



From time to time political discussions and church teachings become intermeshed to the point they require comment. Most of you know that I try to stay out of the political arena when speaking from the pulpit or when sending official church communication like church newsletters, but I have been asked recently about my feelings on the pause of USAID dollars to other countries. Here is my response:

In truth I do not know enough about USAID to offer a definitive opinion, but according to their mission statement USAID's mission is: "We partner to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity." Ending extreme poverty is a good thing! I remember reading something in the scriptures about caring for the most vulnerable in society, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, caring for the widow and orphan, giving alms, and generally lifting up those ravished by famine, war, or drought. I do not know anyone who believe that poverty is a good thing, whether it is within our borders or abroad. That said I don't know if the agency was accomplishing this mission. I don't know if there was waste, fraud, or abuse, I simply do not have the ability to fully research or understand a multi-billion-dollar agency to evaluate its effectiveness in caring for the most vulnerable peoples of the earth. I believe America is big enough and wealthy enough that we can help peoples around the world. I believe we can and should be a generous nation, but I do not know enough about USAID. Probably USAID accomplished good and bad things. And so in truth, I cannot speak intelligently on this political debate except to say that caring for those experiencing poverty is a good thing and we should do more of it.

Which brings me to the conclusion I have arrived at. I can find no where in the scriptures where it says, "give unto Caesar so that Caesar can feed the hungry"; I do however remember Jesus' words to the disciples, "you feed them" (Mark 6:37).

I remember Jesus saying to the chosen sheep "when I was naked you clothed me...just as you did to the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me" (Matthew 25:36-40)

It is certainly possible that the lives of children and others will be worsened by the decision of our government to pause USAID spending, and if that is the case it is sad and tragic. But as Christians we cannot and should not wait for our government or any government when it comes to helping those who are in need. Whether it is a family up the street living on welfare or a mom and her children fleeing from Ukraine, or a man starving because crops didn't grow in Nigeria, or South Sudan, or Somalia; we are called to feed them, to clothe them, to heal those who are sick, visit those who are lonely, care for and love them. This is our job, our calling, this is what Jesus told us to do and we should do it, alongside every other Christian whose faith teaches the importance of caring for the vulnerable and downtrodden. I know it is a daunting task. How can small churches across the US possibly feed the 30 million people living in famine areas today or the roughly 700 million people who experience hunger regularly in the world?

We do it by remembering that we are not alone. By remembering that Christ is with us! The same Christ who fed thousands with a few loaves of bread and two fish; and we have a lot more to offer than that little boy's lunch. We must set to work, do what we can, love our neighbors here and abroad and work for the well-being of all people. Perhaps this is an opportunity for the church to rise to the occasion and for Christ to work. Perhaps this is a chance for us to fulfill our calling, and truly be the global church that Christ intended for us to be! As Jesus said, "You feed them"! I pray tonight that hunger would cease, that poverty would be eradicated, and that Christ would be glorified through it all! It's time to work, time to serve, time to share, and time to love! It is time to feed Christ's sheep!

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

Palm SUNDAY

Make plans to be at Mars UP on
Sunday, April 13 at 10 am -

- Children's Bell Choir
- Palm Sunday worship
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Lunch provided

MARS UP CHURCH'S ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT

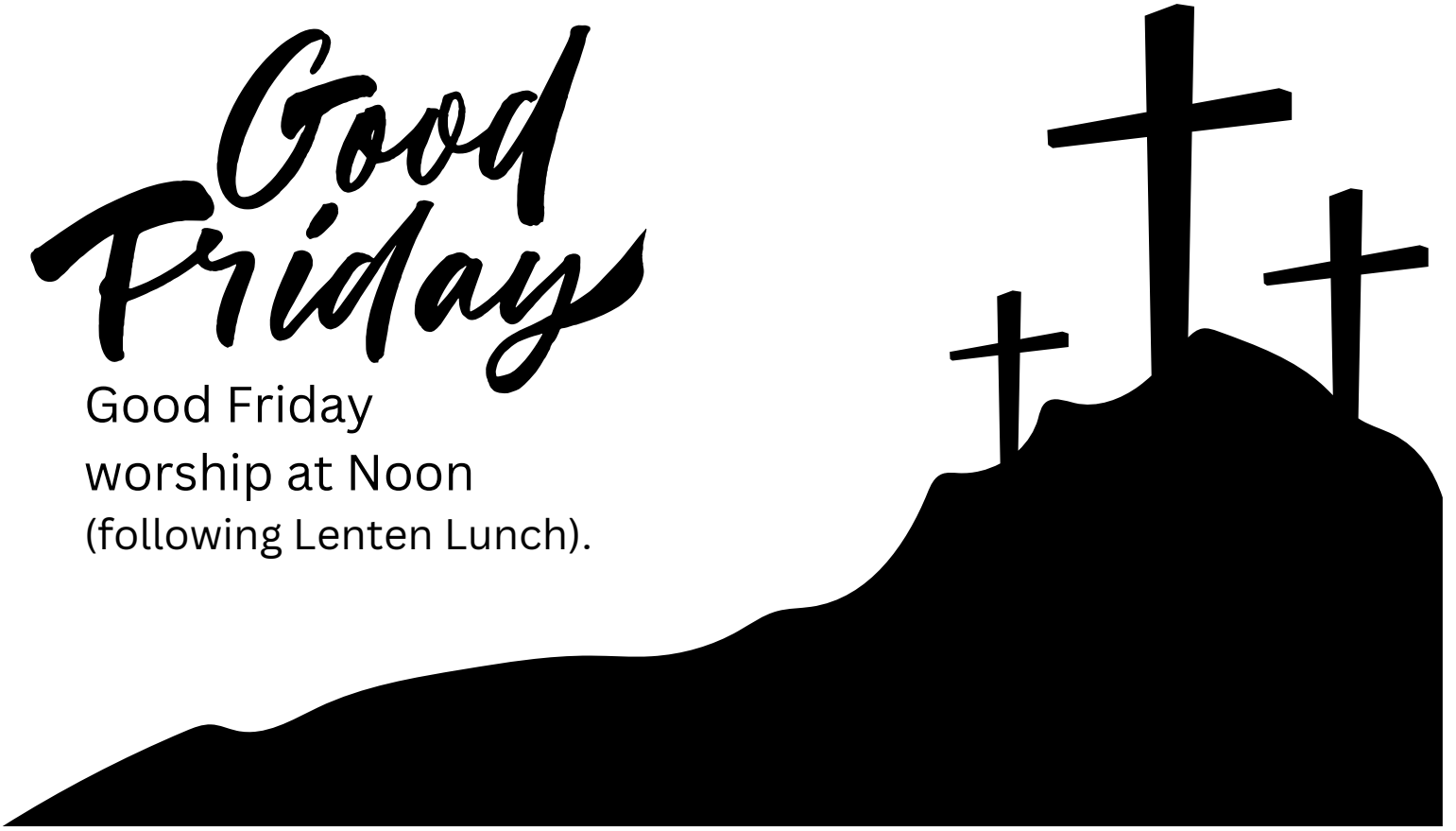
SUNDAY, APRIL 13 @ 11:30 AM

- ALL AGES WELCOME
- BRING YOUR OWN BASKET
- OVER 1,000 EGGS
- HOT DOG LUNCH PROVIDED

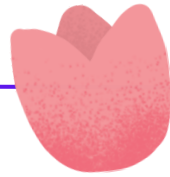


Good Friday

Good Friday
worship at Noon
(following Lenten Lunch).



Happy Easter!



Easter Worship
Sunday, April 20
@ 10 am



Invite a friend, neighbor,
or family to share our hope
and joy as Easter people.

He
is
Risen



Lenten LUNCHES

Friday's @ noon



April 4 @ St. John

April 11 @ Penn Mar -hosted by MUP

April 18 @ MUP

Thank you to everyone who helps make the Lenten Luncheons a special time for our churches and community.

Music in worship:

The choir is sharing in worship -

Palm Sunday - "One Thousand Hosanna"

Easter Sunday - "Resurrection Victory"



Psalm 96:1:

"Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day."



Community VBS

TRUE NORTH

Trusting Jesus In A Wild World

Sunday, July 13 -

Thursday, July 17, 2025

from 6:00 - 8:20 pm

Sunday, July 13 - All families are invited to begin their TRUE NORTH adventure with a Hot Dog Social at **5:00pm** in Fellowship Hall at Mars UP

Registration is open



MY School Preschool awesome updates

Wonderful things happen at My School Preschool:

In our effort to help beyond our doors the preschool, partnered with MUP and raised a total of \$1,222.15 this year during our Pennies for Paws week. All proceeds benefit the Butler County Human Society.

Also, we would like to thank the A-Team for their continued support of things that need attention at the preschool. A special thank you to Steve for replacing the faucets in the teacher's bathroom which will save money on the water bill in the future.

Here is a great opportunity for 2-3 year olds - Preschool Prep Class. Please share this with friends and family who could benefit from this great experience.

Love,
Heidi S. Beahm
Director, My School Preschool

2025-2026
Sept. - April

**Register
NOW!**



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

GIVING & SERVING *OPPORTUNITIES*

GIVING -

Candy for the Easter Eggs

We are accepting donations of candy that we will use to stuff the Easter Eggs for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 13. Donations can be dropped off at Tarry & Talk and labeled Easter Eggs.

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

It's definitely not too early to be thinking of warm summer evenings at camp. For generations, church camp has been a place where kids make life changing decisions to be in a relationship with Jesus.

SERVING -

Moms UP, Sunday School, & Nursery

Share the love of Jesus with the little ones in our children's programs. The time commitment for these programs range from 1 - 3 hours, weekly, and bi weekly.

Bulletins & Newsletters

This is an outreach ministry to the church and some of our homebound participants. Notes and well wishes added to the weekly mailings share the love of God with those in our church family who receive these items by mail.

CREDO

Pastor Brian is attending CREDO from April 2nd-April 7th

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sponsors Presbyterian CREDO conferences so that PC(USA) ministers may cultivate wholeness — their spiritual, vocational, health, and financial well-being — to better serve the Church.

What is CREDO, you may ask?

CREDO is an in-person, weeklong conference focused on ministers' wholeness and well-being. Each CREDO conference is led by a team of experienced faculty who guide participants in a visioning and discernment process through four key areas of well-being: spiritual, vocational, physical and emotional health, and financial.

Invitations typically go out in late summer to open registration for the following year's conferences. Seats are limited to 29 participants per conference, and they fill quickly on a first-come, first-served basis.

This year Pastor Brian was accepted as a participant!

Please pray for safe travel and a renewing conference for Pastor Brian!



Dates for your Calendar

Date	Event	Time
March 30	Youth Group & Kid's Club	1-2:30 pm
March 31 - April 14	Lenten Bible study	7:00 pm
April 4	Lenten Luncheon @ St. John's	Noon
April 11	Lenten Luncheon @ Penn Mar	Noon
April 13	Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt	
April 18	Lenten Lunch @ Mars	Noon
April 18	Good Friday Service	Following Lunch
April 20	Easter Sunrise @ Adams Twp. Park	6:30 am
April 20	Easter Worship - MUP Sanctuary	10 am
May 4	Youth Sunday @ MUP	10 am



Directory Pictures: If you have any pictures of church activities, programs, etc. that could be used in the ministry pages of the directory, please email a digital copy of them to marsup@mars-up.org. It's also not too late to submit your family photo if you did not have it taken by the photographer.

DATES TO KNOW

- March 30, April 13, April 27 - Youth Group
- March 31 - April 14 - Lenten Bible Study, 7 pm
- April 4 - Lenten Luncheon @ St. John
- April 11 - Lenten Luncheon @ Penn Mar
- April 18 - Lenten Luncheon @ MUP
- April 18 - Good Friday Service - following luncheon
- April 20 - Easter Sunrise, 6:30 am @ Adams Twp. Park
- April 20 - Easter Worship, 10 am in Sanctuary
- Visit our website for a full color, extended 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

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