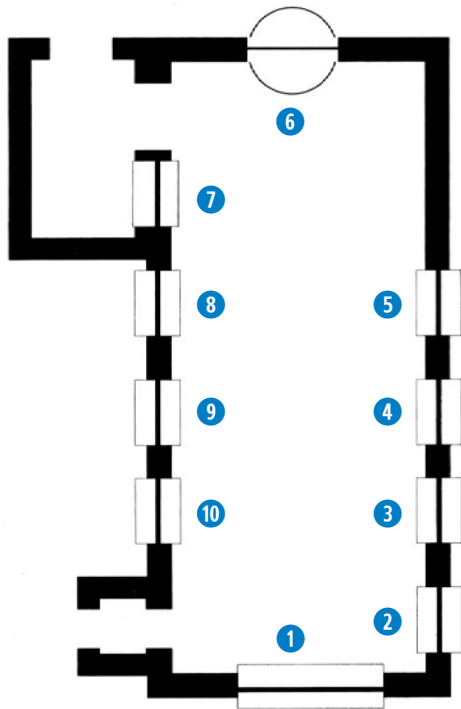


Union Church of Pocantico Hills



Union Church was organized as a non-denominational Protestant church in 1915 and John D. Rockefeller was among the founders. The church was built on Rockefeller-owned land and financed through contributions from the family and other church members. Over the years, the family commissioned stained-glass windows by European masters to adorn this unassuming country church.



Nave Windows by Marc Chagall

- 1 *The Good Samaritan* - The window in the rear wall of the church honors the memory of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. (1874-1960), and is based on a passage from the Gospel of Luke, which Rockefeller's family felt reflected the way he lived his life — "Love thy neighbor."
- 2 *The Crucifixion (Seek and Ye Shall Find)* - Dedicated to Michael Rockefeller (1938-1961), who died in New Guinea while on an anthropological expedition, the window depicts the crucified Christ.
- 3 *Joel* - Dedicated to Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller after his death, the inscription "Knock and it shall be opened unto you" references the verse on Michael Rockefeller's memorial window (adjacent) and unites the windows dedicated to the father and son.
- 4 *Elijah* - Honoring the memory of Lillian T. Bowles and Eunice Turner, sisters who had worked at Kykuit for decades, this window shows Elijah's ascent into heaven in the whirlwind, the chariot of fire, and horses of fire.
- 5 *Daniel* - Chagall used soft, quiet colors so the window would not compete with Matisse's work. The artist portrays Daniel at the moment when the angel Gabriel appears to him and lifts him up to receive the revelation of reassurance and hope.
- 7 *Cherubim* - The inspiration for this window is the story of Creation as told in Genesis. Chagall's window shows a cherub receiving a person back into the Garden of Eden, suggesting that in death, a person will be received by God back into paradise.
- 8 *Ezekiel* - This window is dedicated to Margaret "Peggy" McGrath Rockefeller, who was a conservationist and farmer, and, who along with her husband David Rockefeller, had suggested the Chagall commissions for Union Church. Here Chagall recounts the story of the prophet Ezekiel.
- 9 *Jeremiah* - Chagall chose the verses from Lamentations as the inspiration for this window. The work symbolizes personal anguish and loneliness in a time of deep despair, and is balanced by its placement directly across from the jubilant Elijah window.
- 10 *Isaiah* - The book of Isaiah tells the story of the rise and fall of nations, the destruction of the temple and the exile of the Jewish people, but ends on a note of hope with a vision of redemption and restoration. Chagall softens his approach, using a yellow silver stain to create a glowing effect.

Rose Window by Henri Matisse

- 6 Dedicated on Mother's Day 1956 to the memory of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller (1874-1948), a founder of the Museum of Modern Art and an active member of the Union Church, this piece was Matisse's final work.