

# Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | April 19, 2026

- **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/@hillsdalefirstumc-45nmanni2>
- on **our church website** <https://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

*Jesus, My Redeemer, Lives*

J.G. Walther

### Pastoral Greeting

### \*Call to Worship

*That which has been from the beginning,*  
**which we have heard with our ears and seen with our eyes;**  
*that which we have felt in our hearts,*  
**and seen in the lives of our brothers and sisters;**  
*that which we have chosen to believe, we proclaim now to you:*  
**among his people, Jesus lives now and forevermore!**

### \*Hymn of Praise

*Christ Is Alive*

318

1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
His cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
His love in death shall never die.
2. Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
he comes to claim the here and now  
and dwell in every place and time.
3. Not throned afar, remotely high,  
untouched, unmoved by human pains,  
but daily, in the midst of life,  
our Savior in the Godhead reigns.

4. In every insult, rift, and war,  
where color, scorn, or wealth divide,  
he suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, though ever crucified.
5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and all creation ring  
with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

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### \*Prayer of the Day

*Loving Lord,*  
*you sent your Son into this world to show us the way of life everlasting and abundant.*  
**And now, you send us into the world, to share that life with others.**  
*Give us the patience to listen, the courage to speak, and the will to act.*  
**May our lives bear witness to the living Christ.**  
*In his name we pray, 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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## Proclamation

### Gospel Reading – Matthew 5:13-16

<sup>13</sup> "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

<sup>14</sup> "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. <sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

## Sung Response

## Bring Forth the Kingdom

2190, vs 1-2

1. You are salt for the earth, O people:  
salt for the Kingdom of God!  
Share the flavor of life, O people:  
life in the Kingdom of God!  
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the City of God!

2. You are a light on the hill, O people:  
light for the City of God!  
Shine so holy and bright, O people:  
shine for the Kingdom of God!  
Bring forth the Kingdom of mercy,  
bring forth the Kingdom of peace;  
bring forth the Kingdom of justice,  
bring forth the City of God!

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## Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 58:6-10

<sup>6</sup> *Is not this the fast that I choose:  
to loose the bonds of injustice,  
to undo the straps of the yoke,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to break every yoke?*

<sup>7</sup> *Is it not to share your bread with the hungry  
and bring the homeless poor into your house;  
when you see the naked, to cover them  
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

<sup>8</sup> *Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,  
and your healing shall spring up quickly;*

*your vindicator shall go before you;  
the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.  
<sup>9</sup> Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;  
you shall cry for help, and he will say,  
“Here I am.”*

*If you remove the yoke from among you,  
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,  
<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry  
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,  
then your light shall rise in the darkness  
and your gloom be like the noonday.*

## Handbell Anthem

## I Know That My Redeemer Lives

arr. L. Sue

## Sermon Text – 1 John 1:1-4

*We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup> this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— <sup>3</sup> what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

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

## Message

## Worthy Witnesses

Pastor Tomasino

## Response

### \*Hymn of Response

### Go, Make of All Disciples

571

1. "Go, make of all disciples."  
We hear the call, O Lord,  
that comes from thee, our Father,  
in thy eternal Word.  
Inspire our ways of learning  
through earnest, fervent prayer,  
and let our daily living  
reveal thee everywhere.

2. "Go, make of all disciples,"  
baptizing in the name  
of Father, Son, and Spirit,  
from age to age the same.  
We call each new disciple  
to follow thee, O Lord,  
redeeming soul and body  
by water and the Word.

3. "Go, make of all disciples."  
We at thy feet would stay  
until each life's vocation  
accents thy holy way.  
We cultivate the nature  
God plants in every heart,  
revealing in our witness  
the master teacher's art.

4. "Go, make of all disciples."  
We welcome thy command.  
"Lo, I am with you always."  
We take thy guiding hand.  
The task looms large before us;  
we follow without fear;  
in heaven and earth thy power  
shall bring God's kingdom here.

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## Prayers of the People

### 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

### Sung Prayer Response

*Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil*

2219

**Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.  
Victory is ours, victory is ours through him who loved us.**

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## 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

95

**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.**

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### \*Prayer of Dedication

*Generous God,*

*the gifts you give bear witness to your great love for us.  
This wonderful world and its bounty manifest your abundant providence.*

**And most of all, your love is demonstrated by the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*We present our offerings not to prove our commitment to you, but to acknowledge your commitment to us.*

**We give in humility and gratitude.**

*May our gifts be used to send forth the stories of your salvation.*

**In words and in deeds of compassion, may the light of your Kingdom shine.**

*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*

**Amen.**

## Sending

### \*Hymn

*Lift High the Cross*

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Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow this triumphant sign.  
The hosts of God in unity combine.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

2. Each newborn servant of the Crucified  
bears on the brow the seal of him who died.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
as thou hast promised, draw the world to thee.  
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory!  
Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
till all the world adore his sacred name.

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### \*Benediction

### Postlude

*Christ Is Alive*

S. Bingham

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

**Prayer Requests | Prayers for anyone in need of God's comfort and peace.**

Colleen Fadden, Gail Clow, Joyce Potter, Liam Trombly, Cheryl Paul, Lenore Snyder, Al Jagger, friend of Robin Curtis (health), Anna Hatfield (Robin Curtis's niece), the family of Ruth (Harring) Small (Jan Tesch's sister-in-law)

*(Please contact the office to add or remove a request from our list.)*

**MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK**

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, April 19	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Worship with breakfast	11:00 am	Sunday, April 19	In person – Fellowship Hall
• Bible Study	10:30 am	Wednesday, April 22	In person – Lounge
• Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, April 23	In person – Music Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, April 26	In person – Sanctuary and Online

**MISSIONS** | This month the Missions Team invites your support for Grace Outside, a camping ministry of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.

This week's camp spotlight is on **Lake Huron Retreat Center in Burtchville, MI**, about three hours from Hillsdale. Lake Huron Retreat is **a full-service adult group and family-based center that offers Rest & Relaxation retreats year-round** in pampered hotel-style guest housing.

Camp scholarships to summer programs are available by application through our church office. Thank you for your contributions this month that help support our church's camp scholarships as well as the programming and maintenance of the Michigan Conference camp facilities.

**BIBLE STUDY** | Bible study meets on Wednesdays 10:30 am in the Lounge. You may also join by ZOOM at <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88917951563>, or by calling (312) 626-6799 and providing Meeting ID: 889 1795 1563. Sessions will be recorded, and you may contact the office to get a link to watch at your convenience.

**LOVE INC COMPANIONSHIP MINISTRY** | Love INC is seeking Christian men and women who would be willing to connect with a designated client by phone for about 20–30 minutes, a couple of times each month.

This is a simple yet meaningful way to serve, offering an easy entry point into volunteering since it can be done from home and scheduled at the volunteer's convenience. Currently, there are six Love INC clients—four women and two men—who are eager to participate, but volunteers are still needed to partner in companionship with these clients. That's where you can come in and make a difference.

The Love INC Companionship Ministry exists to share the love of Christ by bringing hope, comfort, and connection to individuals who may feel isolated or forgotten. Thank you for prayerfully considering this opportunity to serve.

**SPECIAL SUNDAY OFFERING: NATIVE AMERICAN SUNDAY** | On the third Sunday after Easter, United Methodists come together **to honor and support Indigenous peoples and communities**, ensuring they have strong representation and leadership within the church. **Fifty percent of your donation remains in our local conference; 25% funds scholarships for Native Americans, and 25% funds outreach and ministry grants.** Thank you for your gifts today and next week to honor the ministry, culture, and influence of Native Americans, while supporting indigenous leadership, pastors, and community projects.

**Hillsdale First United Methodist Church**

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Handbell Choir

Cordelia Tomasino, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor