



A number of years ago there was a robust debate in the Presbyterian Church around the sacrament of Lord's Supper. The question was about who could receive the elements. For many years the standard had been that communion was for those who were baptized believers. This was the standard, which from a theological standpoint holds a lot of merit. Only those who believed and had claimed that faith and the forgiveness of sins God offers through baptism would be able to dine with the Lord and receive the blessings that Christ offers. This also kept the sacrament sacred and promoted structure so that us Presbyterians could do things "decently and in order". There are scriptural references about how communion should come after self-examination, (see 1 Corinthians 11:27-30) that were used to support this understanding. The other side of the debate argued that communion should be open to everyone who wishes to receive it. This argument had two main points. Theologically the argument was that God's love is open to everyone, just as a relationship with Christ is open to everyone. The second was a more practical argument which is that a pastor has no real way of knowing who is baptized and who is not and isn't going to ask every person who wishes to participate in communion.

Ultimately the second understanding won out and our denomination largely approves of what is called an "Open Table", meaning that we believe the Lord's Table is open to everyone, always, no exceptions. Aside from the practical aspect I do like this policy because I believe it is more hospitable to guests and seems to me, to be more in line with how Jesus lives and taught. It seems everyone was always welcome at Jesus' table, even those nasty tax collectors and vile sinners! I bring this up because it is my hope that the church's increased hospitality would not be limited to the sacrament of communion.

The passage from 1 Peter 4:8-9 encourages us to love one another and to be hospitable to each

other. Hospitality means to be friendly, welcoming, and generous to guests and/or strangers.

This directive from Peter is about how we who are in the church should treat one another and welcome outsiders. And Christian hospitality isn't just about a smiling face and nice word on Sunday morning. Christian hospitality is about inviting people into your life, into your home, into your circle.

I know this is a hard and sometimes scary or awkward thing. To approach someone you don't know after worship can be intimidating. But your kindness and warmth this week might be the reason they return next week. We must take the initiative to be hospitable, to connect with people and to sometimes help visitors connect with others in the congregation. I am not a car enthusiast, but I know several people in the church who are, so when a visitor comes with a passion for automobiles I might say "have you met so and so", and then help to make that connection. This is all part of what it means to be hospitable at the church. But we must take this even further. We must be hospitable in our daily lives. Welcoming people in to our lives, inviting them to share meals with us, being generous and caring toward them. This is what it means to have Christian hospitality. Our church offers an open table; I am encouraging you to exercise an open table in your homes. And remember, in all things, strive to love one another. For love covers a multitude of sins!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian



COMMUNITY VBS - share with friends, family, neighbors



COMMUNITY VBS 2025
SUNDAY, July 13 –
THURSDAY, July 17

7/13 - 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!



REGISTER YOUR KIDS
AGES 3-12
INCLUDES EXPANDED
PRE-SCHOOL FUN!
Scan code or register @
WWW.MARS-UP.ORG



Sponsored by your community churches -
St John Lutheran, Valencia & Mars UP

VBS dates – planning/decorating/preparing

Wednesday, June 4,

from 6:00-8:00 pm at **Valencia UP**-Sandwiches

GOALS: Make decorations

Wednesday, June 11,

from 6:00-8:00 pm at **Valencia UP**- Chicken Tenders and Salad

GOALS: Make decorations

Wednesday, June 18,

from 6:00-8:00 pm at **Mars UP**-Sloppy Joes

GOALS: Assemble the card- board cabin, finish decorations

Wednesday, June 25,

from 6:00-8:00 pm at **Mars UP**-Rigatoni

GOALS: Finish large decorations/Decorate the church

Wednesday, July 9,

from 6:00-8:00 pm at **Mars UP**- Pizza

**GOALS: All volunteers requested to attend – Education/Run through
and complete decorating**

Community Events cont.
mark your calendars -
enjoy, participate, volunteer



MARS NEW YEAR
JUNE 6 - 7, 2025

MARTIAN MELODIES CONCERT



CONCERT INFORMATION

Transport yourself and your friends from the festival streets across Crowe Ave to hear the Martian Melodies Orchestra.

LOCATION: United Presbyterian Church
232 Crowe Ave, Mars, PA 16046
Saturday, June 7th, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

All accompanied by NASA's stunning imagery from NASA's many space missions including videos and SOUNDS from actual Martian rovers, and the Ingenuity helicopter.

Thank you to the Mars United Presbyterian Church for making their space available for this unique opportunity.

marsnewyear.com



Would you love to use
your decorating
talents or have some
fun adventuring
True North!
Contact Pastor Brian
or Alma and they will
help you find your
place to use your
special talent for VBS!

Mars Applefest 2025

Join us on
October 4th, 2025
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Family Fun
150 Vendors
Food — Crafts — Music
Rain or Shine

Oct. 4



Applefest

SUMMER FUN FEST

SUNDAY
AUGUST 24
4-8 pm

Live Music
Food
Games

@ MarsUP



MY School Preschool

another group of students,
confidently and courageously on
to the next adventure.

My School Preschool is blessed to wrap up another successful year at MUP. We had 75 full-time students enrolled and 40 in our preschool prep class. We are blessed to have some of the most amazing students and families enroll in our school. We pray for the future of our students, as many will have the jitters of entering Kindergarten in the fall. I give God thanks for the amazing teaching staff that we have here at school. Wow! God is good!

We have a few openings in our 3-year-old afternoon class as well as our 2-year-old preschool prep class. Please help us spread the word!

A special thank you to the My School Preschool Board for providing a wonderful lunch during Teacher Appreciation Week. The homemade sandwiches were out of this world, and the sweet treats were shared over a few days. A special thank you to everyone at MUP who has been so supportive this year, too! The A Team never fails with all of their hard work and dedication to fix things or help lift things, and we will forever be thankful for all of their work. Thank you to Cherie for helping us to better bridge communication so we can share things with the church family and friends. Finally, thank you to Pastor Brian, who truly has a servant's heart and is supportive of everyone at school.

We pray you have a blessed summer, and we will see you next year!

Love,
Heidi S. Beahm
Director, My School Preschool



**HAVE A GREAT
SUMMER!**

Get moving. Stay connected. Be encouraged.



Be a Light Dance & Fitness Seated Class

Thursday, June 12th

11:00-11:40am

Mars UP Church

Fellowship Hall



Join Heather Gerlach, instructor with Revelation Wellness and ChairOne Fitness, for a fun seated class! We will be dancing in our chairs to classic songs, stretching to a hymn, and meditating on God's Word! Moves will be easy to follow for every body.

Bring a bottle of water. For more info and to register, email heather.simplynatural@gmail.com.

HAPPY

Father's DAY



TCM
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

Mission Trip -

The office may seem a little quiet in June as Cherie will be embarking on a mission trip from June 1 - 20 with TCM Ministries to Haus Edelweiss in Austria.

(This article was published in the Venice Presbyterian Church's monthly publication Connect, Grow, and Go)

Mission Trip to TCM's Haus Edelweiss

On June 1st, VPC's Kim Jason and former staff member Cherie Loomis will be traveling to Austria to serve as Short-Term Workers at TCM's Haus Edelweiss.

TCM International Institute provides graduate-level Christian leadership training for pastors, teachers and other church leaders from 45+ countries in Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Haus Edelweiss is TCM's main campus, where courses are held from March–November. After completing coursework and exams online, students come to Haus Edelweiss for a 10-day session of intensive training and practical application with their professors.

Haus Edelweiss has a full-time staff of 8 people. But when a session begins, the Haus becomes a bustling campus with up to 130 students, professors and translators.

To serve this influx of people, 12-14 Short-Term Workers are needed for Food Services (preparing 3 meals a day for up to 150 people), Guest Services (housekeeping, laundry), Maintenance (buildings and interior), and Groundskeeping (mowing, trimming, tending flower beds).

Kim and Cherie will join other Short-Term Workers from various parts of the United States, who will be assigned to one of these work areas. As they serve, they will have the opportunity to meet and share meals with students from various countries, learn about how God is working through these disciple-makers, and share the love of Jesus with brothers and sisters in Christ from many parts of the world. Please pray for Kim and Cherie as they GO in the name of Jesus. Pray for safe travel, health, energy, good rest, and that they will experience the love of Christ in a very special way!

June Scriptures:

June 1 - Acts 16:16-34

June 8 - Acts 2:1-21

June 15 - Romans 5:1-5

June 22 - Luke 8:26-39

June 29 - Luke 9:51-62



Dates for your Calendar

Date	Event	Time
June 4	VBS Prep @ Valencia UP	6-8 pm
June 6 & 7	Mars New Year	
June 8	Pentacost	
June 11	VBS Prep @ Valencia UP	6-8 pm
June 12	Fitness Seated Class	11 am
June 15	Father's Day	
June 18	VBS Prep @ Mars UP	6-8 pm
June 25	VBS Prep @ Mars UP	6-8 pm
July 9	VBS Prep @ Mars UP	6-8 pm
July 13-17	VBS	see schedule
August 24	Summer Fun Fest	4-8 pm
September 7	All Church Picnic/Rally Day	10 am
October 4	Applefest	10-4

DATES TO KNOW

- June 6 & 7 - Mars New Year
- June 8 - Pentecost
- June 12 - Fitness Seated Class
- June 15 - Father's Day
- July 13-17 - Community VBS
- Visit our website for a full color newsletter



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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