

# The Messenger

*First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
The Church with Love and Hope to Share  
Saco, Maine*

## March



## 2018



**Bean Supper  
Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>  
5-6:30 PM**



**Cheer After Church!  
Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 AM**



**Team Leader Meeting  
Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am**



**Comfort & Hope  
Service  
Wed, March 28<sup>th</sup>  
7pm**

**12 Beach Street, Saco, Maine 04072**

**Phone 207-283-3771 [www.firstparishsaco.org](http://www.firstparishsaco.org)**

Rev. Deborah Breault, Interim Minister

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Jacqueline Savage, Music Director

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Glen Ellen Roth, Interim Office Administrator

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# From Deborah's Desk



*A little boy was in a relative's wedding. As he was coming down the aisle he would take two steps, stop, and turn to the crowd (alternating between bride's side and groom's side). While facing the crowd, he would put his hands up like claws and roar. So it went, step, step, ROAR, step, step, ROAR all the way down the aisle. As you can imagine, the crowd was near tears from laughing so hard, by the time he reached the pulpit.*

*The little boy, however, was getting more and more distressed for all the laughing, and was also near tears by the time he reached the pulpit. When asked what he was doing, the child sniffed and said, "I was being the Ring Bear".*

What we actually hear and what we think we've heard can be two very different things. In our busy noisy crazy world, listening has become a lost art. We have commercials that beg us to listen to our kids. We pray like crazy as we go to bed at night that our kids will listen to us as we try to instill lessons that may ultimately save their lives one day. As adults we may pay big bucks to spend time on a regular basis with a professional whose primary task is to listen to us in a safe, confidential space. Our need to be listened to is so strong within us and yet so many in our world feel isolated because they don't have anyone who can really listen to them. We can even feel that God doesn't hear us. It can be a lonely and scary thing to feel "un-listened to".

During the season of Lent why not make a decision to find time to *get quiet and listen for God in your life*. In addition to our individual need to be listened to and to be heard, we have the responsibility to be listeners as well. The United Church of Christ reminds us that "*God is Still Speaking*." If we really desire to know God's intentions for our lives we must take time to be quiet and listen in order to hear God speak. Lent is a wonderful time to study the disciplines of prayer and meditation. It is a great time to get quiet with ourselves and with God and see what happens. Even when we think we are listening, our lives can become consumed by noise, we can easily misunderstand what we think we've heard, like the little ring bear(er). ☺ And we can get just as frustrated!

As the holy season of Lent continues to unfold, consider taking intentional time to be listeners as well as finding those safe spaces where we can be listened to. The rhythm of being quiet and taking time to share is as constant in our lifecycle as those of life, death and rebirth. What better time for quiet as we listen for the still small voice of God to speak. May God's peace and blessings be with each one of you always. I hope to see you in church!

Faithfully,  
Deborah

# HOLY WEEK



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Worship at 8:00 am & 10:00 am**

**Palm/ Passion Sunday**

**Monday - Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**Holy Week Home Communion for homebound members**

**Monday 10-12, 1-3, Tuesday 10-12, Wednesday noon – 2:00**

**Provided by the Pastor and Deacons**

**Please call or e-mail the office to request**

**Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

**7:00 pm Worship for Maundy Thursday**

**Commemoration of Our Lord's Supper**

**With the Service of Tenebrae.**

**Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Good Friday**

**12:00 noon – 3:00 pm**

**The Sanctuary will be open for reflection, meditation and prayer. All are invited to observe Good Friday in this manner.**

**April 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Easter Sunday**

**6:00 am Ecumenical Sunrise Service (Ocean Park)**

**Easter Sunday Worship 10:00 am**

**(No church school classes, Nursery only)**

# From the Moderator

## *FROM THE MODERATOR*

First Parish is such a wonderfully active church. I am excited to be a part of the good work that is happening here.

The council is currently addressing some very important issues. One primary issue is stewardship. Traditionally we do this work in the fall, but stewardship is really a twelve month, 365 day a year activity. We hope you will consider joining this vital ministry team. We will be contacting people who might be interested so that their names may be brought to the council for approval. From there, the existing and new members of the stewardship team will get on with their very important work.

Another important issue that the council will engage is to fill the current vacancies on the ministry teams. It is hoped that new and existing members will step forward to do the work of the ministry teams in our church. Two teams which are in particular need of volunteers are Facilities and Diaconate. Please see John Brockington, chair of Facilities or Dan Carter and Nadine Russell, co-chairs of Diaconate to find out about the responsibilities of those teams.

On March 11<sup>th</sup> an important meeting of all the chairs of the ministry teams will meet in the sanctuary after the service at 11:30. At that time we will have a discussion regarding the procedures, responsibilities, and expectations that the teams need to know to move ahead in this new year. We hope that in addition to the team chairs, all the council members will also attend to lend their support.

In a final note, Jason Bridges was recently hired at First Parish as our new housekeeper. Most of Jason's work is done after hours, but please give him a welcoming hello if you see him in the building.

As always, feel free to contact me to voice any concerns, to provide ideas to improve the way the church operates, or just to become more acquainted with your new moderator.

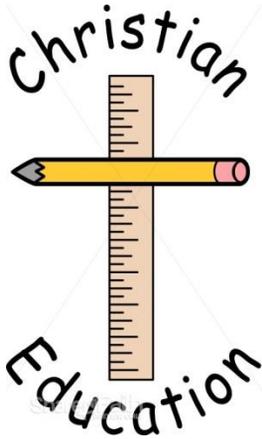
Sincerely,

Bob Mohlin

[RMohlin@CES-Maine.com](mailto:RMohlin@CES-Maine.com)

468-0851





Here we are already through February and finished with the Winter Quarter. How quickly those 13 weeks flew by. This month begins our Spring quarter. We are very fortunate to have teachers in all our age level classes for this

quarter. The only change is Peter Browne will be replacing Amy Chute in our 2,3 & 4 grade class. We are so grateful to all who teach Church school. Thank you.

A couple items have come to my attention. This year we incorporated a nametag policy for our Church school children in grades preK through seventh. This was done because many of our adults do not know the names of our Church family children and would like to as well as make family connections. Parents please remind your children to pick up their nametag and wear it throughout our worship/class/fellowship time.

Another item is our Church school offering. It is important to start teaching our children about giving early on in life. Each class does take an offering. It can be a quarter or a dollar, doesn't matter, but it does teach our children about giving to others and tithing. If your child receives a weekly allowance, talk to them about giving 10% to our church.

special musical guests John and Allie Rimkunas and we will sing from our PL songbook. After the 10AM worship service fellowship time our youth will be serving ice cream cones. Our ice cream will be from Friendly's so you don't want to miss that. We hope that this special Sunday encourages many in our congregation to go to Pilgrim Lodge for one of their awesome camping experiences. Our PL campership application will be available at this time. Anyone applying to PL is eligible to also apply for a campership to defray the cost of their time at camp.



Registration starts February 1!

*“Every summer, like the roses, childhood returns.”* Marty Rubin

There is no better way to embrace childhood and anticipate summer than to register for camp!

PL has sessions for all ages and walks of life. From families to teens, youth to seniors, artsy to sporty, and everyone in between. No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, there's a camp session for you! Mark your calendar, tell your friends, shout it from the rooftops:

**Registration is open so apply now**

Some sessions do fill up fast. Please contact us at 207-724-3200 or email our administrator Karen [karen@pilgrimlodge.org](mailto:karen@pilgrimlodge.org) with questions or to learn how to register offline.

See you at Church,

*Kris*



This month we will be celebrating Pilgrim Lodge. Our Pilgrim Lodge Sunday will be March 18<sup>th</sup>. We will have



*Jesus says: "Let  
the little  
children come  
to me"*

-Matthew 19:14

Helping **Lisa** in the Nursery for the month  
of **February** was:

- 4<sup>th</sup> **Carol Nero**
- 11<sup>th</sup> **Jon Edstrom**
- 18<sup>st</sup> **Kathy Mehlman**
- 25<sup>th</sup> **Mary Coyne and Martha Perkins**

First Parish Christian Education Team  
appreciates your time. **Thank you**



## **Fellowship**

We had a Super Time at our Super Bowl overnight last month. Although the game didn't have the outcome we wanted we still made out well on our Super Bowl Subs Fundraiser. We made \$550.00. Thank you to all who ordered subs. Our Souper Bowl of Caring offering brought in \$367.50 for Stone Soup Food Pantry in Biddeford. Thank you to all who donated to this offering. We appreciate your support.

## Schedule



- March 4<sup>th</sup> Cameron Zelensky
- March 11<sup>th</sup> Andrew Reiche
- March 18<sup>th</sup> Sage Guerrette
- March 25<sup>th</sup> Jackson Vincent

Thank you to all our Acolytes. They are doing a wonderful job preparing us for worship. If you have a child(ren) interested in being an Acolyte please let Kris know.



- March 18<sup>th</sup> Pilgrim Lodge Sunday
- March 25<sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday  
Intergenerational Service
- April 1<sup>st</sup> Easter Sunday
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day  
Blanket Sunday
- May 20<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday  
Children's Day

## Music Ministry

*Jacqueline Savage: Music Director*

*As we enter into the Season of Lent, the benediction Response will change from "Go in Peace" to "Sevenfold Amen". Hopefully by the time we get to Easter Sunday, the congregation will be able to sing it with the choir. The Introit will also change to "When Jesus Wept" which will be sung by the choir a cappella. If you feel moved to do so, close your eyes and try to take the music in all around you in the Sanctuary. The acoustics are marvelous and work in our favor while singing a piece like this.*

*"Light of light, ever bright,  
bringing day to darkest night,  
Ev'rywhere hear our prayer,  
give us eyes to see.*

*Evermore we adore  
God of majesty and awe,  
Ev'rywhere hear our prayer,  
give us voice to praise."*

(Nancy Gifford, "Light of Light," Choristers Guild, 2009)

### **Senior Choir:**

The Senior Choir will be singing at **Atlantic Heights** on **Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>** at 6:30PM. Feel free to come and sing with us if you would like to! We will be singing the old chestnut hymns for the residents.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Services the Youth Choir will be singing in:** Pilgrim Lodge Sunday and Palm Sunday

**Services the Junior Choir will be singing in:** Pilgrim Lodge Sunday, Palm Sunday and Easter

**Services the Bell Choir will be ringing in:** Palm Sunday



**Youth Choir News:** The Youth Choir did a fantastic job singing a solo during "Siyahamba" with the Adult Choir. They are a fun group to work with and have a genuine **love for music**. We can thank Susan Marston for that as most of them loved being in the Junior Choir!

### **Junior Choir News: by Susan Marston**

The Junior Choir has been very busy working on music for several special occasions. We are learning music for Pilgrim Lodge Sunday (March 18th), Palm Sunday (March 25th) and Easter Sunday (April 1st). It's a lot of memorizing, but the children are such quick learners. Like with every part of our community, the Junior Choir has been hit with the flu. One rehearsal was missing seven members out of the sixteen. The school vacation week will be a good time to relax and get well.

# The Mission Team

## One Great Hour of Sharing



The Mission team would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped to feed the hungry at Bon Appetit, Second Congregational Church, 19 Crescent St., Biddeford, Maine. The FPCC-UCC of Saco is scheduled to provide volunteers the 2nd Monday and Fourth Friday of every month. Please sign up under "Missions" on the bulletin board near the office, or you may e-mail Carol SpencerLemay at [spencerlemay2@gmail.com](mailto:spencerlemay2@gmail.com) if you plan to volunteer on one of those days. Thank you!

**One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** is the Lenten offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development activities. For more information, or to donate, visit [ucc.org/oghs](http://ucc.org/oghs). You may also donate via the collection plate. Please make the check out to First Parish Congregational Church with OGHS in the memo line. Or, if you prefer the mail, send your donation to: One Great Hour of Sharing/ 700 Prospect Ave. Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship, 2nd Floor/ Cleveland, OH 44115.



Next month our Youth Fellowship will be sending our College Care packages. Please help us provide “fun treats” for our college students. We will be collecting items (food/candy, pens, pencils, gum, tic tacs etc) starting **Sun., March 11, 18, 25** Nothing heavy, please. These packages are mailed. This is a great way for our church to stay in touch with our college youth. Please remember to sign a paper for each college student after church on March 25<sup>th</sup>. I know the students look forward to these care packages. Finals begin mid April so we like to send them “sooner than later”.

**Parents** please send us **YOUR** college student’s school address.

Email them to: [kris@firstparishsaco.org](mailto:kris@firstparishsaco.org)

Thank you.





We invite sign-ups for giving altar flowers during the year, again in honor or memory of loved ones. The sign-up sheets for each month are posted by the church office door. If you have a special event you would like to commemorate now would be a good time to plan ahead, to find a Sunday close to the date of your special event. All months still have available Sundays at this time. A list of local florists for the provision of flowers is posted next to the sign up sheet. Flower and Altar members are available to assist you, if needed.

★  
**MAKE TODAY  
RIDICULOUSLY  
AMAZING.**  
★



## *Easter Lilies*

Easter Lily orders are taking place on **March 4<sup>th</sup>**. Flower and Altar members will be in the Atrium after both **8 AM** and **10 AM** services.

**Care**   
**& Share**

Dear Friends,  
What a lovely idea! Especially after being without a phone for 2 weeks. Your Valentine was a wonderful sight to arrive. Thank you, Thank you!  
Carolyn Milley

I want to thank the friends at First Parish for my Valentine goodies. I was glad to be remembered.  
Barbara Freeman

# Upcoming Events



The Good News Group invites all parishioners to gather after church on March 18<sup>th</sup> to cheer on the runners and walkers participating in Mary's Walk. The start of the race/walk is at Thornton Academy and the racers will travel right by FPC on Main Street. Everyone is invited to wear a First Parish T-shirt and to cheer loudly as the participants stream by. It's a great way for our church to support our community. If you have an FPC t-shirt, please wear it to church on the 18<sup>th</sup>, or at least bring it with you and put it on before going outside.

## Bean Supper



**First Parish Congregational Church**  
12 Beach Street, Saco  
(Corner of Beach & Main Streets)

**When:** Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
Serving from 5:00-6:30PM

**Cost:** \$8.00 for Adult  
\$4.00 for Children ages 6-12  
Children under 6 years old are free

**Menu:** Pea Beans      Kidney Beans  
Hot Dogs      Macaroni & Cheese  
Brown Bread/Dinner Rolls  
Coleslaw      Desserts      Beverages

## FPC BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the FPC book club is scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup>. Newcomers are encouraged and appreciated. All books chosen are available at local libraries and at local book stores. The reading list for 2018 is as follows:

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**

"Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng

**April 25<sup>th</sup>**

"The Stars are Fire" by Anita Shreve

**May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

"After the Eclipse: A Mother's Murder, A Daughter's Search" by Sarah Perry

**June 27<sup>th</sup>**

"Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate

**July and August – No Book Club**

**September – Date TBA**

"Big Little Lies" by Liane Moriarty

**October – Date TBA**

"Lilac Girls" by Martha Hall Kelly

**November – Date TBA**

"Tell My Sons: A Father's Last Letter" by Mark M. Webber

**December – Date TBA**

"Social Meal and 2019 Planning

Book Club meetings are held in the parlor of the church at **6:30 PM**. Light refreshments are served. For more information contact Glen Ellen Roth at [droth@maine.rr.com](mailto:droth@maine.rr.com)

## Service of Comfort & Hope



The Service of Comfort and Hope will be held **March 28th at 7 PM** in the sanctuary.

# Prayer Shawl Ministry

## Thank You Notes

Dear Cheryl and the Prayer Shawl Ministry,

The beautiful ocean blue shawl you made for Dean was & is so comforting. Dean isn't able to use it for a couple of weeks in ICU, but he is feeling much better now and will be covering up with it again soon. All the nurses were commenting on how pretty and soft it is. Thanks for the prayers.

We are blessed.  
Dean & Ellen Coniaris

Dear Prayer Shawl Knitters,

A special and heartfelt thank you for the beautiful, colorful and comforting prayer shawl you all so lovingly knitted on my behalf. I am so grateful to be part of such a caring church family. My shawl is a perfect fit, covering me from my neck to my toes and used every day reclining on my couch.

Thanks again, Janice Clark

Dear Cheryl and members of First Parish,

Thank you so very much for the gorgeous prayer shawl. It went to the hospital with me on 2/5/18 and kept me warm and comforted me during my stay there. I continue to wear it each day. The nurses loved it, and I do love it also!

Thank you.  
Jen Trask Jones



Dear Shirley and the Prayer Shawl Ministry,

Thank you very much for the beautiful prayer shawl upon our new baby Soren's arrival. We love the colors and the reminder of the wonderful community our family is a part of at First Parish. We look forward to introducing Soren to everyone at a service soon.

Thanks again! Love, Abbie and Aaron Henry



Prayer Shawl Ministry



# Born in March

## March 1st

Peter Lund

## March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Grace Doyle  
Nathan Tarbox

## March 4th

Dylan Huth  
Paul Martin  
Lilly Page  
Nathan Poore

## March 7th

Harry Nielson

## March 10th

Lucas Edstrom  
Alma Klotz

## March 11th

Eric Marston

## March 12th

Bailey Fitzgerald  
William Johnson  
Jack Klingensmith  
Matthew Upham

## March 13th

Cheryl Lavasseur

## March 14th

Lydia McMullen

## March 15th

Richard Tripp  
Erin Fitzgerald  
Kayley Allen

## March 16th

Virginia Nordbeck  
Kelsey Martin  
Catherine Favreau

## March 19th

Doug Sabo  
Sue Burgess

## March 20th

Karen Brann

## March 22nd

James Garland  
Nicholas Cronin

## March 23rd

Richard Galasyn

## March 26th

Catherine Brockington

## March 27th

Lin Coomer

## March 29th

Carol Ann Holt

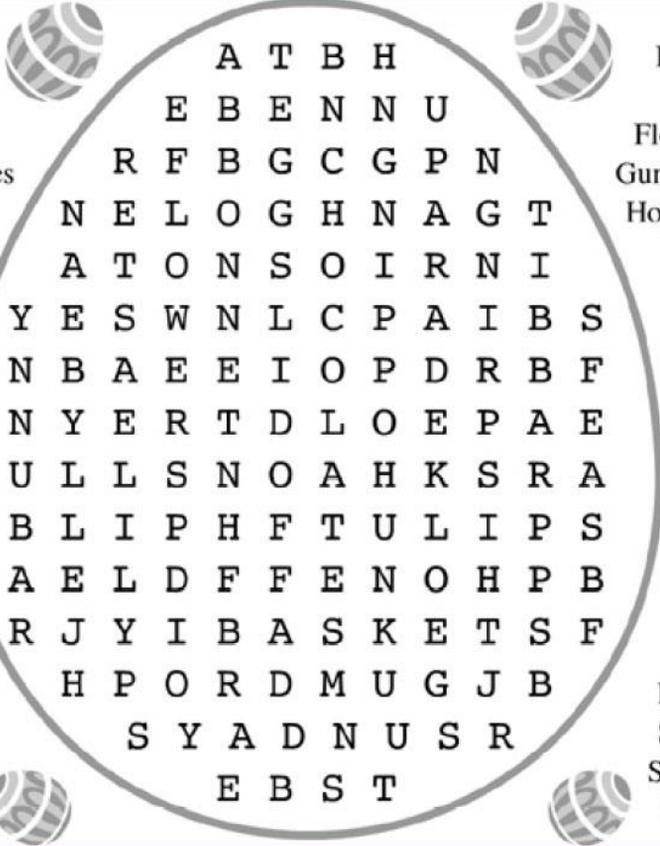
## March 31st

Tracy Boardman

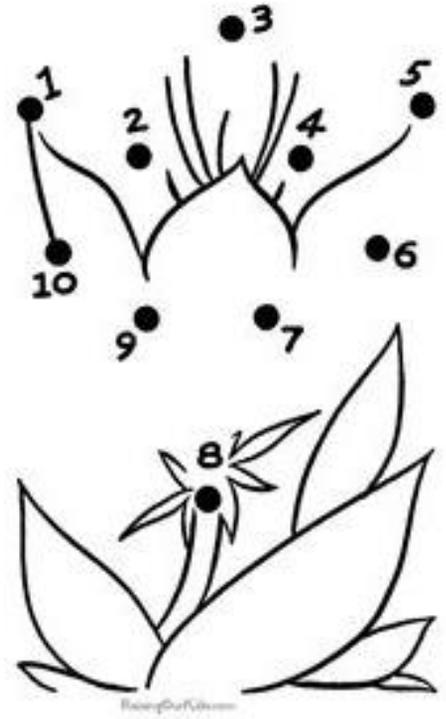


# Solve the Puzzles

Basket  
Bonnet  
Bunny  
Chocolates  
Daffodils

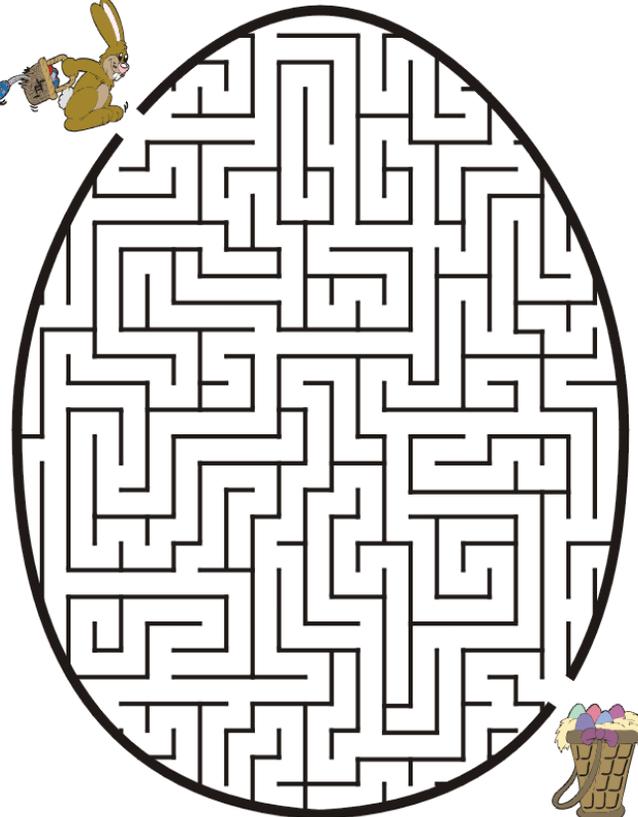
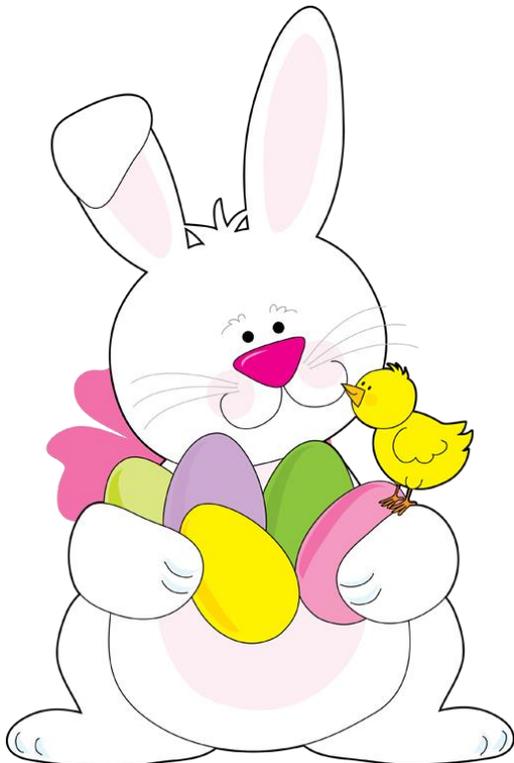


Easter  
Eggs  
Flowers  
Gumdrop  
Hopping



Hunt  
Jellybean  
Lily  
Parade

Rabbit  
Spring  
Sunday  
Tulips



# EASTER

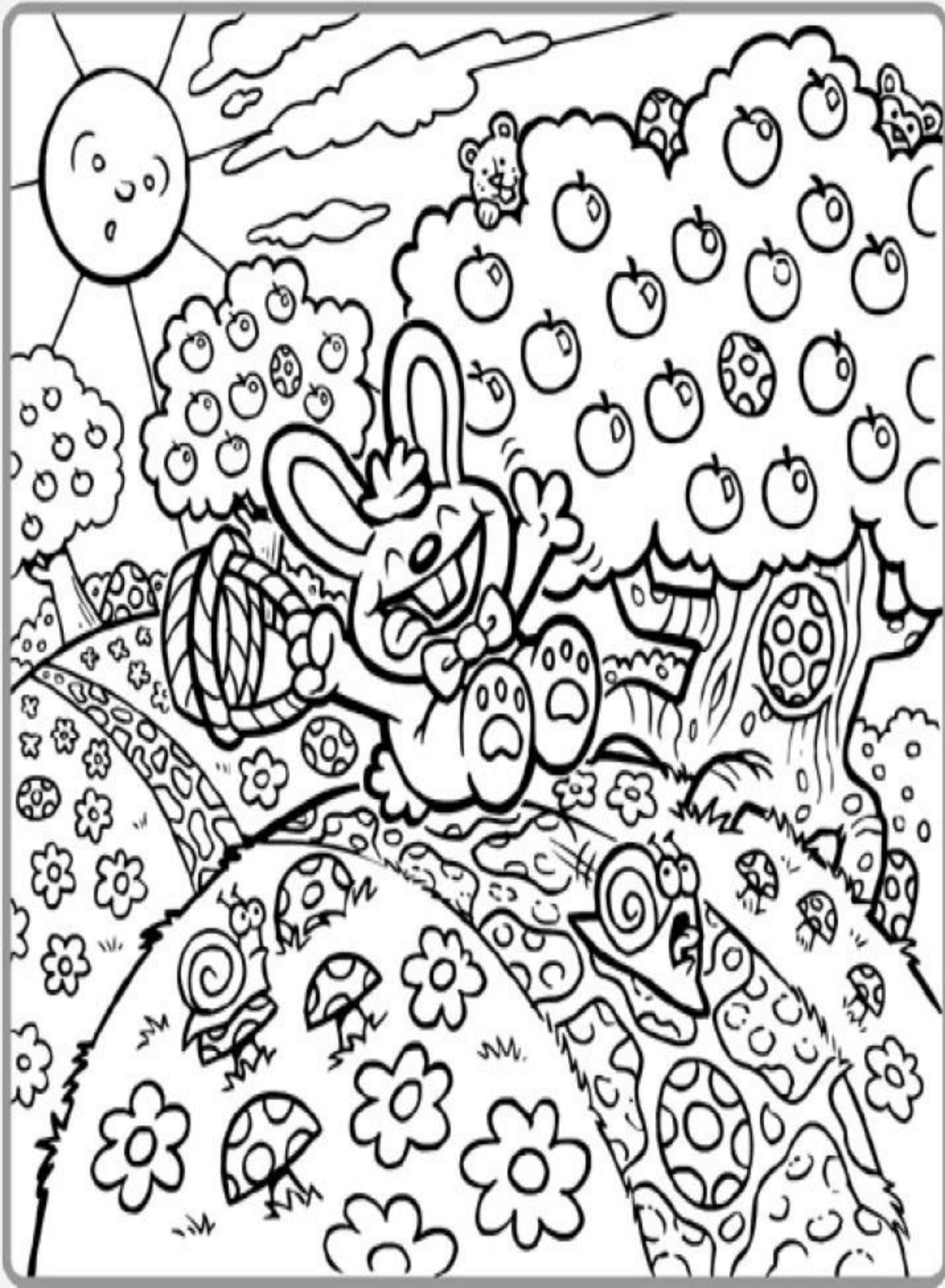
## WORD SEARCH

S U E X I W R K Y B C  
I A C I D B X V U R S  
B D V E J K T N O R E  
J N P I B V N S E T G  
M E J H O Y S W E Q L  
R Y M E V R O K V X S  
N G C D I L S T N A U  
C C L S F A E G G S S  
I S E H B J A U D W E  
D N V Y Y A D N U S J  
D O S W T T O M B X S

RISEN  
CROSS  
TOMB  
JESUS  
SAVIOR

SUNDAY  
FLOWERS  
EGGS  
BASKET  
BUNNY







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