

MARS UP CHURCH

AUGUST 2024

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

A Word from the Pastor

Like many American's I have enjoyed watching and cheering for the American athletes at the 2024 Summer Olympics held in Paris, France. I watched in awe as Katie Ledecky finished races half a pool length ahead of other competitors. I celebrated with joy the return of Simone Biles as a testament of the importance of good mental health. In truth, I even enjoyed watching France's Leon Marchand as he won two gold medals in the same day in the pool, a historical feat. The Olympics have a way of bringing the world together to celebrate our similarities and our differences and to bask in the great achievements of the human race. As much as I enjoy the Olympics they are certainly not without controversy. In years past there has been controversy over judges in various sports, controversies over the behavior of athletes who take political stands while representing their home country, controversies of drug use and PEDs and so forth. This year the controversy came early as many in the United States and around the world were displeased with the scene depicted at the opening ceremonies. Now whether the artistic display was meant to resemble Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper or whether it is as the Olympic committee and the individual artist responsible for the event have stated, that the depiction was actually paying homage to Greek mythology and the Feast of Dionysus; is irrelevant to me. It was an artistic work. The fact that it would not be my choice for an artistic display is irrelevant. It is okay that I may not have liked the depiction because I do not have to watch it and I do not have to celebrate or champion it either as an artistic work or

a political statement. I have that right as do all Americans. What has bothered me most is not the event itself or the casual comments from well-meaning Christians voicing their displeasure with the opening ceremonies, but rather the visceral hatred that has come forth from those who call themselves Christians. Even if the depiction using drag queens is of the last supper, even if its intent was to mock our faith, those actions do not give us the right to forgo the teachings of our faith and lash out in hatred or violence. The actors in the portrayal are not evil, they are people, sinners like us sure, but they are people too. They do not deserve death threats. The amount of projected violence toward this event is unacceptable. The scriptures tell us to love our neighbors. Those who make different life choices than us are our neighbors too! Perhaps instead of the uncontrolled outrage from Christians over this event, perhaps instead of boycotting and hating, we should reach out in love, offer forgiveness, and share in grace. Because the Christian movement is not bringing in disciples through our hatred or outrage; the only way to share Christ is by sharing love. Jesus says in Luke 6:37 "Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven." So condemn people 3,800 miles away if you must, but know that we worship a God of love. A God who forgives! A God who refuses to condemn us even when our behavior is abhorrent! This doesn't mean we have to be "okay" with things we find as opposing the Word of God, but as Christians we can do better than uncontrolled outrage, we must do better.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian



SUMMER FUN FEST

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 24
2 - 8 PM**



**MARS UNITED
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
232 CROWE AVE.
MARS, PA 16046**



Scan to see where you can help



CONGRATULATIONS

to the Material Girls for their 1st place ribbon at the Big Butler Fair.

Material girls meet on Wednesday's from 9– 11:30



New Shirts! Only \$10.00

Order your new shirt now by emailing marsup@mars-up.org or signing up in Tarry & Talk.

To have the shirts by our Summer Fun Fest orders need to be in by Tues, Aug. 6.

Pay at pick up.



MUP Serving Opportunities –

Where is God calling you to serve?

- Sunday School
- Nursery (sign up link below)
- Bulletin folding/ mailing
- Newsletter folding/ mailing
- Choir
- Church Life Committee
- Summer Fun Fest

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

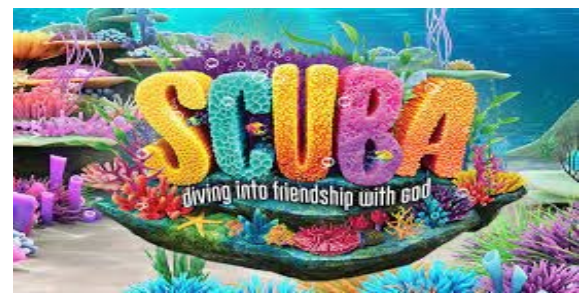
2024 Nursery Sign-up Link

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



Thanks, God!

What a fun and exciting week of VBS diving into friendship with God. 65 students and 50 volunteers shared their friendship with God and each other. We raised \$663.00 for 26 water purification systems.



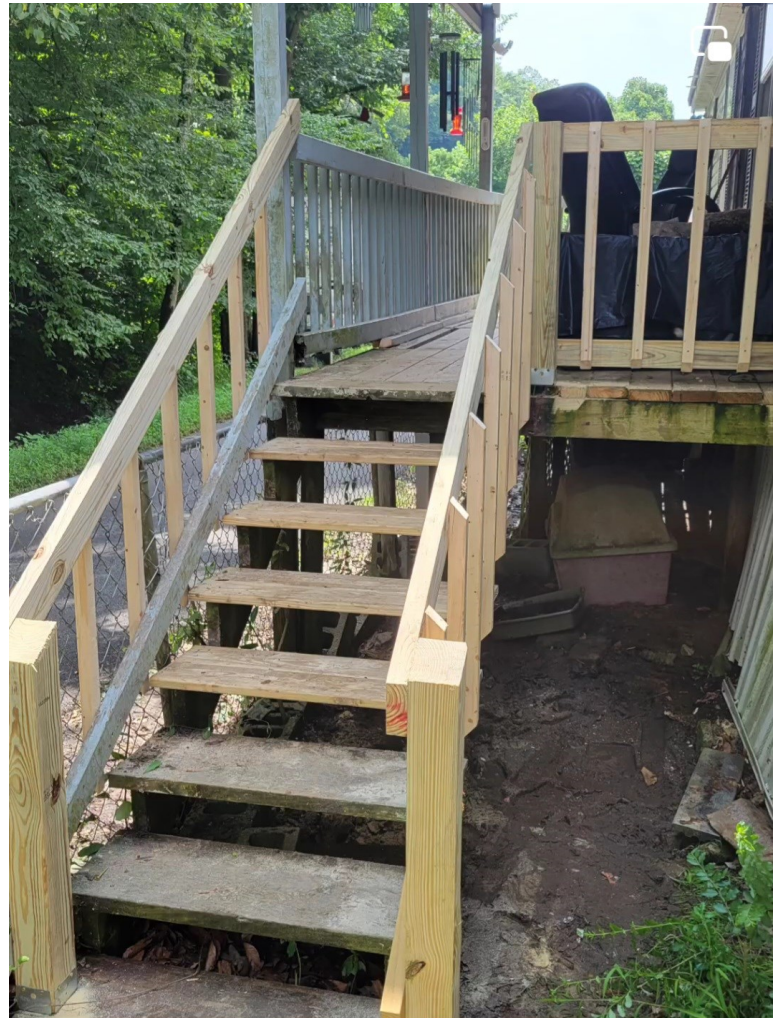
Mission Trip 2024 Pikeville, Kentucky

On Sunday evening we arrived in Pikeville Kentucky and unloaded the truck. Upon arrival our nervousness quickly subsided as the other three groups doing mission work in Pikeville that week quickly welcomed us in and made us feel comfortable. While more details will be coming about our mission work, here is quick overview of the physical projects we accomplished each day. On Monday we went to Jesse's house to finish a siding project that had been started the week prior. Jesse had lost his home to a fire two years ago and is just now getting the finishing touches on his new home. On Tuesday we went to Sandra's home to fix a collapsing floor and to reseal her roof. Wednesday we put skirting around Jennifer's home to keep all the critters from entering and making homes in her insulation. We then went back to Jesse's to try to finish the siding we had been doing only to get rained out after quitting time. On Thursday we fixed and replaced two outside stair cases for Larry and his wife so they could safely enter their home. Larry is undergoing chemo for cancer treatment. On Friday as the other groups packed and headed for home our team took a quick detour to Jesse's to finish the last piece of siding before embarking on the journey back to Mars, PA. Thanks to everyone who was on the trip and who prayed for our mission team. We now ask that you continue your prayers for Jesse, Sandra, Jennifer, and Larry!

Here are some Before & After pic:



**New
Stairs**



Mission Trip 2024 Pikeville, Kentucky

Continued

Siding work



New skirting



New roof



MomsUP

Moms lifting Moms UP

Where: Mars United Presbyterian Church

232 Crowe Avenue, Mars, PA

When: 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month

10 a.m. - Noon

Who: Mothers of kids ages 0-6.

What to Expect:

SMALL GROUPS: to meet other moms and develop new friendships.

CHILDCARE: qualified and loving care for our little ones.

For more information contact

Ashley Hauser.

Cell Phone: 1-814-270-9101

Email:

ashleyhauser90@yahoo.com

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Date	Event	Time
August 5	Serving at Pine Valley	4:30
August 24	Summer Fun Fest	2-8
September 3	MomsUP	10 am
September 8	Church Picnic @ Township Pavilion	10 am
September 15	Sunday School Starts	9 am

Scriptures for August:

August 4 - 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

August 11 - Ephesians 4:25-5:2

August 18 - Ephesians 5:15-20

August 24 - Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

August Music Listening:

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

Touch of Heaven

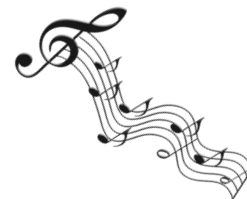
Firm Foundation

Way Maker

Faithful God

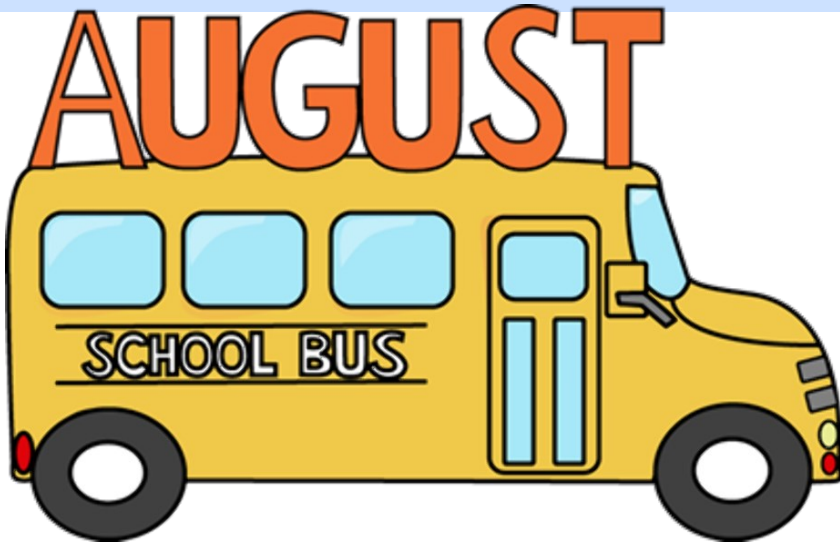
Great are You Lord

All Creatures of our God and King



DATES TO KNOW

- ◆ Prayers for all teachers and students
- ◆ August 24 - SUMMER FUN FEST
- ◆ September 8 - Church Picnic/Rally Day
- ◆ September 15 - Sunday School



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

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