



**TRICON CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
EVENTS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES
APRIL 2011**

From the desk of...

I couldn't believe my eyes ... but there it was. After taking a closer look to make sure I wasn't staring at a discarded candy wrapper I said a prayer of thanks to God. My first crocus was standing tall in my winter beaten mess of a garden proudly saluting the incoming season of spring! Welcome, lovely, beautiful Spring ... I've missed you! And during Spring we celebrate the season of Lent culminating in the joy of Easter.

Each Sunday during Lent in the parish hall before Church School the children and I explore this season of preparation, and, later this month, we will explore the events of Holy Week. We will also be learning about Easter and why it is so much more than bunnies, fluffy yellow chicks, brightly colored eggs and candy. Easter, the celebration of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, is the oldest and most holy of all Christian festivals. Without Easter there is simply no Christianity.

Here are some interesting Easter tidbits to share with your children ...

- ***How is the date for Easter determined?*** Easter is observed by the churches in the West on the first Sunday following the full moon that occurs on or following spring equinox (March 20th). So the date of Easter can be as early as March 21st or as late as April 25th. Easter is very late this year.

- ***Where does the word Easter come from?*** The English word Easter is from the Anglo-Saxon word Eastre, a pagan goddess whose festivals (called Eastron) were held during the spring season. The festival represented the rising of the sun, new life and a new beginning. Also related is the word East, the direction of the rising sun.

- ***What are the origins of the Easter Bunny and Easter Eggs?*** In many ancient cultures eggs were symbols of new life. In medieval times, the egg came to represent Jesus' resurrection. The rock hard shell represents the tomb where Jesus was buried and the elements of new life represent Jesus' resurrection - and eternal life for Christians. The Easter Bunny has its origin in pre-Christian lore. Rabbits are one of the first animals to give birth in the spring. According to one legend, the Easter Bunny was originally a large, handsome bird belonging to the goddess Eastre. One day she magically changed her pet bird into rabbit. Because the Easter Bunny is still a bird at heart, he continues to build a nest of straw and fills it with eggs.

Off to look for more crocuses...

Peace,

Carrie



Sunday, April 3rd

Church School	10:00AM
SEEKERS Service Project	

Tuesday April 5th

Liaison Meeting	7:00PM
CE Committee Meeting	8:15PM

Sunday, April 10th

Church School	10:00AM
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Wednesday, April 13th

Teaching Seder	6:30PM
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Palm Sunday, April 17th

Easter One Room Schoolhouse	10:00AM
Special 4 th Grade Class	10:00AM
Childcare up to age five	

Easter Sunday, April 24^h

Easter Sunday Worship	9:00AM
	11:00AM
<i>Childcare up to age five offered at both services</i>	
Easter Egg Hunt	10:00AM

**Trinitarian
Congregational Church**

54 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742
(978) 369-4837

Carrie O'Brien
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C.E. Office Hours
Mondays, Wednesday and Thursdays 9-3PM



Family Teaching Seder, Wednesday April 13th



Led by Rachmiel Langer of Temple Kerem Shalom, this teaching Seder will include the traditional Seder plate, readings and discussion.

(Please note: the food is symbolic, it is not a full meal.) Middle school children through adults are invited to attend. Childcare will be available for children 5th grade and younger. RSVPs are required. Sign up in parish hall or by calling church office at 978-369-4837. The Seder begins at 6:30 and will end around 8:30PM. (Please come early for punch at 6:15PM)

Easter One Room Schoolhouse, Sunday April 17th

We will celebrate the Easter theme of new life and hope through the use of the symbol of the egg. This program is for children Kindergarten age up to 3rd grade. A special class just for the 4th graders will be taught that morning by Ruth and Tom Piper. Younger children are welcome in the Pre-K classroom for a morning of special activity. Older children should join their families in worship. We need three adults to help with this fun morning. Please contact Carrie O'Brien if you can help out.



Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Sunday, April 24th



Easter Day is not complete without an Easter Egg Hunt! We are thrilled to once again offer this fun event following our 9AM Easter Sunday worship service.

Our hunt is geared for kids walking age up to 4th Grade and will take place outside weather permitting. (If the weather does not cooperate, we will have the hunt in the lower level.) Thank you once again to our Senior Youth Group for stuffing and hiding the eggs and providing support during the event. We are lucky to have Dave Braunegg lead the festivities again this year.

Happy April Birthday Wishes to...



Allie Winstanley
Charlotte Olney
Tucker Winstanley
Renée Feigh

Lu-lu Krauss
Willie Page
Arianna DiRomualdo
Lindy Kessler

Jane Fulshaw
Nina Olney
Jackson Boyle
David Thut

Dalton Macres
Andrew Upham
Sophia Tharp

TRI-CON CHURCH SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

It is our mission to intentionally provide to all of the children in our Church School program the following:

Provide our children with a foundation in Christian education such as learning the stories of the Bible, the history of Christianity and what it means to be a UCC member, and the components of worship.

Provide our children with many opportunities to participate in our church community and programs outside our community.

Provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment with other children and adults.

Teach our children the important faith traits such as generosity, responsibility, courage, joy, stewardship and humility so that they will include and apply them to their daily lives.



Sunday, April 3rd ... A morning of service. Please look for an email with more information.

Sunday, May 1st ... Our year end wrap up celebration with a special focus on our graduating 8th graders!