

The Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair

Sunday, October 26, 2025

*If you are able, please stand.

10:00 a.m.

Please turn off cell phones.



WE GATHER AROUND GOD'S WORD

"If you can hold and forgive the contradictions within yourself,
you can normally do it everywhere else, too."

Father Richard Rohr

"Sometimes you have to do something unforgivable just to be able to go on living."

Carl Jung

✠ ✠ ✠ ✠ ✠

Prelude

Claire de Lune
Janet Marcarian, piano

Claude Debussy

*Call to Worship

Lauren Rahaghi

One: We are weary of arrogance,
All: so we gather in humility.
We have had our fill of aggression,
so we gather with gentleness.
We have tasted the bitter fruit of hate,
so we gather to pursue love.
We know from experience
that when God's people dwell together in unity,
a new day will dawn.
Our hearts will be shaped by love.
We will walk in the light of God.
Let us worship, sing and pray.
Let us worship God together!

***Opening Hymn 853** *We Are Marching in the Light of God*

Siyahamba

Prayer of Preparation and Confession (unison)

Pastor Greg Horn

**Holy God, your truth is so often sharp and unsettling. We confess
the ways we skirt the hard edges of your Word, turn up the volume
on lesser noises, and lean into the comfort of our own certainty.**

**You send us messengers, and we sidestep them; you challenge us,
and we defend ourselves. Again and again, Holy God, we resist what
we do not want to hear. And yet you keep calling. Have mercy on us.
Interrupt our evasions. Soften what pride has hardened in us. Let us
hear and receive your truth.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Prayer Hymn 438 (seated) *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*
(verses 1 & 3)

Toplady

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

***We Give God Glory** (Hymn #582)

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen. (sing 3 times)
As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

Welcome & Life of the Church

(Please fill out the Friendship Pad completely and pass it along.)

Moment for Stewardship – Momentum & Milestones

Lauren Rahaghi

Anthem

Lord, Make Me an Instrument
Chancel Choir

M. Roger Holland, II

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time for Children

(All children are invited forward. Afterward, all children may attend Sunday School.)

Scripture Reading (p.1038 of OT)

Joel 2:21-28 (NRSV)

- ²¹ Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!
²² Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
²³ O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
²⁴ The threshing-floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
²⁵ I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.
²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God,
who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame.
²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God
and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

²⁸ Then afterwards I will pour out my spirit on all flesh;
your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams,
and your young men shall see visions.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading (p.99 of NT)

Luke 18:9-14 (NRSV)

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax-collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, “God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax-collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.” ¹³But the tax-collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, “God, be merciful to me, a sinner!” ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.’

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Grateful - and Keeping Things In Perspective”

Pastor Greg Horn

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

***Hymn 695**

Change My Heart, O God

Eddie Espinosa

Prayer of the People

We Worship With Our Offerings

Offertory Solo

Wonderful, Merciful Savior

Rodgers & Wyse

Rena Baker

***We Give Praise to God** (Hymn #606)

Doxology

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

***Closing Hymn 39**

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

T. Chisholm

***Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

GO WITH GOD – TO SERVE GOD’S WORLD

*The flowers decorating the chancel this morning
are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the
fall birthdays of Stratton, Rhonda and Jennifer Heath.*

WELCOME and thank you for your part in this service of worship. If you are a visitor here at the Presbyterian Church of Upper Montclair (PCUM), you are especially welcome. May you sense in this place the presence and the love of God in Christ. After worship, you are invited for refreshments and conversation in Fellowship Hall.

PLEASE ASK AN USHER for anything you might need, and please help fellow worshipers by exiting and entering the sanctuary at times other than during prayers or scripture readings.

CHILDCARE for toddlers and a nursery for younger children are always available during worship in the North Wing, located off Fellowship Hall. Please ask an usher for directions.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES for all children preschool through 7th grade are located in the North Wing. Ask the ushers or Christian Education leaders for directions. If you are sending your kids to Sunday School for the first time, please step out briefly with your children as they are dismissed to fill out a registration form before returning to the sanctuary.



TODAY IS THE FIRST OF FOUR STEWARDSHIP '26 SUNDAYS at PCUM focused on God's love in our lives and in this congregation—and God's call to each of us to respond with financial pledges supporting Christ's work here today and Christ's vision for what we can do together in the near future. The 2026 stewardship theme is ***Momentum & Milestones: Embracing PCUM's Future!*** Guest speakers, special music, and growing in faith will guide us to Commitment Sunday on November 26 and the year ahead!

ADULT STUDY CLASS TODAY ON PCUM STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: Starting TODAY at 11:45 am and then on the Fourth Sunday of each month through Sunday, May 24 of 2026, you are invited to a 1-hour long class led by Pastor Greg Horn studying the ten beautiful stained glass "aisle windows" that adorn the east and west walls of PCUM's sanctuary. Each of PCUM's aisle-window tells a biblical story, and each window's story is interpreted and presented in artistic and theological ways that reflect this congregation's origins and its rich 118 year-old history, while at the same time literally illuminating what God has to say to us at this 21st century moment.

Each 1-hour long, discussion-based class will take place in the sanctuary and include a close study of a particular window, the scriptural scene it depicts, and the choices the artists and the church's founders made in presenting it. We'll also discuss aspects of the craft of stained glass-making; how to read and use your biblical knowledge more productively; the time and reasons PCUM came to be; and what messages these extraordinary windows, visual manifestations of God's Word, have for us today. Contact Pastor Greg (greghorn@pcum.org) with questions AND/or to request childcare.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARENTS' GATHERING - Sunday, November 9 after worship - Parents of children of all ages, but especially families newer to PCUM or to Sunday School are invited to this gathering to learn more about our Sunday School program. We will discuss how you can support your child's spiritual development and ways to get involved with this special church community. There will be a pizza lunch for all, and activities for children as well. To RSVP, please email Millie Tourtelot at millie@pcum.org.

FALL "MEMBERSHIP EXPLORATION GROUP" – If you would like to learn more about faith, about PCUM, about others, and about yourself, you are invited to be part of the fall Membership Exploration Group. Just indicate your interest on the Ritual of Friendship pad or contact Pastor Greg Horn (greghorn@pcum.org) or the Church Office (pcum@pcum.org). The group consists of several Sunday lunch conversations that fit your schedule—food and childcare for everyone provided—where questions are asked and answered and new friendships are made.



Thoughtful, Nourishing Worship ✠ Vibrant Ministry to Children & Youth
Relationships ✠ Participation ✠ Service to Others and to the World ✠ Relevance and Authenticity

The Presbyterian Church
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pcum@pcum.org



Pastor & Head of Staff:

The Rev. Gregory A. Horn

Director of Music Ministries:

Anne Marie Juliano

Director of Christian Education: Millie Tourtelot

Co-Youth Leader: Garrett Pahl

Children's Programs/Co-Youth Leader: Sierra Joy

Church Administrator: Denise Silecchia

Livestream Techs: Tres Williams, Jerome Nelson

Custodian: Jimmy Abad



MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP MEETS EVERY WEEK! PCUM'S vibrant 2025-2026 Middle School Youth Group meets Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. throughout the year ahead! All teens and tweens 6th–8th grade are warmly invited to come out to have fun, share dinner, and meet old and new friends. Contact Garrett Pahl (garrett@pcum.org) and Sierra Joy (sierra@pcum.org).

PIZZA & MOVIE NIGHT @ PCUM! Kids and parents! On Friday evening, December 5th at 6 p.m., families with children 2nd grade & younger (older siblings are welcome!), are invited to a FREE evening of movie-watching, fellowship, and fun for kids and families! Meet other parents while your children play with church friends under the supervision of the Children's Ministries staff. Pizza and salad for everyone, as well as a short child-friendly film screening. RSVP to Millie Tourtelot at millie@pcum.org.

SING WITH THE CHANCEL CHOIR! PCUM's vibrant music ministry needs you! You don't have to sing every Sunday. Come as you are and sing when your schedule permits. Contact Dir. of Music Ministries, Anne Marie Julano for more information at annemarie@pcum.org.

VOLUNTEER TO SERVE HUNGRY NEIGHBORS – Twice each month, you are invited to join fellow PCUM volunteers serving hungry and food-insecure neighbors. PCUM prepares and serves an evening meal here in Montclair on the 4th Saturday of the month and a lunch meal in Newark on the 3rd Saturday of each month. **Sign up at** www.pcum.org/serve-others.

DEDICATE FLOWERS – You can honor/memorialize loved ones by dedicating flowers for any Sunday morning worship service throughout the year. A few dates remain open for 2025. The suggested donation for two bouquets is \$80. Sign up on the Flower Calendar in the Deacons' Corner or online at www.pcum.org.

THE MONTCLAIR MUSIC CLUB'S next concert will be Monday evening, November 3rd, 7:30 pm in the church sanctuary. This special instrumental program features guitarist Daryl Hester performing music for lute and classical guitar; flutist Zoe Rabinowitz with collaborator Oliver Rivera playing music of French composers Dutilleux and Gaubert; pianist and composer Eric Heilner playing his own composition of 10 Easy Pieces; and Steinway artist Carolyn Enger performing contemporary works for piano by American composers Still, Adolphe, and Lang, and Polish composer Szpilman. Free and open to the public. Donations welcome. Reception immediately following the program.