

# MARS UP CHURCH

**JULY 2024**

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

## *A Word from the Pastor*

**Ezekiel 47:1a "The man brought me back to the entrance of the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple..."**

On Saturday June 22nd I returned home from a family vacation. I was glad to be home as well as tired from the day's travel. While I lay in bed that evening, I had no way of anticipating what was waiting for me at the church the next morning. I arrived at the church early as is my Sunday routine. As I entered the usually quiet building I heard the faint sound of rushing water, like a stream that was bursting forth from somewhere under the building. I followed the sound and lifted the hatch door to the access panel where the water main enters the building. As I lifted the hatch about two inches my leg up to my knee became soaked with spraying water. A pipe had broken and the shutoff valve was missing! The rest of the morning before worship was filled with frantic calls to our Building and Grounds Committee, the borough, the water authority, even the police in an effort to solve the problem of unrelenting rushing water. We were fortunate that the leak was in a cubby under the floor and that no real property damage occurred from the flowing river. Our Building and Grounds Committee responded quickly in addressing the issue and I am pleased to say the water problem has been fixed; Building and Grounds committee deserves your thanks!

Now that things have calmed down, I appreciate the irony of the river coming from "under the threshold of the temple" as depicted in Ezekiel chapter 47. Ezekiel talks about a trickle of water that originates from under the temple. As Ezekiel's guide leads him along this water, it keeps getting deep-

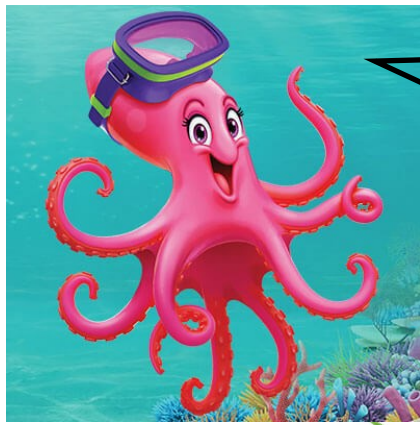
er, first being ankle deep (v3), then knee deep and waist deep (v4), then becoming a full river (v5). At this point Ezekiel is told how the river continues to grow as it flows toward the sea, and not only that, but is bringing fresh water and abundant life to the shores it flows through until it reaches the dead sea. There the fresh water grows trees and many kinds of fish and vegetation, a depiction easily likened to the Garden of Eden. It is a river of life, bringing life to a desert and a sea long thought to be uninhabitable.

What is most striking about this river is the manner in which it grows. The river builds and deepens along the way without any additional tributaries. It just keeps getting bigger and more powerful as it flows from its source. This is an image of the power of our faith. Jesus uses the parable of the mustard seed (Matt. 13) in a similar way to describe the expansion of the Kingdom of God. "Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree".

Friends, I know that sometimes we feel like the world is becoming spiritually dead. That the landscape around us is more like the dead sea than a lush garden. But a single trickle of faith can bring forth a flowing river that brings life and faith to an entire region. The world is not dead nor is it dying, it just needs watered! Jesus said in John 7:38, "whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them." As Christians we have a spring of life inside us, waiting for us to allow it to burst forth to be the encouragers of hope, life, and love. Let the waters of God flow forth!

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



IT'S HERE

IT'S VBS  
MONTH!!

## 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](http://WWW.MARS-UP.ORG)**

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

## VBS DECORATING – DINNER WILL BE SERVED

Final Decorating Day before we “dive” in!!!

**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 their 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.

**Meals for VBS Volunteers** – If you would like to help provide a meal or contribute financially to feeding the volunteers who run VBS please contact Jenny Ivory at (724) 713-7050. Meals are served at 5:00pm from July 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Meals should serve roughly 25-30 people.



### **MUP Serving Opportunities –**

Where is God calling you to serve?

- VBS
- Worship in the park
- Sunday School
- Nursery (sign up link below)
- Bulletin folding/mailing
- Newsletter folding/mailing

Speak with Pastor Brian regarding these opportunities and more....

2024 Nursery Sign-up Link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084BA8AA2EABFF2-50185849-nursery>



**Save the date**

**Saturday,**

**August 24**

**2 pm - 8 pm**

**GAMES**

**FOOD TRUCK**

**COMMUNITY**

**Summer Fun Fest**

**@ Mars UP Church**

**More FUN info to come.  
Updates on Facebook  
as more FUN plans are made!!**

**Music -  
Shelley Duff &  
others**

# High School Graduates:

## LAUREN HALEY

Lauren Haley graduated from Mars High School in June, and will be attending Ohio State University in the Fall as a Chemistry major with a scholarship in Law.



## COOPER COURSON

## ADAM MCELHINNY



We pray for guidance and direction for these new grads. Help them to have a tender heart to recognize Your Spirit's leading and to clearly hear when and how You choose to speak. Please make their paths straight and clear, and help them to not lean on their own understanding, but in every way, acknowledge You, knowing You have their best in mind.

(Proverbs 3:5-6).

Father, we pray that they will not lose heart when things look dim, but that they will hold firm to faith that Your timing is perfect.

Thank You, Lord  
for being our Good Shepherd.

# College Graduates:

## SEAN MCELHINNY

## MATTHEW OLSEN

Matthew Olson graduated Summa Cum Laude from Pennsylvania State University in May. He received a Master's Degree and Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, as well as a Minor in Information Systems Management.



During his time at Penn State, he received the President's Freshman and President's Sparks Awards for maintaining a 4.0 GPA in his first two years. Matthew was a mentor in the Accounting Society and Integrated MAcc Program. He also served as a Teaching Assistant and Secretary of the Accounting Society. In his fifth year, he was selected to represent KPMG as their Campus Ambassador. Matthew will begin his career as an audit associate with KPMG in their Pittsburgh office.

## ABIGAIL LOUISE

## STASKIEWICZ

Abigail Staskiewicz graduated from Ohio Northern University with a Doctor of Pharmacy degree. While attending Ohio Northern she played tennis and was active in the pharmacy clubs. Abigail has accepted a position with Walmart as a pharmacist.





# Worship in the Park

Sunday, July 21

Celebrating VBS

Adams Township Park

10 a.m.

Picnic after worship

- ⇒ Hot Dogs and Hamburgers provided.
- ⇒ Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

## **Mission Trip**

Prayers for this mission team as they travel to Pikeville, Kentucky on July 21—26 to serve where God needs them.

**Pastor Brian Hauser    Clayton Ford**

**Steve McDonald    Howard Croop**

Isaiah 6:8

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Prayer:

Father God, Please let the missions within this trip be clear and that each team member will find a unique way to use their spiritual gift. We pray that this team will be kept in good health and safe from harm. We pray for restful sleep while they are there and strength for what their days bring. We pray for flexibility in plans and easy adjustments when needed. We pray for those that will meet this team and that when they do, they see You. We pray that because of this team, people will come to meet, know, and accept You.



# DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time
July 7	Food Bank Collection	
July 9	Stewardship Meeting	7:00pm
July 10	Decorating for VBS—Mars UP	6-8 pm
July 14	Deacon Kindness Collection	
July 14-18	VBS	6-8:20 pm
July 20	Shawn Harmon—Mission visit	TBD
July 21	Worship @ Adams Twp. Park	10 am
July 21-26	Mission Trip - Pikeville, KY	2-8
August 24	Summer Fun Fest	2-8
September 8	Rally Day	

## Scriptures for July:

July 7 — Ezekiel 2:1-5

July 14 — 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

July 21 — Worship in the park to celebrate VBS

July 28 — John 6:1-21



## July Music Listening:

Enjoy these songs on your music app - YouTube, Spotify, Apple music, etc.

**Firm Foundation**

**Faithful God**

## DATES TO KNOW

- ♦ July 10 - Decorating for VBS
- ♦ 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

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](http://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

