

# Lakeview Area News

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The Lakeview Area News office will be closed Thursday, April 24 so that the owners can attend the funeral of Frederick Kinsey. See obituary on page 4.  
Don't forget to vote May 6 on the 'Non-Homestead' Operating Millage Proposal.

**Spring Forecast**

**Thu** Chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 5pm. Partly sunny, high 74. SE wind 5 to 7 mph. Precipitation 30%.  
**Thu Night** Chance of showers before 8pm, then a chance of showers after 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 50. Precipitation 40%.  
**Fri** Showers likely, mainly after 8am. Mostly cloudy, high 64. Precipitation 70%.  
**Fri Night** Chance of showers before 2am. Mostly cloudy, low 44.  
**Sat** Partly sunny, high 61.  
**Sat Night** Partly cloudy, low 39.  
**Sun** Mostly sunny, high 66.  
**Sun Night** Partly cloudy, low 44.  
**Mon** Chance of showers. Partly sunny, high 72.



## First Congregational Church in Stanton Hosts "Christ in the Passover" Presentation



Greg Williams, a Jews for Jesus missionary from Israel, presented "Christ in the Passover" at First Congregational Church in Stanton on April 16.

By Bethel Larsen

I am really sorry you missed it—because all but a few readers did! The social hall at First Congregational Church in Stanton was hardly a packed house on Wednesday evening, April 16, when Jews for Jesus missionary Greg Williams led participants through a simulated Jewish Seder (Passover) meal and explained how each element prefigured—and now reflects—the Last Supper Jesus would celebrate with His disciples and the origin of the Holy Communion we celebrate in our Christian churches.

For this writer, the retelling never grows old. Sometime soon after the official founding of Jews for Jesus by Dr. Moishe Rosen in 1973, I became acquainted with the organization of mostly Jewish followers of Jesus (who may refer to Him by His Jewish name, Yeshua) who are dedicated to informing their Jewish brethren that their Messiah has come and earnestly desires to welcome them into His Kingdom. I have been on their mailing list for most of their fifty-plus years and from them have gleaned many insights into our shared Biblical heritage. I have attended several Christ in the Passover presentations through the years, some of them held in Lakeview. Knowing that Jews for Jesus missionaries are on the road giving presentations in the weeks preceding Easter, I

checked the website for a nearby location and found the one at First Congregational.

The event began at 6:00 p.m. with a potluck meal on the far end of the social hall. At 6:30, the group was directed to move to the other half of the room, where blue placemats and several atypical (for us) menu items graced each round table. The presenter's table in the front of the room had an orderly lineup of those same items, plus some accessories that are unfamiliar on an ordinary American table.

Before explaining them, however, Greg introduced himself and shared a bit of his background. Unlike the American-born Jews for Jesus missionaries I had met in the past, he is a citizen of Israel. Born in South Africa to Jewish parents who fled Europe after World War II, he traces his maternal lineage to Lithuanian and Latvian Heredi (Ultra-Orthodox) Jews. His surname—which, he points out, does not sound Jewish—comes from his father's Welsh ancestry. After both his parents became followers of Jesus, his Heredi grandparents disowned his mother; he has little knowledge of his mother's family. His parents immigrated to Israel, where Greg grew up as one of a tiny minority of Jewish followers of Jesus, straddling the two worlds of his tough Jewish neighborhood and the faith his parents strove to instill through annual youth camp

experiences. It was at a youth camp that a teenage Greg came to grips with faith in Yeshua in a real way. After completing his education and compulsory three years of military service, he set out on the foreign pilgrimage of self-discovery common to young Israeli adults and returned a committed believer.

Now married to Ukrainian-born Anastasia and the father of two young children, he serves with Jews for Jesus working with youth and those in military service. Continued service in the Israeli military reserve has cost him more time with his family than he would like since the Hamas attacks on October 7, 2023. However, his calm in the face of danger has given him opportunities to share his faith with his comrades in arms, telling them, "I know where I am going." (In the land where Jesus walked, only .02 per cent of the seven million Jewish residents have that assurance shared by His followers.) Greg and his family make their home in northern Israel. On the evening of his presentation in Stanton, he had been in the United States for several weeks and was eagerly looking forward to returning to his family in a few days. He appeared to have developed a brotherly rapport with First Congregational's pastor, Rev. Randy Bennett.

Greg began his Passover presentation by

explaining that Jewish households prepare for the Feast of Unleavened Bread by thoroughly cleaning the house to purge it of any trace of leaven. Most of this intensive labor falls on the matriarch of the family, but she leaves a few cookie or bread crumbs hidden where the man of the house can find them. He then removes them and declares the house duly cleansed. As the meal begins, the youngest child is assigned to ask four questions, first asking, "Why is this night different from all others?" The response is, "Because we were slaves in Egypt, but now we are slaves no longer." Unfortunately, there were no children present to ask the questions. In an accent somewhat different from his American missionary counterparts, Greg led us through the account of God's miraculous deliverance of His people from Egypt: the four cups of wine, including the one from which ten drops are removed with the finger to represent the ten plagues on Egypt and the Cup of Redemption that Jesus declared to be "the new covenant in My blood"; the silver Seder plate with depressions to hold the symbolic foods, including the shank bone of a lamb to represent the Temple sacrifice that ended with the destruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem in 70 A.D. One by one, we sampled the *chazeret*—a raw onion to represent the bitterness of slavery, the

roasted egg, the parsley dipped in salt water, the charoset (an apple mixture representing mortar).

The *matzoh* and its divided *Matzoh Tosh* are particularly intriguing to followers of Jesus. The unleavened *matzoh* wafers must be made with striations and spots resembling whip marks and bruises, and they must be pierced. (Greg passed a piece of *matzoh* across a candle flame to show light shining through tiny holes.) The rabbis cannot explain why these marking are required, nor why the pristine white *Matzoh Tosh*—a fabric case—contains dividers to separate three *matzoh* layers, of which the *middle* layer—the *Afikoman*—is broken, hidden, and then brought back. While the children of the household are eagerly searching the house for the hidden *Afikoman* in the hope of receiving a generous reward, the adults may well ponder the parallels with Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection.

There is more, of course, but you really need to experience it for yourself. When Jews for Jesus missionaries are visiting nearby churches next spring, I hope you will not miss the opportunity to attend a Christ in the Passover presentation. If you are unable to find a live presentation nearby, Christ in the Passover is also offered online. Either option will open your eyes to Jesus' death and resurrection in ways you never anticipated!

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