom virtual services – we decided worship needed to be live each week, and each week it has gotten easier (although I shall never get used to preaching from a chair!) My thanks to everyone who is making things possible, especially Jamie for her wonderful, Christ-centered music ministry. My feeble words are only a small part of the overall service. The Mars Session remains committed to continuing virtual worship, even into the future when things get more “normal” (whatever that means!)

Speaking of normal, elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a SurveyMonkey survey about when and how to resume worship. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, there is a link in the article to take the survey. If you are reading a hard copy, someone will be calling.

Session wants to hear from everyone about when and how to return to the Sanctuary. Our plan is to offer a virtual Zoom service earlier Sunday morning, followed by worship in the Sanctuary. Here is the hard part: we need to decide what that worship will look like. How many? Any distancing? Protection? Singing? Fellowship? But the decisions cannot be made without those who will actually be in worship.

To be honest, the verses at the top of the page are a case of DO-AS-I-SAY-NOT-AS-I-DO. Yes, my soul has been downcast more than once these past nearly three months. Yes, I have worried more than once. But thanks be to God, I am blessed to be surrounded by members and leaders of our great church who have, by their living witness to the Risen Christ, lifted ME up in Christ. Yes, much lies ahead, but we also have hope from the Lord.

One more thing – elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a letter from the Session regarding my future plans as your Pastor.

We WILL be back together, and soon. We may not be able to hug, but when we see each other, our hope and joy will be more than virtual!

Let us hang in there together, and remain hopeful. Just as he was two months ago, God is still in charge.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

A Special Announcement from Mars UP Session



Dear Members of Mars UP:

Our church has been through many changes over the years and has learned to adapt and move with God's grace during uncertain times. Two years ago Pastor Jim Steiner came to MUP with his wire brush and back pack, prepared to help our congregation navigate the rough waters ahead. His passion and spirit, guided by his commitment to the Lord, gave our church the confidence and desire to find out "Who we are" in our service to our Creator. Did anyone imagine that we would be worshipping virtually from our own homes rather than in our wonderful Sanctuary? Jim has helped us find ourselves as a congregation and now it is our chance to encourage him and Caroline as they plan to move into their chapter of a well-deserved retirement. Certainly, Jim's work for the Lord will continue, but please help us celebrate all the years and churches that Jim served faithfully with Caroline at his side.

Your Session met and discussed Jim's contract, scheduled to end on August 31st 2020, so he and Caroline could start to plan for that well-deserved day starting in September. We "unanimously" with thanks and gratitude, accepted his wish to retire and gave him comfort that he has put our church in a very good place for our next Pastor. Mars UP will be ever grateful for these past "2 years that Jim gave" his heart, passion and commitment to the work of the Lord and Mars UP Church.

MUP Session



Since the Church closed, Pam Kennedy has been working vigorously to make sure our church is spotless and disinfected. She has been scrubbing every room, washing windows and steam cleaning floors.

Thank you Pam for all your efforts and hard work!! We greatly appreciate all you do and for stepping up in a time of need. In the words of Al Gerwick "Your church Thanks you!"



During the last few months, the Deacons have been using their Deacon Kindness funds to help organizations in the community.

Mars Home for Youth—\$400.00 to help purchase laptops for Students

The Lighthouse—\$1000.00 to help with their food bank distribution

Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank—\$1000.00 to help with their food bank distribution

If you would like to make a contribution to the Deacon Kindness fund, please send to the office and make a notation "Deacon Kindness". Church mailing Address: MUP

PO Box 805

Mars, PA 16046

Re-Opening Survey

The Session is working to create a re-opening plan and we would like your opinion. You should have received an email from "MUP Transition Team" with a link to a Survey Monkey site. The survey should take less than 2 minutes to complete, and your responses are anonymous.

If you didn't receive a link, or if you haven't yet completed it, the survey can be found here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYWGTH2>

Multiple submissions are permitted to allow for multiple responses per household, but please only complete one per person.

Now that we are in the "Yellow" stage, how willing are you to return?

I would come even if I had to wear a mask

I would come, but not if I had to wear a mask

I likely won't come back until we are in the "Green" phase

I likely won't come back until there is a vaccine

I likely won't be back

When we re-open, which scenario is most appealing:

No changes – no masks, we sing – individual and choir, you can sit where you want w/ full talk-n-terry afterward

Some changes – no masks, we sing, but have some social distancing – some pews unavailable – limited talk-n-terry – remove bibles, hymnals from pews, bulletins in pews

More changes – masks required when coming and going, but not in service, no signing, very limited talk-n-terry, nothing in pews

Most changes – masks at all times, assigned pews by family, one way in/out, very limited interaction with others, nothing in pews

How do all these items (below) impact your decision to return to the building?

1 = No impact 5 = Deal breaker

What if you had to wear a mask at all time

What if you had to wear a mask coming and going

What if there was no singing?

What if you had to maintain social distance?

What if there was no choir

What if there was no Tarry & Talk

If the building is open, how confident are you that the MUP staff can adequately clean the facilities? 1= I am comfortable the church can be adequately cleaned, 5=we need to hire outside vendor to completely sanitize and disinfect everything.

If we delay too long the resumption of normal worship, will you go somewhere else?

We are committed to continuing to offer virtual worship. Do you consider this a viable option if you are not comfortable with the re-opening options selected?

(Yes, No, Somewhat)

Please provide any comments or concerns.

If you would like to mail your survey to the office, our mailing address is Mars UP Church PO Box 805, Mars, PA 16046



Pentecost Sunday

MAY 31ST IS PENTECOST SUNDAY

WE WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO WEAR RED DURING THE ZOOM
WORSHIP SERVICE

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM APRIL AND MAY MEETINGS

- Moved from Pre-recorded to live Zoom worship
- Will continue to pay full salaries to church staff
- Applied for and received Payroll Protection Plan funds
- Discussing what type of Vacation Bible School can be offered
- Approved replacement of Church Roof
- Graduate recognition June 7
- Approved Rev. Steiner's retirement, August 31
- Church picnic moved to September 27
- Actively discussing when and how to resume Sanctuary worship
- Committed to offering both virtual and normal worship in the future



Virtual SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

INFORMATION ON VIEWING WORSHIP VIA ZOOM

Topic: Mars Church Service

Time: 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Date: Recurring

VIA COMPUTER

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/585640261?pwd=MnYwdWI5Ynp6cEFBVHVyWW85R3dNdz09>

Meeting ID: 585 640 261

Password: 160609

VIA PHONE

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,585640261#,,#,160609# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 585 640 261

Password: 160609

Please use this format until further notice for Sunday worship.

May your day
be as wonderful
and perfect
as you are.



 The Indian EXPRESS

Be strong and of a good courage
be not afraid, neither
be thou dismayed
for the LORD thy God is with thee
whithersoever thou goest

Jos 1:9

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



CHURCH WIDE PICNIC DATE HAS BEEN CHANGED TO.....

September 27th

SAVE THE DATE

Adams Township Park



**More details
to follow**



A NOTE FROM STEWARD- SHIP COMMITTEE...

The Stewardship Committee would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has paid their per capita and continued to send in their offering gifts. The response has been wonderful! With your support, the needs of the church continue to be met each month. If you haven't taken the opportunity to pay your per capita, there is still time. As a reminder, the per capita amount per confirmed member is \$40.79

To mail your offering or per capita..... Mars UP Church
PO BOX 805
Mars, PA 16046

Need Help? We have a group of volunteers ready and willing to do your shopping, pick up medicines, run other errands, provide a ride, or help with other tasks. Please don't hesitate to ask. Call the office at 724-625-1365 to get on the schedule.



A message from the Music Director:

Dear Friends in Christ – we are in an historic period of time, unprecedented events have led us to worship in a new way. As we meet each week virtually, we miss being together as a congregation, giving each other hugs of encouragement, saying hello to faces we haven't seen in a week and praising God in song. I miss conducting and teaching our choir new and old familiar anthems each week. I miss seeing each of you sitting out in the pews! I miss your smiling faces and mostly long for your extended hand or words of encouragement each week.

As we wait for news that we can again worship as a group, I would like to take time to thank our volunteers in the Chancel Choir. Each week these faithful congregants come to rehearse and learn new music, refresh and fill our hearts and minds with the Gospel in music, and sing the praise and glory to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. While we may not be able to sing together as a choir until the fall, let's take a minute and thank the members below for the work we've done so far:

Sopranos	Altos	Tenors	Bass
June Stirling	Sue Morris	John Ivory	Paul Aiello
Lisa Foster	Linda Riefer		Karl Kennedy
Linda Lees	Sue Cook		
Pat Jackson			

We are always looking for new members to sing and praise. We learn our music at a comfortable pace and welcome you to join even if you don't know how to read music. Our Chancel Choir is a powerful ministry! Let's make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Soli Deo Gloria

Jamie

"Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" Psalm 95:1

**OPENINGS FOR MSPS 2020-2021
SCHOOL YEAR**

There are openings for the 2 day AM and PM classes, our 3 Day PreK PM class and all Lunch bunch classes. Thanks so much!
If you are interested or need more info, please contact Jill Cesare at 724-272-9911

or

myschoolpreschoolmars@gmail.com

Also through Mars UP Church website link
www.mars-up.org



Summertime – by Audrey Mullen

I forgot my Lord in the summertime,
Just the time I was needed most.
I was not away, but on each Lord's Day,
I just failed to be at my post.

I forgot my church in the summertime,
As I lazily lay in bed,
While the faithful few had work to do,
And I was spiritually dead.

I forgot my tithe in the summertime,
When He needed it most of all,
While my cash was spent, I was pleasure-
bent,
Just off-duty for God until Fall!

I forgot my class in the summertime,
But the devil did not forget,
Working day and night, he kept up the fight,
He's a go-getter, you can bet.

I forgot my soul in the summertime,
Got along without spiritual food,
While the Lord on high sent me blessings,
I showed him naught but ingratitude.

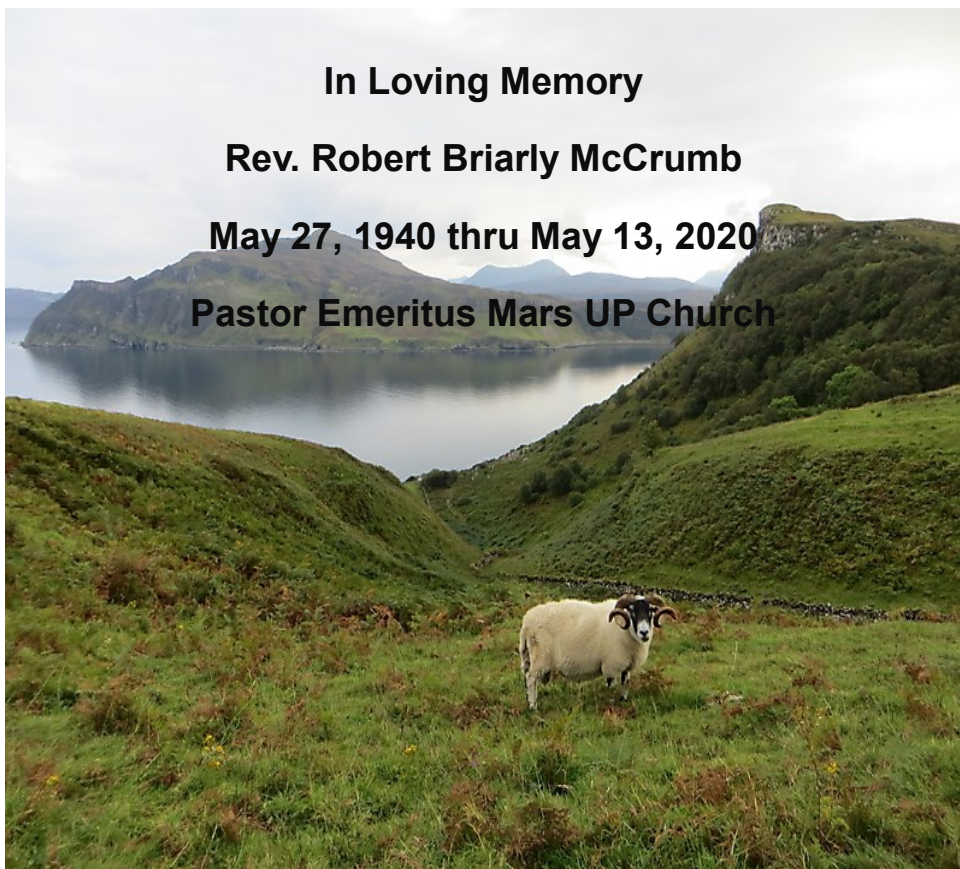
If my Lord should come in the summertime,
When from duty to God I'm free,
Wonder what I'll do when my life is through,
If by chance he should then forget
me?

In Loving Memory

Rev. Robert Briarly McCrumb

May 27, 1940 thru May 13, 2020

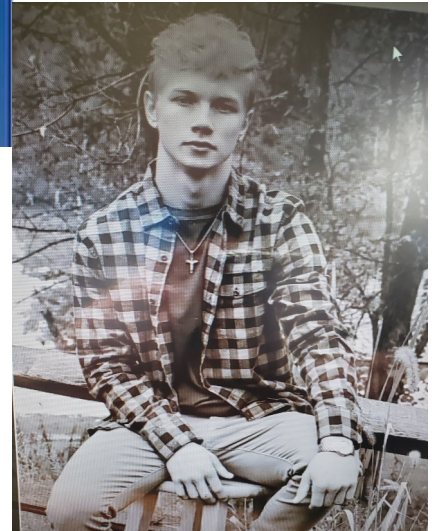
Pastor Emeritus Mars UP Church



Mars Area High School Class of 2020

CAL U

MASON O'BRIEN Mason will graduate from Mars Area High School in June 2020. He will be attending Cal U of PA in the fall to study Criminology. He has always been interested in anything in this field. In the future, he will also be considering the military.



CLAYTON PFEIFER is a 2020 graduate of Mars Area High School.

He is a member of Film Club, Track and Field and the Treasurer of Key Club. During his senior year, he organized the Rise Against Hunger event.

He is currently employed at Pfeifer Hardware and operates his own lawn care business. He will attend Robert Morris University in the fall majoring in Business



SEAN MCELHINNY is a 2020 graduate of Mars Area High School. Sean will be attending John Carroll University in Cleveland in the fall. He plans to study Communications with a business minor. He is looking forward to competing on the wrestling team and getting involved with other activities and organizations on campus.



Mars Area High School Class of 2020

AIDEN SANDERS is a 2020 graduate of Mars Area high school, where he was a varsity soccer player and also participated in the long jump and triple jump for track. Aiden will be attending Slippery Rock University in the fall. He will be majoring in the University's 5 year master program for Safety Management, and will continue to be active in soccer and other sports.



MACKENZI COURSON will be graduating from Mars Area High School in June of 2020.



Luke Barbour will be graduating from the University of Michigan Law School with a J.D. degree on May 8th. He will be starting his career in the Pittsburgh office of Reed Smith LLP.



Jacob Augustine graduated from Butler County Community College in December with his associates degree in General Studies. He is working full-time at Advanced Auto parts and is presently in their management program.

The Calendar will be
available when activities
and worship resume onsite!



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 10am via
Zoom or Phone

Prayer Chain:
mjaiken@zoominternet.net

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