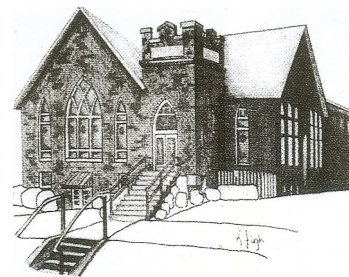


# MARS UP CHURCH



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

August 2020

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).*

*Now may the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 15:5-6).*

*May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you. May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones (1 Thessalonians 3:12-13).*

*The Lord shall keep you from all evil: he shall keep your soul. The Lord shall keep your going out and thy coming in from this time on, and for evermore (Psalms 121:7-8).*

Dear Friends in Christ,

Do these passages sound familiar? You may not know them all, but they are *benedictions* (I read there are 105 benedictions in the Bible!). A benediction is a “bestowing of a blessing.” It is my joy to bestow, or present, or honor you all with a blessing from God. When we offer a benediction, it is more than just saying good-bye – it is asking God to bless those upon whom the benediction is bestowed.

Sadly (but also happily!), this is my last newsletter article for Mars UP Church. My time here has come to an end, and Caroline and I enter a new chapter in our lives, that of retirement. I have been at Mars 2 ½ years, longer than any other interim pastorate. I thought about leaving in February, but God told me to stay. I glad I stayed – together, we faced the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic together.

We have been through much together. Challenges abounded when I arrived back in February 2018 (it seems so long ago!). But everyone persevered, and we encountered, discussed, and dealt with the various challenges we faced. (Tom Watson, the founder of IBM, called such things *insurmountable opportunities*.)

As far as unity, leadership, and (in my opinion) *followership*, Mars is at her strongest in years. Your Elders, Deacons, and other servants are of one mind about the future. Everyone is committed to live out lives committed to Christ as Savior and Lord. Your new pastor has yet to be named, but the PNC is working, and is more unified than ever.

You will always be in my prayers – I pray that, “...*you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit.*” Continue to have hope that God has a plan for Mars.

*“[M]ay the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another...”* Did you notice? The only way to be likeminded is to have that behavior granted by God! Without God’s help, you won’t be likeminded! Pray that you continue to be of one mind and Spirit, as God leads a great church into the future.

*“May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else...”* Yet another example of how God works in our lives and in the lives of the church! Only God can make your love increase and (wow!) overflow for each other. God has called you together to Mars UP Church, this time, and this place. God has brought you together for a reason – to glorify God through Christ in Mars, Pennsylvania. Imagine what can happen if your love *overflows*!

***“The Lord shall keep you from all evil...”*** This is the tough one, which is why I have it last. As I have said more than once from the pulpit: “Do you think Satan is going to stand by and let MUP persevere and thrive? Do you think he’s given up, and has gone somewhere else?”

The reason we’ve had so many challenges is because we are in a battle! Satan KNOWS what you can be, and he will do everything in his power to stop it (stop YOU) in your tracks! We are not strong enough to stop him on our own, but with God’s help, we can win the battle.

We had some tough days, tough times, tough words. But I am glad I came, and I am glad I stayed. Several months ago, I looked over the crowd at a meal, and thought to myself, “Gosh, I really am going to miss these guys.”

Mars is a great church, with a great future, serving a great God. To say the least, you are unique.

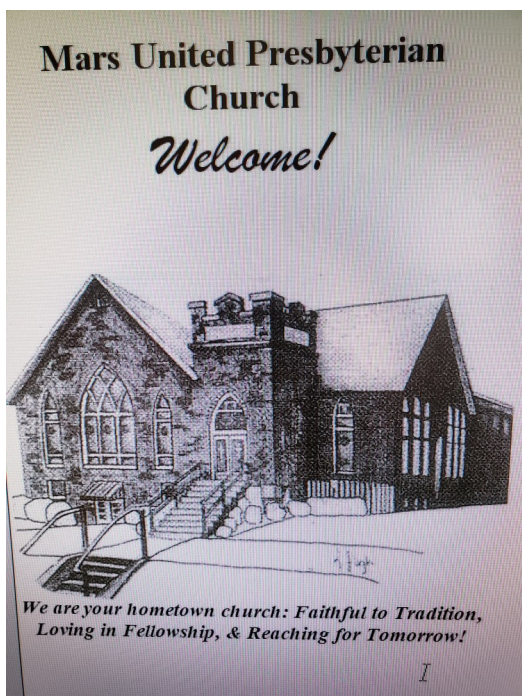
I shall never forget you. Never.

Thanks very much for calling me to be your pastor. It has been my honor and joy to serve – and I say that for ALL the days...

One more benediction, Numbers 6:24-26: *May the Lord bless you and keep you: May the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you. May the Lord turn his face toward you, and give you peace. Amen and Amen.*

***Pastor Jim***

### ***Our Church Bulletins are BACK!!***



***During our worship hour at 10:00 am there will be bulletins available for worship.***

***Please pick up your own copy as you enter the sanctuary.***

***The screens in the sanctuary will also be available with the Order of Worship.***

***The office will still mail copies of the Order of Worship for those still worshipping from home.***

***If you would like added to the mailing list, please contact the office.***

# June and July Session Highlights

- Approved Rev. Steiner's plans to retire, effective August 31 (last Sunday August 16)
- Approved resuming Sanctuary worship, with precautions, June 21
- Moved Zoom service to 8:30, remain committed to both services
- Worship Committee working to find preaching / pastoral care after Rev. Steiner's departure
- Approved contracts for new roofs on the Church and the office
- Approved sale of the Church Van, with proceeds put into a "replace-the-van" fund
- Finalized agreements with outside groups who use the church (cleaning, attendance, etc)
- Investigating replacement of the Carillon Bell system (current system 40+ years old, failing frequently)
- "Abbreviated" Vacation Bible School scheduled for July 29-30, 6:00-8:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- My School Preschool finalizing plans for fall schedule
- Giving was strong in May, has fallen behind in June, we are currently 15% below budget
- Session resuming normal schedule of monthly meetings (had been meeting every two weeks since March)
- PNC continues to read resumes; had two neutral pulpits but candidates not whom God has chosen
- Accepted the resignation of Elder Keith Cuyar from Session, the PNC, and from Mars Church
- Approved removal of Caroline Steiner from the church rolls, effective August 31

The Food Bank is collecting again !!!!!!!

Please bring donations on Sunday and place in the marked box in Tarry N Talk



Deacons will always be accepting donations for their Deacon Kindness fund. If you know of anyone needing assistance during this time, please contact Ruth Wilson or Jill Cooper.



Flowers placed in the chancel and dedicated to the glory of God enhance our worship space. If you would like to give flowers in honor or memory of someone, please check the schedule in Tarry N Talk or contact the office.

If you are placing flowers in the sanctuary, you will be responsible for contacting a local florist and scheduling delivery (or bringing the flowers to the sanctuary on your Sunday), or you may pick flowers from your garden, or anywhere else!

Two local florist that are used are Macri Florist on Main Street in Mars (724) 625-3299 or Kocher's Flowers & Greenhouse on Brickyard Road (724-625-1200)

After worship you may choose to take your flowers home or donate them to the shut-ins by marking the "s" on our flower schedule.



As you may have noticed, the church and office have received their new shingles! JP Roofing worked diligently in the heat and humidity to finish all the work these past few weeks.

The church will also be receiving new gutters in the next few weeks.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the roof replacement fund. At this time we are still taking donations for the roof. Once everything has been completed, we will notify you when the invoice has been paid and donations are no longer needed.

Buildings And Grounds Committee

Stewardship Committee

Thank You!



We want to invite you to our **GriefShare program**. GriefShare is a Christ-centered, video-based, grief recovery ministry to help you when a loved one dies. You will feel comfortable and accepted as you encounter others who hurt and share some of the same kind of feelings as you do. *At GriefShare, you will find that you are not alone, there are others who understand what you are going through.*

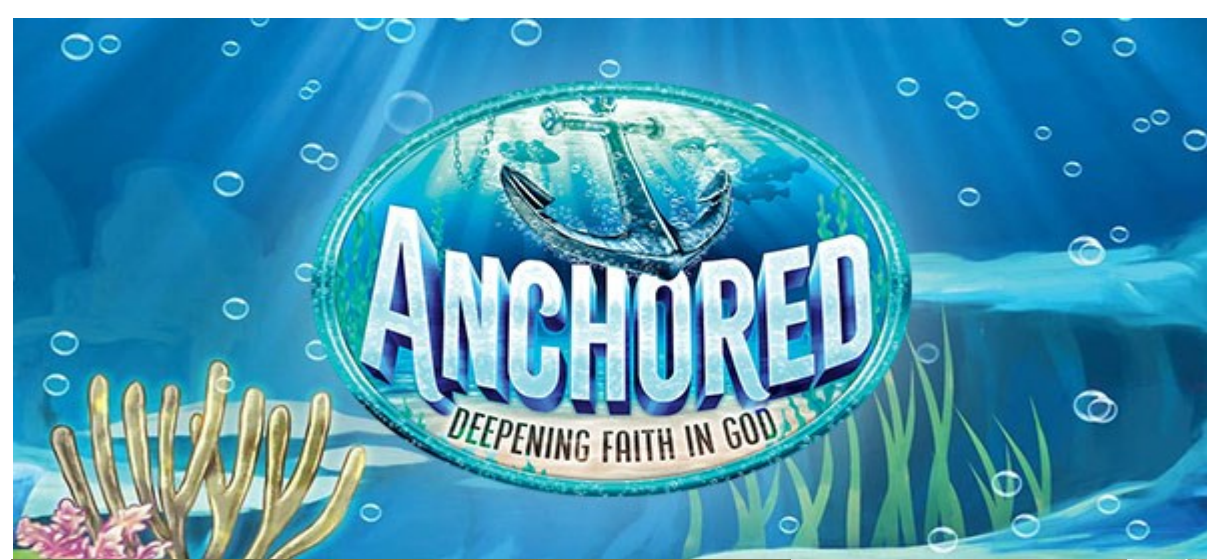
Please join us beginning **Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup> through Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 PM** at **Mars United Presbyterian Church, 232 Crowe Avenue, Mars (rear entrance).**

♥ **Surviving the Holidays on Monday, November 16th.**

We look forward to walking this journey alongside you! **You'll discover hope for the future.** While things may look bleak now, you'll learn ways to restore your hope and rebuild your life. Many GriefShare alumni tell us the program helped them move from deep grief to peace and a sense of joy again.

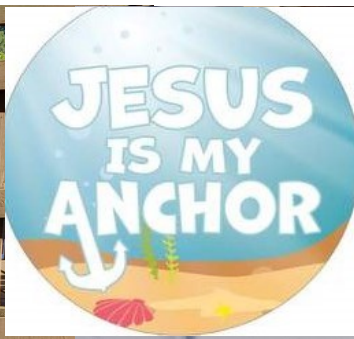
*For information, or to register, please call 724-625-2900 or email [ddemarco5@yahoo](mailto:ddemarco5@yahoo)*

Sponsored by **McDonald-Aeberli Funeral Home, John C. Hanovick, Supervisor**



VBS  
2020







## **Paul Aiello to preach, provide pastoral care**

The Mars Session has been working to confirm preaching and pastoral care services when Pastor Jim retires. We are pleased to announce that Rev. Paul Aiello will offer the Word and provide pastoral care until our new pastor arrives.

Paul is retired American Baptist pastor, having served five congregations (3 in the Pittsburgh area); as well as First Baptist of Detroit, MI; and most recently at Seaview Baptist Church in Linwood, NJ (near Ocean City) for over 37 years of active ministry. He also served as the Chaplain of the Pennsylvania Army and Air National Guard for 27 years. This year he celebrates his 50th anniversary as an ordained minister.

As you know, Paul and his wife Dee have been worshiping with us, and Dee currently serves as a Deacon. Paul is from Monongahela, PA and is a graduate of Eastern University BA, Princeton Theological Seminary M.Div., and Point Park University, MA in Journalism and Communications.

Since retiring, he has served several churches in the Pittsburgh area as an interim. He currently lives in Mars, PA with his wife, Dee. They have a daughter, Kerri, who lives in Ashburn VA with her husband and two children. Rev Aiello currently sings barbershop style music with the Greater Cranberry Mens Chorus, and sings bass with the Mars Rovers Quartet. He is also a member of the Rich-Mar Rotary Club. Paul is also a member of the A Team.

## **Stewardship Reminder**

Through the closing and reopening of the church, the stewardship committee respectfully requests the members of the church to continue their weekly offerings. For the first six months of the year, offerings have fallen short of budget projection. The deficit for the six months of this year have been kept to a minimum by aggressive management of expenses.

Offerings through the summer have declined from the weekly rates of the first five months of this year, while our spending rates have not declined. If you are able, please remember to submit your offerings each week. Thank You

## SAVE THE DATE

- ♦ August 2nd—Communion
- ♦ August 10th— Griefshare Summer Meeting @ 6:30pm
- ♦ August 16— Pastor Steiner's last Sunday Preaching
- ♦ August 23—Reverend Paul Aiello Preaching
- ♦ September 6th —Communion
- ♦ September 27th—Church Picnic



## 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](mailto:marsup@mars-up.org)

Visit us on the web at  
[www.mars-up.org](http://www.mars-up.org)

We're also on Facebook!!

Join us for Worship  
Sunday's at 10am  
Zoom at 8:30am

Prayer Chain:  
[mjaiken@zoominternet.net](mailto:mjaiken@zoominternet.net)

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