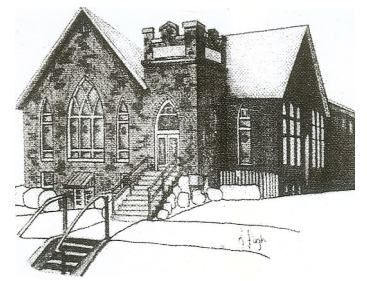


MARS UP CHURCH



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

May 2024

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength!

(Philippians 4:13)

One of the constant struggles we face in the church is being hindered by what we think is possible. We think the church is too divided, too old, too inexperienced (young), too old fashioned, too much trying to merge with modern culture. No matter what the gripe, the conclusion is the same; the church faces too many struggles and obstacles to ever regain a place of prominence in North America. Our fear of failure and the threat of having the church close stands in contrast to our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. As such, many modern Christians perform a secret balancing act of wanting to believe that miracles are possible, but not willing to take the leap of faith required to find out. This is a hard place for the church to find itself in. Fortunately, we have the luxury of history to reinforce in us the power of possibility when we place our trust in Christ and commit ourselves to doing the work of His church. The things that divide people are not greater than the One who unites us!

In 1861 our nation was in the midst of a civil war. Things were as divided as they could be. In that same year the Presbyterian Church experienced a split between the northern and southern churches largely over disputes around slavery, though other theological differences were expressed. This divide fractured the church and left lasting damage in its wake. Everyone knew that a divide this deep would never heal. That this separation was forever. The two denominations were seen as rivals and at odds with one another for decades even after the Civil War had ended. It is hard to heal division and even harder to swallow our pride, but on June 10th, 1983 a miracle came to fruition. The northern and southern wings of the Presbyterian faith came together in a merger that was dubbed a “reunion” to form our current denomination, The Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (PCUSA). It took a hundred and twenty-two years, but healing and unity and love won out in the end. While this is a shining example of the possibilities for healing and growth in the church it can seem distant to us in both proximity and relevance. But the truth is that the healing, growth, and miracle of unity are closer to us than we may remember.



Cont. from page 1

In 1894 the Northern Presbyterian church established a congregation in a little farming town in western Pennsylvania, nearly thirty years after the civil war ended. Not to be out done, the southern Presbyterian church established a congregation in the same town four years later. And while these denominations would eventually merge in 1983, it didn't take that long for the love of Christ to work in these two remote congregations.

In 1969, on May 4th, the Christ United Presbyterian Church and the Trinity United Presbyterian Church merged to form the Mars United Presbyterian Church. Miracles happen! Healing continues! Faith can move mountains!

This May, we celebrate Fifty-Five Years since the unity of Christ brought Presbyterians together in our town. Fifty-five years since a miracle happened. The question for us today is what miracle is Christ calling us to in our generation? What mission are we to take up? What difference are we to make in Mars, in Pennsylvania, in the US, in the world? We can do anything with Christ, so let's set our sights high and believe in the God of abundance, growth, unity, and love. Let's believe in a God who is ever faithful and a Spirit that is constantly at work in our lives! Let's believe in what is possible; because history shows us it is!!

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength! (Philippians 4:13)

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Isabel Boynton celebrated her 98th birthday and she would like to thank everyone for all the wonderful cards and well wishes.

Happy Birthday Isabel!



Thank you for your support for the John Clark Family.

With your help and generosity, we were able to send a check to the family for \$7,500. Please continue to pray for this family.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

If you or someone in our church that you know is graduating from high school, college or another post-high school program, please let us know in the church office.



LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

May 19, 2024

MAY REMINDERS

- ◆ First Sunday of the month,
May 5th - Food Bank collection

**Suggestions on the following
page!!**

- ◆ Second Sunday of the month,
May 12th...Deacon Kindness
collection



HAPPY
MOTHER'S
DAY

May 12, 2024

Flowers will be given out to the women of our congregation in honor of all Mothers.

Chris Wu will be providing special music for our Mother's Day worship service. Chris will be playing the violin and potentially Tom Jones and his wife on the guitar and vocals.

Food Bank Items. . .

Some items are in high demand at the food bank and you may not realize it. Because they aren't essentials, the staff doesn't publicly ask for them. A survey on Reddit.com asked volunteers what items people would be most appreciative of and we've listed the top 10 below. If you're looking for an easy way to help out, pick some of these up while shopping for our monthly food bank collection.

1. Spices.

Think about it. People who rely on the food bank eat a lot of canned food, rice, oatmeal, white bread, etc. They love spices. Seasoned salt, cayenne pepper, chili powder, cumin, cinnamon, nutmeg, allspice, oregano, basil and so on.

2. Feminine Products.

Can you imagine being worried about affording these? Pads, tampons, panty liners, etc. Recommended: Buy in bulk at Costco for donating.

3. Chocolate.

People don't need it, but think about being in their shoes and how nice it would be to be given a chocolate bar or brownie mix along with your essentials.

4. Toiletries.

Grocery stores are great about donating surplus or unsold food, but they have no reason to donate toilet paper, tooth paste, soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc. Food stamps often don't cover these.

5. Canned meats and jerky.

This isn't true of all food banks, but some struggle to give users enough protein.

6. Crackers and tortillas.

They don't spoil and everybody likes them.

7. Baby toiletries.

Diapers, baby wipes, baby formula, baby shampoo, baby soap, baby food, bottles, etc.

8. Soup packets.

Sometimes you look at rice, beans, instant potatoes, and cans of vegetable and think, "What do I make with this?" Hearty soup is a complete meal.

9. Socks.

From a former homeless person: "Socks mean the world to you. They keep you warm, make you feel like you have something new, and just comfort you."

10. Canned fruit other than pineapple.

Food banks get a lot of pineapple donated. Their clients love it when other kinds of fruit are available.



FACT OR FICTION



Noralynn L. Mayer R.N., M.S.N. and Gary P. Goerk, Hospice Chaplain, Christian Life Coach, and author of 6 books about the Christian Walk, will address misconceptions about Hospice Care, Alzheimer's and Dementia, and Memory Care. Despite the growing acceptance of hospice care, the increased understanding of Alzheimer's and its dementia symptoms, and the availability of memory care support in senior healthcare settings, there are still popular myths surrounding these options. Noralynn and Gary will share informative insights and poignant stories based on their interactions with patients and questions often raised by families. The presentation will conclude with a Q&A session.

- FACT OR FICTION? HOSPICE MEANS YOU ARE GIVING UP, READY TO DIE.
- FACT OR FICTION? YOU CAN ONLY RECEIVE HOSPICE CARE FOR A LIMITED TIME.
- FACT OR FICTION? HOSPICE CARE IS JUST FOR THE PATIENT'S MEDICAL NEEDS.
- FACT OR FICTION? ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA ARE THE SAME THING.
- FACT OR FICTION? ALZHEIMER'S DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR HOSPICE CARE.
- FACT OR FICTION? FREQUENTLY FORGETTING MEANS YOU HAVE ALZHEIMER'S.
- FACT OR FICTION? MEMORY CARE IS ONLY FOR SEVERE MEMORY LOSS.
- FACT OR FICTION? MEMORY CARE MEANS YOU SURRENDER INDEPENDENCE.

6:30pm Wednesday May 15th

Mars United Presbyterian Church

232 Crowe Ave. Mars, PA

For more information or questions call 724-689-3412

There is no charge to attend this informative event.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS/April 18th

- 1 - Process for counting money will change days.
- 2 - Electronic Sign - Mars Boro Zoning Board Hearing for a Variance to Boro Zoning concerning Electronic Signs to be forthcoming.
- 3 - Approval of March Session Minutes
- 4 - Special Collection for John Clark family. Over \$7,000 will be sent to the family. My school Pre-school students will send cards.
- 5 - Audit was completed by Mike Olson and accepted.
- 6 - Urban Impact concert will be on Wednesday July 10th in the evening
- 7 - Shawn Harmon -missionary we support in Rome, Italy will be here on July 20th.
- 8 - Playground installation of wind sail and privacy fence slots will take place.
- 9 - Chris Wu to play on Mothers' Day



SUNDAY, May 19th

Day of Pentecost

CELEBRATE AND WEAR RED

Finding Prayer In The Everyday - From the MOMC_o Journal by Kelli Jo Smith

When you think of prayer, what comes to mind? Are your eyes closed, hands intertwined? Are you kneeling next to your bed? Are you in church? Are you blessing food? Weeping? Bargaining? Giving thanks?

Prayer is complex and mysterious, personal and collective, powerful and accessible.

Prayer is available at all times, in all locations, in all circumstances, to all people.

Prayer is grunts and groans, poetry and prose.

Prayer is in the car, all alone. At the kitchen table, out loud, surrounded by friends.

Prayer is eyes open, while pushing a swing. And lying in bed at 2:00 a.m. unable to sleep.

Prayer is in the joy of watching firsts. And when you have no words.

Prayer is at the end, and at the beginning.

Prayer is in the beauty, and in pain.

Prayer is standing with Jesus. Even when he's never felt further away.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ESV

prayer

ST JOHN & MARS UP CHURCHES

VBS 2024



SUNDAY, July 14 – THURSDAY, July 18
6:00-8:20 PM

SPECIAL OPENING SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Families join us for a HOT DOG BEAN kickoff
5:00pm MUP Fellowship Hall

**GET a preview of the great VBS decorations,
music and games!**

REGISTRATION ON WEBSITE

WWW.MARS-UP.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

- ◆ May 5th—Year End Youth Party
- ◆ May 8th—My School Preschool Art Show
- ◆ May 12th— Mother’s Day
- ◆ May 19th—Last Sunday School
- ◆ May 19th—Pentecost Sunday
- ◆ June 16th –Father’s Day

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



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