

THE PROSPECT TOWER

Prospect United Methodist Church

A Growing Christian Community of Faith in Action

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Pastor's Page

Spring is still coming!

"Spring is coming:" That is what I wrote for the Tower in March. Since then, the weather has seemed to disprove my words. A member of church said to me, 'You jinxed it. You should not have said it. It was too early to say that.' Now I know she is right. Ironically, we are waiting for Spring in Spring.



Last Sunday, there was a concert in Pyung-yang, North Korea. Singers, musicians, dancers, and artists from South Korea showed their performance to North Korean. The title of the concert was 'Spring is Coming.' Spring here does not mean one of season. It means a peaceful and mutual cooperation and relationship between two countries. It might mean the unification of them. I believe the Israelites under Egyptian occupation waited for the spring. The spring finally arrived to them when God parted the Red Sea and saved them from Egyptian soldiers. People of Israel were excited by and amazed at God's authority and power. God went even farther. God not only saved them, but also gave them guide lines to follow God when they journey through their lives. Israelites were given the Law, the Torah on the Mount Sinai. The Torah led the Israelites through their journey to the promised land and even more.

A major Jewish festival called Shavouth commemorates the giving of the Law, the Torah. It is held 50 days after the second day of Passover. It is now called Pentecost. It is the same day when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples 50 days after Jesus was resurrected.



In John 14, over Passover dinner, Jesus promised disciples he would ask God to send another advocate, the Holy Spirit and when it come upon you, it would help you to do greater things. Then on Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples and they became totally different persons. They had been cowards and betrayers. But now they were followers of Christ and witnesses of God. They made a difference to the world. They did amazing things nobody can understand now. The Holy Spirit mediates the presence of God. Even if Jesus Christ went away, Jesus is coming to us through the Holy Spirit. In the presence of the Holy Spirit we can do amazing things. We are 'NUTS' – Nothing impossible Under The Spirit.

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Prospect United Methodist Church

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In the ear of Old Testament, the Torah, the words of God, led the people of God and in the ear of New Testament, the Holy Spirit has led, guided, encouraged, and empowered the people of God to do the mission of God. Easter is not the finale. Easter is the beginning of greater things to change the world. We know what happened to the world after the first Easter. We know amazing things will happen to our lives. We should expect, wait, and pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon us and start good things. Greater things have yet to come. Greater things are to be done in our lives, in our church, and in our community. Spring is still coming!

Waiting for the Spring
'NUTS' PK

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion

A shorter version of the Sunday Service, with Holy Communion, in the Chapel.

10 a.m. Sanctuary Service

Traditional service of worship in Sanctuary with hymns, prayers, sermon, children's and adult choir anthems and solos. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month.

10 a.m. Church School

Children attend opening portion of service with family, then go to Sunday School classes.

11 a.m. Fellowship

Time of fellowship and friendship with coffee, tea, cookies and conversation in Sessions Hall.

■ Worship Committee Highlights

By Mary Rogers

Worship Committee Chair

Maundy Thursday: A diverse group of 36 people attended the Maundy Thursday Love Feast. Pastor Kim opened the brief service with a symbolic washing of the feet (through pouring of water from pitcher to bowl) and led the group in Communion by passing the bread and wine from individual to individual. Following the Communion service, the group helped themselves to soup from a choice of vegan vegetable, chicken rice, potato, or ham and white bean. Bread and butter was also served. This was a lovely church family/community event. We hope you are able to join us next year.



Historical Moment: The next historical moment to be presented by the History Committee will be on Children's Day, May 20th. The History Committee's topic will be Prospect's Sunday School. Some historical pictures will be displayed on the media screen.

Book Review: "It's Not About Me" by Max Lucado. Subtitle: "Rescue from the Life We Thought Would Make Us Happy." Published by Integrity Publishers in 2004; 146 pages of text with a 20-page study guide for group readings. Max Lucado is quite skilled at bringing Bible verses and current events into his subject matter while maintaining a great sense of humor. Learn why life is just a moment, how we can depend upon God when all else is changing around us, what it would mean if it were all about you, and how your pain reflects God's glory. If you need a new perspective, this book can help you obtain it. (Books reviewed are available in our church library.)

The Eyes of the Poet and God

Henry David Thoreau, who slipped away to live at Walden Pond, began to observe carefully the work of God in nature. In his Journal, written in 1845, he penned these thoughtful words: "Nature doth thus kindly heal every wound. By the mediation of a thousand little mosses and fungi, the most unsightly objects become radiant of beauty. There seem to be two sides of this world, presented us at different times, as we see things in growth or dissolution, in life or death. And seen with the eye of the poet, as God sees them, all things are alive and beautiful."



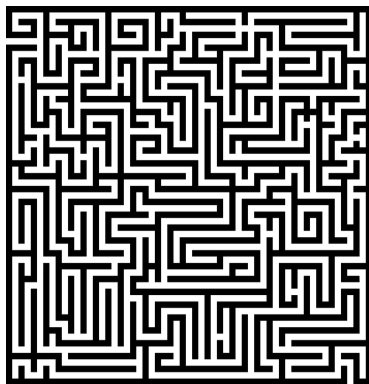
History Corner

■ Forgotten Easter Traditions

By Kathy Dube, Tower Editor

Easter traditions of the present are fairly predictable, but the unusual website Atlas Obscura (A.O.) and its spin-off Gastro Obscura (G.O.) reveal many unusual Easter customs from centuries past.

“The Lost Tradition of Playing Ball in Church to Celebrate Easter.” (A.O.) “Priests danced around a labyrinth and played a symbolic, ritual game of catch” by Sarah Laskow. Medieval clergy played ball in labyrinths, such as the one at Chartres Cathedral. In the nave of Chartres Cathedral, the stones of the floor were arranged, hundreds of years ago, to form a flat labyrinth, 42 feet in diameter, with paths large enough for a person to walk its full winding course.



“Starting back in the 12th century, labyrinths like this became part of the design of cathedrals in northern France and in Italy. Their purpose is somewhat mysterious, though it’s usually assumed to be allegorical in some way. Following the path of the labyrinth might have symbolically recreated a pilgrimage, or perhaps the symbol represented Christ’s trip through Hell between his crucifixion and resurrection.

“Thanks to a 14th-century document, though, we know that at least one cathedral labyrinth had another purpose, just once a year — it was used as a ball court on Easter Monday. In Auxerre Cathedral in northern France, and most likely in cathedrals in Sens and Amiens (and perhaps Chartres, as well), clergy gathered around the labyrinth, danced in a circle, and tossed a ball from person to person. These games, according to medieval religious observers, had ties to pagan practices. In certain places, they were incorporated into church rituals for hundreds of years. Though it was meant to be joyful, the Easter ball game was far from a free-for-all. One early description, according to Max Harris, author of *Sacred Folly: A New History of the Feast of Fools*, describes how, before vespers on Easter Monday, the cathedral chapter would gather at the archbishop’s house to eat meat and drink spiced wine. “Afterward the archbishop should throw the ball,” the text specified. A later note added that if the archbishop was absent, his deputy could step in.

“Whatever its purpose, the ball game tradition was limited to northern France, and eventually those pagan overtones caught up with it. Late in the 15th century, the newest priest at Auxerre was not a fan, and did not bring the ball with him when he was supposed to. He was eventually convinced to play, but that began the end of the tradition. Even the stone labyrinths began to disappear. The one in the Auxerre Cathedral was removed before 1690, along with what scholar Tessa Morrison of the University of Newcastle in Australia calls one “path of pilgrimage of the soul to receive the illumination of God.”

Tansy Pancakes (G.O.): While many Easter traditions today signify sweet breads and desserts, a custom lost to time in England was eating tansy pancakes. “Tansy pancakes were a sweet, herbal concoction — somewhere between a pancake and an omelette — known as a tansy. Tansies took their name from the herb *tanacetum vulgare*, which grows wild across the United Kingdom. With yellow flowers the shape of flying saucers, it had various charming nicknames, including bitter buttons, cow bitter, and golden buttons.

“Recipes for the simplest tansies are short and to the point. Per a ‘Mrs. Rendle’: Pound a handful of green tansy in a mortar, add the juice to a pint of batter, and bake it.’ As time went on, however, other herbs found their way into the mix. A recipe in the 1588 *Good Housewife’s Handbook* used the juice of tansy, feverfew, parsley, and violets, mixed with ‘the yolkes of eight or tenne eggs, and three or four whites, and some vinegar, and put thereto sugar or salt.’ It was then fried. Essentially, it was a big, flat, slightly sweet pancake, with a faint greenish tinge.

“It’s likely that tansies originally had a medicinal purpose. The herb itself was believed to cure various ailments: One 16th-century medical tract, *Treasurie of Health*, prescribes it soaked in a pint of wine for a drinke for them that be hurte or brused,’ while another claims that ‘it is good to dissolve windiness of the stomach and guts, and to kill worms in the belly, expelling them out. It is used also to provoke urine, and to break the stone of the [kidneys].’ (Tansy is now known to be slightly poisonous.)

“Its appearance on the Medieval Easter table, therefore, makes some sense. Throughout Lent, Christians endured a long, boring diet of lentils and dried fish. Tansies, one early recipe claimed, were “good for the stomach, on account of discussing the Flatulences generated by eating Pulses and Fish during Lent.” In short, they were probably a practical solution to post-Lenten gut squalls. (But tansies had other, year-round medicinal uses: In the early 19th century, physicians told women with ‘hysteritis’ to place a “tansy pancake” against their abdomens to ease uterine pain.)”

Thanks to Atlas Obscura and Gastro Obscura, these customs are no longer buried in time, though they aren’t like to be resurrected in the modern day!



A 16th-century painting shows a family enjoying pancakes and waffles. Public Domain

■ Renaissance Dinner Show Update

By Luisa Gladu, Middle Ages Group Chair

Rehearsals are under way for the The Middle Ages Group's Annual Renaissance Dinner Show fundraiser. The dates this year are Saturday, April 28th and Saturday, May 5th.

This year's dinner will transport you to the Scottish Isle, for a fun Celtic Spring Fling! Men in kilts, savory food and intrigue will abound.

King James of Scotland and Queen Mary have invited his royal majesty King Henry the XVIII and his latest wife, not sure which one but I think it's number 4, to join them for a Spring Feast at Edinburgh Castle. Of course loyal subjects have been invited as well.

The buzz around the shire is whether the twin royal princes, Duncan and Angus, will show up and behave themselves. Their track record is not very good; they have caused quite a bit of trouble in the past but one only can hope that they have matured a bit.

HRM King James has commanded that a 7-course feast be prepared. You will dine on the finest food prepared by the royal chefs and enjoy entertainment by the royal courtiers.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 10 and under. To reserve your tickets or a table, please contact Luisa @ TheGladus@comcast.net or call at (860) 582-8383.

We look forward to selling out both evenings and seeing you there. Remember this is a reserved ticket event, no tickets will be sold at the door.

Also, if you would like to donate towards the dinner or help out we are always looking for volunteers. Please let Luisa or Gary Gladu know.



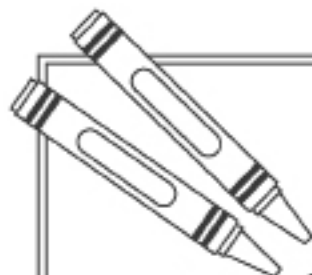
Thank You

I would like to thank you for all the Easter baskets. They were amazing. Just imagine, some of these kids may have never received a basket before. A basket may seem small to you and me, however, one of our adopted social workers has expressed how much the gifts are appreciated.



Thank you for all you do to bring joy to the lives of these kids and young adults.

Jeanette Baker

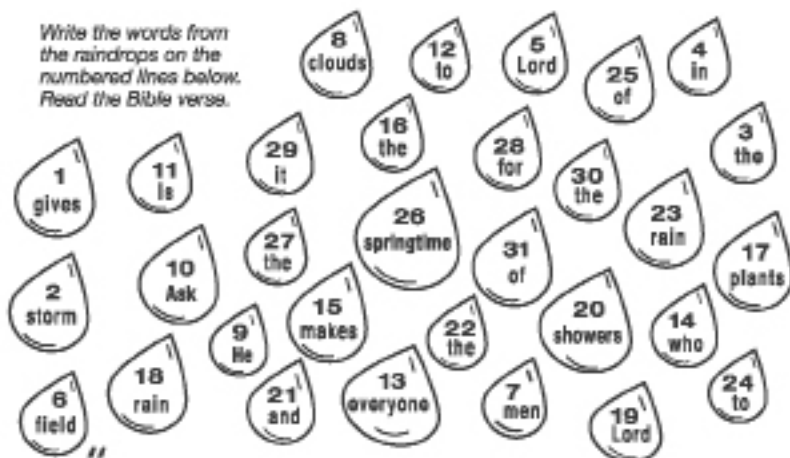


Just for KIDS

Thank God for Rain

Each spring the Lord sends April showers to water the earth. Without rain to nourish our trees, plants, flowers, fruits and vegetables, there would be a poor growing season and very little to harvest. Thank God for rainy weather!

Write the words from the raindrops on the numbered lines below. Read the Bible verse.



10	16	5	28	18
4	22	26		
29	11	3	19	14
27	2	8		
9	1	20	31	23
12	7	21	17	25
30	6	24	13	

Zechariah 10:1 (NIV)

Answer: "Ask the Lord for rain in the springtime; it is the Lord who makes the storm clouds. He gives showers of rain to men, and plants of the field to everyone." Zechariah 10:1

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