

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | November 2, 2025

- **IN-PERSON 9:30 am** in the Sanctuary
- **LIVESTREAM** online at **9:30 am on Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC>
- on **YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCRIHbHBJ74jhHeLkO4gAs6A?>
- on **our church website** <http://hillsdalefirstumc.com/>

Please stand as you are able during parts of the service indicated with an asterisk. * | Congregation responses indicated in **bold print**.

Gathering

Prelude

Prelude in B major

C. Saint-Saëns

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

We are pilgrims, but not pioneers. We walk a well-trodden road.

**Our Lord Jesus, and many saints, have gone before us,
to show us the way that leads to life.**

We are pilgrims, but we are not alone.

We are surrounded by fellow-travelers who share our triumphs and failures, our hopes and fears.

**Together, we celebrate our Christian journey,
and the many mercies that brighten our path.**

*Hymn

For All the Saints

711

(Some verses are different from the hymnal text.)

1. For all the saints, who from their labors rest,
who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
thou Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
thou in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

3. For the apostles' glorious company,
who bearing forth the cross o'er land and sea,
shook all the mighty world, we sing to thee:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

4. O may thy soldiers, faithful, true and bold
fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
and win with them the victor's crown of gold.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Words: William W. How, 1864. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Public Domain

***Prayer of the Day** *God of the ages, you have preserved your church through the ages,
and you have raised up saints to serve as examples of faithful living.*

**May we carry their light forward, so that generations yet to come might be inspired
to walk in faithful obedience to the Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.**

Lighting the Candles of Witness *(As your loved ones' names are read, you may stand if you wish.)*

*Phyllis Clow
Jeanette Wilson
James Lyke*

*Dennis Krzyzaniak
Jim Schulz
Linda Palmer*

*Gela Vreeland
Craig Playford
Dick Curtis*

New Testament Reading – Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

Blessing of the Saints

For All the Saints

Quartet

(You are invited to meditate on the lyrics as the quartet sings.)

***Prayer of Response**

For all the saints, O God, we give you thanks.

May their light ever shine before you, surpassing the angels in splendor.

May they shine in our hearts as beacons of hope, leading us from glory to glory.

May we be encouraged by their examples of faithfulness, and aspire to persevere until the end,
when we, too, shall achieve our final victory, and join with them in the Church Triumphant.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, AMEN.

***Gloria Patri**

***Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.***

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Words: Lesser Doxology, 3rd-4th cent. Music: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851. Public Domain

Proclamation**Scripture Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:1-10**

For we know that, if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For in this tent we groan, longing to be further clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³ for surely when we have been clothed in it we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan under our burden because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ The one who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a down payment.

⁶ So we are always confident, even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to be pleasing to him. ¹⁰ For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive due recompense for actions done in the body, whether good or evil.

Anthem

Alabaré

arr. R.A. Nelson

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Sermon Text – Revelation 4:1-8

After this I looked, and there in heaven a door stood open! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” ² At once I was in the spirit, and there in heaven stood a throne, with one seated on the throne! ³ And the one seated there looks like jasper and carnelian, and around the throne is a rainbow that looks like an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne are twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones are twenty-four elders, dressed in white robes, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ Coming from the throne are flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder, and in front of the throne burn seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God, ⁶ and in front of the throne there is something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

Around the throne, and on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and back: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with a face like a human, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and inside. Day and night without ceasing they sing,

*“Holy, holy, holy,
the Lord God the Almighty,
who was and is and is to come.”*

Response to the Scripture *This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!*

Message

Our Heavenly Home

Pastor Tomasino

*Hymn of Response

Sing with All the Saints in Glory

702

1. Sing with all the saints in glory,
sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,
to the former days belong.

All around the clouds are breaking,
soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we, awaking,
know the everlasting peace.

2. O what glory, far exceeding
all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts, for ages pleading,
never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it,
there on high our welcome waits.
Every humble spirit shares it;
Christ has passed th'eternal gates.

3. Life eternal! heaven rejoices;
Jesus lives, who once was dead.
Join we now the deathless voices;
Child of God, lift up your head!

Patriarchs from the distant ages,
saints all longing for their heaven,
prophets, psalmists, seers, and sages,
all await the glory given.

4. Life eternal! O what wonders
crowd on faith; what joy unknown,
when, amidst earth's closing thunders,
saints shall stand before the throne!

O to enter that bright portal,
see that glowing firmament;
know, with thee, O God Immortal,
"Jesus Christ whom thou has sent!"

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Sacrament of Holy Communion

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

..And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, 17 (sung by ALL)
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Elise Elsinger. Adapt © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House. Used and Streamed under One License, License #A-723218

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

The Great Thanksgiving

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

... all honor and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

Song (*sung by ALL*)

The Lord's Prayer

A.H. Malotte

***Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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.***

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Sharing the Bread and Cup

Abide with Me

W.H. Monk

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer Response

Abide with Me

700, v4

*I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.*

Words: Henry F. Lyte. 1847. Music: W.H. Monk. 1861. Public Domain.

Response

Offertory and Church Family News and Notes | We invite you to sign the attendance pads and pass them to others in your pew. An offering plate is located at the back of the sanctuary for you to use for your giving.

*Doxology

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**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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***Prayer of Dedication** God of the ages, you have proven faithful to all generations.
You were the God of our ancestors, of our fathers and mothers,
and you will be the God of our children and their children. In you we trust, and to you we bring our tribute.

**May our gifts help to maintain the light of the Gospel in our day, and in the ages to come.
May generations yet unborn be blessed by our faithful commitment to the work of your Kingdom.
In the name of Jesus our Lord, amen.**

Sending

*Hymn

For All the Saints

711

(Some verses are different from the hymnal text.)

5. And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave, again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

6. The golden evening brightens in the west;
soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

7. But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day;
the saints triumphant rise in bright array;
the King of glory passes on his way.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

8. From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Words: William W. How, 1864. Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. Public Domain

*Benediction

Postlude

For All the Saints

arr. W. Held

After the pastor and liturgist have recessed and the altar candles are extinguished, you may stay seated or quietly leave your seats.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, November 2	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Handbell rehearsal	11:00 am	Sunday, November 2	In person – Sanctuary
• Bible Study	10:30 am	Wednesday, November 5	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Love INC Class with meal	5:00 pm	Thursday, November 6	In person – Lounge
• Chancel Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, November 6	In person – Music Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, November 9	In person – Sanctuary and Online

MISSIONS | The Missions Team's focus for November is support for Heifer International.

Worldwide over 700 million people are living in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 a day. Heifer International believes that ending world hunger is possible, and through their partnership program with smallholder farmers, Heifer provides gifts of high-quality livestock as well as training in sustainable farming practices.

Thank you for your contributions this month to Heifer projects that directly help families become self-sufficient in sustainable ways.

BIBLE STUDY | Weekly Bible study meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am in the Lounge. There is also an option to ZOOM in live at 10:30 am using the link <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88917951563>.

The ZOOM meeting is also recorded and, upon request, is available for viewing at your convenience.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino

Calista Brunett, Music Director | Hillsdale First UMC Chancel Choir | Janell Wilson, Liturgist
Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor

Remembered with Love

Phyllis Clow *(Constituent and mother-in-law to member Gail Clow)*

For over 20 years, Phyllis worked as a personal banker at County National Bank in Jonesville. She was a member of the Jonesville United Methodist Church (also attending Hillsdale First UMC in her later years), Order of the Eastern Star and Grand Worthy Matron. She enjoyed volunteering at Hillsdale Hospital and wintering in Zephyrhills, Florida.

Jeanette Wilson *(Mother of member Janell Wilson)*

Jeanette Darlene Wilson passed away surrounded by friends and family on March 6, 2025 at the age of 87. She was a devoted mother of three and an immensely proud grandmother of four. Before losing her husband, Fay Wilson, in October 2020, she took great joy in being his wife of 65 years.

James “Jim” Lyke *(Father of member Tana Trombly)*

James proudly served in the U.S. Navy before working for the City of Ann Arbor water utilities department for 30 years, retiring in 2002. James enjoyed fishing, being outdoors with his dog, but most of all spending time with family. He was a daughter's first and favorite fishing partner, a wonderful Dad, stepdad, and husband. He only asked that his children do their best and he would be happy.

Dennis Krzyzaniak *(Constituent)*

Dennis was a lifelong learner. After returning from Vietnam as a decorated vet, he used his GI Bill to get his education. Dennis and his wife moved to Hillsdale, Michigan with their young family. He was the principal of Bailey Elementary School for many years until retirement. Whether it was sports, history, travel, or his family, Dennis was always happy to talk to the people he met.

Jim Schulz *(Former member)*

As the senior engineer for the Freuhauf Trailer Corporation, Jim was instrumental in the design of the first shipping containers in the 1950s, a revolutionary concept that transformed the rail and trucking industries around the world. He later moved on to Ford Motor Company's Michigan Truck division until his retirement. After retirement, Jim moved to Monroe MI, and finally to Hillsdale MI. Committed to living his life with purpose and in meaningful service to others, Jim volunteered at hospitals in both Monroe and Hillsdale, and in fact was still volunteering as recently as this year, at the age of 101.

Linda Palmer *(Sister of member Colleen Fadden)*

Linda was very devout in her faith, attending Northview Christian Church and more recently the First United Methodist Church in Hillsdale. She enjoyed playing Bingo, watching old movies, and word games. Linda had a great love for family, especially her many grandchildren and her cat. She enjoyed traveling with her daughter and her family and spending time at the lake with her sisters.

Gela Vreeland *(Member and mother of member Jamie Vreeland)*

Gela was 102 when she passed away at Drews Village Green in July. She graduated from Pittsford High School in 1941 and served with the United States Navy Hospital Corp during World War II. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Hillsdale for many years and was active in the United Methodist Women and Wesleyan Guild.

Craig Playford *(Friend of the church)*

Craig's life was immersed in his love for music, evident in his 50 plus year career in the music industry and his membership in the American Federation of Musicians. He founded Playford Music Co. in Jonesville in 1976 and later moved the business to Jackson in 1982 where he shared his passion for music and teaching until his retirement in 2022. Craig was instrumental in setting up the soundboard for Hillsdale First UMC.

Richard “Dick” Curtis *(Constituent and husband of member Robin Curtis)*

Dick attended Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland and graduated from Cleveland State University with bachelors degrees in mechanical and thermal engineering. He worked as an automotive engineer serving in various roles in Michigan, Florida, England, Spain, and France, retiring as plant manager from Hi-Lex in Litchfield. He attended the Hillsdale First United Methodist Church where he had volunteered on several committees. Richard was an avid golfer and former member of the Hillsdale Golf and Country Club, and proudly earned a hole-in-one on hole number seven.