

A Message from Rev. Chris

Each year on Easter, I share about the life and teachings of Jesus in our faith development class, including the story of his death and resurrection. I am always curious to ask the children and youth what they believe. Without fail, some say they celebrate Easter because they believe Jesus came back to life. Others celebrate to honor the “natural resurrection”, because in spring the earth itself seems to come back to life — the flowers, the eggs, the new baby animals — which is connected to why we do an Easter Egg Hunt! Still others take a more nuanced approach and say that while they don’t personally believe that people come back to life, perhaps our spirit never dies, and that Jesus’ spirit lives on especially through his words and teachings. There has always been a range. That is one of the things that is so special to me about Unitarian Universalism.

Tonight, some of you may be celebrating the first night of Passover, and if so, may your seder table be filled with love, memory, and the taste of liberation. Others may be more focused on April Fool’s Day. I hold the story of Easter this week, and I invite you to consider this: we sometimes want to skip past Good Friday and go straight to Easter morning. But the story invites us to stay in the hard part — the loss, the grief, the long Saturday when nothing is resolved. Joy that has walked through sorrow is deeper and fuller than joy that has avoided it.

And then, this Sunday we celebrate! We are delighted to welcome Rev. Art McDonald to lead our Easter worship. Art is Minister Emeritus of the First Universalist Church of Essex, a dedicated ECCO activist for over twenty years, and a great friend of UUCGL who has preached here on many occasions. Children and youth will begin in worship, and then recess with me to faith development class. We will have some new activities and lessons around Easter, as I always do each year, but I’ll ask them the same questions, as well. Then, after worship, children and parents will be invited to join us in the Fellowship Room for our Easter Egg Hunt, hosted by members and friends of our Faith Development Ministry Team this year — and with special thanks to Eileen and the Youth Group for filling all the eggs! All ages are welcome. We’ll start with our youngest hunters, and older youth can hunt or help the little ones. Weather permitting, we’ll head outdoors; if it’s rainy, we’ll hunt inside.

Rev. Chris