



The Trumpet

APRIL 2026

A publication of the East Woodstock Congregational Church, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GOOD FRIDAY MOVIE MATINEE

The Last Temptation of Christ, Martin Scorsese's shocking film about Jesus remains as controversial today as when it was first released in 1988.

Jesus of Nazareth, a carpenter, tormented by the temptations of demons, the guilt of making crosses for the Romans, pity for the struggling people of the world, and the relentless call of God, sets out to discover God's will for his life. As his mission nears fulfillment, he must face the greatest temptation of all. Come and see what it is.

This film is not based on the Gospels, but on the novel by Nikos Kazantzakis. Nevertheless it raises some significant questions about who Jesus really was and who he could have been or not been.

The film is rated R, not suitable for youth and children because of the adult themes. We will watch the full movie, 2 hours and 45 minutes, and then have a discussion about its main themes. Showing begins at 1PM on April 3 in Fellowship Hall.



REFLECTIONS ON EASTER

Marcus Borg / April 13, 2012

Today I read a poll of American Christians about the resurrection of Jesus. It reported that more than 90% of American Christians say that the resurrection of Jesus matters greatly to them. I agree – without the affirmation of Jesus' resurrection, Christianity makes no important sense.

But I was disappointed because the poll reported that these Christians responded with "Yes" to the question whether Jesus' resurrection was "physical" and "bodily." I think that way of understanding Easter is a distraction.

To think that Easter intrinsically involves the transformation of Jesus' corpse turns it into an utterly spectacular event that happened once upon a time long ago. This emphasis most often goes with the message that death is not the end for us, at least for those of us who believe in Jesus. As commonly understood, Easter it is about the promise of an afterlife.

But Easter is not primarily about Jesus' triumph over death and a future for us beyond death. Rather, the meanings of the Easter stories in the gospels and the affirmation of Jesus' resurrection in the rest of the New Testament are much more significant. Moreover, their meanings are not dependent upon whether a spectacular miracle happened to the physical body of Jesus.

In the gospels and the New Testament as a whole, the meaning of Easter is twofold. First, Jesus lives; and second, Jesus is Lord. Both convictions flow out of his followers' experiences of him after his death.

I begin with the first. Some of his followers had experienced him as a living reality of the present, not just as a figure of the past. Some of these experiences were visions. The best-known is Paul's vision on "the road to Damascus." It happened a few years after the traditional Christian chronology of forty days of appearances between Easter and Ascension Day, often understood as the day that Jesus' body ascended into heaven, thus ending his bodily appearances. Paul experienced Jesus, though not as a physical bodily reality. It happened in a vision. And in I Corinthians 15.3-8, his language is most naturally understood to mean that the experiences of Peter and Jesus' other disciples, and others as well, were visions. He uses the same language to refer to their experience as he does for his own: Jesus "appeared" to them – and to Paul.

To those who might say, "You mean these were only visions?", I respond: anybody who has ever had a vision would not say "It was

I own about 2000 theology books. No, I haven't read all of them, but I have probably read at least a chapter in 99% of them. These books represent a very diverse group, from the greatest theological minds to insightful laypersons with no theology degrees. They are books written by Apostolic Fathers from the second century CE to contemporary professors still teaching in seminary. They are books that span the spectrum of the Christian theological landscape, from fundamentalist Protestantism to radical postmodernism. But one thing that they all have in common is that, in some sense, they maintain that Christ is risen.



On April 5 we will be observing the holy day that is at the heart of Christianity, Easter. Easter is the celebration that Christ is risen from the dead. It was this experience by Jesus's first followers that gave birth to Christianity. It was this experience by Jesus's first followers that gave birth to the Church. It was this experience by Jesus's first followers that gave birth to the writing of the New Testament. It was this experience by Jesus's first followers that moved the sabbath from Saturday to Sunday, the day on which Christ arose.

For all the joy and fanfare of Easter, for all the complexity and mystery of our spiritual life together as a congregation,



for all the millions and millions of words contained in all the theology books that I own, Christianity can be summed up in just three simple words: Christ is risen.

There are 3237 persons mentioned in the Bible. Not one of them is important without these three simple words. There are about 2,400,000,000 Christians in the world today. Not one of them can speak of their Christian faith without these three simple words.

These are the words the excited women carried from the empty tomb back to the male disciples. These are the words passed from one person to the next, from one generation to the next, every day since that original miraculous event in 30 CE, whether in secret, in triumph, in darkness, or in celebration.

These three little words have taken us from scattered, broken people lost in our sinfulness to a community that represents the most popular religion in history and in the world today. These three little words are proclaimed at baptisms, weddings, and funerals. They are whispered at hospital bedsides and shouted at youth gatherings.

Of course it cannot be proven that Jesus was raised from the dead. Quite a few of the theology books I possess insist that we cannot interpret the resurrection to mean that Jesus biologically died on the cross on Friday afternoon and then sometime in the early hours of Sunday morning started breathing again. Yet even these theologians find it significant to believe that in some real way Christ is risen.

I am not ashamed to say that I believe that Jesus did come back to life in some mysterious physical form. The physical is more than we often assume, which quantum physics suggests. And not only was Jesus resurrected in this inexplicable way, but we are given the promise that his followers will also be raised from the dead by God.

Join us for worship on Easter Sunday, April 5, as we gather to celebrate the core of Christianity in three simple words: Christ is risen!

Blessings in the Name of the Risen One,

Pastor Gary

EASTER REFLECTIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

no big deal – it was only a vision.” Of course, some visions are hallucinations, an encounter with something that is not real. When this is the case, they are most often dysfunctional. But some visions carry a deep sense of an encounter with reality, and they are life-changing and not dysfunctional at all. For Jesus’ followers, their visions led to the conviction: Jesus lives – he is a present reality, not just a much-beloved figure of the past.

In addition to visions, I think his followers experienced him after his death in other ways. They continued to experience the same Spirit – the Spirit of God – they had known in and around him during his historical lifetime. This is the central meaning of Pentecost: the Spirit that had been present in Jesus returned to his community of followers. They also continued to experience the same power they had known in Jesus: the power to heal, change lives, and create a new form of community. They spoke of life “in Christ,” in the living Jesus.

That’s the first conviction: “Jesus lives.” He is not simply dead and gone. The second conviction is equally important: not just “Jesus lives,” but also “Jesus is Lord.”

There was something about the post-death experiences of Jesus that did lead to this conviction. In language from the New Testament, God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ, has raised Jesus to God’s right hand, has made Jesus one with God. This meaning is expressed in John’s gospel when the risen Jesus appears to Thomas. Thomas does not simply say, “You’re alive,” but exclaims, “My Lord and my God!”

So it was for early Christians. “Jesus is Lord” is the constant affirmation of the New Testament. It has even been called the earliest Christian creed. “Jesus is Lord” – and the lords of this world are not. Indeed, the lords of this world crucified him, publicly executed him to make a statement: “This is what we do to those who oppose us.” But God has vindicated Jesus, said “Yes” to Jesus and “No” to the powers that killed him.

Consider the earliest story of Easter in the New Testament. Though Paul’s seven genuine letters from the 50s are earlier than the gospels and refer to the resurrection, he does not tell the story of Easter. The first Easter narrative is the climax and end of Mark’s gospel, written around the year 70, forty years after the end of Jesus’ historical life.

In Mark’s story of the first Easter, three women followers of Jesus go

to his tomb on Easter morning in order to anoint his body. They expect his body to be there. Instead, they discover that the tomb was empty. Then an angel asks them why they seek the living among the dead and proclaims that he is not here – he is risen. The risen Jesus does not appear in Mark’s gospel. Instead, the angel promises the women that they will see him in Galilee – where the story began.

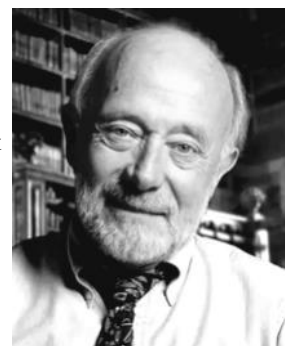
What does this story mean? Is it meant to report a spectacular miracle, maybe the most spectacular miracle ever? That God literally raised Jesus from the dead in physical bodily form? And if so, what does that mean for us? Or does it mean something else and more? Set aside the question of whether the tomb was really empty. Believe whatever you want about that. And hear Mark’s Easter story as a parable of the resurrection. Think about what parables are.

Parables are meaningful, meaning-filled, truthful and truth-filled, independently of their literal factuality. I don’t know any Christian who insists that there really had to be a good Samaritan who acted the way he did, or else that story is false. So also I don’t know any Christian who insists that there must have been a father who received his prodigal son in the way narrated in that parable, or else the story isn’t truth-filled. Parables are about meaning. To confuse them with factual reporting is to miss their point.

As a parable of the resurrection, what does Mark’s story of the empty tomb mean? And the story of the empty tomb is found not only in Mark, but in the later gospels in the New Testament.

You won’t find Jesus in the land of the dead. He is still with us. He’s still here, still recruiting.

Marcus Borg transformed Christianity into a faith of lived healing and spiritual renewal by re-centering Jesus as a “spirit person.” Borg was a New Testament scholar and theologian and major figure in historical Jesus scholarship. He taught at Carleton College, Oregon State University, and the Pacific School of Religion, among others. He died in 2015.



worship & prayer

Continuing to Pray for:

- Jamie LaMountain, recovering from a kidney transplant; the LaMountain Family, in the loss of Jim on his 90th birthday
- The Foster / Solomon Family in the passing of Sue's dad, Peter
- Lisa Gould, continued recovery, and Ben for strength
- Jess Reed's mom Wendy, as she undergoes treatment for uterine cancer
- MacDara, as he struggles for clarity in recovery
- Our church community as we continue to move forward in this transition to a settled pastorate. God hears our prayers and surrounds those we pray for with comfort, strength, and compassion in difficult times.

'Tis a Fearful Thing

'Tis a fearful thing
to love what death can touch
a fearful thing
to love, to hope, to dream, to be
to be,
And oh, to lose.
A thing for fools, this
And a holy thing,
A holy thing
to love.
For your life has lived in me,
your laugh once lifted me,
your word was gift to me.
To remember this brings painful joy.
'Tis a human thing, love,
a holy thing, to love
what death has touched.

Chaim Stern

Shared by Peter Green

GOD OF MERCY AND JUSTICE, we come before You in this Lenten season marked by ashes, by repentance, by truth-telling.

We confess that we are a world at war, nations rage, and communities are fracturing. Neighbors turn on neighbors, and the cries of the innocent rise to heaven.

Forgive us, O God.

Forgive our silence when violence speaks too loudly.
Forgive our comfort with injustice, our distance from suffering, our failure to see Your image in every human life.

In this season of return, turn us again toward You.

Where there is hatred, sow in us love.
Where there is fear, plant courage.
Where there is despair, kindle hope that refuses to die.

We pray for those living under the shadow of war
for children who cannot sleep, for parents who cannot protect, for leaders who must choose the path of peace over power.

Be near, O God.

Be near to the brokenhearted.
Be near to the displaced and the grieving.
Be near to those whose names we do not know,
but whose pain You hold.

And stir in us a holy disruption, that we would not grow numb to suffering, but instead become instruments of Your peace.

Let our prayers move our feet.
Let our repentance reshape our lives.
Let our fasting make room for generosity and justice.

As we journey toward the cross, remind us that You know suffering intimately, that in Christ, You entered the violence of this world and answered it not with vengeance, but with love.

So teach us, O God, to lay down what divides,
to take up what heals, and to follow the way of Jesus.

Until swords are beaten into plowshares, and every tear is wiped away, we will pray, we will hope, we will act.

In the name of Jesus and Justice, our peace and our redeemer.
Amen.

The following prayer was written by Rev. Darrell Goodwin, Executive Conference Minister and President. Congregational leaders are invited to offer this in their settings.

The following are the scripture readings for the month of April: You are invited to read them as part of your daily devotions and as preparation for worship.

April 2 Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14,
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19,
1 Corinthians 11:23-26,
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

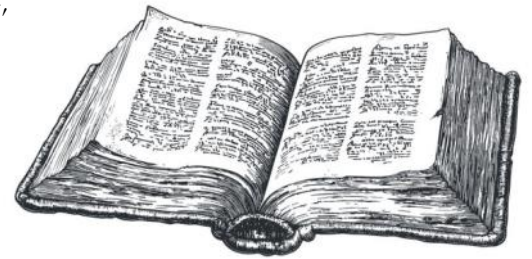
April 3 Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12, Psalm 22,
Hebrews 10:16-25 or
Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9,
John 18:1—19:42

April 4 Holy Saturday Job 14:1-14
or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24,
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 1 Peter 4:1-8,
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

April 5 Easter Acts 10:34-43, or
Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24,
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43,
John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10

April 12
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

April 19
Third Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4,
12-19, 1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35



April 26
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23,
1 Peter 2:19-25, John 10:1-10

Easter Flowers

In Memory of...

Marjorie & Oscar Billings
Eileen & Francis Perrin
by Mark & Diane Billings

Ellen Holley, Armand Boisvert, &
Mert Hill
by the Boisvert Family

George W. Brown, George & Barbara
Brown, Norman Bourque, Family &
Friends no longer with us
by Pam Brown

Thomas F. Converse, George &
Barbara Brown, Sharon K. Neely,
George W. Brown, Kenneth Marvin &
Franklin A. Converse
by Susan Converse

Our Parents, Grandparents &
Lynn Mercier
by Wayne Laurie, and Jotham Edwards

Our Parents & Loved Ones
by Pete and Sherry Engh



The Wasco & DeCrosta Families
by Barbara Fitzgibbons

Bertil & Margaretha Okeson and
William & Helen Forrester
by Kerstin & Richard Forrester

Loved Ones
by Lynn & Andy Hescheles

Bertha Laks & Charlotte Lindner
by Linda Kaplan

Rolf & Virginia Bates Swanson and Ed-
mund and Mary Kelly
by Dennis, Kathie & Erin Kelly

Robert & Loretta Johnston and
Raymond & Peg Lessig
by Glen & Christine Lessig

My Parents & My Husband, Doug
by Andy Krofina

Joseph & Elaine Moretto and Edward &
Barbara Tydenherey
by the McCabe Family

Vivian Heidinger
by Sherry Magnan

Estella, Barbara & Doris Barrett,
George & Celia Barrett
by The Morin Family

Our Parents--Stewart & Janet Morse
and Fred & Helen Harraden
by Stewart & Barbara Morse

Robert Durocher by the Santos Family

Sam Schumacher by
Judy Schumacher



Our Parents--George
& Marion Shahinian,
Linda (Shahinian)
Barrere, Paul & Gladys
Bogosian, Paula Bo-
gosian Czepiel &
Judith Tobia Devoe
by Pastor Gary Shahinian & Linda Bogosian

Our Dad, Scott Shinkiewicz and Step-Dad
Pete Vogt by Adam and Amy Shinkiewicz

Pete Vogt, Sharon Neely, Howard Smith
and our Grandparents
by Stacy Vogt & Howard Smith

Jay Swan by Sue Swan

My Parents Mabel & Sherman Waldron,
Cathy Waldron, Mary Waldron, Kathy
Waldron Rohe
by Cristine Waldron

The Converse Family by the Webster Family

Irving Hiller and George & Joyce White by
Amy Hiller-White

In Honor of...

Our dearest 100 year old Friend & Neighbor
Eleanor Fideli by Pastor Gary Shahinian &
Linda Bogosian

The Outreach Committee
by Mary Oliver & Arabella Berkenbilt

Our grandchildren Grace, Ashton & Piper
by Marilyn & Bob Rath

OUTREACH SHINES IN THE COMMUNITY

SENIOR HIGH SCHOLARSHIP

A scholarship is awarded each year to a student with an association with EWCC who is pursuing their education in a field related to human/social services, such as teaching, nursing, or social work.

Applications are available for download on the church website under Outreach, in the church office, or at this link: <https://www.eastwoodstockchurch.org/missions-committee/>

Scholarships are due by May 1st. Any questions, please contact Christine Lessig, cjohnstonlessig@gmail.com

QUIET CORNER PRIDEFEST

The EWCC Outreach Committee is excited to participate in the upcoming Gay Pride Celebration on May 2. We are looking for EWCC folks to work at the EWCC tent. We plan to have friendship bracelet supplies, clementines, EWCC information, rainbow trinkets, rainbow lollipops and other goodies for folks who stop by our tent. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours during the celebration please let me know when you witness available. We will need a team to meet at the church at 9:00 that motto transport the tables, chairs, tent and supplies. We will have a planning meeting after church on Palm Sunday. You can contact me by email: Thomasstokes1958@gmail.com

THE ROAD TO BOSTON WAS PAVED WITH SNOW

Keegan Coderre is running the Boston Marathon in memory of his daughter, Adelaide, and to raise funds for The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. a magical place for children with serious illnesses and their families, He has run through snowy woods, plowed through knee-deep drifts, strapped on snowshoes, and has even resorted to long runs on the dreaded basement treadmill. But every mile matters!

If you want to support Keegan's Boston Marathon Run, click on the link below. It will show Adelaide that she is remembered, loved and can still make a positive impact.

6 <https://www.givengain.com/.../keegan-raising-funds-for...>

good news!

THANK YOU TO OUR CONGREGATION!

Through the Outreach Committee, members of East Woodstock Congregational church contribute financially to many organizations. Here are just a few excerpts from some of the thank you notes that we have received:

From Church World Service (CWS): "Thank you for your generous gift to the CWS Blankets program. Your contribution . . . provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges."

From Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group (TEEG):

"We want to thank you for your generosity and constant support. TEEG is making a difference in our community because of donors like you: people who are always ready to help! Your many contributions: whether financial, food or contributions to holiday giving, school supplies, or our programs, allow us to continue to assist our neighbors."

From Grayson Magnan - "Thank you for the support and contributions toward my Eagle Project. Revitalization, Bridges and Steps have been completed on the Nature Trail behind Woodstock Elementary School. This project could not have been completed without your contributions. I encourage you to check out the trail someday and enjoy this quiet, hidden treasure."

If you would like to read these notes in their entirety, they are filed in the large looseleaf binder on the the Outreach table in Fellowship Hall.

Cris Waldron
Outreach Co-Chair

HONORS FOR WORK SUPPORTING FAMILY SERVICES

The Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families works with the Department of Child and Family services in various regions of Connecticut. Each year at their annual conference they honor a social worker, a foster family, and a Community Provider from each of the fourteen DCF offices. This year, East Woodstock Congregational Church has been selected to be honored as the "Willimantic Area Office 2026 Annual Community Partner Award winner for your contributions to foster, adoptive, and relative caregiver families in Connecticut". (This is part of Outreach's mission often known as "Covenant to Care"). The CAFAF alliance has invited representatives from Outreach to accept the award in the name of East Woodstock Congregational Church on May 1st at the Mystic Marriott in Groton, CT. We are so proud of our church, and all church members who have contributed to Covenant to Care over the years!

Karen Ryker

JUST IN TIME... COOLER SUNDAY RETURNS!

Sunday, April 26th

Springtime is when the TEEG PANTRY is at its lowest.

The generous donations throughout the holidays have been received with gratitude, but the shelves need replenishing. In support of our partnership with TEEG, let's bring our coolers (or shopping bags) to Church filled with food items for our neighbors in need of food assistance. The TEEG truck (driven by our own Howie Smith) will be on hand before and after Church on the 26th to collect and transport our contributions to the TEEG Pantry. The items listed below are most in need, but anything is appreciated. If you're unable to be with us on the 26th you can drop off any donations in the Church kitchen refrigerator, freezer or on the counter the week prior. Please make sure they're clearly marked "For TEEG".

- **DAIRY PRODUCTS:** cheese (shredded, sticks, blocks) yogurt, butter, cream, cottage cheese, eggs, sour cream...any dairy except milk
- **VEGETABLES:** potatoes, squash, carrots, onions, sweet potatoes, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, low salt canned or frozen veggies
- **MEAT:** Ground beef (Frozen pkgs of 1 to 2 lbs), hamburgers, hot dogs
- **FRUIT:** Apples, oranges, pears, melons, clementines or low sugar/water packed canned fruit
- **PASTA:** Mac & cheese, pasta (except elbows)
- **BAKING SUPPLIES:** Sugar, flour, muffin & cake mixes



On Wednesday, March 18, 28 ladies attended a fantastic presentation about "21st Century Dairy Farming Today. Angela Young and Erica Hermonot gave us an entertaining and informative slide show

presentation which addressed the past, present, and future of operations at Valleyside Farm (the Woodstock Creamery) and Fairholm Farm respectively. We learned about:

- The importance of technology which allows the herdsmen more time to actually care for the cows and that the cows have become more efficient in producing more milk with less food and land.
- How robotic milking where cows visit milking stations and fed a treat of grain while they are milked. A microchip records the amount of milk each cow produces.
- Activity monitors worn around the cow's neck and tracks their movements.
- Automatic calf feeders
- Automatic manure collectors
- Diversification at both Farms. Both have a retail farm store. Valley Farm sells delicious skyr, labne, ricotta cheese, yogurt,

and milk. All made from the milk from their cows. They also sell products from local crafters and bakers. Fairholm Farm sells their own meats, chicken and eggs, as well as compost.

They also have a Kids Farm Camp where the kids learn about the workings of a farm and have lots of fun!

It is very clear that both Angela and Erica love what they do and are committed to keeping their farms viable for generations to come.

Following the presentation, we were treated to samples from Valleyside's Creamery – skyr, granola, labne, and cannoli cream and chips!

Be sure to visit these two farms to enjoy their delicious products.

Our next meeting will be on April 15 at 1:30 in Fellowship Hall. Jeff Wong will discuss Artificial Intelligence: How did we get here and what does it mean for me? It promises to be another great presentation. Please join us! All are welcome.

SOCIETY

Spring has sprung and our church clean up day is just around the corner. Last year's day was incredibly successful. We are looking forward to a bright day in May to get together and make our worship and gathering spaces sparkle! Stay tuned!

HOSPITALITY

Can you bake? Could you make sandwiches? Would you like to? One of the duties of Hospitality is to prepare a simple but elegant buffet for memorials. If you would like to join/help--Laurie Edwards in the person to contact! ltang2011@yahoo.com





OUR EASTER ANIMALS

For Christians, the Easter holiday signifies the end of the Lenten season and the resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday. But the spring celebration is so much more than that for young children. It's a day full of egg hunts, chocolate bunnies, Easter baskets, crafts, and more. And while all those traditions come with questions from curious kids, there's none more prevalent than —**where does the Easter Bunny come from?**

While legend has told us that the Easter Bunny is a long-eared, furry, cotton-tailed creature who hops from house to house to deliver candy-filled baskets, there's more about his history that you might not be familiar with. In fact, the Easter Bunny's connection to this special Christian holiday goes back to pagan traditions.

As Christians probably already know, the Bible makes no mention of a mythical hare who delivers eggs to children on the day of Jesus Christ's resurrection. So, why exactly has a rabbit become a prominent part of one of Christianity's most important celebrations of rebirth and renewal? One theory, according to *Time*, is that the symbol of the rabbit stems from the ancient pagan tradition on which many of our Easter traditions are based — the festival of Eostre, which honored the goddess of fertility and spring. The goddess's animal symbol was a rabbit, which has long traditionally stood for fertility due to their high reproduction rates.

Since rabbits are mammals (and give birth to live young), it might seem like a case of mistaken biology to say the Easter Bunny lays eggs on the holiday. Adding another miracle

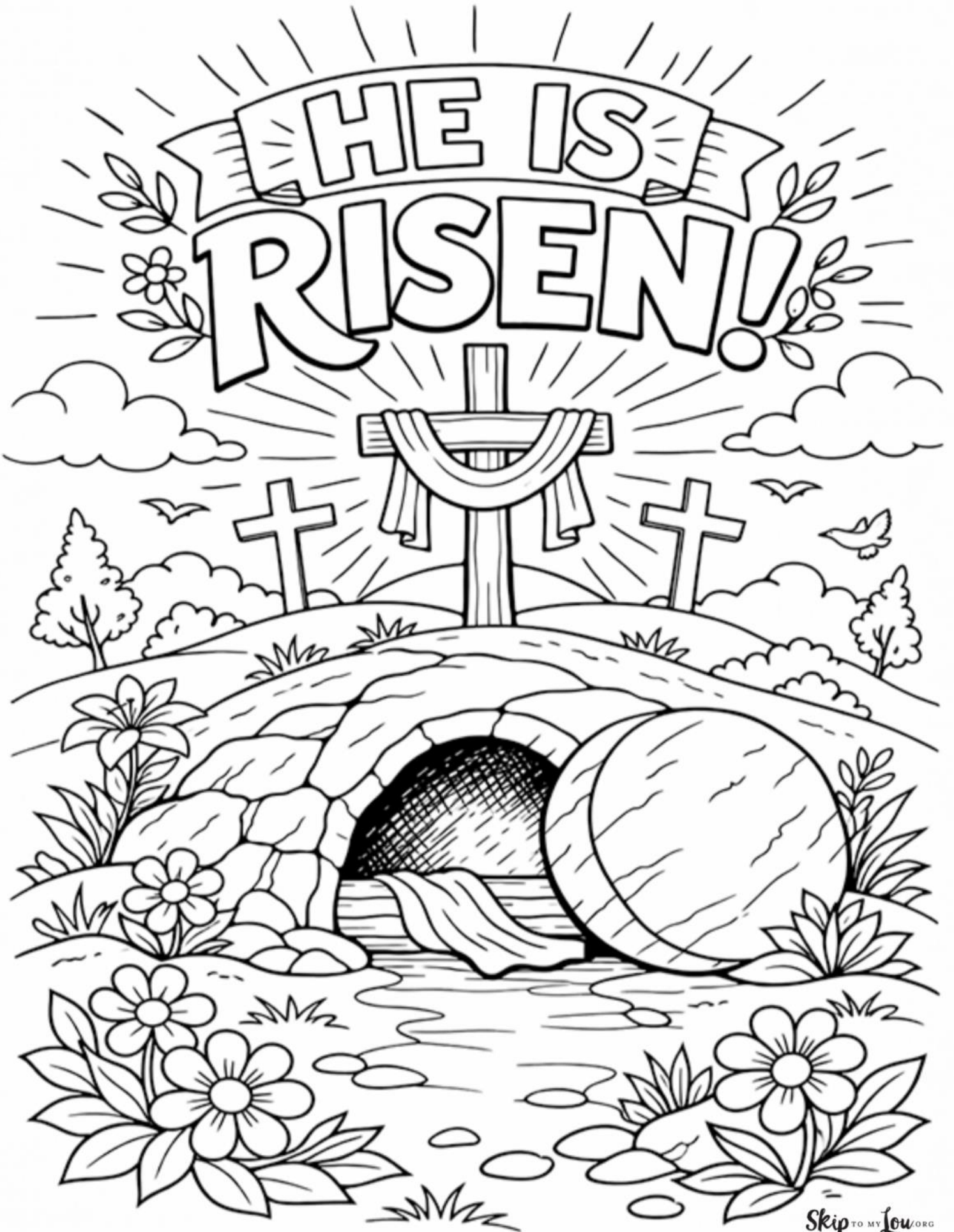
learning in faith

to the festivities, perhaps? The answer may lie in combining iconography. Eggs, just like the rabbit, have long been considered an ancient symbol of fertility, rebirth and new life, all associated with the springtime celebration of Easter!

From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs represent Jesus' resurrection and his emergence from the tomb. According to History.com, the tradition of decorating eggs for Easter may date back to the 13th century, when eggs were traditionally considered a forbidden food during the Lent season. That's why people decorated them as the fasting period came to an end, to make eating them an even more celebratory way to feast on Easter Sunday.

According to the legend, up until the time of Jesus, all donkeys were a plain, unattractive grey color. On Palm Sunday, a certain donkey was chosen to carry Jesus into Jerusalem. As the procession continued through the streets, the donkey recognized the importance of what was happening and the significance of the person he was carrying. He knew what suffering Jesus would undertake. As the events later took place, the donkey wished that he could carry the heavy cross for the Lord and bear his burden. As Jesus was lifted up on the cross, the donkey couldn't bear to watch and turned its head away. In reward for the humble love the donkey had shown, the Lord caused the shadow of the cross to fall on the back of the donkey. Ever since, all donkeys have borne the sign of the cross to help remind us of its faithfulness to God and love for peace.





The Moment & The Message

— Tools and Conversations for Today's Church —

HOSTED BY THE WINDHAM ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE, UCC

In conjunction with the Southern New England Conference's "Super Saturday Comes to You" project, the Windham Association Council invites you to join us for a morning of conversation, collaboration, and connection. During each time slot, participants can select a **Communications Track Workshop** or a **Facilitated Focus Group**. These workshops are being offered at no cost to participants.

To register, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2026April25>

8:30 TO 10:00 A.M.

Truth in Advertising

Local churches have so much to offer, but do their communities know that? In this interactive workshop, we'll explore how to authentically communicate your values and practice extravagant welcome. (Presenter: The Reverend Carol Steinbrecher)

Name It to Tame It

In this facilitated conversation, we'll explore practical ways to help people name their anxieties about challenges for our churches today, walk with each other with compassion, and recognize the grace that holds us all. Come ready to share and reflect. (Facilitator: The Reverend Paul Doyle)

10:30 A.M. TO NOON

Tell Your Story: Church Marketing That Works

Revitalizing your church starts with helping people know who you are! After this practical workshop, you'll walk away with real, actionable ideas to market your congregation authentically and effectively — connecting your church with the community it was meant to reach. (Presenter: The Reverend Dr. Jonathan Chapman)

Meeting the Moment

In this facilitated conversation, we will explore ways in which churches are responding to today's challenges through pastoral care, prophetic preaching, and justice-centered action. Come ready to share what your church is living out — and to be inspired by what others are doing. (Facilitator: The Reverend Pamela Bridle)

**SATURDAY
APRIL 25**

8:30 A.M. TO NOON (DOORS OPEN AT 8:00)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK

543 ROUTE 169, WOODSTOCK, CT



APRIL

CLICK HERE to go to our Web Calendar
<https://www.eastwoodstockchurch.org/calendar/>

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
HOLY WEEK: 4/2 Community Seder, 5PM Maundy Thursday Service, 7PM 4/3 Good Friday. Film, 1PM 4/5 Easter Sunrise behind Woodstock Academy Easter Service, 10AM			1 Bible Study 10:30AM Bells 7PM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	2 Potluck & Seder 5PM Service 7PM	3 Food Fair 9AM	4
5 Easter Worship with Communion 10AM	6 Community Kitchen 9AM Tai Chi 11AM Diaconate 6PM	7 Choir 7PM	8 Bible Study 10:30AM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	9 Bells 7PM	10	11
12 Worship 10AM EWCB 6:30PM	13 Tai Chi 11AM Outreach 6PM	14 Choir 7PM	15 Bible Study 10:30AM LBS, 1:30PM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	16 Bells 7PM	17	18
19 Men's Breakfast 8AM Worship 10AM EWCB 6:30PM	20 Tai Chi 11AM Society 7PM Trumpet Deadline	21 Choir 7PM	22 Bible Study 10:30AM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	23 Bells 7PM	24	25
26 Worship 10AM EWCB 6:30PM	27 Tai Chi 11AM Book Discussion 7PM	28 Choir 7PM	29 Bible Study 10:30AM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	30 Bells 7PM		



East Woodstock Congregational Church
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