



**Sunday, November 8, 2020**

**8:00am Online Worship**

**Prophecies and Pottery: Journey with Jeremiah  
Veteran and Military Recognition**

**GUESTS,** Welcome to worship. To learn more about us, please visit our website at [www.unionucc.org](http://www.unionucc.org) or like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/unionneffs](https://www.facebook.com/unionneffs) . If you would like us to follow up with you contact Pastor Kris at 610-767-6961, [pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org)

**NEW MEMBERS:** For more information email Pastor Kris. [pastorkris@unionucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@unionucc.org) or call the church office to speak to her.

*We believe in extravagant welcome. We believe in God's inclusive love. We start worship with a greeting that reflects that welcome and love.*

*November 22, 2020 Worship in the Grove*

*Tailgate Lunch - Pick up 2021 offering envelopes - Christmas mission projects - Reverse Advent Baskets - Salvation Army Angel Tree Tags - Return Holiday Hope Chest shoeboxes*

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**PRELUDE**

My Country Tis' of Thee      Samuel F. Smith, Thesaurus Musicus

**WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**D** No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey and faith's journey

**C** You are welcome here.

\*GOLD HYMNAL #2 How Great Thou Art

**1. O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed**

**CHORUS**

**Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to Thee  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art**

**2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze:**

**CHORUS**

**3. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And lead me home, what joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow with humble adoration  
And then proclaim, my God, how great Thou art**

**CHORUS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Poem: excerpt from "To Begin With, the Sweet Grass" by Mary Oliver

**L** Someday I am going to ask my friend Paulus, the dancer, the potter, to make me a begging bowl which I believe my soul needs. And if I come to you, to the door of your comfortable house with unwashed clothes and unclean fingernails, will you put something into it?

## **A STORY**

The following story of Maple Avenue Church is told by John D. Cox in *The City in Its Heart: The First 100 Years of Maple Avenue Ministries* (Holland, Michigan: Van Raalte, 2014): In the late 70s, a diminishing, elderly congregation in Holland, Michigan, began the painful process of looking around the pews and admitting to themselves that they were a dying church within a neighborhood that had dramatically changed in the years since the church was established. Deciding that they wanted to do something about the intensifying divide between church and city, the congregation started a recreation ministry with the hopes of meeting their neighbors, learning who they were, and inviting them to a church that was ready to do all it could to make room. As the program grew with kids and activities, we invited local artists to come and teach something of their craft. One of these artists was a potter who brought clay and glazes; so, someone had the idea to commission the children to create new communion plates and chalices for the church. Many of the neighborhood children had never taken communion or heard the story of the Last Supper. So, with muddied hands we told the story, and together that summer several sets of communion plates and cups were fashioned by kids eager to put them to use. I have never seen more colorful, misshapen objects grace the altar of a church. Nor have I ever seen so many wide-eyed children—and adults—come to life at the communion table. The elders held the lopsided plates and leaking cups, inviting the church community to come to the table of one who also fashioned clay and dirtied [their] hands with a material world, one by whose love we continue to be shaped.

**Prayer of Transformation** Rev. Glenna T. Shepherd

II. Ready to be Fired

ONE: Skilled Potter God, I am your living clay.

**ALL: I am your soft, unformed, and being-shaped mass of earth.**

ONE: Put me in fire, Skilled Potter God;

**ALL: Put me in your own bright fire.**

ONE: I am warm, warm as you from fire.

**ALL: Soft and hard, shaped and purposeful. I am so warm from fire.**

**MUSIC: Softening My Way** Bobby Jo Valentine

8x

15 I am a small — lump of clay — Here on this large

22 and love - ly earth, And yet be - fore I knew my name

28 You knew my form, you knew my worth. Long I re-sist -

ed my shape; Long I in-sist - ted on my own plans.

34 Now I am soft - en-ing my ways, I'm go-ing back to the pot -

40 Begin interlude

- ter's hands.

**MONOLOGUES FROM THE POTTER'S HOUSE**

Monologue from the Potter's House: "Jars for Keeping" The final installation in Rev. Glenna T. Shepherd's six-part monologue series

**MUSIC: Softening My Way Bobby Jo Valentine**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**Watch for Mrs. Puia on Facebook and our YouTube Channel during the week.**

**SCRIPTURE**

**Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15**

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD in the tenth year of King Zedekiah of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadnezzar. At that time the army of the king of Babylon was besieging Jerusalem, and the prophet Jeremiah was confined in the court of the guard that was in the palace of the king of Judah, where King Zedekiah of Judah had confined him. Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came to me: Hanamel son of your uncle Shallum is going to come to you and say, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth, for the right of redemption by purchase is yours." Then my cousin Hanamel came to me in the court of the guard, in accordance with the word of the LORD, and said to me, "Buy my field that is at Anathoth in the land of Benjamin, for the right of possession and redemption is yours; buy it for yourself." Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD. And I bought the field at Anathoth from my cousin Hanamel, and weighed out the money to him, seventeen shekels of silver. I signed the deed, sealed it, got witnesses, and weighed the money on scales. Then I took the sealed deed of purchase, containing the terms and conditions, and the open copy; and I gave the deed of purchase to Baruch son of Neriah son of Mahseiah, in the presence of my cousin Hanamel, in the presence of the witnesses who signed the deed of purchase, and in the presence of all the Judeans who were sitting in the court of the guard. In their presence I charged Baruch, saying, Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Take these deeds, both this sealed deed of purchase and this open deed, and put them in an earthenware jar, in order that they may last for a long time. For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Houses and fields and vineyards shall again be bought in this land.

# MESSAGE

## Earthenware Jars: Hope for the Future

Rev. Kris Snyder-Samuelson

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**ALL:** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

### SONG: The Potter's Hand Darlene Zschech

*mp*

2. You gen-tly call me in-to Your pres-ence Guid-ing me by Your Ho-ly Spir-it.

Teach me, dear Lord, To live all of my life through Your eyes.

*mf*

I'm cap-tured by Your ho-ly call-ing; Set me a-part, I know You're draw-ing me

to Your-self. Lead me, Lord, I pray. *mf-f* Take me,

mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Pot-ter's hand.

Hold me, guide me, lead me, walk be-side me. I

give my life to the Pot-ter's hand.

## LITANY FOR VETERANS

**L** God of love, peace and justice, it is your will for the world that we may live together in peace. You have promised through the prophet Isaiah that one day the swords will be beaten into ploughshares. Yet we live in a broken world, and there are times that war seems inevitable. Let us recognize with humility and sadness the tragic loss of life that comes in war. Even so, as we gather here free from persecution, we may give thanks for those that have served with courage and honor.

**C** **We pray and give thanks for those among us that are either in active duty or reserve duty, and their families.**

**L** God, we praise you for those that are willing to serve. Let all who serve, serve with honor, pride, and compassion. Do not let their hearts be hardened by the actions they must take. Strengthen their families. Keep them surrounded in your love and peace.

**C** **We pray and give thanks for those among us that have served in the military in the past.**

**L** God, we praise you for those that have served in the military. We thank you for those that put the welfare of others ahead of their own safety. Let us all be inspired by their self-sacrifice in service to those who needed protection.

**C** **We pray and give thanks for those among us who have lost a loved one in war.**

**L** God, we praise you for those that have made the ultimate sacrifice. We ask that you comfort those that still feel the pain of their loss. Keep us mindful that you have promised to comfort those that mourn.

**All: God, we praise you for granting us these freedoms. Let us honor those who have served by working for peace. Let us never forget those that have served, and let us never let go of your promise of peace. Amen.**

**\*During this song, please stand or raise your hand when the song from your branch of the service**

**begins. You are also invited to stand or raise your hand to represent someone in your family. We thank you and stand with you.**

### **Veterans Dedication**

Patriotic Medley Arr. Amy Potter  
Blake Hoppes, Piano  
Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard

### **OFFERING AND OFFERTORY**

**Thank you for being a blessing through your offerings to God.**



### **MUSIC OFFERING**

America the Beautiful Instrumental Ensemble  
Naomi Henninger - Flute, Andy Hill - Trumpet,  
Garet Hill - Saxophone  
Director: Mitchell Roth - Trumpet

**Donate to God's Mission and Ministry at UNION UCC**

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** you can mail your envelopes to the church. The church address is on one side, just add a stamp.

**ELECTRONIC GIVING** This is a great time to try e-giving! Choose a weekly, semi-monthly or monthly donation to be transferred electronically. Fill out the form



at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and return it to the church office. [financialmanager@unionucc.org](mailto:financialmanager@unionucc.org)  
**DONATE ONLINE with your Credit or Debit Card**  
Go to <http://www.unionucc.org/resources/giving-and-sponsorship/ways-to-give/> and click **GIVE ONLINE**.

**AMAZON SMILE** Donate to Union UCC, Neffs (Search by zip code 18065) while you shop at Amazon. <https://smile.amazon.com>.

### **\*BLESSING**

**1** We came to this sacred space  
to celebrate and affirm that God is like a potter,  
making and reshaping us into God's image  
to be and share the Good News.

**ALL: God, send us out into your world  
as your change agents  
to help mold and remake the human condition,  
with your grace and your help.  
Let it be so in this age and forever more. Amen!**

~ posted on the website of the First Christian Church of Decatur, Georgia.

ALL (Sung):  
**Take me, Mold me  
Use me, Fill me  
I give my life to the Potter's hands  
Hold me, Guide me  
Lead me, Walk beside me  
I give my life to the Potter's hand.**

### **POSTLUDE**

Jesus Paid it All

Tune: All to Christ John T. Grape

Worship Theme - Prophecies and Pottery: Journey with  
Jeremiah c. Worship Design Studio

Altar Design: Claire Kern, Deb Topp, and Pastor Kris

# **EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY**

<b>Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)</b>	
Last Week	\$3,745
Calendar 2020 (Jan-Aug)	\$238,364
Calendar 2019 (Jan-Aug)	\$247,941
Change from Last Year	-3.9%
Budget (July-Aug)	\$56,360
Actual (July-Aug)	\$54,827
Giving vs. Budget	-2.7%
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>	

<b>2020 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
Last Week:	65lbs, \$35
Total YTD:	6,928 lbs, \$2,400

## **SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS SPONSORS:**

**In Memory of Velma Wehr from Phil & Julie Wehr.**

*Your support is especially important now as we work to provide spiritual care and connection for members and the community through Facebook posts, ads, and online worship.*

*Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News.*

*Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.*