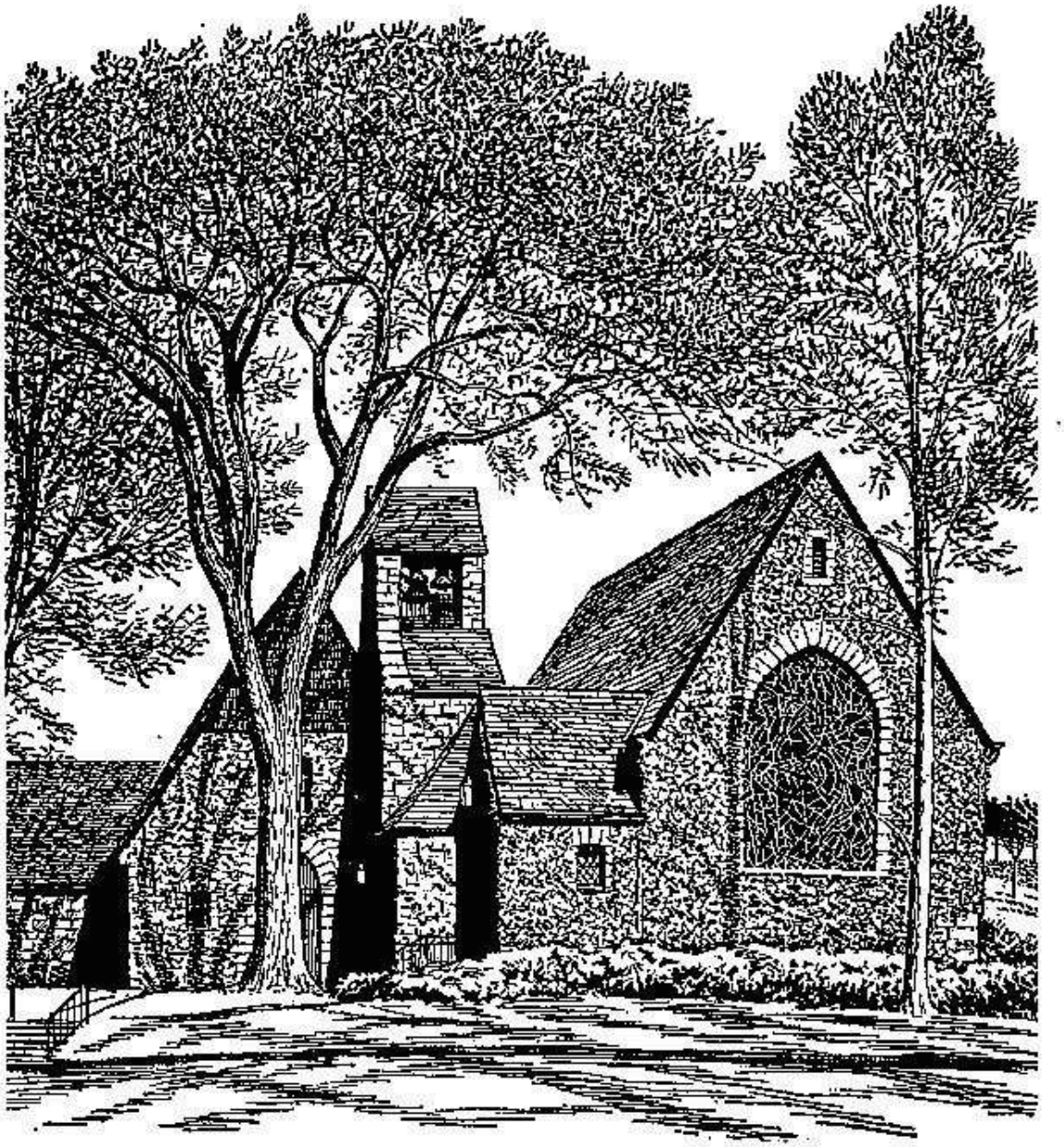
Union Church of Pocantico Hills

NOVEMBER 8, 2026
STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION



REV. PATRICIA CALAHAN - *PASTOR*

DR. KATIA KRAVITZ – *MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST*

DAWN LORENZ - *DEACON*

MICHAEL LORENZ – *USHER*

STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION AND LUNCHEON

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."

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GIVE

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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 Domenico Zipoli (1688-1726)
Verso

INTROIT Taizé
O Come and Let Us Sing

WELCOME

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

Hear, O people of God: the Lord our God, the Lord is one!
We come to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

God gathers us into a community of love.
We rejoice in familiar faces and welcome new companions in faith.

Each life brings gifts; together we share in God's work.
With grateful hearts, we offer who we are and what we have.

Let us worship the One who first loved us.
With all that we are, let us praise God!

***HYMN 267** "All Things Bright and Beautiful" ROYAL OAK

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Charles Arbuthnot
Alicia La Freniere
Nathan Malone
Ann Wouters

Prayer of Thanksgiving for New Members

Creator God, we praise you for calling us to be a servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank you for choosing to add to our number brothers and sisters in faith. Together, may we live in your spirit, and so love one another, that we may have the mind of Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom we give honor and glory forever. Amen.

Blessing of New Members

Children's Time

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

Prayer of Confession

Generous God,
you have loved us into life
and called us into a community of grace.
You free us to love you with all that we are
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Yet we often live guarded lives.
We let worry narrow our generosity
and busyness crowd out our attention.
We hold tightly to familiar ways
and miss the gifts new people bring.
We forget that receiving love
is part of belonging, too.

Forgive us, and open our lives again.
Write your love upon our hearts;
let it shape our homes and our daily choices.
Renew our delight in one another
and our joy in sharing your gifts,
so that all we offer—
our time, our resources, our care—
may become an expression of love.
Through Jesus Christ, 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

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (NRSVUE)

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. 7 Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. 8 Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead,9 and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

SECOND LESSON

Mark 12:28-34 (NRSVUE)

28 One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"29 Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; 30 you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 31 The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." 32 Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; 33 and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." 34 When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

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 "With All" Rev. Patricia Calahan

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE Victoria Wooters

GATHERING PLEDGES FOR 2027

***HYMN 391** "Take My Life" HENDON

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Digital plate offering is available on page two (2)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM Pierre-Arnaud Destremau (b.1991)

Ave Verum

***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

SENDING

***HYMN 425** "Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining" ABBOT'S LEIGH

BLESSING

POSTLUDE Giovanni Battista Pescetti (1704-1766)

Presto from Sonata in C minor

**Congregation standing*

UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

This Week

November 8 – 14, 2026

SUN NOV 8

Worship Service and Sunday School

10:00 AM

Stewardship Celebration and Luncheon

Following Worship

WED NOV 11

Zoom Bible Study

7:00 – 8:00 PM

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Encaustic Painting, Level I

Saturday, November 14, 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM.
An introduction to Encaustic Painting through playful, guided exercises.
$175, all materials included. To register: Sarah@radicallyhuman.com

Johnny Gandelsman Concert

Sunday, November 15, 3:00 PM
Doors open 2:30 PM.
Tickets $25 advance purchase / $30 at the door.
Scan the QR code to purchase tickets.

Questions? Contact the church office: 914-631-2069 | office@unionchurchph.org



LUMINA ARTS PRESENTS

Johnny Gandelsman

Solo Concert · Violin

SUN, NOV 15, 2026 • 3 PM • $25 / $30

Union Church of Pocantico Hill

Get tickets:

lumina-arts-union-church-of-pocantico-hill.square.site

UNION CHURCH OF POCANTICO HILLS

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LUMINA ARTS AT
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Lumina Arts Committee
LuminaArts@UnionChurchPH.org
www.instagram.com/luminaartspocantico/

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