



WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
WDS



Drawn In:
Living the
Creative Life
with God

Sunday, September 26, 2021

8am and 10:30am

**Drawn In: Living Out the Creative Life with God
Week 3: RISK**

We spend too much time being “driven” rather than “drawn in.” We focus on what we “should” do rather than what we feel excited and compelled to do in our lives, in this world. During this series, we will connect with our inherent creativity and nurture this foundational aspect of being human, giving us renewed energy for passionate work, delightful play, and creative problem solving to make this world a better place for all.

What has this time during COVID taught us?

What is it still teaching us about how we live and love?

How are we being driven? How are we being drawn in?

May this time of worship help you be nourished for the journey.

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

One of our core values as a church is extravagant welcome and hospitality. We believe in God’s inclusive love. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

UPDATE:

Please continue to visit the welcome tables to receive your bulletin (and communion) and to share your offering.

Sanctuary Guidelines Worship Fall 2021

We will open the church at 7am, with worship services at 8am and 10:30am.

Please go to the welcome tables at each door for your bulletin and to share your offering (and to pick up Communion) before entering the sanctuary.

Masks are required for worship on Sundays, church group meetings, and all events and gatherings inside the building for everyone over the age of 3 regardless of vaccination status.

Pews will be marked to allow for 3 feet of distancing.

Please sit in open areas only.

The balcony will be open.

On Communion Sundays, we will continue to use the prefilled communion cups of grape juice and a gluten free cracker. Please use the ziploc bag to take your garbage with you.

For now, there will not be congregational singing.

Music will be provided by soloists and instrumentalists.

Please gather with others for conversation outside of the building.

The pastors will greet you outside on the porches.

We hope to evaluate and edit these precautions when vaccination rates continue to increase, COVID (and variant) numbers continue to decrease, and guidelines are updated for churches and our region. There is no guarantee of complete

safety from transmission of the COVID-19 virus, but we will continue to do our best to keep our members, friends, and families as safe as possible.

We are grateful for the love of this church family and for God's love which sustains and carries us during this challenging time.

~ The Pastors and Consistory of Union UCC

If you are staying in your car, turn your FM Radio to 102.3 FM to listen to the service.

Lay Reader: 8am: Suzanne Schneider, 10:30 Dana Gaumer
Ushers: 8am: Cliff James, Carol James, Patricia Warmkessel
10:30am: Carrington Smith, Jim Lane, Jason Klingler, Susan Smith,
Al Stubbmann, Teri Fekula, Karen Misera
Sound: Doug Albert

A reminder that we will not have congregational singing at this time. Music will be provided by soloists, small groups, and instrumentalists.

PRELUDE

For the Beauty of the Earth

Folliott S. Pierpoint

10:30 Worship- Children and Families: Did you get your activity bag at the door?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Music

Praise Him! Praise Him! Tune: Joyful Song, Chester G. Allen

Harvest Home Moment

10:30 Farmer Gloria Ringer

Left side: In the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,
swallows' flight and moonlight rays
We see the creator's hand.

Right side: In the browning of leaves once green,
morning mists, autumn chill,
fruit that falls, frost's first kiss
We see the creator's hand.

Left side: As a part of nature's wondrous cycle
Of new birth, growth, fruitfulness and death
We rejoice in the creation of new life,
For parenthood, the passing on of knowledge,
For understanding and the wisdom of years.

Right side: We are grateful for those who have gone before
Passing on to us our spiritual heritage.
May our lives blossom as the apple tree in Spring
May we become fruitful in thought and deed
And may the seed of love that falls to the ground
Linger beyond our time on this earth.

ALL: We bless you, God of Seed and Harvest,
And we bless each other,
That the beauty of this world,
And the love that created it,
Might be expressed though our lives
And be a blessing to others,
Today and every day.

Call to Worship Solo: Susan Glosan

Solo/Choir:

In the world of the driven
Let us be drawn in
Let your love be a given
Let us be drawn in
To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem
For the sake of the livin'
Let us be drawn in

Leader: God's act of creating all that is, God's act of entering our lives in the person of Jesus, God's everyday act of creating new life—all these are acts of bringing that which is not into being—all acts of originality. To create is to assert ourselves in a way that is risky, that invites stepping into the unknown. Jesus told a story about people who did different things with the "talents" given to them. The one who took a risk and utilized those talents multiplied his gift in the world. What can you do to risk what God has given you to expand love and grace in the world?

Solo/Choir:

In the world of the driven
Let us be drawn in

Let your love be a given
Let us be drawn in
To imagine, to dream, to create, to redeem
For the sake of the livin'
Let us be drawn in

Leader: Let us pray together:

**ALL: Risking God,
you created something from nothing.
Open us to move into the unknown future with confidence
so that we might live into your vision for this world you
continue to create.
Draw us into your possibilities.
Give us the courage to act.
Amen.**

Affirming and Connecting: Passing God's Love and Peace

Leader: What holds us back from the courage to make a move?

Author Robert Gruden said, "Creativity is dangerous. Its pleasure is not the comfort of the safe harbor, but the thrill of the reaching sail."

Sometimes what holds us back is that we are comfortable, even if not happy.

We simply have gotten used to the way things are.

Hear the Good News!

God has created an ever-expanding universe and you are part of it. You can expand your world and the world around you by seeing yourself as God sees you—able to do far more than you can imagine. If you are uncomfortable, it just means you are growing.

As our greeting and passing of the peace today, I invite you to turn to your neighbors and greet them with this, "Go for it!" And if there is a "high-five" involved, so be it!

We'll take a little bit longer for our Passing of the Peace in this series so feel free to have some conversation with your neighbor about this.

(We are not encouraging hand shaking at this time. Please smile and wave at those around you as well have conversation.)

10:30 Worship

Children's Time

Children are invited to come forward for a gift from Ms. Tiffany and the church. If you brought your backpack bring it forward. Wear your mask, please.

8 and 10:30

BLESSING

Will all students of all ages, educators, and anyone working in schools or in education please stand?

Leader: Scripture tells us that Jesus was a learner. As a child, he grew just as we grow, gaining years and gaining wisdom. As he learned, he won God's approval and made friends. As we begin a new school year, we remember that God has given us the ability to learn many things.

All: Learning is a gift from God. We are meant to love God with our whole selves: body, heart, spirit, and mind.

Leader: Scripture also tells us that Jesus was a teacher. When he saw the crowds that followed him, his compassionate response was to teach them and walk with them through life.

All: Teaching is a calling from God. We give God thanks for those who teach, guide, and lead our children and all of us.

Leader: We ask God to bless our schools and teachers. We ask God to bless our classmates. We ask God to bless our principals, administrators, aides, counselors, and school staffs. We ask God to bless those who prepare our meals, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean. We give thanks to God for books and computers and all the tools that help us learn.

All: We give thanks to God for the gift of learning! May all of us be blessed as we grow in our faith and

discipleship.

We're collecting school supplies and backpacks through September 26th for local families and agencies. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Children return to sit with their families.

**Education Hour for All Ages – Resumes on
September 26 9:15-10:15am
Children's Church – Resumes October 3 during 10:30am
Worship for ages 3-grade 5.**

An Imaginative Word

"Invocation"

by Cynthia Winton-Henry

1: Here's an idea.

Let us make something out of nothing.

No not nothing.

Let us gather up everything that we ever
were or are or will be.

Let us be Shapers,

Creators,

Makers,

of Some Thing.

Some World,

Some Living.

Let us dare to succeed at it,

Dare to fail at it,

Dare to fly on the wings of this moment.

Let us improvise our dreams.

Let us leap boldly from the shoulders of our lives,

Our histories,

Our loves,

Our disasters.

2: Here's an idea.

Let us play ourselves out!

(The real work)

Let us do nothing at all.

It may not matter.

Let us run the risk of naked individuality.
Let us go out wildly
Not just as one,
But as a union, an ensemble.

3: Here is an idea.
When we make our worlds
Let us commit to them
hold still with them
let them go when it is time.
Let us breathe,
Let us sing,
Let us laugh,
Let us dance,
Let us see what will be
when we invoke
 1: God
 2: Creativity
 3: and Power.

The Reading of Scripture

Matthew 25:24-30

“Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave,

throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

The Message

Put a Halo On It

Pastor Kris Snyder-Samuelson

Pastoral Prayer and the Prayer of Jesus

Leader: If you are comfortable doing so, close your eyes for just a moment so you can do some visualizing.

Breathe in slowly. Let your breath out slowly.

Again: in..... out.....

Try to imagine that your stresses, your anxieties, your deadlines, are rolling off your head, down your shoulders, down your arms, and falling away to the floor.

This week I want to invite you to imagine a door in front of you. The door is slightly open and you see there is a light shining on the other side. You feel an excitement about discovering what is on the other side. Even though you cannot see right now what it is, you get the feeling that going there will open your world. Just then you get a text. It's God with a word of encouragement. What does it say?

I Dream of A Church (vs. 2) by Mark Miller

ALL: (SPOKEN)

**O God, fill our hearts to reach out in welcome,
make us to see your vision once more.**

**Let's dream of a world where our hands are your
hands, we offer ourselves, O God, make it so.**

Make it so, make it so!

We pray for the day, make it so.

**We dream of a world where Love reigns among us
and your will is done, O God, make it so.**

ALL: (spoken)

Make it so, make it so!

We pray for the day, make it so.

**We dream of a world where Love reigns among us
and your will is done, O God, make it so.**

**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, for ever. Amen.**

8:00am WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

The Mission Statement of Union UCC

Our church is a diverse family of believers, spiritually united in Christ, rooted in a rich heritage and growing with vitality into the future. We proclaim God's word, nurturing and inspiring a dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

Welcome and Reception (ALL in unison)

ALL: We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

New members being welcomed today:

**Emily Geiger
Andrew Glass**

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 form at <http://www.unionucc.org/egive.pdf> and send to 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>.

Offering – we will not be collecting your offerings during the service. Please plan to share them at the welcome table as you arrive or as you leave worship.
Thank you for being the church with us!

Leader: “This is my creative spirit in the world,
this is my offering.
May you see the things you do, no matter how
small or mundane,
as the way that you contribute goodness to the world,
creating more life, more joy, more love.”

ALL: Praise be to God, the Creator of all that is!

**Music Offering The Prayer Carol Sager, David Foster
Blake Hoppes**

I pray you'll be our eyes
And watch us where we go
And help us to be wise
In times when we don't know
Let this be our prayer
When we lose our way

Lead us to a place
Guide us with your grace
To a place where we'll be safe

Lead us to a place
Guide us with your grace
Give us faith so we'll be safe

The Blessing

Leader: May you see the unfolding of each day,
as an opportunity to be a Co-Creator with God.

As a Jesus-Follower, may you feel his company leading
you toward creating more kindness, justice and mercy.

May you know the nudge of the Creative Spirit within,
“making belief” in all you are and do.

Postlude

Abide With Me Henry Francis Lyte

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

| Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate) | |
|---|--------------|
| Last Week | \$9,394.00 |
| Calendar 2021 (Jan.- July) | \$212,392.00 |
| Calendar 2020 (Jan.- July) | \$212,064.00 |
| Change from Last Year | +.2% |
| Budget (July) | \$29,540.00 |
| Actual (July) | \$25,546.00 |
| Giving vs. Budget | -13.5% |
| <i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i> | |

| 2021 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank: | |
|---|------------------|
| Last Week: | |
| Total YTD: | 3,296 lbs, \$502 |

Presentations to the Glory of God

Spread the good news: In honor of the Mission Committee from Phil and Julie Wehr

Children’s Bulletin: In memory of Walt Disney

Be a sponsor for \$20, send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or \$8 for Children’s Bulletin.

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

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