

Purveyors of Awe

Elements for Curating a Life
of Spiritual Depth

“Curiosity”
Lent Three



March 23, 2025
8:00am & 10:30am

GUESTS, Welcome to our faith community. To learn more about us please visit our website at www.unionucc.org or like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/unionneffs. Let us know you're here by completing the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you and hand it to a pastor or drop it in the offering plate.

Vision Statement

UNION UCC: RELEVANT, ENGAGED, and GROWING

Mission Statement

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 dedicated Christian discipleship through worship, education, pastoral care, fellowship, and outreach within our community and the world.

***No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.***

Union UCC is an Open and Affirming (ONA) Community.

Lay Reader: 8am Ron Pope, 10:30 Eric Minnich

Ushers: 8am Cliff James, Carol James, Michael Haftl, Daniel Haftl
10:30am : Eric Minnich, Gene Thrash, Jason Klinger, Marlene Blose,
Dale Blose, Kim Pentland, Andy Dyszel

Greeters: Tracey & Rob Bilger, Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Sound: Doug Albert

*I, through the abundance of your steadfast love,
will enter your house;
I will bow down toward your holy temple
in awe of you.
– Psalm 5:7*

Awe is a profound emotional response that can significantly impact our wellbeing and perception of the world. Awe often arises from experiences that transcend our usual understanding, such as viewing vast landscapes, listening to powerful music, encountering extraordinary acts of kindness, or feeling heightened devotion and a Divine Presence connecting us all. To be a “Purveyor of Awe” is to be intentional about curating a life of spiritual depth. This has implications not only for one’s own life, but also as motivation to tend to the wellbeing of others. Let us approach this Lent with awe as we explore the elements of Beauty, Wonder, Meaning, Curiosity, Delight, Connection, and Self-Giving.

A purveyor is someone who spreads or promotes a particular idea or who deals in a particular good.

Prelude Music

I Need Thee Every Hour
Annie S. Hawks, Robert Lowry, Arr. Mark Hayes
Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC!

Welcome & Announcements

Festival Choir Sunday

**Welcome and thank you to our singers and musicians from
Union UCC and the Gerry Music Studio!**

**Thank you for filling our church with beautiful music!
Thank you to the Funds of Lasting Gifts for sponsoring the
additional costs to make this special music possible.**

Over the Threshold

Leader: The 13th century Christian mystic, Meister Eckhart, said this: “Be willing to be a beginner every single morning.”

ALL Sing:

**Open my eyes that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

As we continue our worship series this Lent and consider what it means to be a “purveyor of awe,” we focus on one of the most important elements for curating a life of spiritual depth: curiosity. The ancient poets of our faith and the mystics of old wrote prolifically about “seeking” as a spiritual attribute. Faith is not about certainties; instead, it is about taking the stance of humility that we cannot know everything and that the spiritual quest is what it means to be faithful: to be on a quest to discover more and to experience more of the holy in our lives. In a time when so much emphasis is on what we *know*, we remember in our Lent journey that it is what we *don't know* that is most valuable, for discovery and staying curious is a condition for awe.

ALL Sing:

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart,
I want to see you
I want to see you**

The element of curiosity is linked to wellbeing of all kinds—spiritually, mentally, creatively. Awe-filled experiences are curiosity-boosters. Play, imagination, experimentation, and even simply slowing down to “linger longer” as we engage with the sights and sounds and smells of our ordinary surroundings can add to the amount of awe in our lives. Curiosity resists easy labeling and classifying; rather, it invites us to deeper discovery about life, faith, and each other.

Awe-inspiring God,

we come together this day because we need to be reminded to see through the lens of deeper meaning.

Too often, we write off the ordinary days of our lives as a drone of time passing through the mass of media messages about what life is supposed to be about.

Open us to perceive anew.

Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.

Forgive us when we are distracted by the droll of the scroll rather than lifting our senses to that which is right in front of us.

Be with us on this journey
as we seek again to marvel at your works.

ALL Sing:

**Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine!**

The path is ever unfolding before us.

We are invited into the seeker's journey at any moment. God forgives us. Jesus embraces us. The Spirit enlivens us.

We are whole.

With awe, we accept this belovedness.

And all God's people say, **“Amen.”**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

I invite you to share the peace of Christ with those around you, [remembering to greet those online with a wave to the camera].

***Please rise in body or spirit to greet each other and for the first song.**

***Opening Hymn #24 O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus**
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**1. O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured boundless, free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean
In its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To Thy glorious rest above!**

**2. O the deep, deep love of Jesus
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, never more!
How He watched o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne!**

**3. O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best! '
Tis an ocean full of blessing,
Tis a haven giving rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus**

**Tis a heaven of heavens to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee!**

Please be seated.

In Awe of Children

10:30 Worship - Children's Time

What a Wonderful World Thiele/Weiss

ALL SING:

**I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom
For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world**

Children's Church – during 10:30am Worship for ages 3-grade 5. Kids start in worship with their family and are invited forward for a children's time, They then leave with Ms. Tiffany and return before worship is over. They will return to worship before it's over and if not, please pick up your children in Room 100.

If you want your child to stay in worship with you, please let them know.

Kids are also invited to the Education Hour and Faith Formation for All Ages – 9:15-10:15am on Sundays, ages 3 to grade 7.

ALL SING:

**I see trees of green
Red roses too
I see them bloom**

**For me and you
And I think to myself
What a wonderful world**

Music Offering

Sanctus Michale John Trotta

Women's Choir, Festival Choir

**Keeping the Faith as Members and Disciples of Union UCC
for 20-39+ Years**

Video Highlight: Tami Herzog Wassum

Contemporary Reading

*Reader: Our first reading is a contemporary one—an excerpt from Scott Shigeoka, author of *Seek: How Curiosity Can Transform Your Life and Change the World*:*

“We need to embrace what I call ‘deep curiosity.’ This is the kind of curiosity that invites us to use it as a force for meaningful connection and transformation. This is what strengthens our relationships to ourselves and each other.”

Shigeoka, S. (2023). *Seek: How curiosity can transform your life and change the world*. Hachette Book Group.

Ancient Reading

Excerpt from Proverbs 2

Reader: The Book of Proverbs is part of an ancient “wisdom tradition” of writing. In this biblical book, the poet personifies Wisdom and invites us to seek her out—in essence, to let our curiosity be a motivator for searching the awe of God. Hear now an excerpt from Proverbs 2.

*Incline your ear to Wisdom,
and take her truth into your heart.
For if you yearn for insight
and cry out for understanding,
if you search for it as you would for silver,
and dig for it as you would for buried treasure,
you will understand what [awe] of YHWH is,
and discover how to truly know God.*

In Awe of the Word Pastor Kris

Music Offering Lead Me to Calvary William Kirkpatrick and
Jantz A. Black, Instrumental Arr. Matt Gerry

Festival Choir

**Looking to learn, study, or pray more? Journals for this series
can be found on the table in the Lobby.**

**Here's a book our Friday and Sunday classes are doing.
Copies are in the lobby.**

The Final Days by Matt Rawle The four New Testament
Gospels aren't the same story, but they offer the same
Resurrection hope. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John devote
most of their story detailing Jesus' last week in Jerusalem, all
highlighting Jesus'
triumphant entry into the city, the suffering and humiliation
of the cross, and the empty tomb come Sunday morning,
but the stories they tell aren't quite the same.

Approaching an Awesome God Our Prayers

Visio Divina Video: Visio Divina is translated as "divine seeing". It is related to the prayer form Lectio Divina (divine reading), but instead of Scripture, this form of prayer uses visual elements to help set your mind on prayer. It allows

God to speak into your heart through the image.

Holy and Living God, we approach this time of prayer with curiosity about your world. With all our senses, we open to you.

Give us lenses of awe with which to perceive and love others as you perceive and love us. We imagine in our mind's eye now the people in our lives, the people of our communities, and the people of our world. Each of them is beloved by you, and this alone creates awe in us. We especially lift up those who need our prayers in this moment...

For all these people and those we name in our hearts,

Hear our prayer, Awesome God.

Give us lenses of awe with which to perceive and love your creation as you perceive and love it. Each strange and new species, each surprising wild flower, each ant carrying a load ten times its weight reminds us that our curiosity is fed in so many ways. You are making all things new all around us. Help us to care for the nature around us. This week, we name...

For all these places, creatures, and lifeforms, and those we name in our hearts,

Hear our prayer, Awesome God.

Give us lenses of awe with which to perceive and love life as you perceive and love the life you have given us. Open us to greet each new day as if there is something new to learn and experience so that we might stay curious and love discovery along this journey. Slow us down in this season of Lent so that we might savor anew the gift of life. We pause in this silence, setting intentions of awe for the week ahead.

For all these intentions,
Hear our prayer, Awesome God.

Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us...

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.**

Music Offering Amazing Grace Arr. Craig Courtney
Roni Gerry, Vocals
Blake Hoppes, Piano

NEWS ABOUT THE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF GOD'S CHURCH AT UNION



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Neffs, Pennsylvania

Responding with Awe OFFERING

Easter Mission Offering

Please share your financial support by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or blank envelope or a check marked "Easter Mission", or donate online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/campaign/C-12H63>

The Chemo Bag Their Mission Statement - The CHEMO Bag,

Inc, in partnership with the generosity of our community, corporate sponsors and volunteers is committed to providing care bags filled with items to provide comfort to men and women in the Lehigh Valley and surround areas undergoing chemotherapy treatments. CHEMO - Caring, Helping, Encouraging, Motivating, Others. Union UCC held a successful packing session for The Chemo Bag and plans to hold another one soon.

World Central Kitchen

In 2010, Chef Jose Andres, founded World Central Kitchen to feed people around the world after a disaster. Quote - 'When you need medical service, you bring doctors and nurses. When you need the rebuilding of infrastructure, your bring in engineers and architects. And if you have to feed large groups of people, you need professional chefs'. WCK is first to the front lines, providing fresh meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises.

In 2024, WCK provided help to families in 20 countries, providing over 109 million meals. Recently they served meals to families and first responders of the California fires.

Be an ambassador for Union UCC and tell your friends and neighbors about our church!

Thank you for your prayers, participation, and financial support which helps us be a church that is relevant, engaged, and growing!

• **ELECTRONIC GIVING** <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-751X/home> or use the QR code with your cell phone. Choose an ongoing regular donation or a single donation with your credit or debit card. (Help us with fees if you can.)

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app**

Look for our church Union United Church of Christ, Neffs, PA and register your information to contribute.



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile

• **Venmo @unionuccneffs** Make a donation or pay for a fundraiser or event. Complete “What’s this for?” See QR code.



Venmo

• **Cash or checks (to “Union UCC”)** Place in the offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks) or drop in the mail if you’re not in person. Contact John Harting (610-799-2508) or Don Penrod (610-972-8719) or Pastor Kris if you have questions or if you’d like to learn more about other giving options or legacy gifts to Union.

Music Offering

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Isaac Watts
Blake Hoppes

***Please stand in body or spirit.**

***Offering Response**

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary
#187 Sing! Prayer and Praise

All Sing:

**Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary
pure and holy, Tried and true:
With thanksgiving I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.**

**God empower me to be a witness for you,
Acting boldly, in your name:
Seeking justice, where there is hurting
offering hope where there is pain.**

We Go Forth With Awe Benediction

Benedictions are blessings. And blessings are all around us. So for this season, instead of bowing your head as I offer a Benediction blessing, I invite you to open your palms in a position of receiving, and hold your head high, imagining a radiant stream of light from above shining upon you and everything else around you. And this week when you need to be reminded of the wonder-filled world, take this stance again. Open your palms to receive, look around to perceive, and notice one small thing that can light up your heart for a moment.

And now may you go forth
remembering Meister Eckhart's words:

“Be willing to be a beginner
every single morning.”

Be a purveyor of awe this week.
Inspire others with your insatiable desire to know them beyond the surface.

Know that the reward of awe is yours
as you invite curiosity to live and breathe new life in you.

Be a “purveyor of awe,”
curating a life of spiritual depth
that inspires others to join you on the journey.

May the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of Awe,
the Holy One-in-Three,
be with you now and throughout these days,
Amen.

An AWE gift for you!

Stop at the tables at the doors as you leave worship to pick up a camera charm to help you remember to notice AWE and to be a purveyor who spreads Beauty, Wonder, Meaning, Curiosity, Delight, Connection, and Self-Giving.

***Closing Hymn #433 In the Bulb There Is A Flower
(New Century Hymnal, black)**

**1. In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed til its season,
something God alone can see.**

**2. There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn for every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

**3. In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

Postlude Music

**What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Joseph M. Scriven, Charles C. Converse
Blake Hoppes**

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$15,055.00	8 AM	49
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb.)</i>	\$ 59,944.00	10:30 AM	105
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Feb.)</i>	\$ 70,110.00	Online Views	253
Change from Last Year	-14.5%	Sunday School	11
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-Feb.)	\$ 275,550.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Feb.)	\$ 284,375.00	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	3.2%	Breathe	15
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$100, 150lbs
		Total YTD:	\$700, 870lbs

Blanket Sunday \$2,026.00	Souper Bowl \$994.00
-------------------------------------	--------------------------------

Presentations to the Glory of God

Thank you Festival Choir!
- Pastor Kris

Good News Sponsor— for \$20 help us cover the costs of advertising on social media, mailings, and local papers.
Children’s Bulletin Sponsor— for \$8 cover the cost of bulletins for children.

Send to Union UCC through your offering envelope or online marked Spread the Good News or Children’s Bulletin. Contact Marissa to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.

CCLI LICENSE # 1523377 / Streaming # 20407732 One License #A714125 / Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A714125
--