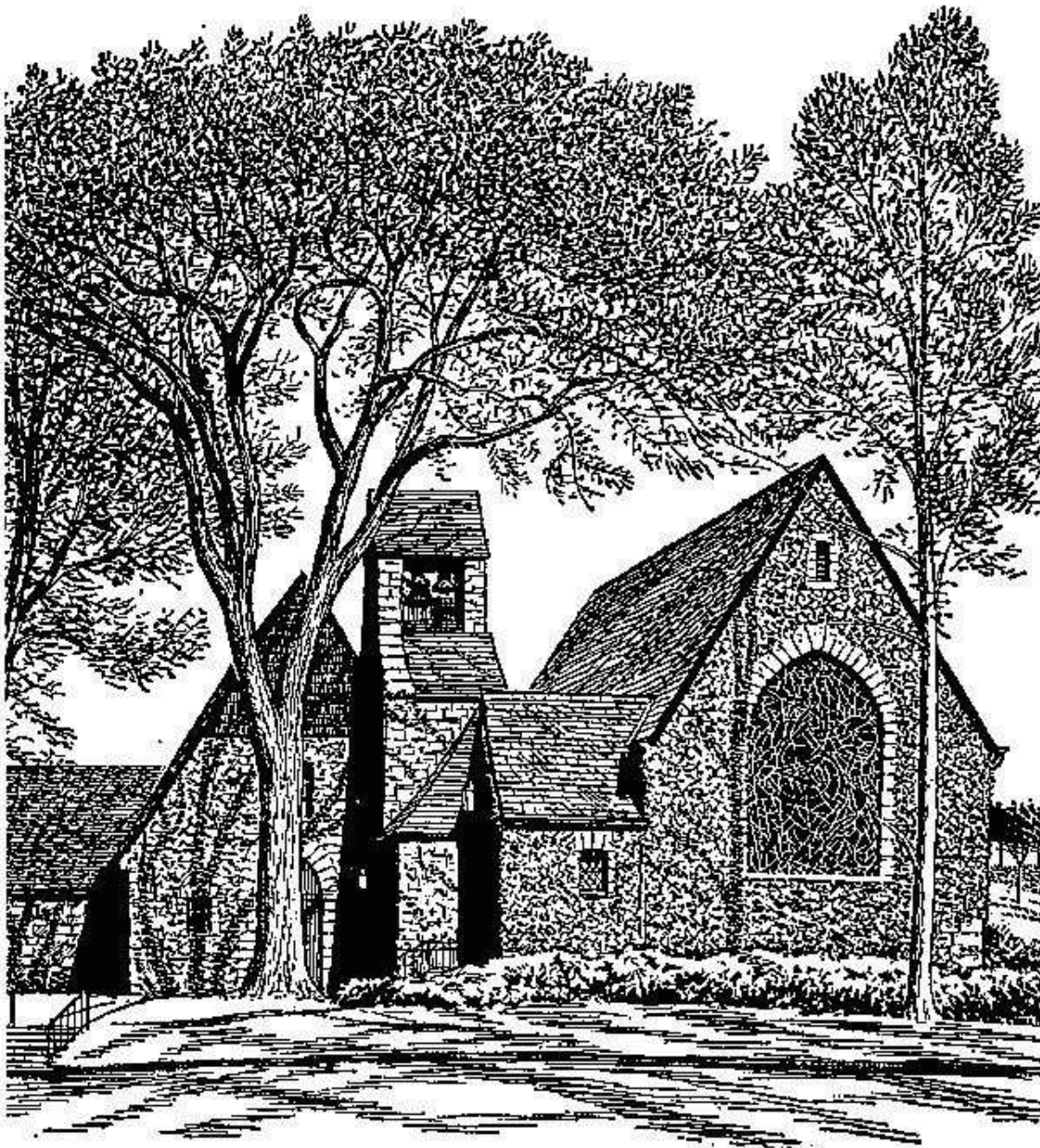


Union Church of Pocantico Hills

OCTOBER 11, 2026

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



REV. PATRICIA CALAHAN - *PASTOR*

DR. KATIA KRAVITZ - *MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST*

YVETTE LIN - *DEACON*

KYLAN JOHNSON - *USHER*

NO HOSTS TODAY. JOIN US FOR COOKIES & COFFEE!



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.

Flowers on the altar have been donated by Lucy Waletzky in honor of James R. Hamilton

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.”

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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

Trumpet Tune

Henry Purcell (1659-1695)

INTROIT

O Come and Sing unto the Lord

IRISH

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP (BOLD IN UNISON)

Come, let us worship the God who brings good news to the poor.

We come to worship the God who sets the captive free.

Come, let us worship the God who opens our eyes to grace.

We come to worship the God who lifts up the burdened and welcomes the forgotten.

This is the God Jesus reveals:

a God of freedom, healing, justice, and love.

Come, let us worship God!

*HYMN 487

"When Morning Gilds the Skies"

LAUDES DOMINI

CHILDREN'S TIME

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace,

in Jesus Christ you have shown us who you are:

a God who brings good news,

who sets people free,

who restores what has been broken,

and who announces the year of your favor.

Yet sometimes we imagine you differently.
We make you smaller than your mercy
and narrower than your love.
We draw lines where you open doors.
We accept what is broken
when you call us to seek freedom and healing.
We forget that your good news is meant
not only for us, but for all people.

Forgive us, O God.
Open our eyes again to Jesus.
Teach us to recognize your heart in his,
to trust the wideness of your grace,
and to join in the liberating work of your love.
In Christ we pray. 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**

For the Beauty of the Earth

Hymn 473 (vs. 1)

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

Luke 4:16-21 (NRSVUE)

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

SECOND LESSON

John 1:14-18 (NRSVUE)

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' " ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

"Revealing the Nature of God"

Rev. Patricia Calahan

*HYMN 306

"Fairest Lord Jesus"

CRUSADERS' HYMN

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Kylan Johnson

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Digital plate offering is available on page two (2)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thy perfect Love

John Rutter

*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 332**

"Live Into Hope"

TRURO

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Johann Krebs (1713-1780)

Sei Lob und Ehr dem höchsten Gut

**Congregation standing*



WITH ALL
2027 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." —Mark 12:30

There is a wonderful sense of life and possibility at Union Church! As we begin our stewardship campaign, **With All**, we give thanks for the gifts each of us brings and for the ministry our gifts make possible together.

This year, we invite everyone to prayerfully consider how we offer the whole of our lives to God through our financial giving, time, and talents. Every gift matters, and there is a place for everyone to participate, including our children.

Watch for your stewardship letter and pledge card in the mail. On **Sunday, November 8**, we will bring our pledges together in worship and celebrate with a **luncheon afterward**.

What does it mean for you to give With All in the coming year?



UPCOMING EVENTS

WED

OCT 14

7:00-8:00PM

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

We study the scripture text that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Email Natasha - to be added to the email list.

FRI

OCT 16

5:00-5:45 PM

UCPH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Rehearsal with Dr. Katia Kravitz
Open to all children

SAT

OCT 17

9:00 - 12:00PM

CPR CERTIFICATION TRAINING

As part of our Safe Church Policy our staff and some members will be participating in this course.

SAT

OCT 17

11:30-3:00PM

ENCAUSTIC PAINTING - LEVEL II

Mixed-media techniques including collage and texture. Requires Level I or some prior experience with encaustics
To register: Sarah@radicallyhuman.com

SUN

OCT 18

3:00 PM

NICOLAS SALLOUM, PIANO

The brilliant young Swiss pianist gives a recital of Bach, Beethoven, Schumann, and Chopin
Purchase Tickets on our website

ALL SAINT'S DAY

Sunday, November 1st.

We will honor those in our church family who have passed between now and November 2025.

Please email names to Natasha by Friday, October 23.



UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

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

(Pastor's Day off – Monday)

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Pastor@UnionChurchPH.org

CHURCH STAFF

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nancy Demirci, *Sunday School Teacher*

Childcare Aides

Caitlin, Adele and Matthew

SundaySchool@UnionChurchPH.org

LUMINA ARTS AT

UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

Lumina Arts Committee

LuminaArts@UnionChurchPH.org

www.instagram.com/luminaartspocantico/

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