

# Purveyors of Awe

Elements for Curating a Life  
of Spiritual Depth

“Delight”  
Lent Four



**March 30, 2025**

**8:00am & 10:30am**

**Celebrating Members and Disciples at Union UCC  
of 20-39 years!**

**10:30 Baptism**

**GUESTS**, Welcome to our faith community. 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](http://www.facebook.com/unionneffs). Let us know you're here by completing the Welcome Card in the racks in front of you.

### **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 on life's journey,  
you are welcome here.***

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

Lay Reader: 8am Michael Roth, 10:30 Lucille Kuhns

Greeters: Carol Pope, Ron Pope, Johanna & Greg Zellner

Sound: Mike Baer

*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**

Reverie Claude Debussy  
**Blake Hoppes**

**Welcome to Union UCC!  
Welcome & Announcements**

### **Over the Threshold**

*Leader:* We might not think of Albert Einstein as a mystic, but his quotes about life and spirituality have lived as long as his scientific theories. He said this: “We are slowed down sound

and light waves, a walking bundle of frequencies tuned into the cosmos. We are souls dressed up in sacred biochemical garments and our bodies are the instruments through which our souls play their music.”

**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!**

Lent is a time of spiritual journeys and spiritual practices. We have visited several elements of spiritual depth thus far, including Beauty, Wonder, Meaning, and Curiosity. When we incorporate these as spiritual practices, research shows that there are all kinds of benefits to our lives and our involvement with the world around us. Biblical authors often used these words to describe our response to the Holy, and this week's word is no different. 'Delight' is a word that winds itself through scripture—we are invited to delight in the presence of the Holy, to delight in God's creation. In a time when our delight is often depleted by the forces that threaten destruction or simply what feels like the tediousness of everyday life, we hear the call to co-create experiences of delight.

**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**

We humans love repetition... up to a point. But sometimes, we just need a good “Wow!” and some goosebumps to help us feel fully alive. Our physical response to awe-filled moments come from a very ancient part of our evolution—even before language. And those goosebumps? They helped us forge connections with others as we faced the vast mysteries of life together. Delight still plays an important role in our spiritual needs and in our sense of a deeply relational life.

Awe-inspiring God,  
we come together this day because we need to be  
Reminded to see through the lens of delight.  
Too often, we forget that we are made  
to delight in the diversity and abundance of your gifts.  
Open us to perceive anew.  
Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.  
Forgive us when we get complacent,  
when we choose routine  
over opportunities for new experiences.  
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 Holy delights in their creation, in our very existence.  
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 Favorite Hymn Medley**

**All Sung:**

Here I Am Lord

**I, the Lord of sea and sky  
I have heard my people cry  
All who dwell in dark and sin  
My hand will save**

**I, who made the stars of night  
I will make their darkness bright  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me  
I will hold your people in my heart**

I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

**"I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,**

**to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child,  
with a faith to suit you well;  
In a blaze of light you wandered off  
to find where demons dwell."**

**"I was there to hear your borning cry,  
I'll be there when you are old.  
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,  
to see your life unfold.**

**You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore**

**You have come down to the lakeshore  
Seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,  
But only asking for me to follow.**

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes,  
Kindly smiling, you've called out my name.  
On the sand I've abandoned my small boat;  
Now with you, I will seak other seas.**

**Dream God's Dream**

**Dream God's dream  
Holy Spirit, help us dream...  
Of a world where there is justice,  
and where everyone is free  
To build and grow and love  
And to simply have enough  
The world will change when we dream God's dream**

**I'm dreaming of a world where the color of one's skin  
Will mean less than what's within the person's heart  
A world where water's clean, and where air is safe to**

**breathe**

**And every child born has enough to eat.**

**Dream God's dream**

**Holy Spirit, help us dream...**

**Of a world where there is justice, and where everyone is free**

**To build and grow and love**

**And to simply have enough**

**The world will change when we dream God's dream**

**Spirit, Fill Me**

**Spirit come and fill me fill me with your peace**

**fill me with your joy and your love.**

**Spirit come and show me show me how to care**

**show me how to share your light.**

**Help me give my hand to those in need**

**let my heart be open to receive.**

**When we share your love**

**we can work together to heal this broken world.**

**Spirit come and fill me fill me with your peace**

**fill me with your joy and your love.**

**Spirit come and show me show me how to care**

**show me how to share your light.**

Please be seated.

## **Music Offering**

### **8am Heritage Choir**

In Christ Alone Townend & Getty, Arr. Camp Kirkland

**10:30am Hazel Dojack & Aubrey Flueso**

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever Martin Smith

## **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**

**10:30 SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**Dominic Vito Barone II child of Karlie (Holzman) and Dominic Barone**



# CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

All: We promise our love, support, and care.

Celtic Alleluia O'Carroll and Walker #613 With One Voice



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

**Video Highlight: Dede and Randy Bilger**

### Contemporary Reading

Reader: Our first reading is a contemporary one—an excerpt from Dacher Keltner's research called, *Awe: The New Science of Everyday Wonder and How It Can Transform Your Life*:

*"Our tears register our awareness of vast things that unite us with others. Our goose bumps accompany notions of joining with others and facing mysteries and unknowns together. Today we may sense these laws of bodily awe when moved by a favorite musical group, or in calling out in protest with others in the streets, or in bowing our heads together in contemplation. And in such rushes of tears and chills... we may glean a sense of what our souls might be."*

Keltner, D. (2023). *Awe: The new science of everyday wonder and how it can transform your life*. Penguin Random House.

## **Ancient Reading**

*Excerpt from Psalm 36*

*Reader: The ancient poet of Psalm 36 wrote a love letter about the streams of delight that flow from God. Hear these words now:*

*How precious is your love!  
Whether creatures of heaven or children of earth,  
we all find refuge in the shadow of your wings.  
We feast on the bounty of your estate,  
and drink from the stream of your delights.  
In you is the wellspring of Life,  
and in your light we become enlightened.*

**In Awe of the Word    Pastor Kris**

**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.

## **Celebrating and Blessing Our Members And Disciples of 20-39 Years**

Blessed are those who yearn for deepening more than escape; who are not afraid to grow in spirit.

**Blessed are those who take seriously the bonds of community; who regularly join in celebration and learning; who come as much to minister as to be ministered to.**

Blessed are those who understand that the church is often imperfect, yet rather than harbor feelings of anger or disappointment, bring their concerns and needs to the church family.

**Blessed are those who support the church and its work through their giving, and who give of themselves as well as their material goods.**

Blessed are those who when asked to serve, do so gladly.

**Blessed are those who know that the work of the church is the transformation of individual and society; who have a vision of the Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change. They are blessed indeed.**

### **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 delight at 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 resplendent rainbow, each stunning snowflake, each chirping squirrel reminds us that delight can be found everywhere. 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. Fill us with delight in your presence and your work in our lives. 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.**

### **Sung Prayer Response**

This Is My Father's World (Words Mark Hayes)

**ALL Sing:**

**You are a great and awesome God,  
your wonders we proclaim.  
You are our Rock, our Strength, our Shield,  
from age to age the same.  
You forgive us all our sins,  
you transform us with your love.  
In joyful, grateful, hearts we sing  
you are a great and awesome God.**

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## **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-751X/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.)



Electronic Giving

• **FREE Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement app**

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



Vanco Mobile

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

• **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.



Venmo

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**

Open Our Eyes     Robert Cull  
**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 delight of this life, 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 “Mystic” Einstein’s words:

“We are souls dressed up in sacred biochemical garments  
and our bodies are the instruments through which our souls  
play their music.”

Be a purveyor of awe this week.  
Be an instrument of awe through the music of your soul,  
as you play and imagine and dream a better world into  
being,  
as you invite delight 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  
Favorite Hymn Medley**

**All Sung:**

In the Garden

**I come to the garden alone  
While the dew is still on the roses  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear  
The Son of God discloses  
And He walks with me  
And He talks with me  
And He tells me I am His own  
And the joy we share as we tarry there  
None other has ever known**

Blessed Assurance  
**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God  
Born of his Spirit, washed in His blood**

**This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long  
This is my story, this is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long**

How Great Thou Art

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

The Old Rugged Cross

**On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross  
The emblem of suffering and shame  
And I love that old cross where the dearest and  
best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain  
So I'll cherish the old rugged cross (rugged cross)  
Till my trophies at last I lay down  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown**

For The Beauty of the Earth

**For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies.**

**Lord of all, to Thee we raise  
this, our hymn of grateful praise**

**Postlude Music**

Sweet By and By Joseph P. Webster

**Blake Hoppes**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week		8 AM	76
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb.)	\$ 59,944.00	10:30 AM	113
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Feb.)	\$ 70,110.00	Online Views	209
Change from Last Year	-14.5%	Sunday School	9
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>		<b>2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:</b>	
		Last Week:	\$, lbs
		Total YTD:	\$700, 870lbs
<b>Blanket Sunday</b> \$2,026.00		<b>Souper Bowl</b> \$994.00	

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**In memory of Ruth Rothrock by daughters Lucille Kuhns, Lana Reitz, and Leoma Kern**

**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.*

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