

# Purveyors of Awe

Elements for Curating a Life  
of Spiritual Depth

“Connection”  
Lent Five



**April 6, 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.

## **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 Mitchell Roth, 10:30 Doug Kuntz

Ushers: 8am Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern

10:30am Don Penrod, Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum

John Fabian, Jennifer Haley, Suzanne Schneider, Carolyn Seyler

Greeters: Jen Haley, Jim & Edie Fella

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**

Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho  
Spiritual  
**Blake Hoppes**

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

### **Over the Threshold**

*Leader:* Persian mystic Rumi is one of the most often quoted mystics in our day, transcending religious lines. He said this:

“Do not feel lonely, the entire universe is inside you. Stop acting so small. You are the universe in ecstatic motion. Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames.”

**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 often considered a solitary journey as we traditionally use it as a time to examine ourselves and engage in practices that bring us closer to God. While this is a part of the spiritual journey, we also know that human beings were made for relationship. This is why it is so vitally important that we experience collective awe. As we continue to explore what it means to be “purveyors of awe,” we learn of the powerful benefits of togetherness. In a time when we have been through one of the most isolating times in human history, we remember and are grateful for a renewed ability to seek connection.

**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**

Awe is a gateway to connection. As we have experiences that give us a sense of being part of something larger than “just us,” our penchant for self-preservation and obsession

with the competitive default-self gives way to a renewed commitment to the greater whole. We need moments of “collective effervescence” that increase hope and joy at being part of the human family.

Awe-inspiring God,  
we come together this day because we need to be  
Reminded to see through the lens of connection.  
It is too easy to have everything we need without seeking  
out relationship or connection to another human being.  
Open us to perceive anew.  
Inspire us to receive our surroundings with awe.  
Forgive us when we hold back unnecessarily from  
wholehearted participation  
and dedication to eradicating loneliness.  
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!**

God does not sever connection. Ever.  
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 #506 What A Friend we Have in Jesus (New Century Hymnal)**

**1. What a friend we have in Jesus,  
all our sins and griefs to bear  
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer  
O, what peace we often forfeit,  
oh, what needless pain we bear  
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer**

**2. Have we trails and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged;  
take it to our God in prayer  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
take it to our God in prayer!**

**3. Are we weak and heavy laden,  
burdened with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge,  
take it to our God in prayer  
Do your friends despise, forsake you?  
Take it to our God in prayer!  
Jesus' arms will take and shield you;  
will you find a solace there**

Please be seated.

## **Music Offering**

### **8am Heritage Choir**

My Lord, What A Morning

Traditional Spiritual, Arr. Jay Althouse

### **10:30am Kids Choir**

Standing on the Promises Yancy

## **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**

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

**Video Highlight:** Dave and Sharon DiPaolantonio

**Contemporary Reading**

*Reader:* Our first reading is a contemporary one—an excerpt from an article by researcher Brené Brown entitled, “Why Experiencing Joy and Pain in a Group Is So Powerful:”

“Experiences [of collective effervescence] contribute to a life filled with less loneliness and greater meaning, positive emotions, and social connection... Collective assembly meets the primal human yearnings for shared social experiences. A collective assembly can start to heal the wounds of a traumatized community. When we come together to share authentic joy, hope, and pain, we melt the pervasive cynicism that often cloaks our better human nature.”

Brown, B. (2019, January 6). *Why experiencing joy and pain in a group is so powerful*. Greater Good Magazine. [https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/why\\_experiencing\\_joy\\_and\\_pain\\_in\\_a\\_group\\_is\\_so\\_powerful](https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/why_experiencing_joy_and_pain_in_a_group_is_so_powerful)

**Ancient Reading**

Excerpt from Psalm 149

*Reader:* As long as we've been humans, we have been coming together to experience the collective sensations of

togetherness. The ancient poet describes the traditional practices of worship of God in the days of the Psalms.

Alleluia!  
Sing to YHWH a new song!  
Sing praise in the assembly of the faithful.  
Let Israel be glad in its Maker;  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their God.  
Let them praise God's Name with festive dance;  
let them sing praise with timbrel and harp.  
For YHWH loves the people,  
and crowns the lowly with salvation.

## **In Awe of the Word    Pastor Kayli**

**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 thawing path under the warmth of the sun reminds us that all things are interconnected. 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 awe of sharing our joy and our pain with others. 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-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

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## Music Offering

Day By Day Oscar Ahnfeldt

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 Rumi's words:

"Set your life on fire. Seek those who fan your flames."

Be a purveyor of awe this week.

Seek out connection with others whose life and love  
can be multiplied because you are together to help light up  
the world.

Invite renewed connections 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**

#677 They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love  
Gold Hymnal/Hymns for the Family of God

**We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land  
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love  
They will know we are Christians by our love**

**Postlude Music**

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

Tune: WOODWORTH

**Blake Hoppes**

# EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$4,934.00	8 AM	34
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-Feb.)</i>	\$ 59,944.00	10:30 AM	106
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-Feb.)</i>	\$ 70,110.00	Online Views	287
Change from Last Year	-14.5%	Sunday School	15
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:	\$25, lbs
		Total YTD:	\$725, 870lbs
Easter Mission \$1,381.00			

## Presentations to the Glory of God

### In memory of Walt Disney

**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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