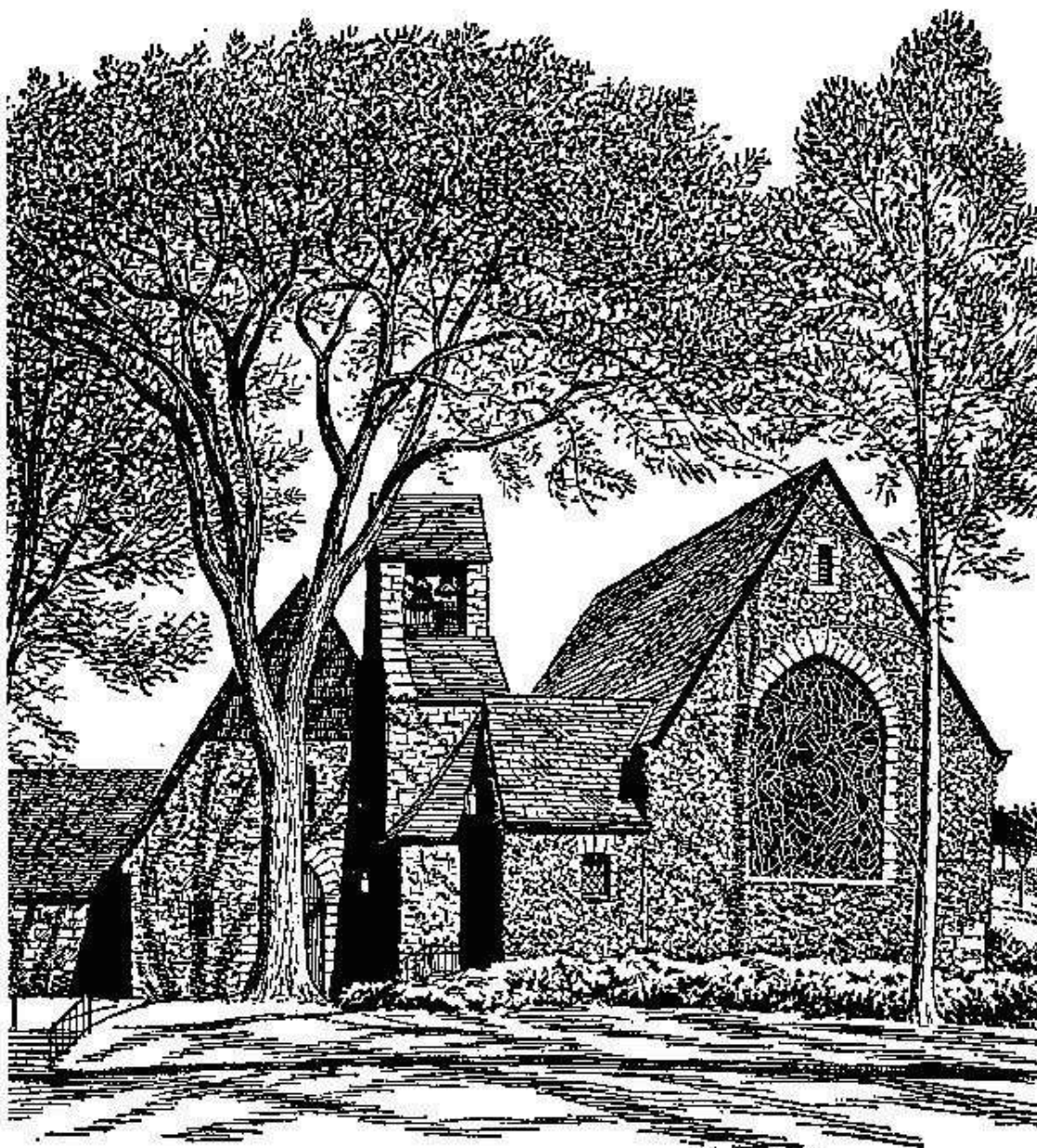


Union Church of Pocantico Hills

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



REV. PATRICIA CALAHAN - *PASTOR*

DR. KATIA KRAVITZ - *MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST*

TODD RHODA - *DEACON*

MICHAEL LORENZ - *USHER*

BAKER AND RODRIQUEZ FAMILY - *TODAY'S FELLOWSHIP HOSTS*



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.

GOSPEL = GOOD NEWS!

The word “Gospel” actually means “Good News!” Christianity begins with good news about what God has done and an invitation to live within the future God is bringing. This fall, we will explore some of the questions at the heart of Christian faith:

- Who is the God Jesus reveals?
- Why did Jesus die?
- What does resurrection mean?
- What are we saved for?
- Why church?
- What about “the others?”

Together, we will listen for the ways Scripture unsettles inherited answers, enlarges our understanding, and invites us into lives of grace, hope, reconciliation, and love.

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God - not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.”

Scan or Touch the QR Code



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

J. S. Bach

Herr Christ, der einig Gottes Sohn BWV 698

INTROIT

IN BABILONE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

WELCOME

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

Before the earth was formed, God's song of love had begun.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Creation took up the melody: seas and skies, sun and stars, creatures of every kind.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Through generations of wandering and homecoming, sorrow and liberation, the song continued.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Now the Spirit invites us to listen, to learn our part, and to add our voices.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Come, let us join the song of grace.

Let us worship God!

***HYMN 264**

"When in Our Music God Is Glorified"

ENGELBERG

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of steadfast love, your song began before us and your faithfulness has carried it through every generation. Yet we confess that we do not always listen. We repeat the songs of fear, scarcity, superiority, and exclusion, and mistake them for your voice. Sometimes we insist upon our own part without listening to those around us; sometimes we remain silent when love needs our voice.

Forgive us. Bring us back to the enduring refrain of your grace. Teach us to listen more deeply, to recognize your love at work, and to join with courage in your song of justice, mercy, and hope. Amen.

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**

Hymn 473 (vs. 1)

For the Beauty of the Earth

DIX

**For the beauty of the earth
For the glory of the skies
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies
Lord of all to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise**

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST LESSON

Psalms 136:1–16, 23–26 (NRSVUE)

- O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 2 O give thanks to the God of gods,
for his steadfast love endures forever.
- 3 O give thanks to the Lord of lords,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- 4 who alone does great wonders,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- 5 who by understanding made the heavens,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- 6 who spread out the earth on the waters,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- 7 who made the great lights,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- 8 the sun to rule over the day,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- 9 the moon and stars to rule over the night,
for his steadfast love endures forever;
- 10 who struck Egypt through their firstborn,

for his steadfast love endures forever;
 11 and brought Israel out from among them,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 12 with a strong hand and an outstretched arm,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 13 who divided the Red Sea in two,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 14 and made Israel pass through the midst of it,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 15 but overthrew Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 16 who led his people through the wilderness,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 who made water flow from the rock,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 It is he who remembered us in our low estate,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 24 and rescued us from our foes,
 for his steadfast love endures forever;
 25 who gives food to all flesh,
 for his steadfast love endures forever.
 26 O give thanks to the God of heaven,
 for his steadfast love endures forever.

SECOND LESSON

1 John 4:7-12 (NRSVUE)

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸ Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹ God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us.

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

"What is our Story?"

Rev. Patricia Calahan

*HYMN 327

"O Word of God Incarnate"

MUNICH

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Digital plate offering is available on page two (2)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Maurice Bevan

***THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS**

Festal Doxology

Hymn 592

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 361**

"How Firm a Foundation"

FOUNDATION

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Nun danket alle Gott

Georg Friedrich Kaufman (1679-1735)

**Congregation standing*

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

20

10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

20

11:30-1:30PM

ART & TALK WITH JOE FUSARO

Join artist in residence Joe Fusaro for in formal time in the Lumina studio to talk about contemporary art and make some art.



21

6:00-8:00PM

ART & TALK WITH JOE FUSARO

Join artist in residence Joe Fusaro for in formal time in the Lumina studio to talk about contemporary art and make some art.

23

7:00-8:00PM

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

We study the scripture text that will be used in worship on the following Sunday. Email Natasha if you would like to be included in the Bible Study email list.

27

3:00 PM

BENEFIT CONCERT TO SUPPORT YOUNG MUSICIANS

Purchase Tickets

3

10:00 AM

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bring your pets to the front lawn as we celebrate the animals of creation! A brief service, followed by individual blessings, treats, children's activities, and learn about and support Heifer Project.

www.UnionChurchPH.org

UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

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(Pastor's Day off – Monday)

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Caitlin, Adele and Matthew

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LUMINA ARTS AT

UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

Lumina Arts Committee

LuminaArts@UnionChurchPH.org

www.instagram.com/luminaartspocantico/

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