

MARS UP NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



Your Hometown Church
Faithful to Tradition
Loving in Fellowship
Reaching for Tomorrow

There are certain bible stories that we as Christians tend to gravitate towards because, for one reason or another, they speak to our hearts. The story of David and Goliath, the underdog story, is an example. It is one that almost everyone knows and takes something from. For me one of those stories I come back to time and time again is the story of the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, found in the first chapter of Exodus. I know it's kind of a niche story, but it is one of my favorites. The main parts of the story are that the Israelite nation is being used as slave labor in Egypt. Pharaoh is concerned the Israelites are going to try to rebel so he starts working them hard and hard and then comes up with this plan to have every male baby killed so that the nation will not have young man to rebel. To execute this plan Pharaoh brings in two Hebrew midwives and orders them to kill the male babies. The midwives do not do what pharaoh ordered and their subtle act of defiance, and lying to pharaoh, saves many Hebrew baby boys from genocide. I'm sure I have spoken about this passage before, how these two Hebrew midwives, these lowly people, stand up to power by standing up to Pharaoh. I may have told you how interesting it is that the bible chooses to share the names of these women who are in this lowly servant role while Pharaoh and Pharaoh's daughter later in the story remain unnamed. A pleasant reminder of who God sees as important. I just find it to be such a valuable lesson that two women, in a male dominate world, were able to change the world through their actions. For it is through their actions that Hebrew boys, like Moses, were able to be born and survive. Without them, Moses would not have survived, and never would have been able to come back to free God's people. Shiphrah and Puah were not wealthy people. They didn't command armies or demand respect. They were servants. They were insignificant in the workings of the world. Their lives, on the whole scheme of things, didn't seem to matter all that much. And yet their actions, led to the salvation of the entire nation of Israel, their small act, to do what was right in a moment, for a day, for a week; had such a lasting effect their names are now read by millions of people every single year.

The name Shiphrah in Hebrew means beauty or harmony, it draws on the concept of fairness. Meanwhile the Hebrew name Puah means radiant, beautiful, bright. What fitting names for beautiful women who did beautiful things. Their actions are a true bright spot in the life of the Israelites. A life defined by harsh labor and abuse. Yet we find in this story, beauty, this beautiful moment, this bright spot, even in the midst of such atrocity as the forced labor and enslavement of the nation of Israel. Not that our lives are the same as the enslaved nation of Israel, but we certainly experience pain, hardships, trials, and struggles. Sometimes we look at the world and we might start thinking things are hopeless. I'm sure when these Hebrew midwives were told to kill every male baby that was born things seemed pretty dark and scary. In our world there is an ongoing government shut down, there is hunger, there is homelessness, there is violence, there is sickness and death, there is division within communities and even families. There are a million things that pile on to make the world seem like a lonely, dark, and gloomy place. But this passage reminds us of God's presence and how God can do amazing things out of single acts of kindness. And so, in the spirit of Shiphrah and Puah, in the spirit of all that is beautiful and bright, I encourage you to be a bright spot in another person's life today. Give an extra smile, hold a door for another person, be generous, be kind, be helpful. Be the moment in another person life that is beautiful, bring light into their darkness. The scripture tells us how Jesus is the light of all people. And how the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it. (John 1:5) We have that same light of Christ at our disposal. The light shines in and through us. We teach our children the song "This Little Light of Mine" for this exact reason. And though we sometimes feel like our light won't make a difference in the world, the truth is it will. We never know what impact our light will have. Maybe it will light another's path, maybe it will lead another home, but either way the darkness cannot overcome the light. Friends, I encourage you to be bright and beautiful and to let the light of Christ shine in you richly this day. Blessings,
Pastor Brian

**We will recognize All Saints Sunday on November 2.
We remember the saints of Mars UP
who have gone before us this past year -**

As we solemnly remember all those who have died in the past year, we also focus on Christ's victory over death.



Marjorie Kennedy 3/6/2025
John "Jack" Lees 3/20/2025
Mary Lou Schwenke 3/24/2025
Barbara Templeton 4/24/2025
Sandra Wahl 5/4/2025
Lewetta Bell 6/30/2025
Patricia VanBuskirk 10/23/2025

celebrating 50 YEARS

Congratulations to our 50 year members.
Thank you for faithfully serving God in and through the Mars UP church community.

MARY ANN CROOP

JEFFREY LEONBERG

KAREN STACK

God of peace, We pray for those who have served our nation and have laid down their lives to protect and defend our freedom.

We pray for those who have fought, whose spirits and bodies are scarred by war, whose nights are haunted by memories too painful for the light of day.

We pray for those who serve us now, especially for those in harm's way. Shield them from danger and bring them home. Turn the hearts and minds of our leaders and our enemies to the work of justice and a harvest of peace.

May the peace you left us, the peace you gave us, be the peace that sustains, the peace that saves us. Christ Jesus, hear us! Lord Jesus, hear our prayer! Amen.



Combined Youth Led Worship

BRING A FRIEND AND
JOIN US
at St. John
Lutheran Church
Sunday
November 23
9:00 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you there and worshiping with this joint youth group.

No Sunday School or worship at MUP on this Sunday.

MARS UP APPLEFEST ↓



Youth Group & Kid's Club fall fun ↓



Cookie making for
Meals on Wheels



reverse *Advent* calendar

Each day ADD an item to a box or bag.

On Christmas Eve, bring for donation to a Food Bank!

December 1 - box of cereal
December 2 - peanut butter
December 3 - stuffing mix
December 4 - boxed potatoes
December 5 - macaroni and cheese
December 6 - canned fruit
December 7 - canned tomatoes
December 8 - canned tuna
December 9 - dessert mix
December 10 - jar of applesauce
December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
December 12 - cranberry sauce

December 13 - canned beans
December 14 - box of crackers
December 15 - package of rice
December 16 - package of oatmeal
December 17 - package of pasta
December 18 - spaghetti sauce
December 19 - chicken noodle soup
December 20 - tomato soup
December 21 - can of corn
December 22 - can of mixed vegetables
December 23 - can of carrots
December 24 - can of green beans
Approximate cost - about \$40

Welcome new
members!
Sunday,
Nov. 16



Handbells and Choir

"We are looking for volunteers to play handbells along with the church choir for the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service — no experience needed! It's a great way to be part of our music ministry and help make worship special.

In addition, we welcome anyone who would like to join the choir for the Advent and Christmas season. We'll be singing "The Hope of Your Coming" every Sunday of Advent starting November 30th, and "In Bethlehem" at the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service. Even if you can't make every Sunday — or if you're new to choir — we would still love to have you join us!

If you're interested in ringing or singing, please reach out to me (Elizabeth Hixon) at hixonec@icloud.com or see me after any church service!"

TOY SWAP!

SPONSORED BY MOMSUP (MOMS GROUP OF MARS UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH)

WHEN: Nov. 14, 2025— Coupon Holders
3:00PM-6:00PM

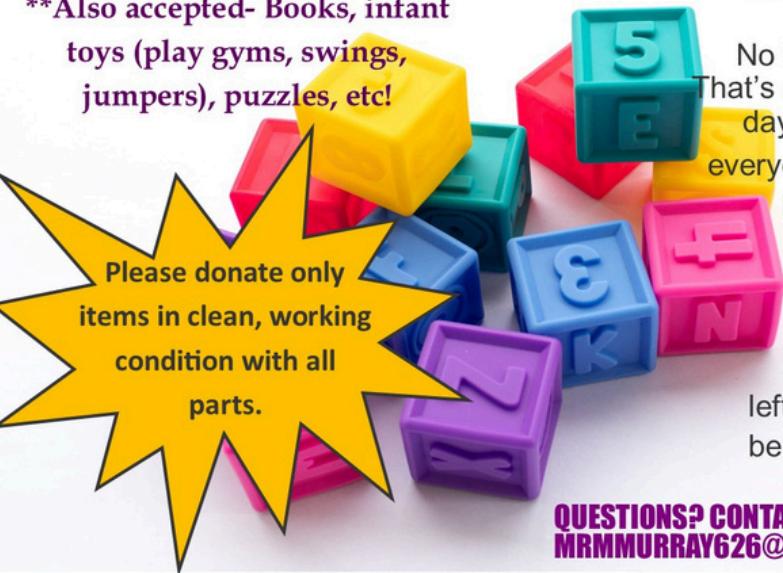
Nov. 15, 2025— All Welcome
10:00 AM-4:00PM

(10 toy limit until 2:00 PM, then all you can carry!)

WHERE:

Mars United Presbyterian Church
232 Crowe Ave, Mars, PA

**Also accepted- Books, infant toys (play gyms, swings, jumpers), puzzles, etc!



QUESTIONS? CONTACT
MRMMURRAY626@GMAIL.COM

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Bring your toys to swap to Mars UP Church

Oct. 20-Nov. 13

Tues: 12:00-4:00 PM

Thurs- 8:00AM-4:00PM

Fri- 8:00AM-12:00PM

(E-mail for after hours drop-off at volunteers home if needed)

You will receive a coupon designating your number of items.

Return during the first swap day to get the number of items noted on your coupon!

No toys to swap? That's ok! Come on the day open free to everyone (10 toy limit per family)

Just want to donate to the swap? That's ok too! All leftover items will be further donated!

MOMSUP

Moms Lifting Moms UP

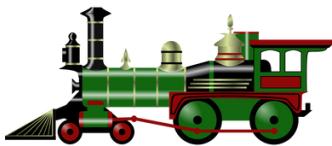


For more info contact Ashley Hauser:
814-270-9101 / ashleyhauser90@yahoo.com

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



My School Preschool Presents: The Polar Express Dec. 6th -7th



Ways to support:

1. Volunteer by using the link provided to help **set up**

Bonus: Get advanced ticket sales by volunteering **during either day of our event. (Select what you like to do best!)**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA5AC28A0F5C34-52366828-polar>

2. Donate an item from our amazon wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/Z06WTKP33GQ8?ref_=wl_share

3. Donate cookies for the day of the event

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA5AC28A0F5C34-46042021-cookie>

4. Come to the event and spread the word! Tickets will go on sale

November 1st for event volunteers, then to our preschool families

November 3-7, and finally to the public on Nov. 10th

5. Sponsors - Give a monetary donation or gift basket and have

your business or organization featured on our program and

at various stations. Donations can be through check or

Venmo. Please email Heidi a copy of your business logo so we

can have your sponsorship advertized.

My School Preschool
@MySchool-Preschool



venmo

Christmas Flower Orders

Poinsettias are a beautiful enhancement to the church during Christmas and a wonderful way to honor or remember that special person in your life or the life of the church.

Poinsettias are available in 6" pots for \$9.50.

Available colors are - Red, Pink, and White



Orders must be placed by December 7, 2025.

Forms are available in Tarry & Talk or contact the church office to place your order.

You may take your flowers with you following worship on Christmas Eve.



Sunday Nov. 16

Hanging of the Greens

following worship

**Join the fun and help
prepare for the
advent season.
(and pizza for lunch)**





MARS AREA MARCHING BAND SHOE DRIVE



Collection box located in the church (near elevator). Now through 11/30. Accepting clean, gently worn (no holes or tears) and new shoes. No ice skate, roller blades, or wheelies.



St. John Lutheran Church & Mars United Presbyterian Joint Youth Group/Kids Club

2025-2026 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted:

Youth Group (Grades 6-12) meets at Mars UP Church (232 Crowe Ave)

Kids Club (Grades 2-5) meets at St. John Lutheran Church (420 Beaver St)

Mars Area Youth Group & *Kids Club*

Event	Date	Time
Meeting (dinner at St. John)	Nov 2, 2025	4-5:30p
Meeting (dinner at Mars United Presb.)	Nov 16, 2025	4-5:30p
Combined Joint Worship Service at St John Lutheran Church (420 Beaver St)	Nov 23, 2025	9-10a
Meeting (dinner at St. John)	Dec 7, 2025	4-5:30p
Combined Caroling at St. John Senior Care Center	Dec 14, 2025	4-5:30p

*Meetings held at churches will have the option for a family dinner following the meeting. Youth Group and Kids Club will eat dinner together. Please inform the pastors if you plan to attend dinner so that numbers and dietary needs can be anticipated. *Combined Events include both Kids' Club and the Youth Group at the same activity

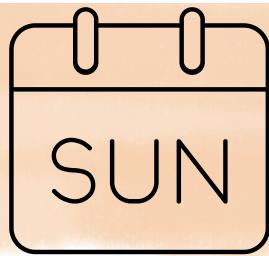
*Joint Worship Services will include both congregations



The Deacons will once again be sponsoring the annual **Turkey Bash** (turkey dinner and lots of fixins) for all senior citizens in both our church and community. RSVP by emailing the church by Thursday, November 13 - marsup@mars-up.org.

Mars UP Church
232 Crowe Ave.
Mars, PA

Annual Congregational Meeting



DECEMBER

7

Dates for your Calendar

Date	Event	Time
November 2	All Saints Sunday	10 a.m.
November 2	Youth Group & Kid's Club	4-5:30
November 11	Thank you Veterans	
November 14-16	MomsUP TOY SWAP	4 pm
November 16	Welcome New Members	10 am
November 16	Hanging of the Greens	11 am
November 20	Turkey Bash	Noon
November 23	Joint worship @ St. John's	9 am
November 27	Happy Thanksgiving	
November 27 & 28	Office Closed for Holiday	
December 7	Congregational Meeting	11 am
December 6 & 7	Polar Express	
December 12	Live Nativity	6-8
December 16	Cranberry Men's Chorus	7 pm
December 21	Blue Christmas Service	7 pm
December 24	Christmas Eve Services	2, 7, 11

DATES TO KNOW

- November 2 - All Saints Sunday
- November 11 - THANK YOU Veterans
- November 14-16 - Toy Swap
- November 16 - Welcome New Members
- November 16- Hanging of the Greens
- November 20 - Turkey Bash
- Visit our website for a full color newsletter



November

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