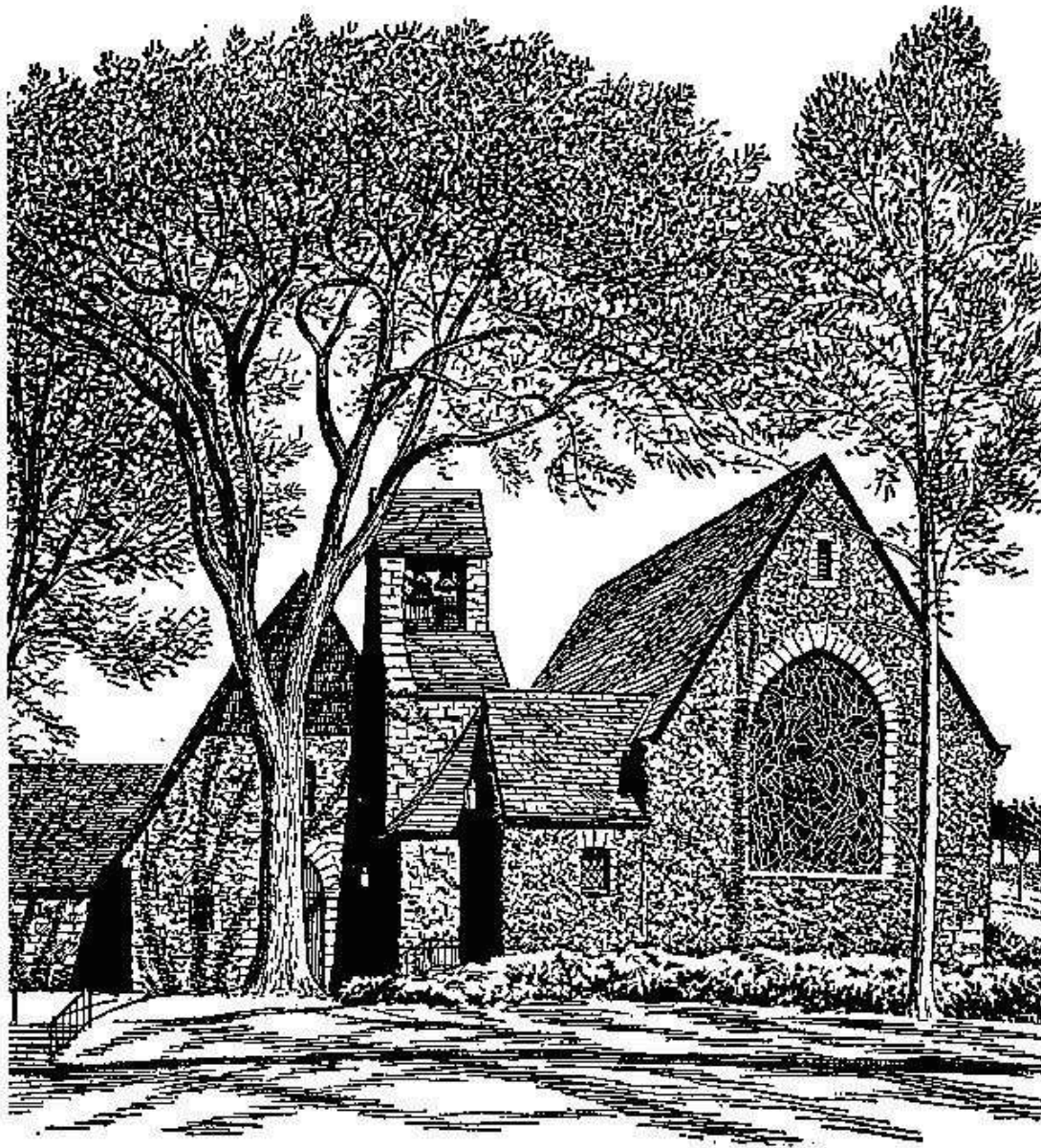


Union Church of Pocantico Hills

AUGUST 9, 2026

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

BILL GRAHAM JR., NELSON ROCKEFELLER, AND BOB SWEENEY

VICTORIA SHIELDS – GUEST ORGANIST

ELAINE SHERIDAN - DEACON

KYLAN JOHNSON – USHER



WELCOME TO UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

We are delighted to welcome all new guests today! – May your time in worship today be enriching and uplifting. We would like to get to know you better. Please help us by completing the welcome card and placing it on the offering plate. We look forward to welcoming you later in the week.

We offer programs for all children, ensuring there is a way for everyone to connect and feel at home. We provide Childcare services for younger children and Sunday School for children ages 5 to 12.

Please ask an usher to direct you to our childcare team.

Communion is served on the first Sunday and select services. All children will join us for communion.

As our worship is streamed online, we encourage thoughtful discretion when submitting prayer intentions.

Devotionals available – Daily devotionals by Upper Room are available on the literature rack in the Parish Hall. Please pick one up for your own spiritual practice.

Hearing assistance devices are available – please speak with an usher and they will be happy to assist with providing one for you.

FROM THE PEWS TO THE PULPIT

Who gets to preach? The obvious answer is "the pastor," but the New Testament offers a broader vision. God equips the church with many gifts, many voices, and many ways of proclaiming the good news. This summer, while Pastor Tricia is away on vacation, members of our congregation will lead us in worship and preaching. Their sermons will differ in style, perspective, and focus, but together they offer a reminder that the Holy Spirit is not limited to a single voice. We invite you to listen with curiosity and expectation as we hear what God may be saying through members of our own church family.

TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOUR IS HOSTED BY KAREN AND JOHN GARIBALDI

We invite you to stay after the service for Fellowship Hour and join us for coffee/tea in the Parish Hall. All are welcome to share, connect, and enjoy the refreshments.

Scan or Touch the QR Code



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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

The service of worship begins with the prelude;
quiet is requested as you enter the sanctuary and prepare for worship.

* Please stand as you are able. *

THE GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Improvisation of Service Music Themes

THE STRIKING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Denis Bédard

Andantino

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP (BOLD IN UNISON)**

Welcome, friend and stranger –

Welcome, honored guest.

We gather as a community to worship God,

To be reminded of God's goodness,

To be reminded of the call to be a part of that goodness.

Let us worship God.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel and posted on her blog, holdfasttowhatisgood.com

***HYMN 455**

All Creatures of Our God and King LASST UNS ERFREUEN

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children will now be escorted by our Children's Ministry Staff

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we know that you created us in love, to enjoy this world and You, to serve your creation and your children. And we know that we do not do your will.

With clenched hands, we can neither give nor receive.

With eyes tight shut, we cannot see pain or beauty.

With feet of clay, we cannot dance in joy or run to help.

We ask for your help and your power to change.

Open our hands and eyes, move our feet, toward grace and hope and trust in You.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Written by Beth Merrill Neel and posted on her blog, holdfasttowhatisgood.com

SILENT PRAYERS

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

The good news is that even if we at first do not hear the divine word addressed to us, God calls again and again. Friends, believe good news of the gospel:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Hymnal 464 (stanza one)

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Luke 14: 15-24 (NIV)

¹⁵ When one of those at the table with him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God."

¹⁶ Jesus replied: "A certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. ¹⁷ At the time of the banquet he sent his servant to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, for everything is now ready.'

¹⁸ "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

¹⁹ "Another said, 'I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.'

²⁰ "Still another said, 'I just got married, so I can't come.'

²¹ "The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

²² "'Sir,' the servant said, 'what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.'

²³ "Then the master told his servant, 'Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. ²⁴ I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.' "

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God among us,
For the Word of God within us,
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

"The Ultimate Invitation"

Bill Graham Jr.

*HYMN 422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

BEACH SPRING

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Digital plate offering is available on page two (2)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

J. S. Bach, text, Charles Gounod, composer

Ave Marie

Solo: Ruth DiLorenzo

***THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS**

Hymn 592

Festal Doxology

Old Hundredth

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

We invite you to pray using words (debts/debtors, trespasses, sins) that feel comfortable to you.

SENDING

***HYMN 411**

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION

Friends,

Let us leave this place with spirits lighter than when we came in;

Trusting in God's steadfast love.

We will invest in others as God has invested in us;

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the Spirit.

The blessing of the eternal God is upon us:

redeeming grace,

enfolding love,

enduring fellowship.

Now and forever.

Amen!

POSTLUDE

C. S. Lang

Tuba tune in D major, Op. 15

**Congregation standing*



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

www.UnionChurchPH.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TODAY AT CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00AM CHILDCARE 10:00AM – 11:00AM
FELLOWSHIP HOUR AFTER WORSHIP

EVERY THURSDAY

PRIVATE GROUP MEETING 6:30pm - 8:00pm

PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Tricia is on vacation this morning. We look forward to having our lay worship team lead our services! Bill Graham, Jr. will be preaching, accompanied by Bob Sweeney and Nelson Rockefeller. Please forward pastoral care needs to our wonderful Deacons. Pastor Tricia will be back in worship next Sunday.

GUEST ORGANIST

We welcome Victoria Shields as our guest organist this morning. Victoria is a regular here at Union Church, serving as our organist for many weddings and funerals. Her regular home is at St. James the Less Episcopal Church in Scarsdale where she is Organist and Director of Music. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music, Victoria is a prominent recitalist and educator. We are so fortunate that she is available to be with us this morning!

THE LUMINA ARTS 2026-2027 CONCERT SERIES AT UNION CHURCH

The Lumina Arts Concert Series at Union Church of Pocantico Hills has announced its 2026/27 season! The new season brings acclaimed classical and jazz artists to our historic church, alongside benefit concerts supporting young musicians and the Lumina Arts Music Program. Led by Music Director Katia Kravitz, the season features performances by Grammy Award-winning violinist and MacArthur Fellow Johnny Gandelsman, pianist and longtime Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett collaborator Alex Smith, rising Swiss pianist Nicolas Salloum, organist Eddie Zheng, pianist Irina Nuzova, and musicians from the SUNY Purchase Music Conservatory. The series opens and closes with benefit concerts supporting music education and the musical life of Union Church. -[Tickets are \\$25 in advance and \\$30 at the door](#)

SLEEPY HOLLOW FOOD PANTRY

The SHHS Pantry operates because we have wonderful volunteers every week. While school is not in session, we don't have as many volunteers. - **All summer volunteer spots have been filled**

You can help by donating canned goods to the pantry. Please drop off non-perishable items in the red collection bin located in the parish hall.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

JAZZ SUNDAY & POCANTICO HILLS PICNIC

Sunday, September 13 10:00am to 3:00 pm

Join us for Sunday Service with jazz and original music by Ike Sturm and Arta Jekabsone in the Sanctuary. Followed by a picnic on the church lawn, co-hosted with The Church of the Magdalene.



UNION CHURCH CHILDREN'S CHOIR PROGRAM (NEW)

Open to all children | Grades K-6 | Director: Dr. Katia Kravitz

Rehearsals will be on Fridays from 5:00pm to 5:45pm

(except for the first Friday of the month)

First Rehearsal: Friday, October 9th

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

The new Sunday School year begins on Sunday, September 20! We look forward to welcoming our children back and meeting some new faces. Whether you are a returning family or joining us for the first time, please register your child for the upcoming Sunday School year. We can't wait to learn and grow together!



BENEFIT CONCERT TO SUPPORT YOUNG MUSICIANS

A special Jazz Performance by Musicians from the SUNY Purchase Music Conservatory

Sunday, September 27, 2026, 3 PM

A concert for a great cause! Enjoy an afternoon of jazz while helping talented students from Sleepy Hollow High School receive musical instruction and opportunities. *Please consider adding an additional donation with your ticket purchase.*



UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

555 Bedford Road Tarrytown, NY 10591 | 914.631.2069 | www.UnionChurchPH.org

Office Hours: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (Tuesday to Friday)

(Pastor's Day off – Monday)

Rev. Patricia Calahan, Pastor

Cell: 914.984.9135

Pastor@UnionChurchPH.org

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Katia Kravitz

Music Director & Organist

Music@UnionChurchPH.org

Natasha Krishnani,

Office Manager & Director of Events

Office@UnionChurchPH.org

Gerianne Bittlingmaier

Bookkeeper

Accounting@UnionChurchPH.org

Benjamin Unger

Livestream

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nancy Demirci, *Sunday School Teacher*

Childcare Aides

Adele Dziugelis and Caitlin Chiong

SundaySchool@UnionChurchPH.org

LUMINA ARTS AT

UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

Lumina Arts Committee

LuminaArts@UnionChurchPH.org

www.instagram.com/luminaartspocantico/

2026 BOARD LEADERSHIP

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