

Roots and Wings: A Gaetz Memorial Publication



Spring 2026

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Minister's Musings:

It's a new day! A new season! And the
wild invitation to new life!

Welcome Spring!

Soft rabbit white fur turns brown to match
Mother nature's new gown of woodland
tones, fuzzy pussy willows emerge with
promise of leafy green! Green shoots
and crocus blossoms, begin to grow
toward the sun, leaving the icy bed of
winter.

And suddenly the world seems
brighter!

This is Hope! This is Creation! This is the Sacred Promise!

Holy Week brings the age-old story and the pilgrimage of Christians everywhere to seek Holy Ground together, gathering like apostles in upper room meals and Jerusalem marches, and hallowed gardens.

And inevitably, everywhere, the Sacred Breath of God, the Spirit of Christ, where Spirit and body merge, comes to life!

And we all say, it is Glorious! Hallelujah!

Upcoming Easter Services

Please join the faith community for the following services of worship:

Palm Sunday- (March 29)-	10:30	with Holy Communion and Gaetz Ringers
Holy Friday -(April 3)-	10:30	Contemplative Taize Service Hot Cross Buns & Refreshments after
Easter Sunday Service - (April 5) -	10:30	Music with Sanctuary Choir
Holy Humour Sunday - (April 12)	10:30	Sunday Service

P.L.U.R.A.

(Presbyterian, Lutheran, United, Roman Catholic, Anglican)

Holy Week, starting on March 30 will have the PLURA community offering noon hour services of prayer and soup and refreshments following each service.

Ecumenical Holy Week Services (12:00 noon with soup lunch to follow)

Monday (March 30)-	Service and Lunch: St. Leonard's Preacher: Rev Leila Currie (Gaetz Memorial United)
Tuesday (March 31)-	Service and Lunch: Good Shepherd Lutheran Preacher: Jaebok Gu (Knox)
Wednesday (April 1)-	Service and Lunch: Gaetz Memorial United Preacher: Chris Roth (St. Leonard's)
Thursday- (April 2)-	Service and Lunch: Knox Presbyterian Preacher: Rev Noel Wygiera

Please check our website and Facebook Page regularly for updates, cancellations or modifications to events and worship services . We post our live-streamed Sunday services on You Tube as well.

WAYS TO CONNECT @ GAETZ



Gaetz United UCW (United Church Women) meets at the church in the Parlour (lower level) on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 pm from September to May. All are welcome .

Men's Breakfast Group meets the 1st Friday of each month at 8:00 AM at the ABC Family Restaurant board room. (2085-50 Ave, Red Deer) All men welcome. Questions? Call Ray 403-304-2581 or email rayinreddeer@gmail.com



Ladies Who Lunch - We will join together on the FOURTH Monday of each month at **Albert's Family Restaurant** at 5020-47 Avenue at **11:30 a.m.** We will not be meeting in March due to Holy Week. Our next luncheon will be on Monday **April 27** and in May we will meet on **Monday May 25.**



Come and join in for some good conversation and fellowship. Everyone pays for their own lunch.

AOTS (As One That Serves) meets the first Monday each month. Join for a meal & a devotional message from 6—7pm , then a speaker or subject of interest to follow. For **April 6** our guests will be Joanne Fairlie. **May 4** will have Lorna Watkinson-Zimmer speaking and **June 1** will have Ila Forber.

Spirit Talks is a discussions on spirituality, theology, or whatever we pull out of our hat. It will now be on the **First Wed of the Month**, beginning **May 6.**

Deja' Brew—the first Wednesday of each month, discussions of the gifts and challenges of aging that affect all of us in one way or another.

Coffee and Convos—every Wednesday morning @ 10:00

Location: Runway Café 5018 50 Street (north-west Ross Street)

Prostate Cancer Support Group meets every third Thursday evening at 7:00—9:00

If you like more information call Maurice at (403) 704-3544

WAYS TO CONNECT @ GAETZ

Walking United 2026

Mar 30	Kerry Wood Nature Centre
April 6	Riverbend
April 13	Cronquist House
April 20	Bower Mall
April 27	Kiwanis Picnic Park
May 4	Barrett Park Trail
May 11	Mckenzie Trails
May 18	Riverbend
May 25	Kerry Wood Nature Centre

Join us for **Walking United**. We meet at 9:15 a.m. on Monday's at various trails in the city. Watch the announcements for dates & locations. Our walks are usually no more than 1 hour. Come when you can, no experience necessary! For more information call Caron Murray @ 403 396-2376 or Brenda Reid @ 403 346-6838.

Photo Directory - The new photo directories can be picked up during office hours and after the worship service on Sunday mornings. Thanks to all volunteers who worked on the directory and scheduling for photos.

THANK YOU to all our volunteers and to all who volunteer their time to serve in various ways and committees at Gaetz United Church.

2026 Gaetz United Church Board Members

Chair - Shari Hanson

Secretary - Susan Nelson

Treasurer - Sheila Cunningham

Ministry & Personnel - Shona Sponholz

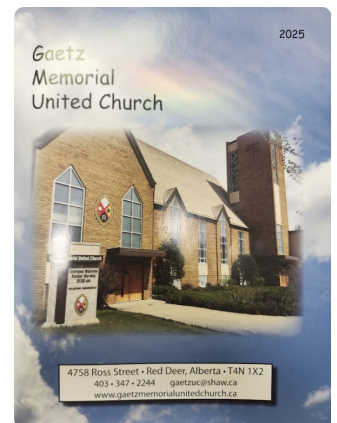
Christian Development - Marsha Anders

Worship Events Team - Deb Hennan

Members at Large - Dom Mancuso

- Brenda Neufeld

- Stee Marcinek



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Gaetz held an wonderful PIE day service on March 15, 2026 this year, celebrating **Public Intentional Exclusive**—Our mission as an affirming and welcoming community of faith



Reflection
Queer Theology
and the Clobber
Passages –
Stee Marcinek



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GAETZ MUSICAL GROUPS



Gaetz Ringers:

Thursday evenings @ 6:30 with director Melanie Grant



Sanctuary Choir:

Wednesday evenings @ 7:30 with director Dale Dickau (ded851@gmail.com)



Synergy Band

Every Sunday 11:45—12:45 (excluding Sundays of long weekends) If interested to join, please contact Gordon at wright.gi@gmail.com or phone 403-392-7005

Music Sunday May 31

A Celebration of Music during the worship Service at 10:30 AM May 31. -

Thank you to all the musicians, choir members and soloists for their contributions to the services throughout the year!

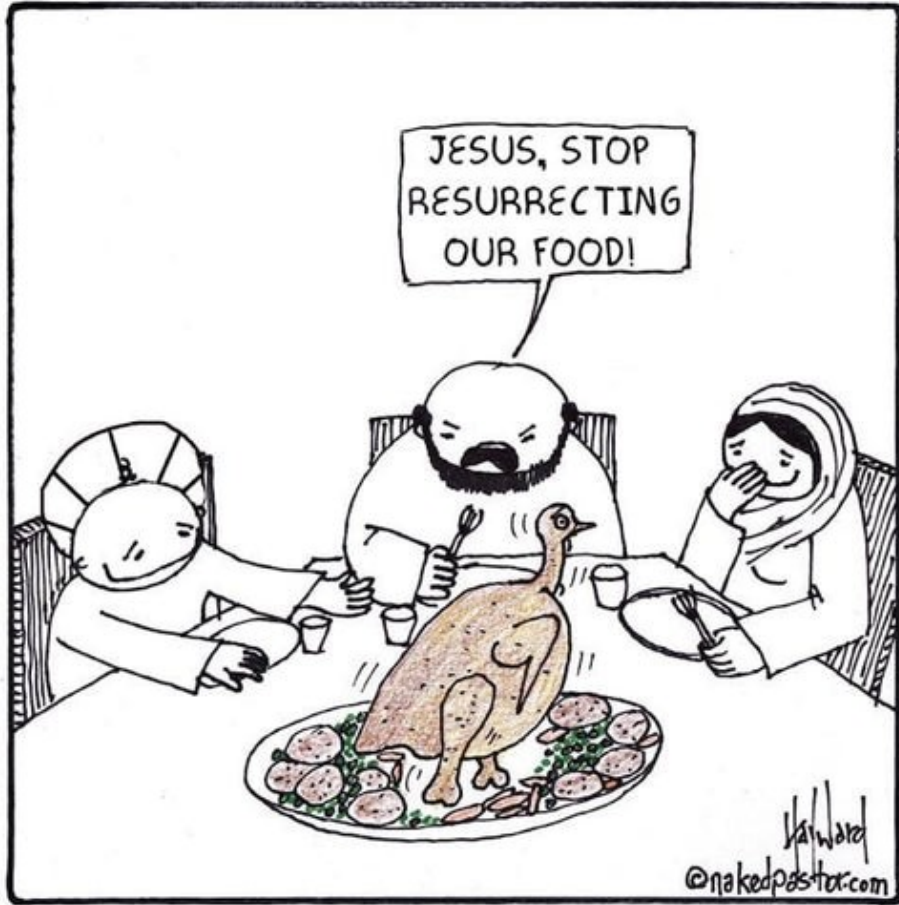
Synergy Intergenerational Worship Band, Gaetz Ringers Handbells and the Sanctuary Choir will be playing during the service.

A Message from Stewardship

As we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, we are reminded that we are not owners, but stewards of God's countless blessings. This Easter, let us move from gratitude to generosity, sharing our time, talents and treasure to bring the hope of Christ to our community. Blessings to you and a very Happy Easter.

Stewardship Team:

Rosemary Congdon, Sue Schollie, Lorna Watkinson-Zimmer



Spring Outreach Report

1. Thanks to all of you at Gaetz who have continued to donate food, etc. to Outreach. All donations have been delivered!
2. Welcome to **Jan Thomas** who has offered to help the Outreach committee this year!
3. Our meeting has been postponed so I am unable to give you too many details about our Upcoming Giving Sunday.

But the date is: **Sunday, May 3, 2026!** As soon as we have more details, we will let you know. For now, you can assume that **CAWES** and the **Red Deer Food Bank** will be recipients. Any other recipients to be determined shortly. Any donations can be brought to the Narthex or the church office anytime in April.

~Submitted by Karen Gough

Coming Events

Birthday Cake Mixer April 26

Join us right after the church service for a wonderful time of fellowship as we celebrate everyone's birthdays together!

We've got three cakes ready to go, but we still need nine more to make this party a real treat! 🍰

And when the fun's over, we'll need a few friendly hands to help with cleanup.

If you'd like to join the fun—by baking, bringing, or tidying up—give us a call at **403-347-2244** or email **gaetzuc@shaw.ca**.

Let's make it a sweet success together! 🎉

COMING EVENTS

SPRING CANDLE-LIGHT SERVICE OF COMFORT

Come alone or bring your friends to our annual Spring Service of Comfort

A gentle service of remembrance and comfort for anyone who is hurting or just wanting to remember a loved one.

All are Welcome

May 12 @ 7:00

Gaetz Memorial United Church
4758 50th St
Red Deer, AB



 **Spring Tea & Artisan Market**

Saturday May 2 1-4 pm
Gaetz Memorial
United Church
4758 Ross Street Red Deer AB



Enjoy Angel Food Cake with Cherry Topping and refreshments (Freewill Offering) then shop at the local Artisan tables.

Toonie Basket Draw!

Artisan products include jewelry, baking, knitting, cards, local honey products and much more.

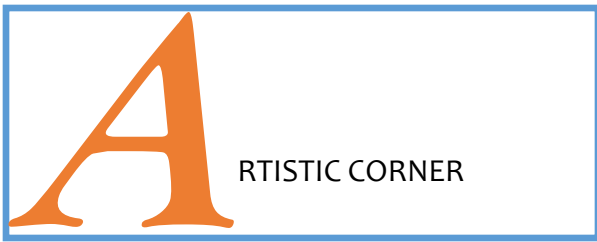
For more information call Gloria 403-877-0454





Join in the fun on Wednesday July 15 at 9:30 for the Westerner Days Parade. We will have refreshments again this year, Just bring your own chair!





Taken at Kerry Wood Nature Center for Spirit of Wellness: Art in the Sanctuary

Spirit Of Wellness—Arts in the Sanctuary will be held on Sunday October 5 in the afternoon. More details to come. Keep an eye on your weekly bulletin for more information as the date gets closer.

We are blessed by the gifts of the Gaetz Family. We invite submissions of poetry, art sketches, etc. for inclusion in future editions. Creative expression is a wonderful gift from God!

WIDER CHURCH

Sunnybrook Ham Dinner

Thursday, April 9, 2026

5:30 p.m.



Tickets: \$20.00

Youth: \$10.00

Under 6: Free

One sitting - advance tickets only.

Welcome to the United Methodist Church of Alberta! We welcome our family in Spirit, as the congregation of the United Methodist Church joins us every second week. While we hold our services in the sanctuary, they will be gathering for worship in the large room downstairs (formerly know as the "playroom." We will then share the table together over refreshments. They will be meeting in the lower level on some Sunday mornings at 10 AM. We look forward to sharing coffee and conversation with you following our worship services.



PROVOKING LEADERSHIP

APRIL 30-MAY 3, 2026 | LETHBRIDGE AB

Regional Meeting 2026

On Sunday (May 3) morning, congregations throughout Central and Southern Alberta are invited to join in worship with us through the live-streaming on the [Chinook Winds YouTube Channel](#)

More Information can be found at <https://chinookwindsregion.ca/regional-meeting-2026/>

Grammalink Africa Fabulous Fabric Sale

When April 25, 2026

Where Gaetz United Church Lower Hall

Time..... Saturday 9am - 1:00 pm



Admission\$2.00

Come & choose material, wool, & notions for all your sewing, knitting, & craft projects.



GrammaLink- Africa's

Fabulous Fabric Sale

Saturday April 25, 2026



Solidarity in Action! In support of Grandmothers in Africa raising children whose parents have died from the HIV and AIDS pandemic. All proceeds to the Stephen Lewis Foundation

www.grammalink.ca

or find us on Facebook at Gramma-Link Africa

Fabulous Fabric Sale

Saturday April 25, 2026

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Gaetz United Church

4758 Ross St.

Red Deer

Admission \$2

To donate fabric, (one meter or more) yarn, or notions please contact:

Jane 403 343-1073

Donna 403 343-6141

text

Donna 1 867 444 5833

Not later than April 11, 2026

The Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign
is a initiative of
 the Stephen Lewis FOUNDATION

April 9..... Ham Dinner @ Sunnybrook United, @ 5:00 p.m.

April 26 Birthday Bash Games to follow the Birthday Cake Mixer after the service

May 2..... Gaetz UCW Spring Tea and Artisan Market @ 1:00—4:00
Angel Food Cake & refreshments. Freewill offering.

May 31 Music Sunday

June 22 Anniversary Service

*Stay tuned for our next outdoor "Wild Church" service at the Grandfather Stones.

Celebrations of Life

We welcomed in baptism:
Katie Germain
Sawyer Scott

**"Life is a journey to be experienced, not a problem to be solved."
— Pooh Bear, Winnie the Pooh**



We said 'Farewell' to:
Gord Turple
Albert Young
Elizabeth Wiebe
Kathleen Miller
Mary MacFarlen
Ted Hutchings
Renee Thompson

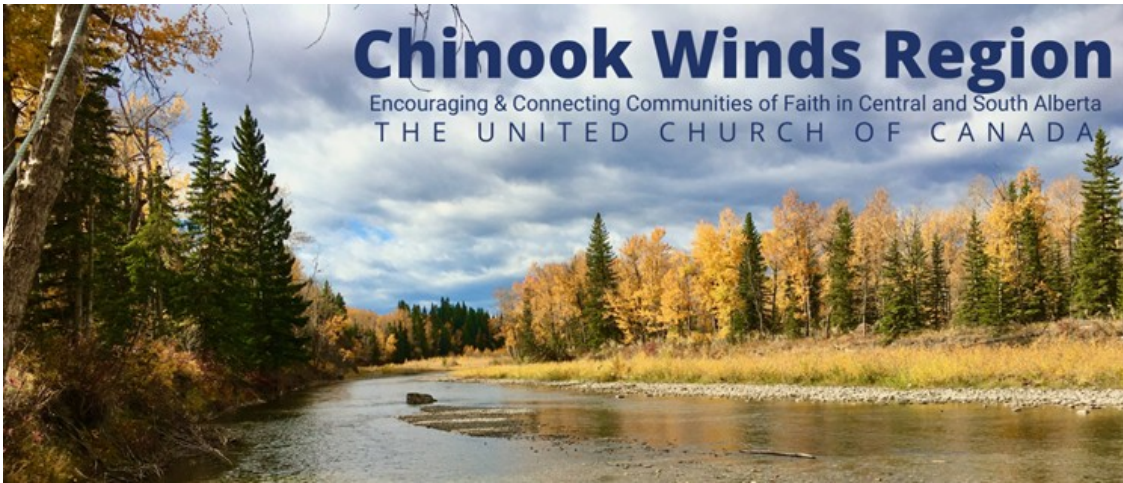
Remembering Rev Doug Pratt: We will be celebrating the life of Rev Doug Pratt on May 8 at 11:00 a.m. in Gaetz Memorial United Church sanctuary. Refreshments to follow.



Your Prayer Team:

You are held in care. Our dedicated team of compassionate souls team of compassionate souls hold the prayers of your heart in love, and respect for confidentiality, and add them to their prayers and contemplative practices each week. Please fill out a prayer card during Sunday morning service or you can email Rev. Leila Currie @ hummingbirds164@hotmail.com

The prayer team consists of Maxine Whitehead, Carolyn Neufeld, Bill Avison, and Leila Currie.



Gaetz Memorial United Church is part of the Chinook Winds Region United Church of Canada which includes United Church communities of faith in Central and southern Alberta.

There is much happening across the Chinook Winds Region: faith speakers, worships, theatre events, cultural programs, concerts and event/theme dinners. Register for the newsletter to keep you informed. There's something for everyone. If you would like to receive their newsletter go to their website <https://chinookwindsregion.ca/> or copy this link <https://chinookwindsregion.ca/news-events/newsletter/> Call (430) 306-0192 OR email: chinookwinds@united-church.ca



Gaetz Memorial United Church

4758 Ross Street, Red Deer T4N 1X2

403 347-2244 gaetzuc@shaw.ca

Face Book or You Tube: [gaetzmemorialunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/gaetzmemorialunitedchurch)

Website: www.gaetzmemorialunitedchurch.ca

Sharing faith, serving community

Newsletter distribution - Please feel free to print this newsletter if you know someone in our community who would appreciate it. Please share our office contact information if there is someone who would like to receive this newsletter or weekly announcements by email.

Newsletters will delivered to Seniors Homes (Revera Aspen Ridge, Parkvale, etc.) and printed copies will be available at Gaetz United Office during the regular office hours.

Spring Prayer for Our Time

Ever-Present Creator.

New air breathes in us as the sun returns for another season.

As we emerge from the dark days of winter,

May we seek to cast off the grave clothes of doom,

In the midst of a plethora of petitions, marches, and division,

Is an ever-deepening hunger for peace.

May your Wisdom of Eternity prevail,

May actions and words be fruitful,

May the seeds we sow for the wholeness of your Creation

Bloom and grow

Into wellsprings of your Beauty, and the nourishment of life.

For we are not here to perpetuate hate, or destroy what feeds us.

We are your Creation,

We are Your ceremony of spring

That rises again and again and again,

Blessed to give,

Graced to receive,

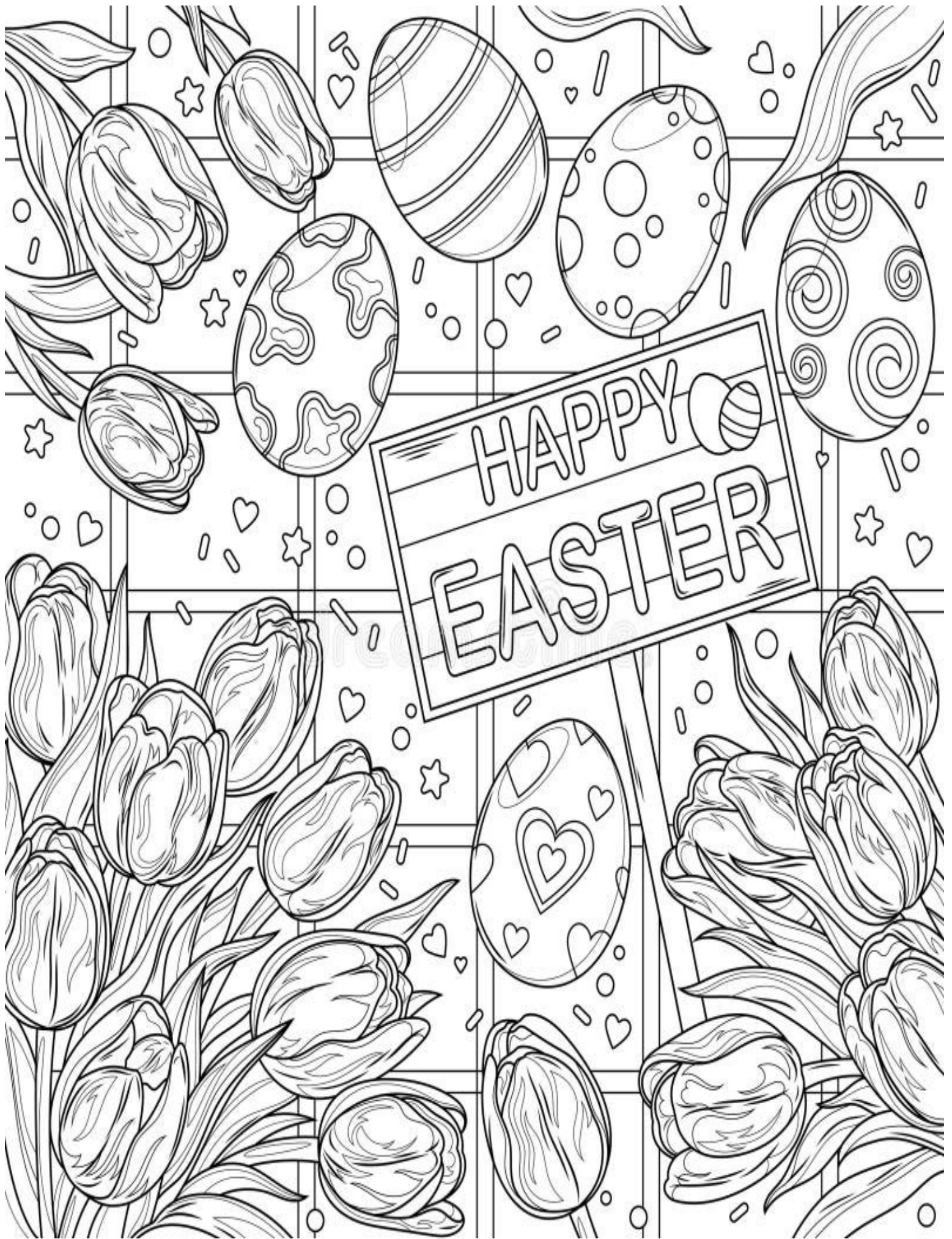
To live and move and have our being in your Cosmic, Holy Mystery
and Eternal Spirit. Of Creation.

May we breathe the Blessing that is in the air as a new season
unfolds. Amen



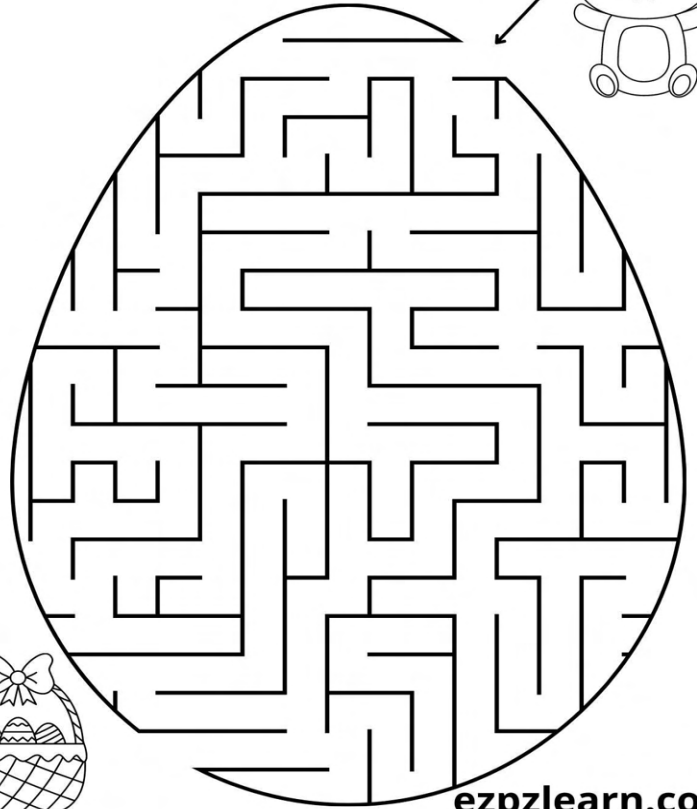
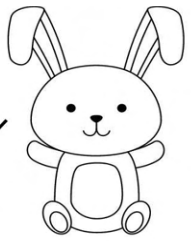
Spring Fun







Follow the maze to help the bunny get to the basket.



ezpzlearn.com

H·A·P·P·Y

Easter

Easter Treats!

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

Find the hidden words.

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Chocolate | Egg |
| Marshmallow | Cake |
| Sweet | Dessert |
| Candy | Jellybean |
| Cookie | Treat |
| Yummy | Snack |



Find the hidden words.