

# Purveyors of Awe

Elements for Curating a Life  
of Spiritual Depth

“Wonder”  
Lent One



**WORSHIP**  
DESIGN STUDIO  
WDS



**March 9, 2025**  
**8:00am & 10:30am**

**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 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 **Doug Albert**, 10:30 **Vicki Mayk**

Ushers: 8am Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd, Lorie Hackett  
10:30am : Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Laura Kohler, Ralph Gioielli,  
Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: Girl Scouts

Sound: Karl Klinger

*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'll Fly Away Albert E. Brumley  
**Blake Hoppes**

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

### **Over the Threshold**

*Leader:* Professor of Jewish Mysticism and beloved author, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, said this: “Our goal should

be to live life in radical amazement... Get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal; everything is incredible; never treat life casually. To be spiritual is to be amazed."

**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!**

This Lent, we are invited to consider that one of the most important gifts we can give is to be "purveyors of awe." A purveyor is someone who spreads or promotes a particular idea or who deals in a particular good. Our quest in this season is to promote a state of awe about the lives we've been given and revel in the sheer miracles of life that surround us. This is a spiritual journey in the tradition of biblical poets and of mystics. In our modern day, researchers who study wellbeing know that when we cultivate elements that deepen our awe of life, our appreciation for others, our dedication to the good, we live longer, more purposeful and more joyful lives. In a time when we are exposed to the weight of the world by the messages around us, we will spend time on a journey of being exposed to the wonder of the world.

**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 “wide eye of wonder” creates optimal conditions for awe. When we open our senses to the “extraordinariness of the everyday ordinary,” we have begun the journey to a deeper existence than what resides at surface-level. Wonder can be an antidote to anxiety and depression, pulling us instead toward the awe-filled knowledge that there is more than meets the eye, there are solutions in the midst of problems, possibilities where we sense only dead-ends. Let us rise in body and/or spirit and pray:

Awe-inspiring God,  
we come together this day because we need to be  
reminded  
to see through the lens of wonder.  
Too often, we relegate what is always amazing to what is  
ever familiar,  
forgetting that there are mysteries and miracles in the  
ordinariness of our lives.  
Open us to perceive anew.  
Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.  
Forgive us when we focus only on what’s wrong  
rather than allowing the right and good to show us the way  
forward.  
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!**

Be still and know that God is God. Wonders never cease.  
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** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross  
#224 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**1. When I survey the wondrous cross,  
on which the Christ of glory died,  
My Richest gain I count but loss,  
and pour contempt on all my pride.**

**2. Forbid it, then, that I should boast,  
save in the death of Christ, my God;  
All the vain things that charm me most  
I sacrifice them to Christ's blood.**

**3. From sacred head, from hands, and feet,  
sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,**

**demands my soul, my life, my all.**

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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit Traditional Spiritual

## Jazz Ensemble

### Contemporary Reading

Reader: Our first reading is a contemporary one—an excerpt from Monica C. Parker, author of *The Power of Wonder*:

*“Gently peeking its head around mental corners or bombastically announcing its arrival into our trembling psyche, wonder changes our perspective, our bodies, our souls, and our lives. Art, music, religion, politics, science, nature, love, fear, birth, death; each of the myriad experiences that compress to form the bedrock of human life has a golden vein of wonder running through it.”*

Parker, M. C. (2023). *The power of wonder: The extraordinary emotion that will change the way you live, learn, and lead*. Penguin Random House.

### Ancient Reading

*Excerpts from Psalm 107 and 139*

Reader: Ancient poets in our faith tradition saw the world of wonder as an ongoing expression of creation and care of God. Hear now from the psalmists in chapters 107 and 139.

*They called to YHWH in their trouble,  
and God rescued them from their sufferings,  
guiding them by a direct route to an inhabited town.  
Let them thank YHWH for this great love,  
for the marvels done for all people—  
for God has satisfied the thirsty  
and filled the hungry with good things.*

—

*For all these mysteries I thank you—*

*for the wonder of myself,  
for the wonder of your works—  
my soul knows it well.*

## **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.

## **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 wonder 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 blossom, each sunrise, each unfurling fern reminds us that new life is possible. 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 the wonders around us—the art-fullness of each encounter, each moment, as a possibility for amazement waiting to happen. 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-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.



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.

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## Music Offering

What a Wonderful World

Jazz Ensemble

**\*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 Rabbi Heschel's words:

“Get up in the morning and look at the world  
in a way that takes nothing for granted.  
Everything is phenomenal;  
everything is incredible;  
never treat life casually.  
To be spiritual is to be amazed.”

Be a purveyor of awe this week.  
Be amazed as you gaze with the lens of wonder at the  
world around you,  
as you wonder with hope about what will unfold,  
as you invite wonder 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.

**\*Closing Hymn** Beautiful Things Gungor, Gungor

Solo: All this pain  
I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change at all  
All this earth  
Could all that is lost ever be found  
Could a garden come up from this ground at all

**ALL Sing:**

**You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us**

Solo: All around  
Hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos life is being found in You

**ALL Sing:**

**You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us**

Solo:  
You make me new, You are making me new  
You make me new, You are making me new

**All Sing:**

**You make beautiful things**

**You make beautiful things out of the dust**

**You make beautiful things**

**You make beautiful things out of us**

**Postlude Music**

Chitlins con Carne Kenny Burrell

**Blake Hoppes**

**Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes-piano, Mike Baer-guitar,  
Mitchell Roth – Trumpet, Andy Hill – Trumpet, Garet Hill – Sax**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

| Offering<br>(e-giving, envelopes, and plate)                            |               | Attendance Last Week                                    |               |
|---|---------------|---|---------------|
| Last Week   | \$8,872.00    | 8 AM  | 45            |
| <i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb.)</i>                                   | \$ 59,944.00  | 10:30 AM  | 121           |
| <i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Feb.)</i>                                   | \$ 70,110.00  | Online Views  | 7             |
| Change from Last Year   | -14.5%        | Sunday School   | 11            |
| Budget FY 2024-25 ( <i>July-Feb.</i> )                                  | \$ 275,550.00 | God First   | 25            |
| Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date ( <i>July-Feb.</i> )                         | \$ 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:  | \$600, 870lbs |

  

|                                     |                                |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Blanket Sunday</b><br>\$2,026.00 | <b>Souper Bowl</b><br>\$994.00 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

## Presentations to the Glory of God

**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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