

MARS UP CHURCH



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

JANUARY 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Since no one knows the future, who can tell him what is to come? (Ecclesiastes 8:7).

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see (Hebrews 11:1).

As 2019 comes to a close, it's good to pause and reflect on how far we have come as a community of faith this past year. We are moving on with our Christian lives and work. But just as we look back, it is also good to look forward.

My message is for us to look forward with hope and faith, instead of worry, concern, or even impatience!

The author of Ecclesiastes worried about the future, and lamented that no one could tell him how things would turn out! Unlike some who, when reading a murder mystery turn to the last chapter, we are obliged to let each day come and go, with hope and faith in the next day.

The writer of Hebrews demonstrated such Spirit-led faith – he did not know what would come, but he had faith that God would bless whatever happened.

Years ago, I was speaking with a friend who was serving as Interim Pastor south of Pittsburgh. She had been there a while, and their PNC was diligently looking at resumes, just like us. Like us, she had built a wonderful relationship with them, and they would have loved her to stay.

But even though her church wanted her to stay (sound familiar?), she told them a very simple thing – ***I am not the future, I am the present.*** To echo her comment, let us be realistic and admit that I am not the pastor to lead this great church into the future. God has chosen someone else. God knows who that person is, and we all need to pray that God will reveal that person to the PNC in God's timing – not our timing!

Just as we began 2019 with faith and hope (seasoned with stubbornness and determination), we should face 2020 with a bright outlook. God is in charge, and God will lead MUP into 2020 with hope and encouragement, just as he has through the years. I sense a spirit of enthusiasm and optimism among our leaders and in the congregation. We are looking forward, not back.

I can promise you, things will be different when you read the January 2021 newsletter. Let us have faith, and be hopeful, even certain, that MUP will be in an even better place a year from now.

Keep your leaders (especially those newly-elected!), staff, and especially the PNC in your prayers.

Blessings for the New Year, and always.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim



In
LOVING
memory
OF THOSE
WHO ARE
forever
IN OUR
Hearts

H. Robert Kennedy (Bobby)

November 27, 1957—January 5, 2019

Virginia S. Bartolac

April 26, 1927—January 11, 2019

Thomas D. Kennedy

August 11, 1934—January 27, 2019

Nancy A. Penney

July 27, 1935—June 1, 2019

Robert G. Cox (Bob)

November 17, 1938—September 10, 2019

THANK YOU ELDERS AND DEACONS

THANK YOU to **ELDERS:** Lisa Barbour, Marie Matthews, Alice Leonberg, June Stirling**DEACONS:**
Linda Lees, Jay Wilson, Jill Cooper, Jenny Ivory, and Pat Auld

Having fulfilled your term of service, our church thanks you for answering the call, honoring your commitment and for your efforts to help proclaim the love of God! We are better because of YOU!

***A NEW YEAR!



Consider sponsoring sanctuary flowers for Sunday Morning church worship services. A new sign up list available in Tarry N Talk. Sponsoring flowers for worship is a great way to recognize a person, significant occasion and honor the memory of a loved one.

Enjoy the Food and Fellowship in Tarry N Talk after worship???

Sign up to make or supply refreshments for our time of fellowship.

Volunteering for 2020

January Nursery

January 5 - Shelly Bocheff

January 12-Jill Cooper

January 19-Christi Augustine

January 26-Keith Cuyar

January Greeters

Elder: Bob Riefer Deacon,

January Tarry N Talk Hosts

Stewardship Committee: John Ivory, Sally Olsen,
Linda Lees

January Muffin Crew

January 5 -

January 12-Linda Lees, Pam Kennedy

January 19-

January 26-Linda Lees, Pam Kennedy

January Flowers for Worship

Available Sunday January 12

Per Capita—What is it & Why Do it???

Many have asked questions about per capita, What is it? What does it support?

The Per Capita is an important aspect of how we do church. Presbyterians are proud of how our convictions inform our church function and organizational structure. As Presbyterians, we believe in “the priesthood of all believers” and acknowledge that all are called to bring their gifts and talents to God (1 Peter 2:9). And so, we champion this idea “call” throughout all levels of our denomination. On the local church level, church members are called to serve as Elders, Deacons, and pastors. Elders and pastors of churches in geographical groupings gather as Presbyteries.

There will be a Per Capita envelope in February’s envelope mailing. [The cost per member is \\$40.69.](#) In a small but significant way, consider Per Capita as one way YOU and MARS UP CHURCH might be able to respond along with other Christians and churches across the nation, proclaiming the Gospel message that sin, separation and disunity will not have the final answer for us, our church, our denomination OR our world. The final answer is fully in the sovereign hands of God. Indeed, God is greater and more powerful than our broken and foolish ways of sin.

This is Jesus’ prayer and petition for us: “I have told you (plural) these things, so that in me you (plural) may have peace. In this world you (plural) will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33).

Installation of Officers

Installation of Elders and Deacons will be held during the worship hour on Sunday, January 12, 2020.

Those being installed are: ELDERS, Christi Augustine, (2yr) , Mike Bocheff, Susan Cox, Linda Lees, Sally Olsen,

DEACONS, Nancy Huggins, Marie Matthews (1yr), Jill Cooper (2yr), Dee Aiello, Pat Jackson, Jay Wilson,

The *Living* NATIVITY



Thank You Mars
Agway, Pfeifer
Hardware, also
Jack and Merrit
Fassick!!



****OUR MONTHLY OUTREACH ****

- Bring non-perishable food donations the first Sunday of each month to support our local food bank!
- Deacons Kindness Offering (separate offering) is the Second Sunday of the month!

**JOINT
SESSION/
DEACON
MEETING**



There will be a meeting held Saturday, January 11th

This meeting will include officer training!

This will be held in the Fellowship Hall at 9am.



2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES Please make sure to take your name. Offering envelopes will no longer arrive in the mail at your address. The entire year will be in your box of envelopes. If you did not receive envelopes and would like to have some, please contact the office. If you haven't picked them up, they will be in the office.

Happy New Year

A new year is about to unfold
With new opportunities to explore
Doors will open for new experiences,
New adventures with the Lord

Remember not the former things,
The things of this past year,
The Lord will do new things in us,
Much more than we are aware.

-M.S.Lowndes



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 2019 MEETING

- Welcomed newly-elected Elders Christi Augustine, Mike Bocheff, Susan Cox, Linda Lees, & Sally Olsen
- Thanked outgoing Elders Lisa Barbour, Alice Leonberg, Marie Matthews, & June Stirling
- Approved November Session meeting minutes, and December Congregational meeting minutes
- Approved 2020 Budget, to be presented to the Congregation at the February Annual Meeting
- Elected / Appointed Mike Olsen as Auditor
- Joint Session / Deacons meeting to be held Saturday, January 11, and will include officer training
- Newly-elected Elders and Deacons to be ordained / installed Sunday, January 12, 2020
- Sincere thanks to Alma Staskiewicz for your warm and generous hospitality!



vol[•]nteer
do good, feel good

WHERE CAN YOU VOLUNTEER???

- THE NURSERY DURING THE 10:00 WORSHIP HOUR
- A GREETER AT EACH WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 am
- SUNDAY SCHOOL SUBSTITUTE FOR ELEMENTARY KIDS
- BAKING MUFFINS OR PROVIDING "GOODIES" FOR TARRY N TALK
- THE ATEAM IS ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE MEMBERS
- TV MONITORS DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICES

If you feel that you would like to help the church in any way, please contact the office or place a note in the offering. We would love to make you a part of our MUP Volunteers.

January 2020

TARRY N TALK HOSTS: Stewardship Committee: John Ivory, Sally Olsen and Linda Lees

			1 Happy New Year Office Closed	2	3	4
59:00 Sunday School for All Ages 10:00 Worship Service 11:15 B & G Mtg Nursery: Shelly Bocheff	6 1:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:00 pm Boyscouts	7 9am Ateam 7pm AA	8 9am Material Girls 6:00 Stewardship Mtg 6:00pm Cubscouts 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	9	10	11 9am Deacon/ Session Officer Training
125 9:00 Sunday School for All Ages 10:00 Worship Service Nursery: Jill Cooper	13 6:00 pm Boyscouts	14 9am Ateam 7pm AA	15 9am Material Girls 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School for All Ages 10:00 Worship Service Nursery: Christi Augustine	20 6:00 pm Boyscouts	21 9am Ateam 7pm AA	22 9am Material Girls 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday School for All Ages 10:00 Worship Service Nursery: Keith Cuyar	27	28 9am Ateam 7pm AA	29 9am Material Girls 7pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30		

SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ January 1st— HAPPY NEW YEAR—OFFICE CLOSED
- ♦ January 5th—Communion
- ♦ January 11th—Elder/Deacon Officer Training
- ♦ January 12th—Installation of Officers



THE LIVING NATIVITY 2019 "GLORY TO GOD"

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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