

MARS UP CHURCH

JUNE 2024

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

A Word from the Pastor

On the last Tuesday of May I had the privilege of attending a Beaver Butler Presbytery Meeting at the Concord (Baden) Presbyterian Church. I know what you're thinking; attending a Presbytery meeting is not a privilege. I know many people who have attended meetings in the past are more apt to describe them as cruel and unusual punishment, but more and more I enjoy attending these gatherings of the church universal. I enjoy them for two reasons. The first is that having attended many over the past three years, I now have friends from other churches, folks I know and have talked with and who share in the joys and struggles of twenty-first century ministry. The second is because it seems like every meeting I hear some form of golden nugget that makes the travel and the business part of the meeting worthwhile. This time it was hearing the Rev. Jamie Fowler preacher.

Rev. Fowler is the pastor at Concord and she began her sermon with a pet-peeve that I share. She talked about her frustration with hearing many Christians standing around complaining about the way the world is today. The state of the world, the country, the community, etc. It isn't that we don't agree that there are problems in the world, but it seems that far too many people would rather stand around complaining than actually do the things that could make the world better. For her scripture Pastor Jamie told the story of Jesus' ascension found in Acts 1:6-11, where the disciples ask Jesus before He is taken into heaven if this is the time that God's kingdom will be restored. Jesus tells them, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

When Jesus is taken up to heaven, the disciples stand there staring up at the sky until "two men in white robes" ask them what they are looking at. It is as though the disciples were content to stand around waiting for Jesus. They seem to have forgotten that only a moment early Jesus told them what they should do when he is gone. They will receive the Holy Spirit, as we have, and then they will be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth. We too fall into the trap of standing around looking for Jesus, wanting Jesus to come and fix all of our problems and all that is wrong in the world. We too forget that Jesus' command to the disciples applies to us. We have been given directions, we know what we should be doing until He comes back. We are to be Christ's witnesses: proclaiming Christ's life, death, and resurrection; proclaiming Christ's power over sin and death; proclaiming forgiveness and new life in His name.

Friends, I understand the urge to stand around and complain. Heaven knows I have done it too. But complaining about the ways of the world accomplishes nothing except to deter us from the hope and joy we have in Christ. We must remember that we are invited to be an Easter people, a people of abundant new life founded in hope and joy. We have hope in our Savior Jesus Christ. We will best serve our Lord and His church by doing what he directed us to do, instead of standing around looking to heaven or complaining about this or that. So instead of complaining let's do what Jesus taught us to do. We can proclaim the year of our Lord, we can boast of His amazing deeds, we can share His overwhelming love. We can change the world with help of the Holy Spirit. In deed this is what we are supposed to be doing!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

COMMUNITY VBS 2024



SUNDAY, July 14 – THURSDAY, July 18, 2024

6:00-8:20 PM

SPECIAL KICK OFF SUNDAY AFTERNOON

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 3-13

WWW.MARS-UP.ORG

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

VBS DECORATING DATES – DINNER WILL BE SERVED



Wednesday, June 12, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Valencia UP

Dinner: Sandwich and Chips

GOALS: Cutting fish, cutting pool noodles and make the brain coral, mesh ribbons coral, paper coral, paper flowers, boat

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Valencia UP

Dinner: Chicken tenders and Salad

GOALS: Cutting fish, cutting pool noodles and make the brain coral, mesh ribbons coral, paper coral, paper flowers, boat

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Mars UP

Dinner: Sloppy Joes

GOALS: Finish the boat, construct the arch, start staging decorations

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Mars UP

Dinner: Rigatoni

GOALS: Decorate the church

We want to reach 100 kids this year with the messages that God is a friend who is real, who loves them, who they can trust, who will be there forever friend and is a friend to everyone!

Please volunteer for this community event. We start with a special Hot Dog & Bean kick off Sunday, July 14 at 5:00-8:20. Then each evening through Thursday 6:00 pm - 8:20 pm.

If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Pastor Brian or Alma. OR just show up when you can.....we will keep you busy!!

Thank you.



My School Preschool is "Reaching for Tomorrow."

There are currently a few spots in the following classes:

Preschool Prep – age 2

Preschool PM Class – age 3

Transitional Kindergarten – age 5

Visit the website for more information - www.myschoolpreschool.org



THANK
YOU!

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the generous retirement gift and party on Sunday (May 12). Over the years, the office has had its “ups and downs” but through it all I always had the support and love from the congregation. I will miss the phone calls, office visits, kind words and cards. Even though I am not in the office, please know that I am always here for you.

Love you all! Shelly

JUNE REMINDERS

- ◆ First Sunday of the month, June 2 - Food Bank collection
- ◆ Second Sunday of the month, June 9...Deacon Kindness collection



Congratulations graduates!

High School Graduates:

Lauren Haley

Adam McElhinny



College Graduates:

Sean McElhinny

Matt Olsen

Abigail Staskiewicz

Our July newsletter will share more information on their journey and their future journey.

It's not too late to submit a graduate name for July's newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time
June 2	Church Life Committee Meeting	After Worship
June 3	Women's Bible Study (last one until September)	1:30 pm
June 9	Graduate Recognition Sunday	10 am
June 12	Decorating for VBS—Valencia UP	6-8 pm
June 19	Decorating for VBS—Valencia UP	6-8 pm
June 25	Stewardship Committee Meeting	7 pm
June 26	Decorating for VBS—Mars UP	6-8 pm
June 27	Session	7 pm
July 10	Decorating for VBS—Mars UP	6-8 pm
July 14-18	VBS	6-8:20 pm
July 20	Shawn Harmon—Mission visit	TBD
July 21	Worship @ Adams Twp. Park	10 am
August 24	Special Event	TBD

Scriptures for June:

June 2—Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and Mark 2:23-3:6

June 9—Mark 3:20-35

June 16—Matthew 4:18-5:1, 5:14-16

June 23—1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49



DATES TO KNOW

- ◆ June 2 ~ Communion Sunday
- ◆ June 16 ~ Father's Day
- ◆ **July 14 - July 18 ~ Vacation Bible School**
- ◆ July 21 ~ Worship in the Park & VBS celebration

Contact Us

Stop by the office, email or give us a call for more information.

Mars UP Church

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Mars, PA 16046

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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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