



The great equalizer

I have heard it argued that poor people can have nice things if they are willing to put in the effort to have them. It is a demeaning way to look at the least of those among us, but not entirely without merit. The argument goes that there are nice things, furniture for example, that can be purchased inexpensively or found along the road and then restored to a beautiful piece, it just takes a lot of elbow grease and time. Now this overlooks the reality that a person has to have the knowledge of how to do the work of restoring furniture, and they need the resources to get the furniture in the first place, a truck for instance to haul it home. But there is some truth to the argument that clean nice belongings are not only available to the wealthy. My home is an example of this: I have a very beautiful five-piece oak bedroom suite that I purchased at an auction for around \$17. After buying it though I had to haul it out of an upstairs bedroom, down a long hall and through a very tight front entranceway, then around a hedge row and some parked cars. Piece by piece, drawer by drawer I carried the heavy wood furniture to the truck. It was exhausting work and I was very sweaty when finished, but as a result of that effort I can now enjoy my beautiful bedroom furniture.

As I get older I am more inclined to pay more if I can put forth less effort. Perhaps some of you have found that to be true in your own lives. But either way, regardless of the successes we have in material gain the working class and poor will never enjoy the luxurious of the rich and famous. Life is just not equal, and to pretend that hard work will somehow afford everyone of equality is a misnomer of society. This month we celebrate the independence of our nation, a day typically associated with freedom. But we know that the freedoms we have and enjoy as Americans are not equally applied to all in every circumstance. Life is not equal for the have's and the have not's.

Except in perhaps the most important of things. Salvation! God is not swayed by an individuals wealth, by their standing in the world, by the way they keep their house clean and neat.

(Deuteronomy 10:17, Romans 2:11, Acts 10:34-35) God shows no partiality! God is interested solely in a person's faith and how that faith lead them to live. In Christianity we are all truly equal, saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter that I will never travel to space in my own privately owned rocket ship. Elon and I have the same duty and responsibility when it comes to salvation, faith in Jesus Christ. There are no short cuts, there are no loop holes, there is no advantages or disadvantages. And as the apostle James puts it: faith without works is dead.

This leaves us, all of us, with the work of faith. Whether you are wealthy or struggling to get by, whether you are a veteran or a school teacher or honorably retired, whether you are old or young, whether you have attended church regularly in the past or are new to the fold; all of us are equal in the sight of God.

Christ is perhaps the only true equalizer our world will ever know. But it isn't just about judgement and the fear of punishment. It is ever more so about the grace of Jesus that is freely and abundantly offered to all of us in excess. All who believe in their heart that God raised Christ from the dead will be saved. Whether you are a doctor, a tax collector, or a paraplegic, Christ saves all who believe. (Romans 10:9-10) In life there are constant comparisons among people; comparing wealth, comparing status, comparing skill and leadership and earthly success. Perhaps these comparisons are unavoidable, but it may be helpful for us to remember that all people are beloved children of God, and the only dichotomy that means anything in the end is faith and life and Jesus Christ our Lord. Choose faith, choose freedom, choose God's love over all else.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

It's VBS Month - YAY!!!!

Share, pray, prepare, participate!



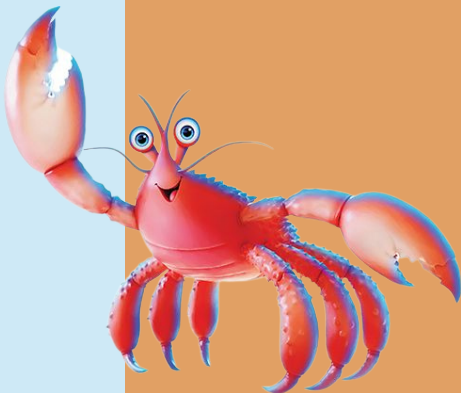
COMMUNITY VBS 2025

**SUNDAY, July 13 –
THURSDAY, July 17, 2025**

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!



FOR AGES 3-12

INCLUDES EXPANDED PRE-SCHOOL FUN!

Register @ **WWW.MARS-UP.ORG**

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



COMMUNITY VBS -

share with friends, family, neighbors

VBS dates – final planning/decorating/preparing

Wednesday, July 9, 6-8 p.m. @ Mars UP - Pizza

GOALS: All volunteers requested to attend –

Education/Run through and complete decorating

Volunteers needed to help feed VBS volunteers!

If you are looking for your place to help with VBS, this is it. We are looking for folks to help in the kitchen and serve the VBS volunteers from July 14-17.

Please contact Pastor Brian or Jen Ivory to volunteer.



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!



Worship in the Park
Sunday, July 20
10 a.m.
Adams Twp Park

Hot dogs and Hamburgers provided
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share

Celebrating VBS

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Please contact Pastor Brian for details and information regarding the New Member Class
pastor@mars-up.org



Luggage & Lemonade
July 20, 4:15 pm
Pine Valley Camp

GIVING & SERVING *OPPORTUNITIES*

GIVING -

Food Pantry Donations

There is a basket located in Tarry & Talk that food donations can be placed in to be donated to the local food pantry. Non perishable, not expired food is accepted.

Coins for Camp

It's camping season. For generations, church camp has been a place where kids make life changing decisions to be in a relationship with Jesus.

SERVING -

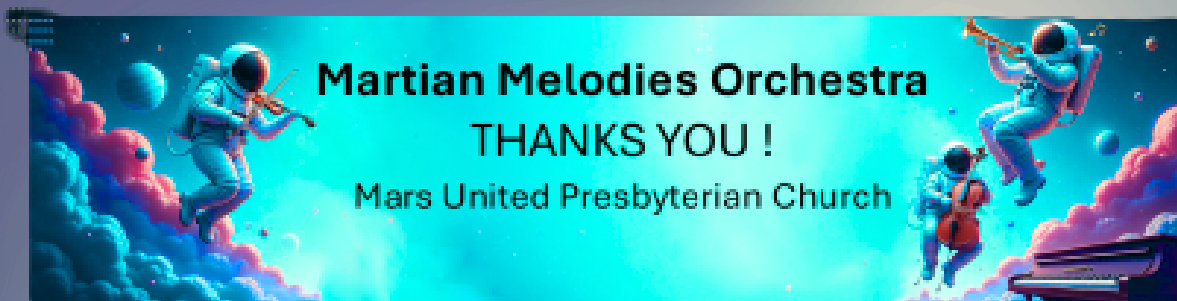
- VBS
- Summer Fun Fest
- Applebutter
- Applefest
- Bulletins & Newsletters
- Sunday School
- Nursery
- MomsUp

Community Info



Romans 12:10
10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.

1 Thessalonians 3:12
May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else, just as ours does for you.



50+ local student and adult musicians were able to perform space themed arrangements without the worry of weather because of your hospitality!



MY School Preschool

Preschool Prep (Two-Year-Old) Program

OPENINGS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Preschool Prep, our "Parent and Me" program! Both our Fall and Winter/Spring sessions are brimming with a wide range of activities geared specifically for your two- and three-year-old. There will be opportunities to sing, move to music, cook, construct, sculpt, paint, and pretend in a safe, nurturing environment designed to foster the development of curious minds and active bodies. There will be time shared in our schedule to eat and chat with your Preschool Prep pals, so plan to pack a light lunch or snack for your child.

Class Age Requirements (Fall Sessions)- Two years old by September 1

Class Age Requirements (Winter/Spring Sessions) - Two years old by January 1

Day - Friday

Class Time - 10:00 - 11:30 am

Tuition - \$100 registration fee for each 6-week session

You may register for one Fall Session and/or one Winter/Spring Session

Fall Class One (September - October) OR

Fall Class Two (November - December)

Winter/Spring Class One (February-March) OR

Winter/Spring Class Two (April-May)

For questions or to register,
please contact us

724-272-9911

myschoolpreschoolmars@gmail.com

Love,
Heidi S. Beahm
Director, My School Preschool



Examples of Weekly Themes

- Marvelous Me
- One Fish, Two Fish
- Music Makers
- Cars & Trucks & Things That Go!
- Pumpkin Time (Fall)
- Dinosaurs Roar!



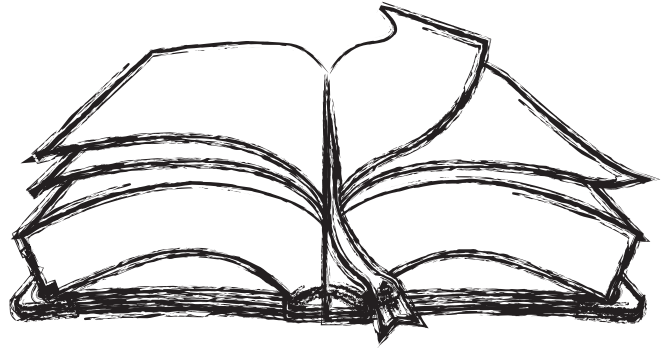
July Scriptures:

July 6 - 2 Kings 5:1-14

July 13 - Luke 10:25-37

July 20 - Genesis 18:1-10a

July 27 - Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)



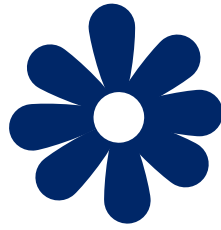
Dates for your Calendar

| Date | Event | Time |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| July 9 | VBS Prep @ Mars UP | 6-8 pm |
| July 13-17 | VBS | see website |
| July 20 | Worship in the Park | 10 am |
| July 20 | Luggage & Lemonade - Pine Valley Camp | 4:15 pm |
| August 24 | Summer Fun Fest | 4-8 pm |
| September 7 | All Church Picnic/Rally Day | 10 am |
| September 28 | 80+ Luncheon | 11 am |
| October 4 | Applefest | 10-4 |
| December 16 | Cranberry Men's Chorus | |
| | | |
| | | |

DATES TO KNOW

- July 13-17 - Community VBS
- July 20 - Worship at Adams Twp. Park
- August 24 - Summer Fun Fest
- Visit our website for a full color newsletter

JULY



Contact Us

Email, give us a call, or stop by the office 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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