

MARS UP CHURCH



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

June 2019

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song (Psalm 28:7).

Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me (Psalm 51:12).

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you – I, whom you have redeemed (Psalm 71:23).

Dear Friends in Christ,

When we think of *joy*, its meaning as used in the above three passages comes to mind. When we think about the Lord, our heart (should!) *leap for joy*. When we ponder our salvation, we are *joyful*. When we are in worship, *our lips should shout for joy!*

On the other hand, there are a number of times in Scripture when the word is used, but under different circumstances. On Easter morning, after the women encounter the empty tomb, Matthew describes a different *joy*: *So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples (Matthew 28:8).*

Is it possible to be *afraid yet filled with joy*? Apparently so! The women were *joyful* that Jesus had been raised, but were afraid at such a prospect – a dead man suddenly alive (not to mention the earthquake and an angel descending from heaven!)

A more challenging example is from Jesus himself. At the Last Supper, Jesus says to his disciples: *I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11).* How could Jesus have any *joy*? He knew what he was facing – betrayal, arrest and execution! Later, as he prayed in the Garden, Jesus was NOT HAPPY! And yet he was *joyful!* How to explain this?

As Christians, we know from our own experiences *joy* is NOT always happiness. How many of us are sad when a loved one dies, yet we are *joyful* over a wonderful life lived. We praise God that a particular person was given to us as a family member or friend. We experience sadness and *joy* at the same time.

At the Last Supper, Jesus was not happy with what he faced, but he willingly and *joyfully* obeyed his Father's will. For our salvation, Jesus *joyfully* went to the Cross. The Letter to the Hebrews *joyfully* declares, *Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2).* Jesus saw the *joy* that lay ahead, and faithfully endured the Cross.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, on February 14, 2018, Ash Wednesday, I met many of you for the first time. As you might expect, I had been briefed extensively about Mars UP and her history. I must admit, I say I was a bit apprehensive about what I might be facing. But to my *joyful* surprise, as we celebrated the Sacrament of Communion, I looked at the large window in the back of the Sanctuary. As I looked, I was filled with *joy* over the work that lay ahead.

Of course, there have been a few days that have not been so good – some days, I have not been so happy. Maybe the same for you! Good and bad days, happy and not-so-happy days. But each and every day, I have had the *joy* of serving as your Pastor.

Amazingly enough, I have been called by God to serve, and for that, I am *joyful*. Yes, difficult days lie ahead, but let us remain *joyful* as we encounter each opportunity.

One more thing – I would like you to think about, and pray about, what I might call the “*joy factor*” in worship. When someone visits, what do they find? What is the “*joy factor*” they encounter? When folks meet us, do we present an attitude of “*I-am-full-of-the-love-of-Christ-and-I-am-really-joyful-that-you-are-here!*”

Or do folks experience something less?

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us present Mars UP as a *joyful* Body of Christ! Let those who see us for the first time say to themselves, “What a *joyful* group of folks. They have something that I want!” Let our hearts *leap for joy as we give thanks to God in song*. Let us pray that God will *restore to us the joy of his salvation and grant us a willing spirit, to sustain me*.

Indeed, we are redeemed! Let our lips *shout for joy when we sing praise to God*.

Let us be joyful – much work and many steps lie ahead. But let us face each challenge with joyful hearts and a unified Spirit.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jim

Session Highlights – May 23 Meeting

- Approved building use for Hanna Govan wedding, October 2020
- Discussed possible Church Van use for Sunday mornings
- Overall Church giving down 15% compared to 2018, will monitor
- Pastor Jim asked Session members to prayerfully consider their giving, including a commitment to tithe, or a promise to work towards a tithe
- General discussion about possible “deficit spending,” and commitment to investing for future growth
- Approved Option Agreement between Mars Church and Flat Rock Development over Ohio acreage bequeathed to Mars Church by Jane Berry Estate
- Stewardship:
 - Will establish 2020 Budget line item for Special Music
 - Evaluating use of offering envelopes
 - To investigate putting an additional \$60,000 into a CD
- Approved Building Use and Fee Schedule document
- Due to lack of response, Mission trip to West Virginia probably will not happen this year
- Transition Team / Pastor Nominating Committee – Session approved calling a Congregational meeting to 1) Approve the Self Study and 2) Elect a PNC, when the Study is completed



MARS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AND ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

REGISTER at
WWW.MARS-UP.ORG

Background Clearances are needed for Adults to participate and help with VBS. These are free and can be done at the church office.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019 "ROAR"

July 14th thru July 18th

6:00 UNTIL 8:30P.M.

Make VBS your mane event this summer! This epic African adventure engages the whole herd. At Roar, kids explore God's goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.

This year we will have a Hot Dog and Baked Beans "Kick-Off" social at 4:45pm before VBS starts. Come and meet and greet your crew leaders and play some games for a fun' filled night of VBS.

Mars UP CHURCH VBS

Every Year our Vacation Bible School reaches out to the community to share God's Word to the children. Our VBS is FREE to all those who attend. In order to continue this, we need YOUR help!! If you are able to donate to this community project, please send a check marked "VBS" to Mars UP Church or put in the offering plate. If you are unable to donate funds, we are still looking for volunteers. Please contact the office @ 724-625-1365 or email to marsup@mars-up.org

Volunteers for 2019

June Nursery

June 2- Jill Cooper

June 9-CHURCH PICNIC

June 16-Jenny Ivory

June 23- Marsha Haley

June 30-Sue Cook

June Greeters

Elder- TBD and Deacon-Marsha Haley

June Tarry N Talk Hosts

Worship/Membership Committee: June Stirling, Louise

Fox, Keith Nichols, Bonnie McElhinny, Linda Lees, Caroline Kopar,

June Muffin Crew

June 2- Graduation Sunday/cake

June 9-Church Picnic

June 16- Muffins

June 23-Muffins

June 30-TBD

June Worship Flowers

Available Sundays –June 16th, 23rd & 30th



June Monthly Reminders

Worship Hours: ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00am starting June 16th

Deacon Kindness Offering: Every Second Sunday (June 9th) of the month.

Food Bank Collection: Every First Sunday—June 2, 2019

Graduation Sunday: June 2nd

Youth Group Events as Scheduled (watch for Emails)



Due to the overwhelming response to our bowling nights, we are planning on continuing these events. Hoping to meet again in late August or Early September 2019. Watch for future emails or check your bulletins. All levels are invited to bowl. Don't need to be an expert to join in!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

CHURCH WIDE PICNIC

June 9th

**One Worship service at 10am
with lunch following**

**Join us for a wonderful time
of fellowship at**

ADAMS TOWNSHIP PARK!

**Location: Adams Township Park
Township Pavilion
(near Playground)**

**Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Beverages Provided,
Everyone bring a covered dish.**



THANK YOU CHOIR!

When you see a choir member on Sunday be sure to thank them for their time and commitment to our church! The choir will return in early fall and is always looking for more members!

Have you ever wanted to help in worship, but didn't know how? Have you ever wanted to learn more about music and singing?

Take some time, pray about becoming part of this powerful ministry and joining the choir!

2018-2019 MARS U.P. CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR

Sopranos

June Stirling

Lisa Foster

Linda Lees

Pat Jackson

Altos

Nancy Penney

Sue Morris

Linda Riefer

Sue Cook

Linda Moody

Tenors

John Ivory

Director of Music

Jamie Daugherty

A NOTE FROM STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE...

The Stewardship Committee would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who has paid their per capita. The response has been wonderful! If you haven't taken the opportunity to pay yours, there is still time. As a reminder, the per capita amount per confirmed member is \$40.69

WELCOME MERCOWE



The Heeter family wanted MUP Church to know of their recent blessing. As you may recall, when they moved to Chambersburg, PA, Ella had just found out that she was expecting.

Donald Ross Heeter born at 3:35am, Monday, May 20, 2019 weighing 8lb 6oz and 20" long!

They are all doing great and Rodney is becoming a great big brother!!

Congratulations!!



DAD'S ROOT BEER

**SUNDAY,
JUNE 16TH @
10AM**



**ALL MEN WILL BE HONORED WITH BOTTLES OF
DAD'S ROOTBEER IN CELEBRATION OF
FATHER'S DAY**

**SUMMER-
WORSHIP TIME
CHANGE 10:00**

**am —New this
Summer Only One
Service**

OPENINGS FOR MSPS 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR

**There are a few openings for the 2 day—3 year old
afternoon class.**

If you are interested or need more info, please contact
Jill Cesare at 724-272-9911

or

myschoolpreschoolmars@gmail.com



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL is looking for volunteers to provide a meal for the staff each night of VBS. If you could provide a meal, (hoagies, pizza, sandwiches, casserole) please contact Jenny Ivory at 724-713-7050 or email at jjivory@zoominternet.net

They will need the dinners at approx. 5:00 pm.

Your help is greatly appreciated!!



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?

Graduates

GRADUATION
SUNDAY JUNE 2nd



Sara Augustine is a 2019 graduate from Mars Area High School. She will be attending Butler County Community College starting in the fall. Sara is will be taking General Studies for two years and will graduate with an Associate's Degree. She will then transfer to another college to finish her education. Sara will continue to live at home while she goes to college, work at her job at Chipotle and enjoy her family. Sara was baptized here, attended Sunday School, was very involved in Youth Group and went on Mission trips. Mars UP has been a big part of her life, especially when she was younger. She would like to thank her church family for being a big part of her life while she was growing up. Sara also appreciates your support and love for so many years.



Matthew Olsen will graduate from Mars Area High School with High Honors. He was a member of the German National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America Honor Society, and National Honor Society. He was a member of the Mars Area High School Soccer team for four years, lettering his Junior and Senior year. During the summer, Matthew is a caddy at Oakmont Country Club.

This fall, Matthew will attend the Smeal College of Business at Penn State University where he will major in Accounting.

Sofia Cardenas Aguilera – Sofia is an exchange student with AFS (American Field Service). She comes from the country of Chile in South America. She is 18 and a senior at Mars Area High School. She is an honor student, a member of the Winterguard, and the Chorus. She will leave to return to Chile on June 24th and will attend college there possibly to study law or social work. Mary Ann and Howard Croop are her host parents.



Elizabeth Sanders is graduating from Mars Area High School where she was actively involved in competition band as a Color guard serving as captain her senior year, also winter guard all four years. She was also a member of the German and art clubs. Elizabeth plans on attending Westminster college to pursue a degree in English with a minor in secondary education. She intends on joining Westminster's color guard and equestrian team.



Class Of
2019

Graduates

Bethany Harmon is a graduating senior at Mars area High school on June 6, 2019. During her high school career Bethany was part of a winning girls soccer team, she also participated in show choir, chorus, and many school musicals including a role as Madame Garderobe (the singing wardrobe) in Beauty and the Beast. Bethany was also an active member in German and AFS clubs, and took many college courses her senior year to prepare for her transition to the Nursing school of Butler County Community College in the fall.



Colby Mooney is a 2019 graduate from Mars Area High school where he loved playing volleyball and hanging out with his many friends. Colby has been an active member of the Mars UP Youth Group. He also attended the mission trip to West Virginia. Colby plans to attend Pittsburgh Technical Institute in the fall and will be studying Pre-Med.

Sandy Wahl volunteering at Lighthouse. Sandy used her creative knowledge and artistic ability to create this addition to the food bank. More volunteering opportunities will be happening soon. Watch your bulletins!!



MARS UP STUDENT MINISTRY PAGE

What you need to Know About!

Let's Check out what's going on this month for Mars UP Student Ministry!

June

JUNE 2 - GRADUATION SUNDAY

JUNE 6 MARS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION!

JUNE 9—CHURCH PICNIC @ ADAMS PARK /10AM

JUNE 9—WORSHIP SERVICE AT ADAMS PARK/10am

JUNE 16– Beginning of Summer One worship service @ 10am

JUNE 16—FATHER'S DAY

Pine Valley Camp

Rebuilding broken lives through Christ



We are looking for volunteers for VBS,

Crew leaders, games, music and many more areas. If you are interested, contact Alma Staskiewicz.

July 14th thru July 18th 6:00pm—8:30pm

On July 31st the MUP youth will be taking frozen treats and serving dinner at the Pine Valley Bible Camp. Details will be provided via email or contact Jenny Ivory



June 2019

Tarry N Talk Hosts: Worship/Membership June
Stirling, Louise Fox, Keith Nichols, Bonnie McElhinny,
Linda Lees, Carol Kopar

						1
28:30 Early Worp/ Communion 9:45 SS 11:00 Morn Wshp/ Communion 12:15 VBS Mtg Nursery: Jill Cooper	3	4 9am A-Team 7:00 p.m. AA	5 9:00a.m. Material Girls	6 7:15 Deacons Meeting	7	8
9 10:00 Morn Worship and Picnic @ Ad- ams Township Park	10 6:30 Grief- share Summer Session	11 9am A-Team 7:00 p.m. AA	12 9:00a.m. Material Girls 6:00 Steward- ship Meeting	13	14	15
16 10:00 Morn- ing Worship Nursery: Jen- ny Ivory	17	18 9am A-Team 7:00 p.m. AA	19 9:00a.m. Material Girls	20 7:00 Session Meeting	21	22
23 10:00 Morn- ing Worship Nursery: Marsha Ha- ley	24	25 9am A-Team 7:00 p.m. AA	26 9:00a.m. Material Girls	27	28	29
30 10:00 Morn- ing Worship Nursery: Sue Cook						

SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ June 2nd
Communion Both Services
- ♦ June 2nd
GRADUATE SUNDAY
- ♦ June 9th Worship/CHURCH PICNIC @ 10:00 am
- ♦ June 16th Fathers Day—Dad's Root beer for all men
- ♦ June 16th Beginning Summer one Worship Hour @ 10am
- ♦ July 14th thru July 18th VBS 'ROAR'



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 Summer-
Worship
Sunday's at 10am

Prayer Chain:
mjaiken@zoominternet.net

Mars UP Church
232 Crowe Ave
PO Box 805
Mars, PA 16046