



My mother owns a camp outside of Dubois, PA where my family likes to visit in the summer for weekend getaways and of course during hunting season. It isn't too far from Parker Dam which has proven to be a great place to take the kids to play on the sandy beach. For the past few years I have been maintaining the outside, mowing the grass, clearing fallen trees, etc., but since my father got sick the inside has been largely neglected. As a result there are a number of projects that have built up over time that are now requiring my brother and I's attentions. In particular the bathroom is in desperate need of a makeover. The cold winter nights and dirt and dust of time have led to a drippy faucet, a dilapidated shower, and commode that is only partially attached to the floor. Had proper care and maintenance been done for the past six years, none of these would be a big deal, but now it is turning into quite a project due to neglect.

This reminds me of our spiritual gifts, abilities, and other gifts from God. If we cease using them, they begin to erode and deteriorate, much like the camp. If we do not continue to hon our skills and spiritual gifts we will inevitably lose them. In the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14-30 we learn how God entrusts three people with special gifts to be used for the glory of God. Some of those servants use those gifts for God's purposes and glory, subsequently doubling that which they were first entrusted with. One hides the gift, keeping it stuffed away where no one can see it or benefit from it. When the master comes back that one is stripped of the gift they had been given and cast away. The lesson is clear, we should use the gifts God gives us for the glory and kingdom of God.

Of course, we do not always use our God given gifts. There are two main excuses that I hear most frequently as to why people are unwilling to serve in the various opportunities the church offers for service to God. The first is the refrain, "I'm too busy"; and I get it, we are all busy. I sometimes wonder about priorities, but I know lives are busy and volunteering at the church can seem like a big commitment.

Never-the-less there are always ways to get involved, even for those with limited availability. The second excuse I hear most often is this, "I've been there and done that, my time of helping is past". I sympathize with this mindset because in American culture we value the idea of retirement, of working for a time so that one can enjoy the fruits of their labors. The problem is that retirement is not a biblical concept. We don't get to stop being Christians or stop serving God when we reach a certain age. Indeed the work of Christ continues! It is okay to step aside to provide opportunities to others, it is great to train and help younger generations to take up the mantle passed from saints of old, but it is not okay to hide the gifts of God in an inner vault where they can wither and decay.

We all have gifts and abilities given to us by God. We must use those gifts, tend to them, nurture them, maintain them; or we will lose them and worse lose our connection to God. This month I invite you to consider what gifts you have that are not being used for the glory of God. Maybe you have a talent for working with children, great we can use more volunteers. Maybe your gift is musical in nature, great we can use volunteers. Maybe you have a gift for numbers and business sense, great we can use volunteers. Maybe you can bake or cook, great we can use volunteers. There are countless ways and opportunities to use the gifts God has entrusted to you for God's glory, but you have to use them! Neglecting the gifts of God will only lead to their demise. And the bigger problem with that is not the loss of a particular gift, it is the loss of heightened relationship with Christ that will be missed. Like everything, our gifts must be tended to, otherwise you'll end up with a broken faith that will require more effort to fix than it would have been to maintain and grow. Don't end up with a dilapidated camp bathroom kind of faith! Use it, use your gifts! Trust in God! Serve God now! Serve God always!

Blessings,
Pastor Brian

ASH WEDNESDAY



Mars UP will offer a Walk-In-Communion service on **March 5**.

Walk-in communion offers you the chance to begin the season of Lent with a meaningful and personal celebration of Communion.

Arrive anytime between **5:30 pm and 6:45 pm**.

Approximately every 15 minutes there will be a time of communion.

When you arrive, a hand out will be available with prayers and scripture.

You will be invited forward to partake in communion and the imposition of ashes if you would like. This has traditionally been a very meaningful time of preparing our hearts for the Lenten season.

Please invite friends and family to join you.

Lenten **LUNCHES**

Friday's
3/7 - 4/18
NOON

March 7 @ MUP

March 14 @ Penn Mar - hosted by MUP

March 21 @ St. John

March 28 @ Penn Mar - hosted by St. John

April 4 @ St. John

April 11 @ Penn Mar - hosted by MUP

April 18 @ MUP

CLEAN UP DAY

MARCH 9



Spring is in the air - so is spring cleaning! We will be working together on Sunday, March 9 after worship to clean, discard, organize, and do all things that equal spring cleaning. Join us for work, fun, fellowship, and of course - Pizza!!

Children's Bell Choir



Mars UP and My School Preschool

Would like to invite your child to learn simple music skills using a fun, interactive, hands on approach. Children ages three and up are welcome to join this years Bell Choir! There is no cost to join.

Rehearsal on Wednesdays

March 19th

March 26th

April 2nd

April 9th

Rehearsal Time

4:15-5:00pm

Performance Date

Sunday April 13th

10:00am @

Mars UP Sanctuary



Those interested can sign up by contacting Pastor Brian (Pastor@mars-UP.org) or Heidi Beahm. This is not just for preschool aged children, older children are encouraged to participate too! To register we will need child's name, age, and parent/guardian contact information

shred event



Shred-It Event

Saturday, March 15

9:00am - 12:00pm

Beaver-Butler

Presbytery Office

Sunday March 16



Join us Sunday morning, March 16 as we hear from Greg Nichols, our ministry partner with Great Europe Mission.



MY School Preschool awesome updates

Our annual hoagie fundraiser will begin March 9th and conclude March 30th. Hoagies will be ready for pick up on Tuesday, April 8th, or Wednesday, April 9th starting at 9 am. Those ordering are welcome to select which day they prefer to pick their hoagies up.

What are we up to at preschool in March? Lots of things!

We have a reading specialist visiting with our teachers during our in-service day.

Our 5-year-old class will be visiting Succop Nature Park for a field trip to learn about Maple Sugaring.

Mrs. Kelly's class will celebrate moms with their annual Muffins for Mom event.

Our registration went well this year! We only have a few openings in our 3-year-old afternoon class.

Registration is closed for all of our other preschool classes but we offer a waiting list at no cost to join.

We are accepting registrations for our 25-26 preschool prep class at this time. The prep class is a unique opportunity for 2-year-olds to attend school with an adult.

We have seen such confidence in the students who attend the prep class. They learn quickly that MUPC is a safe place for them to grow and learn and they will be loved and cared for here.

We are blessed to be part of a ministry that reaches so many children and families and provides a great foundation for their future.

Love,

Heidi S. Beahm

Director, My School Preschool

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.

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

Coming
in April

MARS UP CHURCH'S ANNUAL

EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY, APRIL 13 @ 11:30 AM

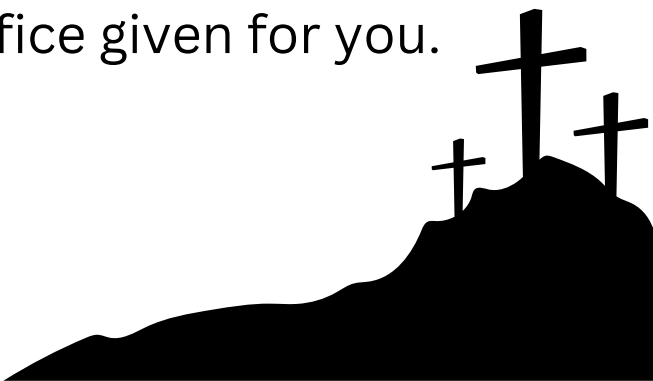
- ALL AGES WELCOME
- BRING YOUR OWN BASKET
- OVER 1,000 EGGS
- HOT DOG LUNCH PROVIDED



Good Friday

Good Friday
worship at Noon.

A time to reflect on the
sacrifice given for you.



Happy Easter!

Join us in worship
Sunday, April 20
@ 10 am

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



Dates for your Calendar



Date	Event	Time
March 2	Youth Group & Kid's Club	1-2:30
March 5	Ash Wednesday- Walk in Communion Service	5:30 - 6:45 pm
March 9	Church Clean up/out Day	After Worship
March 10 - April 14	Lenten Bible Study	5:30-7 pm
March 15	Shred It event @ Presbytery	9-Noon
March 16	Greater Europe Mission	Worship
March 16	Youth Group Special Event	
March 19	Pastor Brian's Birthday	
March 30	Youth Group & Kid's Club	1-2:30
April 13	Palm Sunday/Easter Egg Hunt	
April 18	Good Friday	Noon
April 20	Easter Sunday	

Monday's - March 10 - April 14 - 5:30 - 7 pm

1. March 10 Creation (both accounts, Genesis 1-2)
2. March 17 Abraham and Sarah will have a son (Genesis 18, 21)
3. March 24 Isaac blessing Jacob (Genesis 27)
4. March 31 Joseph's rough start in Egypt (Genesis 39-41)
5. April 7 Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1-2)
6. April 14 The Origin of our Faith stories, What's next

Lenten
BIBLE
STUDY

DATES TO KNOW

- March 5 - Ash Wednesday
- March 9 - Clean Up Day
- March 10 Lenten Bible Study begins
- March 16 Greater Europe Missions in worship
- March 16 Youth Group
- 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

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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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