



I sat in the office for hours trying to come up with some word of hope or encouragement. I was looking for some scripture of comfort. I was searching for words of action that could lead to change, something that could rise to the tension and pain I was feeling; no such words arrived. I felt powerless to speak on what I believe is rapidly becoming the manifestation of the largest societal mistakes of generations. A week prior, I like many in our area, sent my children back to school for the first day of the academic year. Less than a week later, we as a nation have had our first mass casualty school shooting of the new school year. Every one of these tragic events hits hard. This one in particular because it is so senseless, so early in the school year, and the victims are the same age as my children. I was searching for the right words because I believed I had to speak again on this topic, on the violence and behaviors that contributed to this horrible act; to once again bring up guns, and mental health, and parenting and all of the other aspects at play; but I just couldn't find the words. In the absence of the right word I set out to do, to keep busy, doing actionable things to keep my mind occupied since the words had deserted me. I spoke with our Preschool director to once again go over all of the safety precautions we have in place for the church's preschool, I had a conversation with the Mars Chief of police to discuss community safety and to ask for an increased police presence around the preschool for their first weeks of school, I sat in prayer, and I bemoaned the obviously jaded responses from online chat groups that immediately turned this recent loss of children's lives into political fodder all while trying to place blame on others. I didn't want violence and hatred to be the focal point of the church newsletter, and I still don't. That's when the right Word found me. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God." (John 1:1-2) Jesus is the Word, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) God never promised an easy or perfect life, but Christ did offer us a new way of living. A way of life centered on love that could change the world, and indeed did change the world

on the cross! The bible tells us that God is love. (1 John 4:8) Jesus reminds us time and time again to focus on love. Love of God, love of neighbor, love of outcast, love of stranger, love of alien, love of enemy. We are supposed to love others. I believe this is the key to a better world. The key to a world with less or maybe someday no gun violence. When this new word, love, came to my mind at first I tried to dismiss it. How could something so simple be the answer. Yet the more I thought, the more I realized there is nothing simple about loving the way Christ teaches us to love. To love the hard to love, to be in uncomfortable situations while genuinely caring for the other, to reach out to the margins and live your life outside of the comfortable routines we have created. Love is a simple word, but a powerful action. Love changes lives. I can't help but wonder if Robin Westman had been loved by their community if things might have been different. This isn't by way of blaming her parents or those closest to her, this is acknowledging that it takes a village and love is needed everywhere. If peers and adults alike genuinely cared and showed interested and sat with and loved other, would it have made a difference? Perhaps they did, perhaps they tried, perhaps they are just like us. The truth is I'll never know for sure what love Robin did or did not receive, but I do know that "Love covers a multitude of sins". (1 Peter 4:8) It is too late for love to cover this recent tragic sinful act, but maybe, just maybe, it isn't too late for love to cover the next, to prevent a future tragedy, to help a neighbor in need of love, to change a life so that lives are saved. I encourage you to love today, to conquer hate with love, to focus on kindness instead of hostility. I ask that you take an interest in people's lives, ask kids how they are doing, let them know you care. Wherever it is, at church, in your community, at the store, love more, love to the extreme, because we as disciples are striving to live like Jesus Christ our Lord, and Christ is Love. In the end, while my heart aches today, I know that love wins. Christ wins! Because of love, I have hope, and you do too!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

TRASH to *Gone* TREASURE

September 5 & 6
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
232 Crowe Ave. Mars, PA

hosted by Womens Club of Mars & Mars UP

If you would like to donate items that will become treasures,
drop off in Fellowship Hall at these times:

Saturday, August 30 from noon - 3

Tuesday, September 2 from 9 - Noon

Wednesday, September 3 from 9 - Noon



Items that will NOT be accepted:

Clothing / Exercise equipment / Broken or damaged items / No tube tv's / no malfunctioning electronics / No printers

MOMS UP



Moms Lifting Moms UP

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

Moms with kids 0-6
Meet other Moms - friendship,
support, sharing ideas, and more.

Mars UP Church
232 Crowe Ave. Mars, PA
1st and 3rd Tuesdays
10 a.m. to Noon

Childcare on 1st Tuesday - qualified
and loving care for the little ones

See you September 2

WORSHIP & PICNIC IN THE PARK

SEPT. 7

*Let's gather, worship, celebrate, & fellowship.
Hamburgers and Hot Dogs provided.
Bring a covered dish to share.
Annual Church Picnic & Rally Day*



**Sunday
10.00 Am**



**Adams Twp. Park
Township
Pavillion**

Apple Butter Making

We are making Apple butter this year to sell at our booth during Applefest. **Sept. 13.** This is a great opportunity to have fun while getting ready to show the community the love of Jesus.



Mars Applefest 2025

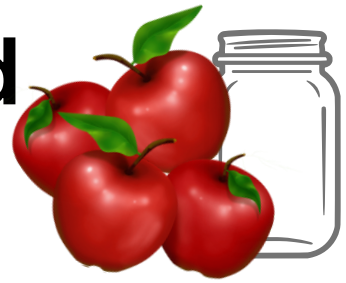
Join us on
October 4th, 2025
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Family Fun
150 Vendors
Food — Crafts — Music
Rain or Shine

Oct. 4



Jars Needed

Pint jars are needed
for Apple Butter on
September 13.



MY School Preschool

Preschool Prep
(Two-Year-Old) Program
OPENINGS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

2025-2026
Sept. - April

Scan for
form



PRESCHOOL PREP CLASS

JOIN THE FUN TOGETHER~Fridays, 10- 11:30 am *STUDENTS AGE 2-3*
My School Preschool at Mars UP Church
Contact Information: Email: myschoolpreschoolmars@gmail.com
Phone: 724-272-9911



Hosanna Industries

Mark your calendars
for October 12.
Katie DeJournette
from Hosanna
Industries will be
here with us to
share about their
ministries.

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

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

SERVING -

- Applebutter
- Applefest
- Bulletins & Newsletters
- Sunday School
- Nursery
- MomsUp

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

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

SUMMER FUN FEST

was so much
fun!!!



-food
-balloons
-music

SUMMER
FUN FEST cont.

& foam!



are you 80 + ?
You are invited
bring a guest and join us for the
80+ Luncheon
Celebrating Life and
Longevity
Sunday, September 28
Mars UP

immediately following worship
Please RSVP to church office
marsup@mars-up.org or 724-625-1365
Participants will receive a coupon for a helpful service

Calling All 2nd-5th Graders!



Hosted by:

Mars United Presbyterian Church (Crowe Ave)

and

St. John Lutheran Church (Beaver St)

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 meets about twice per month on Sundays at 4:00pm

rotating between meetings at the church building and **social and service events**.

After meetings at the church, a **family style meal is offered from 5:30-6:15pm**.

To sign up to receive updates about this group and meeting details, fill out the form at <https://forms.gle/zyueShBkCo28ZyuE8> or scan the QR code.

FAITH is a BIG topic!

Kids' Club helps children approach it in kid-sized pieces.

Kids' Club will help children explore how **God's message is relevant to their lives** in ways that are approachable and meaningful to them—
through lots of games, music, scripture, food, and more!

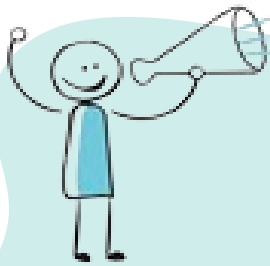
Children do not have to be a member of either hosting church to join. The group will be a **Christian-based group**, but children who do not regularly attend church will find a home here too. Come to some gatherings, come to all of them...

All are welcome!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to:
Pastor Brian Hauser at Mars United Presbyterian Church (pastor@mars-up.org)

or

Pastor Katie McNeal at St. John Lutheran Church (pastorkmcneal@gmail.com)

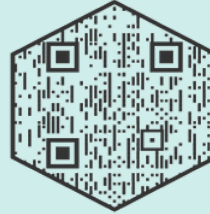


Calling All 6th-12th Graders!

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 meet with old and new friends as they play and learn and grow in their faith. All youth are welcome! Youth Group meets about twice per month on Sundays at 4:00pm rotating between meetings at the church building and social and service events. After meetings at the church, a family style meal is offered from 5:30-6:15pm



New and Old Friends
Snacks
Service Projects
Games
Christian Learning

Questions: Contact Pastor Brian Hauser (Mars United Presbyterian Church) at pastor@mars-up.org
Or Pastor Katie McNeal (St. John Lutheran Church) at pastorkmcneal@gmail.com. Sign up to receive updates about the group & meeting details by filling out the form at <https://forms.gle/vHchQiDNfY2Qj2Ru7> or scan QR code above.

St. John Lutheran Church and Mars United Presbyterian Joint Youth Group/Kids Club 2025-2026 Calendar

Unless otherwise noted:

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

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

Event	Date	Time
Meeting (dinner at St. John)	Sep 14, 2025	4-5:30p
Meeting (dinner at Mars United Presb.)	Sep 21, 2025	4-5:30p
Combined Service Event	Oct 5, 2025	4-5:30p
Combined Social Event	Oct 19, 2025	4-5:30p
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

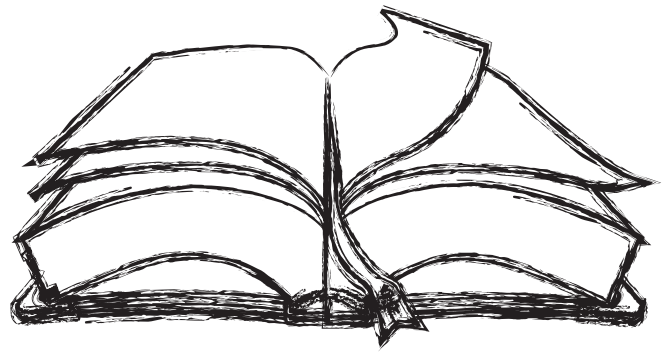
September Scriptures:

September 7 - Jeremiah 18:1-11

September 14 - John 3:13-17

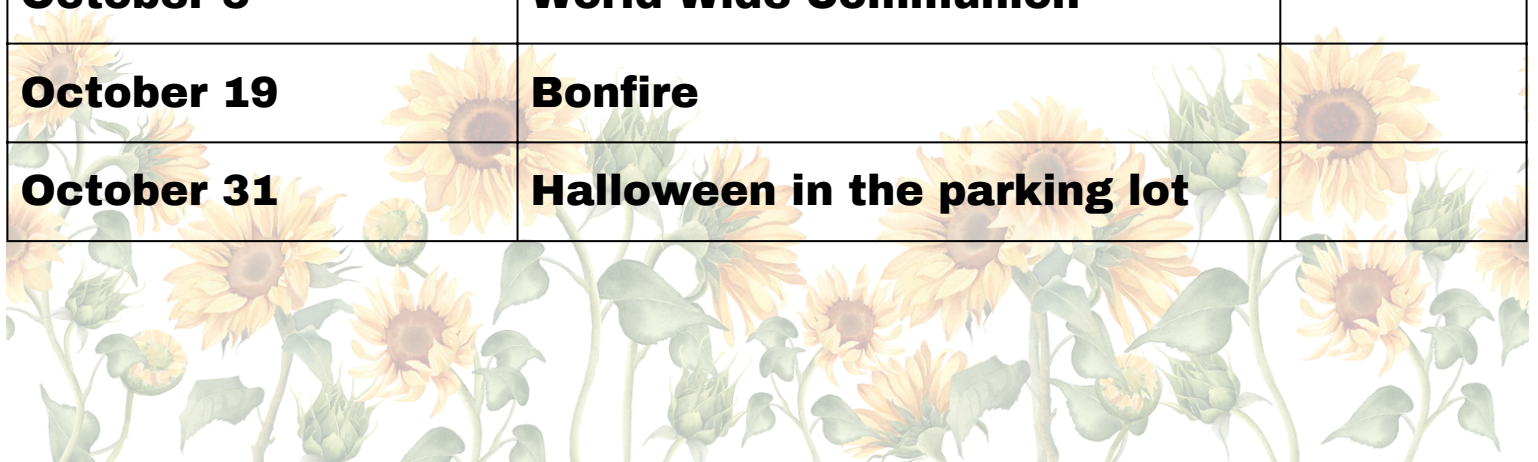
September 21 - 1 Timothy 2:1-7

September 28 - 1 Timothy 6:6-19



Dates for your Calendar

Date	Event	Time
September 2	Moms Up	10-Noon
September 2 & 3	Trash to Treasure Donation Drop Off	9-Noon
September 2 & 3	First Day School My School Preschool	
September 5-6	Trash to Treasure Sale	8-2
September 7	All Church Picnic/Rally Day	10 am
September 13	Making Apple Butter	
September 14	Sunday School	9:00 am
September 28	80+ Luncheon	after worship
October 4	Applefest	10-4
October 5	World Wide Communion	
October 19	Bonfire	
October 31	Halloween in the parking lot	



DATES TO KNOW

- September 5 & 6 Trash to Treasure Sale
- September 7 - Rally Day, Worship in the Park
- September 15 - Apple Butter Making
- September 14 - Sunday School
- September 28 - 80+ Luncheon
- 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

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

