

Purveyors of Awe

Elements for Curating a Life
of Spiritual Depth

“Self Giving”
Lent Six



April 13, 2025

8:00am & 10:30am

Palm Sunday

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.

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 Sue Steinmann, 10:30 Doug Kuntz

Ushers: 8am- Kerry Snyder, Tom Anderson, Larry Todd, Lorie Hackett

10:30am-Janice Metzger, Julie Johnson, Karen Nuschke, Ralph Gioielli, Connie Gioielli, Carol James

Greeters: George & Val Borman, Tracey & Rob Bilger

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

The Palms J. Faure

Blake Hoppes

Welcome to Union UCC!

Welcome & Announcements

Over the Threshold

*Leader: Mystic St. Francis of Assisi said this: “O Divine Master,
grant that I may not seek to be consoled, as to console. To
be understood, as to understand. To be loved, as to love. For
it*

in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life.”

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 approach the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week, we give thanks for a rich season of awe-filled practices. We have explored what it is to be “purveyors of awe”—those who advocate for more Beauty, Wonder, Meaning, Curiosity, Delight, and Connection. Today we discover that all of these elements lead not just to more “happiness,” but actually to self-less desire to contribute to making the world a better place.

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**

A sense of awe can include witnessing acts of “moral beauty.” Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem was such an act as he continued his ministry of lifting up the cause of the lowly and advocating for the power of peace and justice. Research shows that when we witness with awe others’ kindness, courage, strength, and overcoming, we are more likely to feel inspired to give ourselves in service of the good.

We become more self-giving, more ready to lend a helping hand or commit energy to making the world a better place.

Awe-inspiring God,

we come together this day because we need to be

Reminded to see through the lens of self-giving.

Too often, we think that life will be better if we just “get” more, but you show us just the opposite—the awe-filled experience of giving more.

Open us to perceive anew.

Inspire us to receive the opportunities to give with awe.

Forgive us when we turn our back on parades of justice, paths of grace, roads of mercy.

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!**

We can give ourselves to the cause at any moment and join the journey of Jesus.

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** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

#213 Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**“Hosanna, loud hosanna,” the little children sang;
through pillared court and temple the lovely anthem rang;
To Jesus, who had blessed them close folded to his breast,
the children sang their praises, the simplest and the best.**

**From Olivet they followed a mid a cheering crowd,
the victory palm branch wavering,
and chanting clear and loud.**

**The one whom angels worship rode on in lowly state,
and glad to see the children,
slowed down the donkey’s gait.**

**“Hosanna in the highest!: That ancient song is ours.
We hail our great Redeemer and sing with all our powers:
“Hosanna, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and
voice. Hosanna! In your presence forever we’ll rejoice!**

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

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

8:00 and 10:30 Chime Choir

Carol Pope, Margie Mackenzie, Tami Wassum, Ron Pope,

Barbara Carinci, Bonnie Herzog, Sandy Daumer, Susan

Glosan, Debbie Romig, John Fabian, Dan Haffl and

Dawn Dengler

Edie Fella, Director

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

Video Highlight: Eric Minnich

Contemporary Reading

Reader: Our first reading is a contemporary one—an excerpt from Adam Hoffman, in an article called “How Awe Makes Us Generous” in the Greater Good Magazine:

“In a study, participants consistently reported that awe produced ‘a reduced sense of self importance relative to something larger and more powerful that they felt connected to...’ And subsequent analysis confirmed that this feeling of the ‘small self’ was responsible for their ethical behavior... experiencing awe prompts people to help others.”

Ancient Reading

Excerpt from Psalm 118

Reader: The biblical poets that we have heard in this “season of awe”—this season of Lent—have been quick to recognize and praise the mighty works of God, especially in deliverance from distress. A righteous and merciful God is the motivation for the people’s own acts of justice and mercy. Hear the poet’s words, which becomes the liturgy of the procession of Jesus as the people cried “Hosanna!” which means, “save us.”

*This is the day YHWH has made—
let us celebrate with joy!
Please, YHWH, please save us!
Please, YHWH, give us prosperity now!
Blessings on the one who comes in the name of
YHWH!
we bless you from YHWH’s temple!
YHWH is God
and God has enlightened us.
Join the festal procession!*

*with palm fronds in hand,
go up to the horns of the altar!*

Music Offering

With Great Joy by Susan E. Geschke

8:00 and 10:30 Chime Choir

Carol Pope, Margie Mackenzie, Tami Wassum, Ron Pope,

Barbara Carinci, Bonnie Herzog, Sandy Daumer, Susan

Glosan, Debbie Romig, John Fabian, Dan Haffl and

Dawn Dengler

Edie Fella, Director

Sermon 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 increased desire to be a part of the goodness of this 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 exchange of photosynthesis, each drink of pure water, each taste of delicious food reminds us that self-giving is the way of nature. 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 become a bigger part of your story of redeeming love. Slow us down as we approach this Holy Week 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.**

**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, you 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-251X/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.

• **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. 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.



Electronic Giving



Vanco Mobile



Venmo

Music Offering

We Shall Behold Him Dottie Rambo

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**

I invite you to open your palms in a position of receiving, as we have each week of Lent. Imagine a radiant stream of light from above shining upon you and everything else around you. Take a look around and know that the blessing of Christ's self-giving is for all people. And this week when you need to be reminded of Jesus' call to "go and do likewise" in the world, take this stance again. Open your palms to receive, look around to perceive, and be in awe that Christ's love emerges out of pain, and hope will have the last word.

And now may you go forth
remembering St. Francis' words:

"For it is in giving that we receive.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

Be a purveyor of awe this week.
Look for the pain in the world and offer yourself in the ways
you can,
and invite Christ to live and breathe new life in you.

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.

Leader: The events of Holy Week display an act of self-giving so poignant that it is a story told through the ages. We will also retell the story this week on Thursday night with a potluck dinner and communion around tables in Fellowship Hall at 6pm, and close with stripping the altar for Good Friday. ON Good Friday we will gathering in the sanctuary at 7pm for readings, music, and communion. The awe of our faith story leads us to be disciples of the one who advocated until death for the plight of the poor, the outcast, the lowly. Let us sing this Passion hymn.

***Closing Hymn** 224 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
Black Hymnal/New Century Hymnal

**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.**

**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.**

**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?**

Postlude Music

Beneath the Cross of Jesus Tune: St. Christopher, Frederick
C. Maker
Blake Hoppes

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$6,576.00	8 AM	35
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-March)</i>	\$ 93,711.00	10:30 AM	81
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-March)</i>	\$ 115,296.00	Online Views	216
Change from Last Year	-18.7%	Sunday School	13
Budget FY 2024-25 (<i>July-March</i>)	\$ 312,910.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (<i>July-March</i>)	\$ 318,241.98	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	1.7%	Breathe	15
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		2024 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, lbs
		Total YTD:	\$700, 870lbs

Easter Mission: \$1,565.59

Presentations to the Glory of God

Flowers In loving memory of Veronica J. Fabian from John, Shelby, Bonnie and the Chime Choir Family

In memory of Peter Morehouse by Rich & Barbara Carinci

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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