



March 1
“The High Way”
Week 2
Jazz Ensemble

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 Readers

8 am- Carol Pope; 10:30 am- Lucille Kuhns

Greeters

Jim & Leanna Lane , Mark & Debbie Daluisio

Ushers

8 am- Phil Wehr, Ron Pope, Leoma Kern
10:30 am- Don Penrod ,Scott Nagle, Tami Herzog Wassum,
John Fabian, Jennifer Haley, Carolyn Seyler

Sound

Patrick Sorg

"You don't choose a life, you live a life." — *The Way* (2010)
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert- Isaiah 43:19

Lent is a time of reflection, and there's nothing like a pilgrimage to conjure that up. Making intentional journeys has been a ritual of humankind across time and traditions. Inspired by passages in the Judeo-Christian scriptures that talk about the journeys, roads, and pathways of life, we will make our way together through this season. The popular and poignant movie, *The Way*, about a father's pilgrimage in honor of his late son on the famed Camino de Santiago in France and Spain, accompanies us as our modern-day inspiration to live the life we've been given to the fullest.

Prelude Music

I Surrender All Winfield S. Weedon

**Jazz Ensemble: Blake Hoppes- piano, Mike Baer-guitar,
Mitchell Roth- trumpet, Malcolm MacKenzie- bass**

WE GATHER

Meeting One Another on The Way

Welcome & Announcements

We often share parts of worship responsively.

Phrases in Bold = All Read

Phrases NOT in bold = Leader

Preparing Together

A Wilderness Wandering People Jim and Jeanie Strathdee

Leader: Today, we continue our worship series called "The Way" that invites us to a spiritual journey during this season. Today we come to the table to be sustained for the road ahead. In our society, we are taught that everything costs. But our ways are not God's ways, as we will hear in scripture. We are all invited to the table of Jesus without price. This is the abundance of God's grace. This is the higher way that we are invited to embody for the sake of the world. The "rich food" that we are invited to partake is the richness of life when all have enough—not simply to survive—but to thrive. Hospitality is the way—even though we do not agree on everything, we are still one family at one table.

All Sung:

**We are a wilderness wandering people
on a journey of the soul.**

**May we find our destination
in our longing to be whole.**

Our Holy God is calling to us.

**With Jesus by our side
may compassion be our compass;
may the Spirit be our guide,
on The Way,
on The Way,
on The Way.**

Prayers for the Path

ALL:

God of Grace,

we know you are with us on The Way.

But we need sustenance in order to make the journey.

**As we come seeking peace and a place at the table,
we find that you have already prepared and were expecting us.**

**Help us to set tables of abundance
for all who travel this journey of life,
just as Jesus did.**

Amen.

Greeting Each Other

Leader: The best part of having companions on The Way is the sharing that we get to do that makes us feel just a little less alone. During this series, we will share answers to a common question with each other. I invite you to turn to someone you did not come to church with and answer this question: "What is your favorite dish at a meal (or potluck)?"

***Please rise in body or spirit to greet each other and to share your answers with each other and for the first song.**

***Hymn** Bless Now, O God, the Journey

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**Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,
The path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountains round,
Then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.**

**Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way;
Your hope burns through the terrors, your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound;
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.**

**Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow,
But waiting not for places' you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.**

Please be seated.

10:30 Children's Time- Invite Children Forward

SONG I Have Decided

All Sing:

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus

No turning back, no turning back.

Forward with Love: A Time with Ms. Nikki and the Pastors

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. Nikki 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.

Also on Sundays 9:15-10:15 am, ages 3 to grade 7. Kids are invited to the Education Hour with Ms. Nikki and Leaders.

Watch for God First Wednesdays and other events too!

Music Offering: Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho Spiritual Jazz Ensemble

WE PROCLAIM

Discovering Ourselves on The Way

First Reading

Psalm 37: 23-27 (NRSVUE)

*Our steps are made firm by the Lord
when God delights in our way;
though we stumble, we shall not fall headlong,
for the Lord holds us by the hand.
I have been young and now am old,
yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
or their children begging bread.
They are ever giving liberally and lending,
and their children become a blessing.
Depart from evil, and do good;
so you shall abide forever*

Second Reading

Isaiah 55:1-9 (NRSVUE)

*Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.*

*Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?*

*Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.*

*Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.*

*I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.*

*See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.*

*Now you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.*

*Seek the Lord while he may be found;
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for God will abundantly pardon.*

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.*

*For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts*

Message Pastor Kayli

Resources for you for this season leading you on The Way to Easter:

Movie: The Way (2010) When his son dies while hiking the famed Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route in the Pyrenees, Tom flies to France to claim the remains. Looking for insights into his estranged child's life, he decides to complete the 500-mile mountain trek to Spain. Tom soon joins up with other travelers and realizes they're all searching for something. The Friday and Sunday classes will be watching the movie. You can also stream it on several sites.

Book: Wisdom Walking: Pilgrimage as a Way of Life Gil Stafford
The Friday and Sunday adult classes are reading this. Join us! Extra copies are available on the table in the lobby.

Journals: Packets that include scripture, prayer, and reflections questions are available on the table in the lobby.

Small Groups Book: *The Pauses of Len: 40 Words for 40 Days* by Trevor Hudson. Contact Sue Matta to participate in or lead a group.

WE RESPOND

Opening to the Holy on The Way

A Ritual for Getting Out of Our Own Way

Leader: Prayer is a kind of “pitstop” along our journeys—a time when we pause in the stillness and reassess and remember to breathe. Let us take this moment to rest deeper into the guiding presence of The Giving One.

O God,
You so love the world
that you give and give and give:
the generous gift of Life itself,
freedom of choice,
sunrise in the morning,
sunset in the evening,
and all those surprises in between.
Then you give us all the time there is—eternity.

I confess that my schedule often crowds out
appreciation for these gifts and my numbness
allows me to take them for granted.

Everyday living requires
such a serious investment of my energy
that I easily neglect the grandeur
all around me.

Set me free to dance
to the rhythms of your Spirit.
Help me see that even times of sorrow and despair
often enable me to discover strength
I never knew I had.
Make me strong at the broken places.

Yet when the dark night of the soul approaches,
if it is possible,
let that cup pass from me,
but if not...
Amen.

Stillness
Lindy Thompson, Mark Miller

All Sung:
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive
Time for Contemplation
Pause, enjoy the music as you silently pray.

Hear this:
No matter whether you pause in gratitude for the gifts of God or not,
God never stops giving.
We can begin a higher way at any time.
Whether or not you know it, believe it, or feel it,
Jesus is with you now because Jesus promised to
set the table along our journey of life
over and over again.
You are forgiven and invited,
especially when you think you have no place.
May it be so.

All Sung:
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Be the air I breathe
Meet me in the stillness, Lord
Free me to receive

Praying for Others Along the Way

Leader: We continue our prayers with intercessions for those whose journeys are difficult in this moment...

And as we think about the difficulties of life, we also are reminded that there is so much good along the journey of life. We give thanks for...

We pray all these things spoken aloud, and the ones lifted in the quiet of our hearts, and conclude our prayers with the one that Jesus taught us, saying...

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

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr.Carolyn Call,
Transitional Executive Conference Minister of [the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ \(UCC\)](#).

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Call is the Transitional Executive Conference Minister of [the Keystone Conference of the United Church of Christ \(UCC\)](#). She oversees 500+ churches located in the newly formed Keystone Conference, which is a UCC Conference formed from the merger of the four former PA UCC Conferences. Prior to serving as Executive Conference Minister, Carrie was the Conference Minister of Penn Central Conference for 8 years and before that she worked as the Executive Director of Development and Communication at Lancaster Theological Seminary. Previously Carrie worked for 10 years at Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana, as an instructor in the departments of Psychology and Education and director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement. Carrie holds three degrees from Cornell University: BS in Rural Sociology (1986), MS in Development Sociology (2000), and PhD in Education (2004). She received an MDiv from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in 1990 and was ordained in the UCC in 1994. She lives in Lancaster, PA with her husband Randall Zachman (Prof. Emeritus, U. of Notre Dame, Theology). They love hiking, time in the Adirondacks and Michigan, and history.

Offering

Easter Mission Offering: You can support this by using the Easter Mission Offering envelope in your envelope packet, or a blank envelope marked - Easter Mission, or donate electronically by using any of the options below and noting "Easter Mission."

Habitat for Humanity Founded in 1989, Habitat Lehigh Valley brings together people from all walks of life to help others. Habitat Lehigh Valley works by partnering with local businesses, individuals and faith-based groups to build and renovate housing for families in need in our community. Their objective is to provide families with a decent home in a safe neighborhood. Additionally, families help to revitalize neighborhoods and increase the local tax base.

Meals on Wheels For over 50 years, Meals on Wheels has been passionately committed to serving seniors and adults. Their mission is simple yet profound: to provide nutritious meals and foster social connection across the Greater Lehigh Valley. They have become an integral part of the lives of over 2,000 seniors and adults with disabilities.



Thank you for all the ways that you help us make God's dream a reality at Union UCC.

ELECTRONIC GIVING <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-Z51X/home> or QR code. Single or ongoing donation with credit/debit card. Help 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 Sunday's offering plate with a member offering envelope or guest envelope (in the seat racks).

Please reach out to Don Penrod 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



Ambassadors (everyone!): Share our news, events, and spirit on social media and with your friends, family, and neighbors.

That's what keeps us relevant, engaged, and growing!

Watch for Union UCC merchandise soon!



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Relevant • Engaged • Growing

Music Offering: I'll Fly Away Albert E. Brumley
Jazz Ensemble

Please stand in body or spirit.

Offering Response

ALL SUNG:

**Amazing grace, How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost, but now I am found,
Was blind, but now I see.**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come,
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home.**

WE GO FORTH

Continuing with Jesus on The Way

Benediction

Our blessing, or “benediction,” for this season is a call and response form.

Your response is:

“We will follow on The Way.”

“We will follow on The Way.”

The Creator God filled you with breath, inviting you to this journey called Life.

We will follow on The Way.

Jesus, our Guide, showed us what it means to make a new way with Love.

We will follow on The Way.

The Spirit gives us strength to move forward with Courage and Compassion for all we meet.

We will follow on The Way.

May this week be filled with opportunities to choose to take the higher ways of the Holy, offering friendship, grace, and sustenance to those you meet. May it be so. Amen.

“Buen Camino!”

At the doors: Pick up a scallop shell or a pebble.

- **The scallop shell** has long been a symbol of St. James, the apostle whose cathedral in Galicia, Spain is the final destination for many pilgrims who walk the El Camino. Many of the trail markers along the Camino bear the image of scallop shells to assure travelers that they are on the right path. Please take a shell any Sunday you'd to remind you of this journey we walk with God and each other and to remember you are not alone.
- **Carrying a small stone** has been one of the traditions along the Camino de Santiago. The stone is often treated as a physical symbol of the pilgrim's burdens in life – perhaps a sadness in need of soothing, or a wound in need of healing. Travelers may choose to release their stones anywhere along the journey that feels right, but there is one site that pilgrims often choose at the foot of the Cruz de Ferro (the Iron Cross).

You are welcome to hold onto your shell and/or rock through this season that leads to Easter.

On Sunday, March 22 you will have a chance to release a rock or burden on the altar if you'd like.

***HYMN #107** Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
(Gold Hymnal)

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed**

**The lord had promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead me home**

Postlude: Wade in the Water Spiritual
Jazz Ensemble

Worship Theme: c. Worship Design Studio
Worship Design Team: Kathy Bonsell, Claire Kern, Deb Topp, Pastor Kris
Easter Flower Set Up: Rick and Kathy Bonsell
Special thanks to Kerry Snyder, Ron Snyder, Pastor Kayli, and Nikki
Pentland for altar decoration supplies.

EVIDENCE OF STEWARDSHIP LAST SUNDAY

Offering (e-giving, envelopes, and plate)		Attendance Last Week	
Last Week	\$3,753.00	8 AM	25
Calendar Year 2026 (Jan)	\$25,139.32	10:30 AM	45
Calendar Year 2025 (Jan)	\$31,482.00	Sunday School	-
Change from Last Year	-20.1%	God First	-
Budget FY 2025-2026 (July-Jan)	\$261,240.00	Faith on Tap	-
Actual Fiscal Year-to-Date (July-Jan)	\$253,989.00	Breathe	-
Difference in Giving vs. Budget	-2.8%	2026 Donations to the Northern Lehigh Food Bank:	
<i>Additional financial information available in Consistory Minutes</i>		Last Week	\$100, 150 Lbs
		YTD	\$200, 900 Lbs,
		Blanket Sunday	\$1,912.84
		Souper Bowl Sunday	\$955.80

Presentations to the Glory of God

Grateful for all of your Faith Commitments! - Pastor Kris

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 Sarah to sign up for a certain date or to sponsor in honor or memory of someone.