

Purveyors of Awe

Elements for Curating a Life
of Spiritual Depth



April 20, 2025

8:00am & 10:30am

"Awe"

Easter Sunday and Holy Communion

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 Micahel Roth, 10:30 Don Penrod

Ushers: 8am- Debbie Romig, Connie Gioielli, Dixie Gross

10:30am- Donna Christman, Gloria Toner, Deb Wenner, Doug Brace,
Marianne Kitzmiller, Brian Horwith, Maryann Puia

Greeters: Nancy Jones, Eric Minnich, Gene and Christina Thrash

Sound: 8am Doug Albert, 10:30am 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.

We will be sharing Holy Communion today.

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served by the worship leaders standing in their place.
Please go to them.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

Prelude Music

Majesty with How Great Thou Art and I Worship You,
Almighty God
Stuart K. Hine, Sondra Corbett-Wood and Jack W. Hayford
Setting by Joel Raney

Adult Choir

Blake Hoppes, Piano

Jacob Roth, Organ

Welcome to Union UCC! Welcome & Announcements

Over the Threshold

Reader: 'Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.'

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

So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but

rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

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

Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him."

When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Leader: We have journeyed for several weeks reminding ourselves that life and the world is full of awe. We have seen beauty, we have opened to wonder, we have searched for meaning with curiosity, we have delighted in the gifts of the Divine One, we have reconnected with each other and remembered the joy of self-giving on behalf of a better world. This morning is the most awe-filled of all. Our faith story is ultimately about the victory of life over death.

Leader: Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Alleluia!

ALL: Alleluia!

Leader: Amen!

ALL: 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** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
#233 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)
Jacob Roth, Organ

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heav'ns, and earth, reply, Alleluia!

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

Please be seated.

10:30 Music Offering

Undefeated Ekidz

Kid's Choir

Directors: Blake Hoppes, Tiffany Lakatosh

Union UCC loves kids and families!

All kids should have received an activity bag when they entered worship today. If we missed you go to the doors now to get one.

Follow us on Facebook and look at today's announcements for how kids can be involved here.

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.

Music Offering Crown Him With Many Crowns
Instrumental Ensemble: Andy Dyszel, Mike Baer, Connor Maxwell, Lucas Maxwell, Isaac Brace
Director: Mitchell Roth

Contemporary Reading

Reader: We have been studying the work of researchers and mystics who help us understand the importance, no matter the world's circumstances, of retaining, maintaining, and developing our sense of awe. This has implications for our spiritual wellbeing and contributes to making the world a better place, inspiring us to acts of self-giving and service. In a nutshell, experiencing awe prompts people to help others as well as sustaining our own spirits.

Today's reading is from a songwriter, songs are some of the best ways to help us remember God's awe. The words are from a song by Andrew Ripp called Love's Got A Way.

The first verse says:

I let go long ago
Thinking I knew everything
I let love in my soul
Started listening to the choir sing

When I laid down all my pride
Was a death that saved my life
And that's how I know
The darkest nights still end with the sun rise

And the second verse is:
The truth of its nature

Is always give and never take
It flows with that freedom
Surrendering itself away
Carves canyons through the stone
Tells the rivers to run home
And that's how I know
There's a hand in mine walking this long road

The chorus sings these words:
'Cause love's got a way
Of bringing healing to a heart in pain
Making beauty from the ashes
Breaking chains one after another
Putting old lies to shame
Love's got a way
Of looking straight into the eyes of hate
Still believing that a world can change
Hold on my sisters and brothers
The mountain looks too great
But love's got a way

Ancient Reading

Reader: Our Holy Scriptures from the Bible are indeed ancient, but continue to have something to teach us in this time and place. Hear this ancient reading from Colossians chapter 3, verses 1 to 4 and 12 to 17.

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe

yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Music Offering

Praise and Adoration Medley -We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise, Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee and Serve the Lord With Gladness Arr. Stan Pethel

Craig Knauss, Clarinet and Mitchell Roth, Trumpet with Blake Hoppes

In Awe of the Word Pastor Kris

Approaching an Awesome God Our Prayers

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.**

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



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neffs, Pennsylvania

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-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.



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

Behold the Lord of Love Pepper Choplin

Adult Choir

Mitchell Roth, Trumpet

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.**

Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome to this meal of love and grace. You will be served by the worship leaders standing in their place. Please go to them.

A non-gluten option with juice is available in a prepackaged container on the bread tray. Both red wine and white grape juice are on the tray of cups. Please choose either.

Invitation

All are invited to the mystery of this table.
It is a place of awe as we not only remember Jesus here,
but encounter him anew in the real presence of
Communion with God and with each other.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and awe-filled thing,
always and everywhere, to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
With wonder, we muse at how you formed us in your
Image and breathed into us the breath of life.

And so,

with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven,
we delight in your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, God of the
heaven - ly host; Heav - en and earth are full, are full of the
majes - ty of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the
high - est! Blessed the one who comes in the name of our God, Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me."

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
so that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit, seal our connection with Christ,
our connection with each other,
and our connection to all the world through
our ministry and mission as God's people and church.
Amen.

BREAKING BREAD AND POURING WINE

L: The bread which we break is the communion of the
body of Christ.

L: The cup of blessing which we bless is the
communion of the blood of Christ.

L: The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all
things are ready.

SHARING THE MEAL

THE BREAD

MUSIC OFFERING

Panis Angelicus

César Franck and Sylvester Wager

Natalie St. Hill, Vocals with Blake Hoppes

L: Take and eat, the body of Christ, broken for you.

THE CUP

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

Video Highlight: Dennis Foster

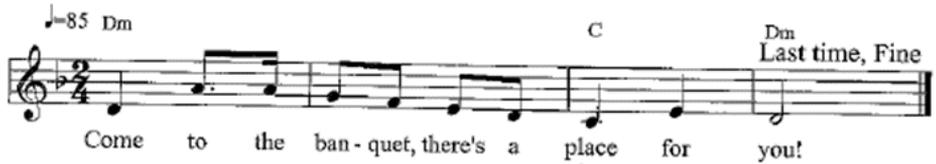
L: Take and drink, this is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you.

The Blessing

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, keep and preserve you unto eternal life.

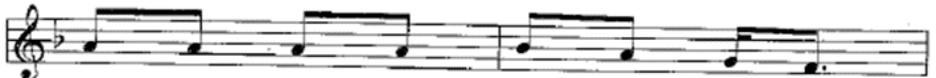
COLLECTING OF CUPS

HYMN #8 Come to the Banquet Sing! Prayer and Praise



♩=85 Dm C Dm Last time, Fine

Come to the ban-quet, there's a place for you!



1. Though you may - be have no mon - ey,
2. See, you are an hon - ored guest, from
3. Wo - man wise one, no - ther, maid - en,
4. Work - er, fath - er, lit - tle boy, old
5. Wheth - er you've, been lost or faith - ful,
6. Here is one who runs to meet you,



though you may - be feel un - wor - thy
con - stant serv - ing you may rest; so
see your plate with food is la - den
man or youth with - out em - ploy, come
wheth - er you've been wise or waste - ful,
lov - ing arms stretched out to greet you.

in your strength or in your weak - ness
 sit you down, be fed your and blessed, for
 and your place is set and wait - ing,
 rest your wor - ry, here is joy, and
 here's a place of rest and grace, and
 Do not let your fear de - feat you.

you are wel - come, come.

7. Willing hands have made this bread with yeast and salt and labor shared.
 Let all hungry ones be fed. It's time for feasting, come.

8. Abundant wine, enough for all! Our generous, loving host has called.
 The cup of blessing now is poured for sweet communion, come.

We Go Forth With Awe Benediction

Each week of the last 7 weeks, we have invited you to open your palms in a position of receiving. I hope you will continue to do this in your daily life, finding a moment to take in the awe of being alive. So let us open our palms upward and imagine a radiant stream of light from above shining upon you and everything else around you. Take a look around and know that you are part of God's wonder-filled world and that you are never alone.

Be a purveyor of awe.

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 all your days,
Amen.

Leader: I am so deeply awed by your presence this morning. Just gathering together is a way to proclaim that life and love have not disappeared, are part of our ongoing story, and are worth devoting our life and energy to. As we sing this closing song, we let the resonance of singing together fill us with the vitality we need for moving forward.

***Closing Hymn**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

240 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

Jacob Roth, Organ

Instrumental Ensemble: Andy Dyszel, Mike Baer, Connor Maxwell, Lucas Maxwell, Isaac Brace

Director: Mitchell Roth

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia!
Spices rich, and offering, Alleluia!
Asking where might Jesus be, Alleluia!
Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!**

**Christ appears in full array, Alleluia!
Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia!
Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!**

Postlude Music

He Lives Alfred Henry Ackley

Blake Hoppes

Worship Theme @www.worshipdesignstudio.com

Thank you to:

Our worship design team for their work in decorating the church for Easter: Claire and Doug Kern, Deb and Dan Topp, Kathy and Rick Bonsell, Pastor Kris.

Sound Team Doug Albert, Mike Baer, Pat Sorg, Karl Klinger, Dawn Dengler.

Sunday Set Up Staff and Tech Team Hannah Minnich, Ryleigh Minnich, Claire Puia, Miranda Brown

Flowers Sponsors for the Sanctuary and for our Visitation List and our **Helping Hearts and Communion Ministers** for delivery to those on our Visitation List.

ALL who helped to make our Lent, Holy Week, and Easter so meaningful. Thank you to everyone who helped clean and decorate our sanctuary, church, and grove. Thank you to those who served as choir members, musicians, ushers, greeters, and worship participants. Thank you to our staff, Consistory, and leaders for giving your time and talents so generously.

And thank you to The Easter Bunny, his helper, and the Mimosa and Snack Team.

Thank you Union UCC family for being love and light in here and out there!

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$9,691.00	8 AM	82
<i>Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-March)</i>	\$ 93,711.00	10:30 AM	158
<i>Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-March)</i>	\$ 115,296.00	Online Views	318
Change from Last Year	-18.7%	Sunday School	8
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>		2025 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
		Last Week:	\$, 1000 lbs
		Total YTD:	\$, 1,870lbs

Easter Mission: \$2,128.72

Presentations to the Glory of God

Easter Blessings from Pastor Kris. Tell your friends about our AWESOME Church!

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