





# the **LINK** **SPRING** **2024**



## **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

### **Valencia Presbyterian Church**

80 Sterrett Street, Valencia, PA 16059  
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Follow Us: @vpcfamly    

**Church Office Hours: 9am - 12pm (M-T-W-F)**

A Message from Our journey through Lent should make us revisit and renew our relationship with Jesus. From this side of the cross we seldom think of Jesus as being fully human. But He was! For me, the most telling example of His humanness was one of the statements He made as He hung on the cross. "I thirst". No doubt His mouth was dry and His human need for water caused Him to call out.



There was a soldier standing at the cross who took action when Jesus said, "I thirst". The soldier dipped a sponge in sour wine and with a hyssop stick touch it to the lips of Jesus. A very human action, a compassionate action, an immediate action. All of us who know this account of the passion of Jesus Christ have imagined being there on that dark Friday afternoon. Perhaps you thought of yourself as just being an observer or one of the disciples who were hiding off in the distance fearing for your life. Or maybe you were one of the two thieves who were hanging beside Jesus. Or Mary watching your son being killed before your eyes.

A young girl was asked who she might be if she were at the event. She said the soldier. She wanted to be the one who touched the lips of Jesus. The one who was filled with compassion and did something about it!

The human Jesus did thirst, but the divine Jesus does thirst. As He hung on the cross His thirst was for the renewal of all humankind, including you and me. That is really what we need in this season of Lent. A renewal of our relationship with Jesus, a renewal of our faith in Him and a renewal of our commitment to His world.

We touch the lips of Jesus when we visit the sick. We touch the lips of Jesus when we console the bereaved. We touch the lips of Jesus when we seek justice in this world. We touch the lips of Jesus when we offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us.

During this season of Lent may you add to this list. A new and personal way of touching the lips of Jesus. And together as the body of Christ may we seek to touch the lips of Jesus.

*Pastor Tom McMeekin*

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### **November 21, 2023**

- MSC 8-0 to approve reports of Session and Deacons
- MSC 9-0 to approve Pastor and Ministry Reports
- Online Vote - MSC 7-0 to approve Ellen Campbell to provide pulpit supply for 11/19/23. Pay to come out of Pastor Tom's salary.
- MSC 9-0 to retroactively approve the nominees for 2024 boards. The nominees were coordinated after the last meeting.
- MSC 9-0 to schedule Ordination/Installation of Officers for 12/17/23.
- MSC 9-0 to approve Mike Pasquinelli at Treasurer for 2024.
- MSC 9-0 to approve Aaron Yurek as Clerk of Session for 2024.
- MSC 9-0 to approve adding Annamary McMullen to the list of those approved for transacting business with Mars Bank.



### **December 12, 2023**

- MSC 6-0 to approve reports of the Session, Treasurer and Pastor
- MSC 7-0 to approve Ministry Reports
- MSC 6-0 to elect Ed Walter, Sr as Presbytery Commissioner for 2024
- MSC 7-0 to remove Bev Riale from active membership and send letter of transfer to Hampton Presbyterian Church
- MSC 7-0 to approve communion dates for 2024

### **January 16, 2024**

- MSC 9-0 to approve reports of Session, Deacons and Treasurer
  - MSC 9-0 to approve a combined VBS with Mars UP, St. John's Lutheran and VPC July 14-18, 2024
  - MSC 9-0 to approve having a combined worship service at Adams Twp Park on July 21, 2024 (VBS Sunday)
  - Online Vote - MSC 6-0 to approve removal of Gloria Utz from membership via Letter of Transfer to Old Union Church
  - MSC 9-0 to Approve Statistical report
  - MSC 9-0 to approve nominating team chair – Ed Walter
  - MSC 9-0 to approve Aaron Yurek nominating team elder representative
  - MSC 9-0 to approve Officer Training on February 17, 2024, 8-10 am
  - MSC 9-0 to renew Transitional Coach contract for Rev. Jim Steiner for term of 6 months and Transitional Pastor contract for Pastor Tom McMeekin for a term of 1 year.
  - MSC 9-0 to approve Pastor Tom McMeekin hosting a New Members class, if there is interest
  - MSC 9-0 to approve recognizing Ken & Linda Trautman leading music at VPC for 11 years.
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## per capita Information

The 2024 per capita apportionment for Valencia Presbyterian Church is \$4,066.40. The amount is based on our 2022 membership of 92 at \$44.20 per member. The distribution is as follows: \$32.00 to Beaver-Butler Presbytery, \$2.40 to the Synod of the Trinity, and \$9.80 to the General Assembly for a total of \$44.20.

To be fair to all the churches of our presbytery and to meet our covenantal obligation to all governing councils, we encourage each member to pay their portion of \$44.20.

You may make your donation by using the special envelope in your 2024 box of contribution envelopes. If you do not have a special envelope, you may use a regular envelope by marking it PER CAPITA and/or mark it on your check if that is how you are making your donation.

Thank you in advance for participating in this ministry.

Your Administrative Team

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## Valencia Presbyterian Church

### Silent Host Program

All persons attending worship at Valencia Presbyterian Church are invited to become a part of the SILENT HOST PROGRAM. There are no meetings to attend. All you need to do is to pledge to God and yourself to do the following:

- I pledge to meet and greet visitors at worship services and special events.
  - I will invite them to fellowship time after services and introduce them to other members.
  - If practical, I will offer them a tour of our facilities (sanctuary, fellowship hall, nursery, library, office, classrooms, restrooms).
  - I will invite them to Sunday School, Bible Study or any special youth or adult program they may fit into.
  - I will inquire where they live and where they work, if applicable, or where they go to school.
  - I will encourage them to return to worship with us again.
  - I will invite family members, friends and neighbors to come and worship God with me at Valencia Presbyterian Church.
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# Lenten Lunches

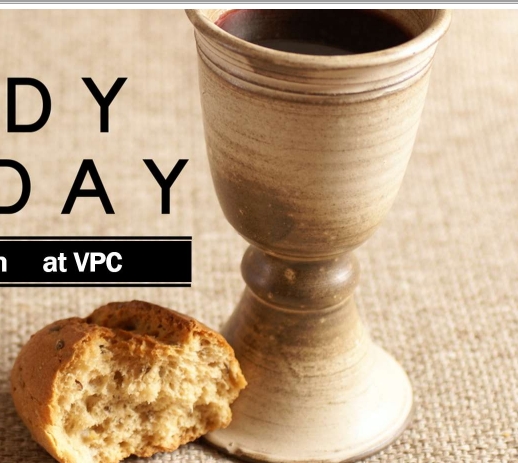


**Fridays @ 12 noon**  
**February 16 – March 29**  
*(see dates for locations)*  
*Meal followed by speaker.*

- 02/16 – at Mars UP Church  
*(232 Crowe Ave., Mars, PA 16046)*  
Rev. Katie McNeal
- 02/23 – at Pen Mar Plaza  
*(Pittsburgh St., Mars, PA 16046)*  
Rev. Brian Hauser
- 03/01 – at St. John Lutheran Church  
*(420 Beaver St., Mars, PA 16046)*  
Mayor Greg Hartung
- 03/08 – at Pen Mar Plaza  
*(Pittsburgh St., Mars, PA 16046)*  
Rev. Paul Aiello
- 03/15 – at St. John Lutheran Church  
*(420 Beaver St., Mars, PA 16046)*  
Chaplain Jimmy Fong
- 03/22 – at Pen Mar Plaza  
*(Pittsburgh St., Mars, PA 16046)*  
Pasto Jim Gascoine
- 03/29 – at Mars UP Church  
*(232 Crowe Ave., Mars, PA 16046)*  
Rev. Dr. Peter deVries

# MAUNDY THURSDAY

**March 28, 2024 7:00 pm at VPC**



# EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

*March 31<sup>st</sup> - 10:00 am*

Valencia Presbyterian Church  
In-Person & Online

*Want to learn more about what Valencia Presbyterian Church is all about?*

*Interested in becoming a member?*

## SPRING 2024 NEW MEMBER CLASS

Date TBD - Contact Pastor Tom or the church office if you are interested or have any questions.

Pastor Tom would like to hold a New Member Class this Spring. No date has been set yet, but if you are interested in learning more about VPC or becoming a member, please contact either Pastor Tom or the church office.

### EVERY OTHER SUNDAY

*(during worship in F. Hall)*

**Upcoming Dates: 3/3, 3/17, 3/31,  
4/14, 4/28, 5/12**

# KIDS ROCK

**REACHING OUT FOR CHRIST'S KINGDOM**



Kids Reaching Out for Christ's Kingdom (Kids R.O.C.K.) is a special worship time for children of all ages that occurs every other week, during Sunday morning worship, from September to May. Specific dates are posted on the VPC calendar. Children are dismissed, under adult supervision, for a portion of the worship service to participate in an interactive Bible lesson and related activity.

# MIDWEEK MEAL

*with a Message*

**DIG IN**



K-8<sup>th</sup> grade  
F. Hall

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

January 10 – April 10

Dinner & Fellowship  
6:00 – 6:45pm

Bible Study (K-8 & Teen/Adult)  
7:00 – 8:00pm

RSVP & Donation Requested



Teens/Adults  
Sanctuary

FEED THE BODY

FEED THE SOUL

Join us for one of our many Bible Studies  
that are held throughout the week.

**Women's Bible Study**  
Sundays @ 8:45am  
Fellowship Hall  
Contact: Crystal Yurek

**Men's Bible Study**  
Saturdays @ 7:00am  
VPC Lounge / Zoom  
Contact: Aaron Yurek

**BIBLE STUDIES**

**Women's Study/Fellowship**  
Thursdays @ 11:00am  
VPC Lounge  
Contact: Annamary McMullen

**Senior's Bible Study**  
Wednesdays @ 10:30am  
Woodlands of St. Barnabas  
Contact: Tom McMeekin

## VPC SCHOLARSHIP

High school seniors who are active members of VPC, may wish to apply for a \$500 scholarship offered by VPC. Applications will be mailed in April 2024 to be returned to Annamary McMullen at VPC by May 1, 2024. Anyone with questions should contact Annamary or any member of the Administrative Team.

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## MARCH

- 1 Mike Tenos
- 12 Cathy Fordenbacher
- 13 Beverly Matesic
- 20 Tyler Hays
- 21 Kelly King
- 22 Madison King
- 22 Alexis Pahlman
- 23 Isaac Ellis
- 28 Brian Yurek

## APRIL

- 3 Rae Anne Bosnyak
- 3 Logan Walter
- 5 Ruth Ann McCraley
- 5 Cassie Tenos
- 13 Mike Pasquinelli
- 14 Sarah Cline
- 16 Jaden Pasquinelli
- 20 Jenna Halenda
- 27 Michael Gill
- 27 Avery Roda
- 28 John Bosnyak
- 29 Grace Roda
- 30 Carla Rankin

## MAY

- 1 Max Pasquinelli
- 2 Corey Owens
- 6 Jim Schaeffer
- 8 Annamary McMullen
- 15 Nancy Chambers
- 15 JoAnn Wamsley
- 16 Rev. Jim Steiner
- 16 Aaron Yurek
- 17 Nancy Schaeffer
- 27 Karen Owens
- 31 Bill Rankin

## MARCH

Brian and Kelly King March 1, 1997  
Alex and Katie Gill March 5, 2011  
Rev. Jim and Kathy Kirk March 10, 1979  
Ed and Rebecca Walter March 17, 2001

## APRIL

Bill and Carla Rankin April 10, 1985

## MAY

John and Karen Peterman May 3, 1963  
John and RuthAnn McCraley May 5, 1984  
Aaron and Crystal Yurek May 21, 2005

## ***Marilyn Herbster***

*Born into this life on May 28, 1932  
United with this congregation on July 20, 2008  
Ordained as a Deacon on January 10, 2010  
Entered into eternal life on February 2, 2024*



## ***Janice Readshaw***

*Born into this life on December 26, 1932  
Entered into eternal life on February 24, 2024*