

MARS UP CHURCH



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

March 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us (Romans 12:4-6).

When we give our lives to Christ, God sends the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, to live inside us. One Greek word used by Jesus to describe the Holy Spirit is *paraklete*, meaning, “one who walks alongside.” Besides the gift of eternal life, we also receive another thing (or things!) – we receive spiritual gifts! Each and every Christian has at least one spiritual gift; some have more than one.

During Lent, my messages will look at a variety of spiritual gifts. Reading Scripture, we can count fifteen; some books list as many as twenty-seven. The most important thing is to discern and know what our gift is (or what our gifts are!) Another benefit of knowing your gifts is knowing what our gifts are not! If we are not comfortable with teaching, or administration, or hospitality, that’s fine – God has given us another gift for his glory.

Do you know what your gifts are? We will be distributing a spiritual gifts survey in the coming weeks. Hopefully you will have some idea of what God has given you. As Paul says, we are the Body of Christ, and each member can contribute to the work of the Body. You will find a list of gifts elsewhere in the newsletter. Look them over, and see what interests you – perhaps God is speaking!

The first Sunday in Lent is March 1. That Sunday, Greg Nichols (Keith’s brother) will preach. He will speak from Acts 17, and will touch on his recent work on the Greek island of Lesbos. Greg’s wife Debby will also have some musical offerings.

Lent is the forty days before Easter, a time of reflection and renewal. If you look at a calendar, you will discover there are more than forty days between March 1 and April 12, so how do we get forty days? During Lent, we don’t count Sundays – they are days for celebration, recalling the Resurrection of Jesus. Also, the forty days remind us of Jesus’ time in the wilderness.

Lent is a season for soul-searching, repentance, and “taking stock.” Take a moment each day to pray and reflect on your life, and your life in Christ. Please refer to the Daily Scripture readings elsewhere in the newsletter. As you read, reflect, and pray, ask yourself, “Does my life bring glory to God? Do others see Christ in my thoughts, words, or actions?”

On another matter, continue to pray for your Pastor Nominating Committee – we are ready (and waiting!) for your new pastor to be identified, and to arrive. Please be patient – God knows about our anxiousness. In the meantime, much remains for us to do in the Kingdom. Continue to pray for Mars Church, her leaders, her future, and for the pastor whom God has already chosen to lead our great congregation into the future.

In Christ,

Pastor Jim

Volunteers for 2020

March Nursery

March 1– Missy Wells

March 8–Bonnie McElhinny

March 15– Keith Nichols

March 22–Christi Augustine

March 29– Jill Cooper

March Greeters

Elder– Keith Nichols

March Tarry N Talk Hosts

Buildings & Grounds Committee: Keith Cuyar, Bob Riefer, Mike Bocheff, Jay Wilson, Ruth Wilson, & Nancy Huggins

March Muffin Crew

March 1–

March 8–Pam and Linda

March 15–

March 22–

March 29–Pam and Linda

March Flowers for Worship

Available Sunday March 1st

Session Highlights

On the third Thursday of every month, Elders of Session meet to pray and discern the leading of the Spirit in our church's activities and ministry. Here are a few highlights from February's Session meeting:

- Approved minutes from joint Session/Deacons meeting January 11
- Approved minutes from Annual Congregational meeting February 9
- Finalized Lenten lunches and speakers
- Reviewed FY 2020-2021 Myschool Preschool budget
- Approved security measures - locking entry doors on Sundays
- Approved Rev. Steiner contract



Don't forget to Turn your Clocks ahead on March 7th BEFORE you go to Bed!!

Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 8th

See you at Worship on March 8th @ 10:00 am



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander

HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

01-15-2004



SCOUT
SUNDAY



LENTEN LUNCHES—Fridays at 12noon

Speaking Schedule:



March 6th—Samaritan Counseling
March 13th— Pine Valley Bible Camp
March 20th—Mars Home For Youth
March 27th— The Lighthouse Foundation
April 3rd—Hosanna Industries
April 10th-Mars Ministerium
Good Friday Service

*Every Friday during Lent, Lunch will begin at 12 noon. Following each lunch a speaker from the community will present. ALL ARE WELCOME! There is no charge, but donations are appreciated!

MENU

March 6th Potato Soup, Chicken Noodle Soup, Sloppy Joes, Broccoli Slaw and Dessert

March 13th Potato Soup, Corn Chowder , Reuben's, Cole Slaw and Dessert

March 20th Potato Soup, Mushroom Barley Soup, Ham Bar B Q, Kale Salad & Dessert

March 27th Potato Soup, Stuffed Pepper Soup, Ham & Cheese warm sandwiches, Broccoli-Cauliflower Salad and Dessert

April 3rd Potato Soup, Tortellini Soup, Chicken Salad Sandwich, Jello Salad and Dessert

April 10th Potato Soup, Tomato Soup, Egg Salad and Tuna Salad
(Good Friday) Sandwiches & Dessert

**Every week Grilled Cheese and Chips

Where: Mars United Presbyterian Church 724-625-1365
232 Crowe Avenue, Mars

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND DEFINITIONS

I have listed below a list of spiritual gifts, along with definitions. Some are familiar, some less so. Look them over, to see if any particular gift speaks to you. If you are still unsure, we will be distributing a survey.

ADMINISTRATION: 1 Cor. 12:28 - to steer the body toward the accomplishment of God-given goals and directives by planning, organizing, and supervising others (Greek Word: kubernes - to steer, guide, helmsmen)

APOSTLE: Eph. 4:11; 1 Cor. 12:28 - to be sent forth to new frontiers with the gospel, providing leadership over church bodies and maintaining authority over spiritual matters pertaining to the church (Greek Word: apostolos - 'apo'=from 'stello'=send; one sent forth)

CELIBACY: 1 Cor. 7:7,8 - to voluntarily remain single without regret and with the ability to maintain controlled sexual impulses so as to serve the Lord without distraction

DISCERNMENT: 1 Cor. 12:10 - to clearly distinguish truth from error by judging whether the behavior or teaching is from God, Satan, human error, or human power

EVANGELISM: Eph. 4:11 - to be a messenger of the good news of the Gospel (Greek Word: euaggelistes - preacher of gospel; eu=well, angelos=message - messenger of good)

EXHORTATION: Rom. 12:8 - to come along side of someone with words of encouragement, comfort, consolation, and counsel to help them be all God wants them to be (Greek Word: paraklesis - calling to one's side)

FAITH: 1 Cor. 12:8-10 - to be firmly persuaded of God's power and promises to accomplish His will and purpose and to display such a confidence in Him and His Word that circumstances and obstacles do not shake that conviction

GIVING: Rom. 12:8 - to share what material resources you have with liberality and cheerfulness without thought of return

HEALING: 1 Cor. 12:9,28,30 - to be used as a means through which God makes people whole either physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually

HELPS: 1 Cor. 12:28 - to render support or assistance to others in the body so as to free them up for ministry

HOSPITALITY: 1 Pet. 4:9,10 - to warmly welcome people, even strangers, into one's home or church as a means of serving those in need of food or lodging (Greek Word: philoxenos - love of strangers; 'philos'=love; 'xenos'=stranger)

KNOWLEDGE: 1 Cor. 12:8 - to seek to learn as much about the Bible as possible through the gathering of much information and the analyzing of that data

LEADERSHIP: Rom. 12:8 - to stand before the people in such a way as to attend to the direction of the body with such care and diligence so as to motivate others to get involved in the accomplishment of these goals

MARTYRDOM: 1 Cor. 13:3 - to give over one's life to suffer or to be put to death for the cause of Christ

MERCY: Rom. 12:8 - to be sensitive toward those who are suffering, whether physically, mentally, or emotionally, so as to feel genuine sympathy with their misery, speaking words of compassion but moreso caring for them with deeds of love to help alleviate their distress

MIRACLES: 1 Cor. 12:10,28 - to be enabled by God to perform mighty deeds which witnesses acknowledge to be of supernatural origin and means

MISSIONARY: Eph. 3:6-8 - to be able to minister in another culture

PASTOR: Eph. 4:11 - to be responsible for spiritually caring for, protecting, guiding, and feeding a group of believers entrusted to one's care

PROPHECY: Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 12:10; Eph. 4:11 - to speak forth the message of God to His people (Greek Word: prophetes - the forth-telling of the will of God; 'pro'=forth; 'phemi'=to speak)

SERVICE: Rom. 12:7 - to identify undone tasks in God's work, however menial, and use available resources to get the job done (Greek Word: diakonia - deacon, attendant 'diako'=to run errands)

TEACHING: Rom. 12:7; 1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11 - to instruct others in the Bible in a logical, systematic way so as to communicate pertinent information for true understanding and growth

TONGUES: 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27-28 - to speak in a language not previously learned so unbelievers can hear God's message in their own language or the body be edified

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES: 1 Cor. 12:10; 14:27,28 - to translate the message of someone who has spoken in tongues

VOLUNTARY POVERTY: 1 Cor. 13:3 - to purposely live an impoverished lifestyle to serve and aid others with your material resources

WISDOM: 1 Cor. 12:8 - to apply knowledge to life in such a way as to make spiritual truths quite relevant and practical in proper decision-making and daily life situations



We want to invite you to our **GriefShare program**. GriefShare is a Christ-centered, video-based, [grief recovery ministry](#). 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,
February 10th 2020 through Monday,
May 4th from 6:30 to 8:30 PM
at Mars United Presbyterian Church,
232 Crowe Avenue, Mars (rear entrance).
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 questions please call McDonald-Aeberli at 724-625-2900 or email the facilitator at ddemarco5@yahoo.com

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

Building Security: At its February meeting, the Mars Session approved the implementation of some new security measures. Effective March 1, the Social Hall, Second St., and Crowe Ave. doors will be locked at 10:00. The parking lot door will be locked at 10:15. Signs will be posted instructing latecomers to call the church building phone, and a posted volunteer will let them in. This action was taken reluctantly, but your Session feels it is necessary.

Unfortunately, everyone is aware of how society has changed regarding Sunday morning safety. Locking doors during worship is an easy first step, and is more common than one might think. Building & Grounds continues to assess and discuss options regarding security, including weekday activities and the Preschool. Any additional steps will be taken cautiously with everyone's security and convenience in mind.

If you have any questions or comments about this or any future actions, please ask an Elder or me. We certainly want Mars UP to be welcoming, but we also are committed to everyone's safety.

Pastor Jim



- * Lenten Lunches every Friday starting March 6th—April 10th
- * Daily Scripture Readings included in this newsletter and in Tarry N Talk
 - * Sunday Worship @ 10am
- * Palm Sunday April 5th and the start of Holy Week
 - * Good Friday—April 10th
 - * Easter Sunday April 12th

Ash Wednesday ushered in the liturgical (church) season of Lent on February 26. Lent is a time to revisit, renew, and strengthen our Christian faith as we journey with Jesus Christ towards his execution on the cross. Walking in faith with Christ, we await God's kingdom breaking into the world and our lives. Through Christ—and encouraged by the Holy Spirit—we trust in God's grace and God's promise of resurrection.

Making a Difference

Here are a few ways to make an impact in the community and in our church during Lent:

- **Feed the Hungry**—each month we collect non-perishable food items to be given to a local food bank. The second Sunday of each month, we take up an additional offering (The Deacon's Kindness Offering) to help support those in financial distress.
- **Chancel Choir** - the choir meets for practice Wednesday evenings at 7pm. We have a wonderful choir and are always looking for more people!
- **A-Team** - a Tuesday morning group of retirees who do great in and around the church building (*go A-Team!*).
- **Material Girls** - a Wednesday morning group who work on a number of crafts including sewing and quilting.
- **Sunday School** - classes are available for every age and on a variety of topics. A great way to deepen your faith and get to know other people in the church!
- **Prayer Chain** - emails are sent supporting individuals, families, situations in the power of prayer.

TAKE THE LENTEN CHALLENGE!

Find ONE person during Lent and invite them to come with you to Sunday School and church. The best way to make a difference is to encourage someone to claim their faith in Jesus Christ!

Guest Speaker - Greg Nichols Greater Europe Mission Sunday, March 1st

Gregory and Debby were married in 1990 with hopes of living in Austria and travelling into Communist countries to mentor pastors through Biblical / theological education by extension. Glasnost and Perestroika allowed their hopes to be exceeded and they became the first missionaries placed into the former Soviet Union with Greater Europe Mission. They moved to Odessa, Ukraine in 1993. For two terms they served at the Odessa Theological Seminary where Greg taught Church History and theology in addition to mentoring students to become pastors through weekly ministry trips. In 2003 they moved to Prague, Czech Republic to work with the International Baptist Theological Seminary. Greg served as a lecturer in the Baptist and Anabaptist Department and as chaplain. Debby uses her musical skills to lead worship and mentors many of the female students. Once he finished his PhD in 2010, Greg was asked to join Greater Europe Mission's leadership team where he serves as the Strategy Leader for North Europe, overseeing several countries. The Nichols family is endeavoring to build up the body of Christ in Europe through multiplying disciples and growing Christ's Church so that God's kingdom is expanded through Europe - to all the world.

We (Greg and Debby) are currently based in Prague, Czech Republic. Greg continues his teaching in several Bible Schools in the former Soviet Union, serves as North Region leader and is the defensive back coach of the Prague Lions. Debby is actively working with the refugee families that have settled into Prague helping them find shelter, clothing, food and education.

Daily Scripture Readings

Lent 2020

Date	Psalm	OT	Epistle	Gospel
Wed Feb. 26	am: 95, 32, 143 pm: 102, 130	Jon 3:1-4:11	Heb 12:1-14	Luke 18:9-14
Thur Feb 27	am: 37:1-18 pm: 37:19-42	Deut 7:6-11	Titus 1:1-16	John 1:29-34
Fri Feb 28	am: 95, 31 pm: 35	Deut 7:12-16	Titus 2:1-15	John 1:35-42
Sat Feb 29	am: 30, 32 pm: 42, 43	Deut 7:17-26	Titus 3:1-15	John 1:43-51
Sun 1 Mar 1	am: 63, 98 pm: 103	Deut 8:1-10	1 Cor 1:17-31	Mark 2:18-22
Mon Mar 2	am: 41, 52 pm: 44	Deut 8:11-18	Heb 2:11-18	John 2:1-12
Tues Mar 3	am: 45 pm: 47, 48	Deut 9:4-12	Heb 3:1-11	John 2:13-22
Wed Mar 4	am: 119:49-72 pm: 49, 53	Deut 9:13-21	Heb 3:12-19	John 2:23-3:15
Thur Mar 5	am: 50, 59, 60 pm: 19, 46	Deut 9:23-10:5	Heb 4:1-10	John 3:16-21
Fri Mar 6	am: 40, 54 pm: 51	Deut 10:12-22	Heb 4:11-16	John 3:22-36
Sat Mar 7	am: 55 pm: 138, 139	Deut 11:18-28	Heb 5:1-10	John 4:1-26
Sun 2 Mar 8	am: 24, 29 pm: 8, 84	Jere 1:1-10	1 Cor 3:11-23	Mark 3:31-4:9
Mon Mar 9	am: 56, 57, 58 pm: 64, 65	Jere 1:11-19	Rom 1:1-15	John 4:27-42
Tues Mar 10	am: 61, 62 pm: 68	Jere 2:1-13	Rom 1:16-25	John 4:43-54
Wed Mar 11	am: 72 pm: 119:73-96	Jere 3:6-18	Rom 1:28-2:11	John 5:1-18
Thur Mar 12	am: 70, 71 pm: 74	Jere 4:9-10, 19-28	Rom 2:12-24	John 5:19-29
Fri Mar 13	am: 69 pm: 73	Jere 5:1-9	Rom 2:25-3:18	John 5:30-47
Sat Mar 14	am: 75, 76 pm: 23, 27	Jere 5:20-31	Rom 3:19-31	John 7:1-13
Sun 3 Mar 15	am: 93, 96 pm: 34	Jere 6:9-15	1 Cor 6:12-20	Mark 5:1-20
Mon Mar 16	am: 80 pm: 77, 79	Jere 7:1-15	Rom 4:1-12	John 7:14-36
Tue Mar 17	am: 78:1-39 pm: 78:40-72	Jere 7:21-34	Rom 4:13-25	John 7:37-52
Wed Mar 18	am: 119:97-120 pm: 81, 82	Jere 8:18-9:6	Rom 5:1-11	John 8:12-20
Thur Mar 19	am: 42, 43 pm: 85, 86	Jere 10:11-24	Rom 5:12-21	John 8:21-32

Daily Scripture Readings Lent 2020 continued

Fri	am: 88	Jere 11:1-8, 14-20	Rom 6:1-11	John 8:33-47
Sat	am: 87, 90	Jere 13:1-11	Rom 6:12-23	John 8:47-59
Sun 4	am: 66, 67	Jere 14:1-9, 17-22	Gal 4:21-5:1	Mark 8:11-21
Mon	am: 89:1-18	Jere 16:10-21	Rom 7:1-12	John 6:1-15
Tue	am: 97, 99, 100	Jere 17:19-27	Rom 7:13-25	John 6:16-27
Wed	am: 101, 109	Jere 18:1-11	Rom 8:1-11	John 6:27-40
Thur Mar 26	am: 69 pm: 73	Jere 22:13-23	Rom 8:12-27	John 6:41-51
Fri	am: 107:1-32	Jere 23:1-8	Rom 8:28-39	John 6:52-59
Sat	am: 102, 108	Jere 23:9-15	Rom 9:1-18	John 6:60-71
Sun 5 Mar 29	am: 118 pm: 145	Jere 23:16-32	1 Cor 9:19-27	Mark 8:31-9:1
Mon	am: 31	Jere 24:1-10	Rom 9:19-33	John 9:1-17
Tues	am:121,122,123	Jere 25:8-17	Rom 10:1-13	John 9:18-41
Wed	am:119:145-176	Jere 25:30-38	Rom 10:14-21	John 10:1-18
Thur Apr 2	am: 131, 132, 133 pm: 140, 142	Jere 26:1-16	Rom 11:1-12	John 10:19-42
Fri	am: 22	Jere 29:1, 4-13	Rom 11:13-24	John 11:1-27 or 12:1-10
Sat Apr 4	am: 137, 144 pm: 42, 43	Jere 31:27-34	Rom 11:25-36	John 11:28-44 or 12:37-50

Readings for Holy Week

Sun Apr 5	118:1-2, 19-29 31:9-16	Isa. 50:4-9a	Phil. 2:5-11 Mark 14:1 – 15:47	Mark 11:1-11 John 12:12-26
Mon Apr 6	36:5-11	Isa. 42:1-9	Heb. 9:11-15	John 12:1-11
Tues Apr 7	71:1-14	Isa. 49:1-7	1 Cor. 1:18-31	John 12:20-36
Wed Apr 8	70	Isa. 50:4-9a	Heb. 12:1-3	John 13:21-32
Thur Apr 9	116:1-2, 12-19	Ex. 12:1-14	1 Cor. 11:23-26	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Fri Apr 10	22	Isa. 52:13 – 53:12	Heb. 10:16-25 <i>or</i> Heb. 4:16-16; 5:7-9	John 18:1 – 19:42

March 2020

Tarry N Talk Hosts: Buildings & Grounds

Keith Cuyar, Bob Riefer, Mike Bocheff, Jay Wilson, Ruth Wilson, Nancy Huggins

1 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship 11:15 B & G Meeting Nursery: Missy Wells	2 1:30 Womens Bible Study 7:00 Boy Scout Mtg	3 9:00 A Team 7:00 AA	4 9:00 am Material Girls 6:30 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PNC	5 7:15 pm Deacon Mtg	6 12:00 Lenten Lunches	7
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship 3:00 Churchwide Bowling @ Mystic Lanes Nursery: Jill Cooper	9 7:00 Boy Scout Mtg 6:30 Griefshare	10 9:00 A Team 7:00 AA	11 9:00 am Material Girls 6:00 pm Stewardship Mtg. 6:00 pm Cub Scouts 7:00 pm PNC	12 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	13 12:00 Lenten Lunches	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship 11:15 Woship/ Membership Mtg. Nursery: Keith Nichols	16 7:00 Boy Scout Mtg 6:30 Griefshare	17 9:00 A Team 7:00 AA	18 9:00 am Material Girls 6:30 pm Cub Scout 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PNC	19 7:00 Session Meeting	20 12:00 Lenten Lunches	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship Nursery: Christi Augustine	23 7:00 Boy Scout Mtg 6:30 Griefshare	24 9:00 A Team 7:00 AA	25 9:00 am Material Girls 7:00 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PNC	26 6:30 pm Girl Scouts	27 12:00 Lenten Lunches	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship Nursery : Bonnie McElhinny	30 7:00 Boy Scout Mtg 6:30 Griefshare	31 9:00 A Team 7:00 AA				

SAVE THE DATE!

- ♦ Lenten Lunches (every Friday at 12 noon during Lent)
- ♦ Glade Run Food Bank Collection— March 1st
- ♦ Communion—March 1st Guest Speaker Greg Nichols
- ♦ Lenten Lunches begin March 6th
- ♦ Deacon Kindness Sunday Collection-March 8th
- ♦ Good Friday—April 10th
- ♦ Easter Sunday— April 12th



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 10:00 am

PRAYER CHAIN
mjaiken@zoominternet.net

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