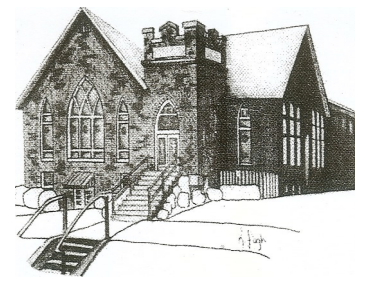


# MARS UP CHURCH



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

**August 2023**

“Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.” Matthew 6:6

I heard a very interesting opinion the other day. The opinion came from a commentator arguing for less transparency and more secrecy in our government. On the surface that sounds ridiculous. It sounds like the exact opposite of what most of us would want, because we believe that it is open transparency that keeps individuals honest. We believe that if someone, particularly a politician, is able to work in secret they will be more corrupt, and our experiences support this conclusion. But the opinion I heard was in response to a televised congressional oversight hearing in which no actual oversight occurred. The commentator was blaming the lack of meaningful discourse on the transparency of the television cameras that aired the hearing. The argument actually makes some sense, that the politicians acted differently because of the cameras instead of using their time for advancing the meeting's agenda. The politicians used their time to make outrageous statements or fancy speeches trying to land a good sound bite. The result was that rather than do the actual work of applying congressional oversight to the agency in question the two dozen congressional members got to feel important on national television. I think the commentator is right in this particular situation. The same hearing happening behind closed doors would probably have proved more meaningful and helpful for the agency being reviewed. But instead of thoughtful political discourse that could have advanced our nation forward, we received a room full of people trying to out perform one another in a grandiose sort of way. The congressional members were show boating by trying to keep the focus on them individually rather than the issues or solutions available.

These political leaders seem to be a modern example of what Jesus instructs us against in Matthew six. The beginning of Matthew six consists of Jesus instructing his followers “to be careful not to do [their] acts of righteousness in front of other [people]”. Jesus uses the example of sounding the trumpet when helping those in need to draw the public's attention to how good they are; or to pray loudly on the street corner with lots of fancy words so that others will think they are very religious. This is concluded with the famous, ‘they have received their reward’ statement. The take away is clearly established when Jesus tells us to do these things in secret, and our Heavenly Father who sees what is done in secret will reward us. It is a reminder to live for God and not to try to make ourselves seem better than we are.

Now, I don't know if having our politicians do everything in secrecy behind closed doors is a reasonable solution to our nation's problems. It probably is not. But I do know that we as individuals should consider for ourselves whether our public actions and our private actions are both pleasing to the God we love and serve. Is the version of ourselves that we present publicly to the world focused on serving God or building ourselves up? Are the things we do in private when no one is watching; are they pleasing to the God who sees all? Many people act differently depending on who is in the room with them at the time. I think we would all do better to remember that God sees who we are in secret just as clearly as God sees who we present ourselves to be in public. And I believe that when we accept this truth, that God knows all, we will experience the freedom of not having to pretend to be something we are not. Instead we can be the person God is calling us to be, both in secret and in public.

Blessings,  
Pastor Brian



# Sunday SCHOOL

ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

*Growing in Faith Together*

Begins: SEPTEMBER 17TH

WHEN: 9:00 AM

Calling All 2nd-5th Graders!

**NEW!**

**Kids  
CLUB**



Kids of the Mars Area will have time with **old and new friends** as they **play** and **learn** and **grow** in their **faith**. All youth are welcome!

Kid's Club will be about twice per month with **extra fun and service events** throughout the year.

To sign up to receive updates about this new group and meeting details,

fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/zyueShBkCo28ZyuE8> or scan

# June Session Highlights

1. MSPS Summer Camp sold out
2. Rev. Hauser on Vacation from July 3 to July 8
3. May Session Minutes approved
4. The New-To-You Sale proceeds were \$3,000+...Money to be used to for Office upgrades
5. May Communion was served to 41 people
6. Approved Communion to be served at Pat Jackson's Funeral Service
7. Baptism of Theodore James Keenan, son of Greg and Faith (Govan) Kennan on June 25th approved
8. Pine Valley Camp volunteer opportunities: July 23 for welcoming campers to camp, Luggage and Lemonade from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm - need 6 people; August 9 need help serving dinner from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm plus provide dessert - need 12 people...
9. MSPS director will present Minute-for-Mission during the August 20 Service and this will also be the Blessing of the Back Packs during the Service
10. Approved the ordering of a new Ice Machine for the kitchen, not to exceed \$700
11. No Session Meeting is scheduled for the month of July. Next regular meeting is August 17

The Food Bank collection is First Sunday

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 Steve Martin or any other Deacon.



# VBS "STELLAR" HIGHLIGHTS









Calling All 6th-12th Graders!



## Mars Area Youth Group



Hosted by:

Mars United Presbyterian Church (Crowe Ave)

and

St. John Lutheran Church (Beaver St)

Youth of the Mars Area will have time with **old and new friends** as they have **fun** and **learn** and **grow** in their **faith**. All youth are welcome!

Youth Group will be about twice per month with **extra social and service events** throughout the year.

To sign up to receive updates about this new group and meeting details, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/jWVgiF8FQ6LuEVCT7> or scan the QR code.



## VBS REUNION!

Sunday, August 13, 2023

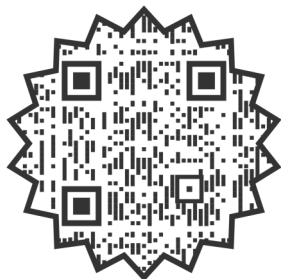
1:00—3:00 pm

Mars United Presbyterian Church

We had so much fun at VBS, we can't wait until next year!

Join us for a VBS REUNION to have a bonus day of VBS!

Just like VBS, there will be a Bible Adventure, songs, games, crafts, science, and snacks... And of course, lots of FUN! And if you have any friends who couldn't come to VBS, but want to



To sign up, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/pYqJNUjqRwaTP7jF9> or scan the QR code.



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 18th through Monday, December 4<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 13th.**

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

## **VOLUNTEER!!!**

**Dinner & Dessert - Wednesday- AUGUST 9TH**



How would you like to bless Pine Valley Staff and our campers with a night of serving dinner, cleaning up, and providing a yummy dessert?

On. **Wednesday August 9 from 5:30-7:30 pm** we will be serving dinner and dessert to the campers. Anyone volunteering is invited to stay for dinner at the camp if interested, we just need to let them know how many are staying. So, hopefully at least one of those dates works for you! Ask a friend and let's send lots of folks to help...pretty sure car pools can be arranged, too.

Sign-up sheets are in the Tarry 'n Talk area or see Rev. Brian or any Christian Ed/ Mission & Outreach committee member (John Ivory, Susan Cox, Lisa Barbour, Herb Wellman, Carol Kopar, Jill Cooper) to volunteer or for questions.

# **ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC/RALLY DAY**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SEPTEMBER 10TH**

**10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE @ THE PARK**

**ADAMS TOWNSHIP PARK IN THE TOWNSHIP PAVILLION**

**(DOWN BY THE PLAYGROUND)**

**HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED. EVERYONE IS ASKED TO BRING A COVERED DISH.**

**GAMES, FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL!**

**Rally Day will also be celebrated at the park to "mark" the start of Sunday School!!!!**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN SEPTEMBER 17TH**



# MOTHERHOOD IS HARD

BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE LONELY

JOIN US AT MOPS



Mars United  
Presbyterian Church

## MOPS IS

A tribe of moms, with kids ages 0-5, living life together. It's a place for friendship, community, support, and growth. We are calling our sisters to join us in taking a chance at a fresh start this year. Let's have more fun, fear less, and find our people. Come along with us, and may this be the year you live life...

**Where:** Mars United Presbyterian Church

1st and 3rd Wednesday

**& When:**

1st Wednesday child care will be provided



## WHAT TO EXPECT

**MESSAGES OF HOPE:** to inspire and encourage moms.

**SMALL GROUPS:** meet other moms and talk about mom life.

On Being a Mom:

Half of the time I feel  
like I'm running an insane  
asylum...the other half I feel  
I belong in one.

your eCards  
somecards.com



### WHAT'S IT LIKE HAVING A TODDLER?

Imagine raising a heavily  
caffeinated chimpanzee  
who's allergic to sleep.

For more information contact Ashley Hauser.

Cell Phone: 1-814-270-9101.

**BETTER MOMS MAKE A BETTER WORLD**

**STARTING SEPTEMBER 2023 AT MARS UP CHURCH**

**10AM UNTIL 12 NOON**

## SAVE THE DATE

- ♦ August 6th—Communion
- ♦ August 21st– Griefshare Summer Meeting @ 6:30pm
- ♦ September 3rd —Communion
- ♦ September 10th—Church Picnic/Rally Day
- ♦ September 17th– 80+ Dinner



## 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