

Purveyors of Awe

Elements for Curating a Life
of Spiritual Depth



WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
WDS



April 20, 2025

6:00am Sunrise Worship

"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.

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

Brass Ensemble: Mitchell Roth, Mike Baer, Andy Dyszel

Welcome to Union UCC!

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.'

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.

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

***Opening Hymn** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today #233 New
Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)

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!**

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 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. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3for 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.

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. 13 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. 14 Above all,

clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. 16Let 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. 17And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

In Awe of the Word Pastor Kayli

Approaching an Awesome God

Our Prayers

Holy and Living God, we approach this time of prayer with increased desire to be a part of the goodness of this world, part of the "resurrection" of goodness. 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. The opening of spring flowers, the birth of animals into the growing warmth of this season, the lengthening of the days: 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 resurrected love.

Remind us of the precious joy of life and open us to savor
anew the gift of love all around us. We pause in this silence,
setting intentions of awe for our lives.

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.

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

**Offering – we will not be collecting your offerings during the
service. Please plan to share offerings and/or Easter Mission
offerings supporting The Chemo Bags and World Central
Kitchen as you arrive or as you leave worship in the offering
plates on white stands. Thank you for all the ways you
continue to support the mission and ministry of Union UCC.**



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Neffs, Pennsylvania

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-Z51X/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.

Vanco Mobile

• **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.



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.

There is beauty here.

The precious nature of fleeting life and time
reminds us that all of it is beautiful—
the joy and the heartbreak.

There is wonder here.
We are wide-eyed as we soak in Jesus' invitation,
reminding us that each person is offered grace—
no matter who we are or what we aren't sure about.

There is meaning here.
What feels at times devoid of sense is made whole
as we are reminded that our very existence
has purpose before we even become aware of it.

There is curiosity here.
Jesus sometimes surprised people with his invitations,
reminding us that we belong already,
even and especially because we don't already have things
figured out.

There is delight here.
Can you imagine being in the presence of Jesus,
not just at the Last Supper, but at any table where he was
present?
His light is surely our delight.

There is connection here.
When we gather at this table,
we are reminded of connections to all times and places
that people have gathered in the name of Christ.

There is self-giving here.
Indeed, it was Jesus' own self-giving
that prompted his words over the elements at the table,
and we become a part of that self-giving story as we
gather here.

And so, come, come to this moment of awe.
We approach the beauty, wonder, and meaning
with curiosity, delight, connection, and self-giving.

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.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,
made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets.

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."

And so,
in remembrance of your wonder-filled acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in self-giving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

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

Leader: Friends, we welcome everyone to this meal.
Please receive your elements from the ushers. You are
invited to take and eat, to take and drink, and to be
filled by the precious body and blood of the risen Lord,

Jesus Christ. Amen.

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.

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
240 New Century Hymnal (Black Hymnal)
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

Brass Ensemble: Mitchell Roth, Mike Baer, Andy Dyszel

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		8 AM	
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan.-March)	\$ 93,711.00	10:30 AM	
Calendar Year 2024 (Jan.-March)	\$ 115,296.00	Online Views	
Change from Last Year	-18.7%	Sunday School	13
Budget FY 2024-25 (July-March)	\$ 312,910.00	God First	25
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-March)	\$ 318,241.98	Faith on Tap	30
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	1.7%	Breathe	15
Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes		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

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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