



The TRUMPET

April 2021

A publication of the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock, CT 06244

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster Director of Christian Education: Louise Labbe-Fahy

Youth Group Director: Anne Sorensen Music Director/Organist: Nancy Ducharme

Bell Choir Director: Andrew Tomkins Office Manager: Heidi Tucker churchoffice@eastwoodstockchurch.org

Office: 860-928-7449 Residence: 860-928-7145 Email: ewccpastor@gmail.com

Website: www.eastwoodstockchurch.org

The Trumpet deadline is the 20th of every month!



PASTOR'S CORNER

Unrecognizable

When Jesus emerged from the tomb, no one recognized him. Mary mistook him for the gardener. The disciples drew back in fear because they thought he was a ghost. The believers fleeing Jerusalem spent a long, dusty day with Jesus walking toward Emmaus but it never occurred to them that they were speaking with their Savior.

Resurrection will do that. New beginnings can be like that. Sometimes that fresh start is so new, so different that there is little resemblance to what was.

Jesus made several resurrection appearances – outside the tomb, on the road, in the disciples' locked room, by the lake. He spoke to believers and people who knew him best. And yet every single time people wondered, "Is this the Lord?" Understandable, you may say, because they all witnessed his gruesome death on the Cross. And yet it was more than questioning the facts. They were not prepared for this turn of events. This new reality – a living, breathing, resurrected Christ – would challenge their assumptions and overturn their expectations. This post-Easter Jesus was inviting on a new path of discovery and revelation.

It makes me wonder about our post-pandemic experience. What will be new and different? What old patterns have been disrupted? What will we need to leave

behind? What has been taken away and what have we gained?

Just like the disciples, our lives have been disrupted by a life-changing event. Just like the disciples, we were sad, we were scared, we were uncertain. And just like the disciples, we did not always behave in honorable or rational ways. A crisis rarely brings out the best in everyone.

As we emerge from the pandemic we recognize that our lives are different. We are different.

While that is not necessarily a bad thing, it does demand that we open our eyes and spirits so we don't miss what is new. We don't want to miss those resurrection appearances and the invitations to new life and hope.

Our pre-pandemic lives and our "business as usual" lifestyles are in the past. Now might be a good time to wonder and ask questions.

What new things is God doing?

What new direction might God be leading us?

How will we be surprised by where God is appearing?

Will we recognize God?

God was not on "hold" while we endured the pandemic. Instead, the God of resurrection journeyed with us to make all things new – including us.

Our new circumstances and new attitudes and new experiences may be initially unrecognizable. But we can be certain – God is in that place.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

The following are the scriptures for the month of April:

You are invited to read them as part of your daily devotions and as preparation for worship.

April 4 (Easter)

Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Isaiah 25:6-9
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18
Mark 16:1-8

April 11

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

April 18

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:3b-48

April 25

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18



Worship News

Join us online on Facebook Live for worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Recordings of the service can be found on the church's Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

April 1: Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm service online

April 2: Good Friday 12:00 pm service online

April 4: Easter Sunday

6:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service behind the Woodstock Academy. Park in the main parking lot and walk to the back of the building. Face masks are required.

10:00 a.m. Easter service on Facebook Live. Enjoy the music of our bell choir and adult choir (also known as the Vaccinated Vocalists ☺)

April 11: Second Sunday Outreach Moment – learn more about the important work of our Outreach Committee

April 18:

April 25:

Study ^{the} Bible
with us



A mid-week opportunity for conversation, coffee, learning, and laughter.

Give yourself the gift of time...

Wednesday morning study group 10:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome!



You are invited to “Virtual”
Holy Week Services

Join us “virtual” services on Facebook Live and YouTube.

Service of Tenebrae. Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm:

The word “tenebrae” means shadow. Hear the story of Jesus’ final hours as he chooses to let the shadow of death overcome him. This is a quiet, moving service when God’s love and willingness to give his Son for us is made clear.

Good Friday Prayers. Friday, April 2

Our sanctuary will be open for individual prayer and reflection.

Easter Sunday. April 4, 6:00 am Sunrise Service
(behind Woodstock Academy)

“On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb...and found the stone rolled away from the tomb”.

Come and celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ in the beauty of the early morning. This is an outdoor, in-person service. Face masks must be worn.

10:00 am Worship on Facebook Live:

Celebration of the Resurrection! Let us sing our praises to God and give thanks for the gift of forgiveness and new life



We welcome Danielle Arnett Keller as our substitute minister during Pastor Sue's sabbatical (May 1 – August 31)!

Danielle Arnett Keller is in her final year at Boston University School of Theology pursuing a Master of Divinity. Pre-pandemic she would commute from Brunswick, Maine on the 4:30 AM train. These days she attends class through Zoom while her children, Max age 13 and Oliver age 10, cavort in the background with her cat, Captain Poof Duster, making occasional appearances. Her husband of twenty-four years, Aaron, is the only member of the family who does not join in as he is busy teaching high school chemistry or cooking dinner. She is a member of First Parish Church in Brunswick where she has served as a deacon. She was approved as a Member in Discernment in the Cumberland Association of the United Church of Christ in March 2017. Although Danielle grew up in Maine she is no stranger to Woodstock as her mom, Beverly Child Arnett, was born and raised there. Every holiday weekend and the occasional week in the summer would find Danielle and her family in Woodstock. She was the only grandchild who would get up with her Grandmother, Inza Child, to attend the Easter Sunrise service, perhaps because it meant that she got a jump on Easter chocolate. East Woodstock Congregational Church has been her family's church for as long as it has been around and it continues to be her extended family's church home. Family stories include her Grandmother's recounting of the hurricane that toppled the steeple into the sanctuary. Danielle and her family typically spend summers camping and hiking in Maine, but this year she is looking forward to jumping into Pond Factory every afternoon to cool off. She is excited to continue on the journey towards ordained ministry while serving the community of EWCC this summer.



Senior High School Scholarship

A scholarship is awarded each year to a student who is associated with EWCC and is pursuing their education in the field of ministry or in a field related to human services/social services such as teaching, nursing, social work, etc.



Applications are available for download on the church website Outreach page or in the church office and are due back by May 1st.

Outreach Committee News



Pam Brown, the Outreach Liaison with ‘Covenant to Care’ shared information at the March 14 Church Service about EWCC ‘Covenant to Care’ and our congregation’s gracious compassion and caring. Thank you.

- Outreach welcomed Catherine Haugh, who runs the “Adopt a Social Worker” program with CT ‘Covenant to Care for Children’ at our March meeting. She shared information and questions with the committee and explained how COVID has made an impact on the work of Covenant to Care.
- Even with the restrictions of the pandemic, some creative things have been accomplished. DCF is being very careful to do things according to the worker’s comfort levels which impacts some of the work. During this past Christmas holiday, Covenant to Care was able to serve 1600 children (beyond the matched sets of children through Covenant).
- Catherine noted that what our church has accomplished during the past year is very significant given the times. She recognized that it is difficult to do this work when we cannot be together.
- Catherine presented some of the current needs, especially Teens are often a forgotten tribe and when they are put into foster care; they usually need socks and underwear.

Generous Donations: Outreach has received an anonymous donation of \$1,000 to assist individuals with their heating needs at this difficult time. A note of appreciation also goes out to Seth & Detta Spalding for their gracious donation of a cord of wood to help with the heating assistance.

Freezer Meals: Outreach freezer is fully stocked thanks to Linda Felt and Karen Ryker. Please let Paster Sue know if you know of someone who may benefit from the comfort and support of a freezer meal.

Prayer Shawls: With kindness and compassion, a travel friend of Karen McFarlin donated 14 shawls.



Caring Continues: Outreach continues to collect Tuna and Jelly in plastic containers for the Caring Continue Ministry that provides bags of food to Woodstock Families through the public schools.

WAIM, Windham Area Interfaith Ministry: Andy Krofina has agreed to be our official delegate to WAIM. A warm and sincere thanks to Karen Ryker for her years of dedicated advocacy and leadership.



TEEG Pajama Donation: Thanks to the generous donations of church members and an additional nine pajamas by Outreach, 39 pairs of pajamas were delivered to TEEG. Thanks to Lynn Hescheles for purchasing and delivering!

March Donations Approved:

*UCC Disaster Fund (Texas)	\$400.00
*One Great Hour of Sharing (Church World Service)	\$400.00

Heating Needs

Outreach has been blessed with additional funds by several generous caring donors to assist those who need a little help with their heating needs. We know it can be difficult to ask for help but please be reassured all information will be kept confidential. Please contact Pastor Sue if you or someone you know could benefit from this support. Here is another example of responding when people need help.

Thank you - Easter Baskets



Thank you for helping spread the Easter Message of love and hope to young children in Northeastern CT!

Covenant to Care for Children channels the generosity of caring and faithful people to advocate for and provide direct assistance to Connecticut's children who are neglected, abused, and/or impoverished. Baskets will also be delivered to the **Homeless Shelter**.

News from the Pews

Feel free to share your news with us. Just email Heidi at ewccsec@yahoo.com or call the church office at 928-7449.

In Memory

We give thanks to God for the completed life of

David Carlyle

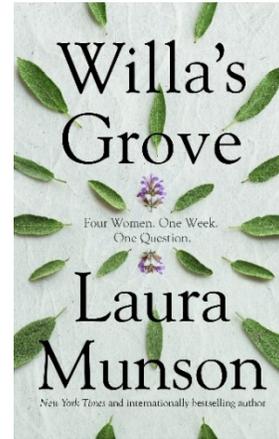
We ask God to provide comfort and strength as we rely on God's promise of peace and eternal life.

Thank You!!!

The "church" is not the building. The "church" is all of us, offering our time and talents to share the Good News of God's love and hope. This month we especially would like to thank...

George Brown for volunteering for repair jobs, big and small, around the church. Your expertise is much appreciated!

Anonymous donor of our new American flag in the church garden. You noticed the need to replace our worn-out flag and put up the new one. Thank you!



Book Discussion Monday, April 26 at 7:00 pm

Our next book will be Willa's Grove. Laura Munson invites us into the friendship between four women of a certain age who come together for a week of companionship, support and soul-searching in hopes of answering the question, "So Now What?"

Contact Anne Sorensen for details – annesorensen065@gmail.com.

Hope you can join us!

Dear EWCC:

Thank you, friends, for the many, many well wishes, notes, and help during our last two very difficult years! We are so grateful!

God Bless. Happy Spring.

Love,
Robin (Cartee)



Sabbatical Kick-off Celebration – May 1st

It's a party! Join us on Saturday, May 1st from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at Roseland Park. We will wish Pastor Sue well as she begins her sabbatical, and we'll welcome Danielle Keller as our substitute minister. We will meet in the beautiful barn at the park. There will be music and the menu will include barbequed hamburgers and hotdogs, macaroni and cheese, salads, and desserts. Bring a lawn chair and sit or enjoy a stroll. The kids can bring their bikes or play on the playground. Register online at <https://ewcc.churchtrac.com> so we can get a head count!

Resurrection

“The evidence for Jesus’ resurrection is so strong that nobody would question it except for two things:

- First, it is a very unusual event.
- And second, if you believe it happened, you have to change the way you live.”

Theologian Wolfhart Pannenberg

A Celtic Prayer...

This night and every night
grant to me light

This night and every night
grant to me peace

This night and every night
grant to me rest.

This night and every night
grant to me grace.

This night and every night
grant to me joy.

Quote for today:

Faith is a bird that feels the light and sings while the dawn is still dark.

LBS NEWS

(Ladies Benevolent Society)

On Wednesday, March 17, 2021, LBS held a Zoom meeting with 10 women joining for planning our coming year. We began the meeting with a prayer offered by Pastor Sue. Then we shared a few of the things we have enjoyed during the pandemic isolation and what we are looking forward to in the next few months as restrictions are eased. Not surprisingly most of us are looking forward to in-person get togethers, especially with our families! Treasurer, Susan Converse, reported that our check book has a balance of \$1,095 after contributing \$2,000 to the EWCC general fund for 2021; our money market fund is \$5,534 of which \$4,300 is designated for new camera and audio for recording live services in our sanctuary.

We decided on the following meetings/events for the remainder of 2021:

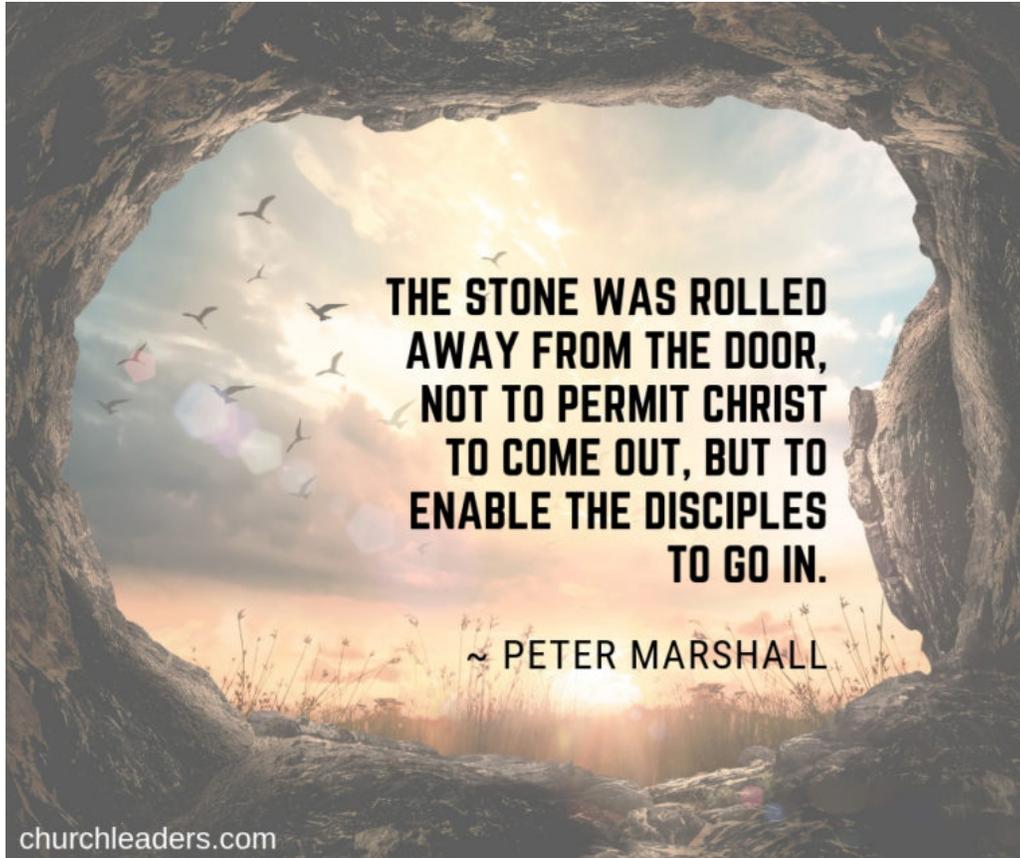
- April 14 at 1:30 in Fellowship Hall – Deb Sherman will provide supplies for us to make cards for shut-ins, nursing home residents, and those in need of cheer. Cards will be given to Outreach to send out. Kerstin will provide refreshments.
- We won't have a May meeting but are encouraging members to attend the church picnic at Roseland Park to start Pastor Sue's sabbatical leave. The event is from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 1.
- June 2, Wednesday – Susan Converse volunteered to host a picnic lunch on the EWCC common. Details will be provided in the Weekly reminder.
- July 4th there will be a small version of our Jamboree, including a parade. LBS ladies are encouraged to volunteer to dress up and ride with Kerstin in her Mustang which will also be decorated!
- No meeting in August
- September 15 at 1:30 we will meet in Fellowship Hall to plan for our Holly Fair. Volunteers needed to provide refreshments.
- October 20 at 1:30 we will meet in Fellowship Hall to ensure we are all set for Holly Fair.
- November 6 – Holly Fair. All hands on deck!!
- December 15, Christmas party (details to be determined).

Dottie Carlyle had asked me to read the following note:

“Dear LBS Friends,
I want to thank you all so much for the beautiful flower arrangement you sent to me and my family. It was a bright spot in our sadness. Thank you for caring for us in this special way when our David passed away so suddenly and unexpectedly. It meant so much to be thought of in this way. Love, Dottie”

It was wonderful to see everyone!!

Respectfully submitted,
Kerstin Forrester
President LBS



The Disciples

By Ann Weems, *Kneeling in Jerusalem*

Hurting, they came to him.
Healed, they followed him.
Grateful, they gave to him
 what they had and what they were.
Blessed, they became a blessing
 and went out to all the world
 in his name.

Those who are hurt
 and healed
 grateful
 and blessed
still move among us
 in his name.

Middle School Youth Group

Join Tom and Anne at our church on

**Sunday, April 11th and April 25th
from 4:00- 5:30 pm.**

It is wonderful to see our middle school students in person. We will continue to meet twice a month until the end of the school year.

Please wear a mask. Thank you.

Please follow us on:



Facebook at “YOUTH GROUP”



Instagram at “woodstocksyg”

Updates about events and activities will be posted on Facebook and Instagram.

*For more information about Middle School Youth Group,
please contact Anne Sorensen at
860-428-2198 or annesorensen065@gmail.com*

Sunday School News

I am SO happy that we soon get to gather together soon. It has been so long, and I am really looking forward to seeing all the children (and everyone else!). We will have a one room schoolhouse format for the remainder of the year. We will look at some of the parables that Jesus told and see how they relate to our lives now. And along the way I'll sprinkle in a few special projects. I will need the help of one or two parents each week. If there are any high school students who would like to lend a hand, I know the younger children really look up to you and enjoy spending time with all of you.

A few dates to keep in mind:

*Saturday April 3rd. Easter Egg Hunt on the common from 10-noon. There will be a special prize for the one who finds the "empty egg"...like the empty tomb. There will also be goodie bags for everyone.

*Sunday April 11th. In person Sunday School begins. We will have Sunday School every week, with the exception of Sunday May 2nd, until Children's Sunday.

*Sunday May 2nd. Communion celebration for grades 4 and 5. There will not be any Sunday School on this day to allow for the older children to partake in communion, and to allow the younger ones to look forward to what they will be celebrating in the next year couple of years.

*Sunday June 13th. Children's Sunday. Details to follow soon.

Please feel free to contact me at any time for anything,

Louise

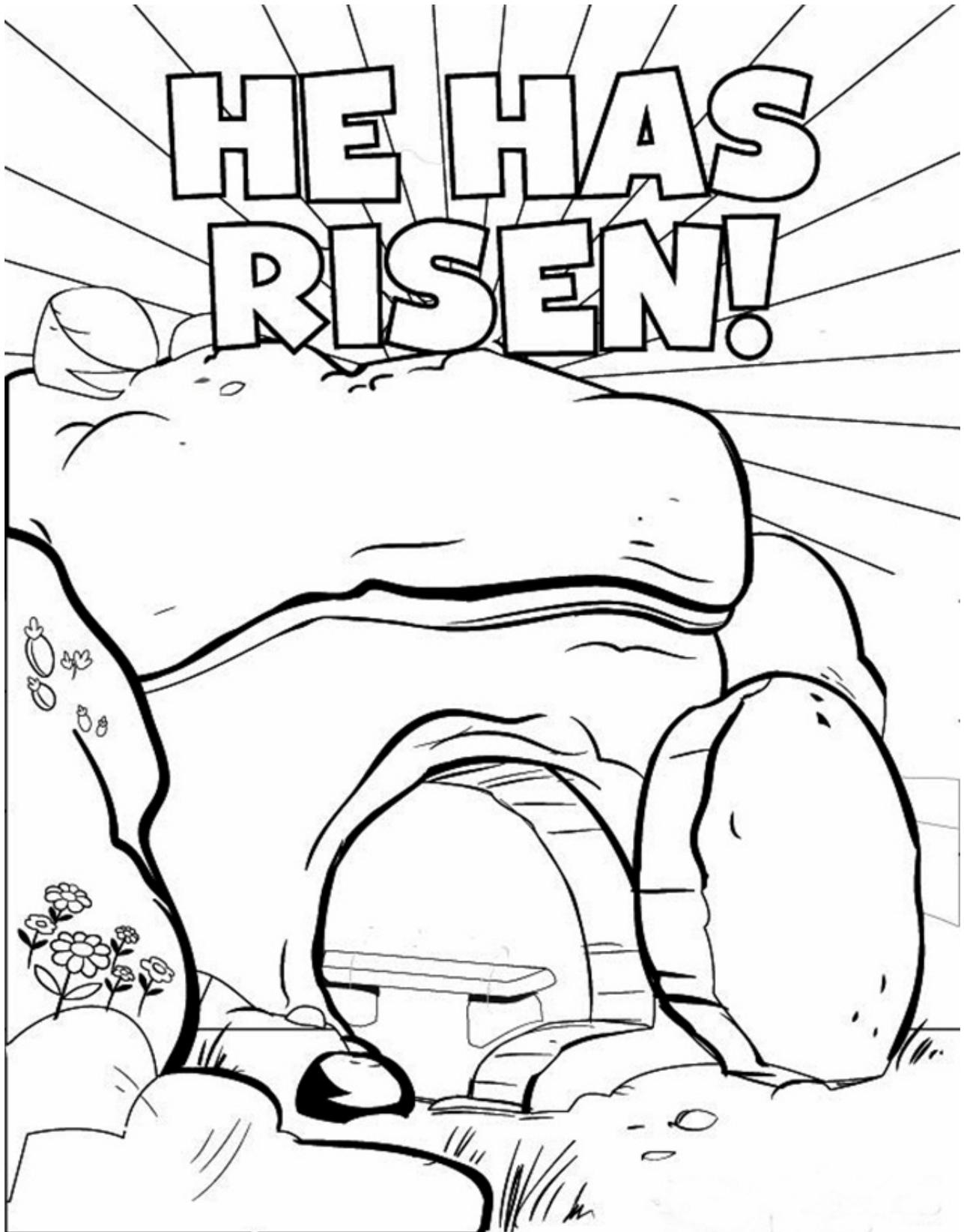
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Join us for an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3rd from 10:00 am to noon on the common. This event is open to anyone who would like to come. One family at a time will be allowed in the egg field. Face masks must be worn. Find the empty egg (like the empty tomb) and win a special prize. Goodie bags for everyone!



Children's Page

A picture to color.



April 2021						
Daily Bread request: Beans & Baked Beans						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Service of Tenebrae (Online)	2 Good Friday	3 10 – 12 Easter Egg Hunt
4 Easter Sunday 6:00 Sunrise Service 10 am Worship (Online)	5 9:00 am Community Kitchen Prep (Hill)	6 7:30 Deacons (Zoom)	7 10:00 Study Group	8	9	10
11 10 am Worship 4:00 pm Middle Youth Group	12 7:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)	13	14 10:00 Study Group 1:30 pm LBS 7:00 pm Council (Zoom)	15	16	17
18 10 am Worship	19 7:00 pm Society	20 TRUMPET DEADLINE!	21 10:00 Study Group	22	23	24
25 10 am Worship 4:00 pm Middle Youth Group	26 7:00 pm Book Discussion	27	28 10:00 Study Group	29	30	



April Birthdays:



- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Blake Johnston | April 4 |
| Lua Manhanga | April 4 |
| Gabby Santos | April 13 |
| Brinley Waufle | April 13 |
| Haven Magnan | April 14 |
| Tyler Chamberlin | April 16 |
| Leah Thibodeau | April 23 |
| Sydney Asikainen | April 28 |

PRAYER PAGE

Today and every day let us be open to God, who promises always to be with us.

In this time of transition and change, enjoy this prayer written by Colleen Hanycz, President of Xavier University:

Loving Creator,
We asked for strength, and you gave us difficulties to make us strong.
We asked for wisdom, and you gave us problems to solve.
We asked for prosperity, and you gave us purpose and brains to use.
We asked for courage, and you gave us fears to overcome.
We asked for patience, and you gave us situations where we were forced to wait.
We asked for love, and you gave us troubled people to help.
We asked for justice, and you called us to be just and lead with integrity.
Dear God, we have received nothing that we asked for or wanted.
And yet, we received everything that we needed.
For this, God, we give you thanks.
Amen.



Farmer's Prayer

Lord, bless the land you've given me
And may I always know
As I tend each crop and creature
You're the One who helps them grow.
Grant me the strength and wisdom;
Please protect from all harm,
And thank you for your gracious gift –
The blessing of a farm