

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | August 9, 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

This Is My Father's World

C. Rice, arr.

Pastoral Greeting

***Call to Worship**

*The wheat of the fields, the sunshine and the rain,
the gifts of God, for the people of God.*

*The satisfaction of a good day's work, and the peace of quiet rest,
the gifts of God, for the people of God.*

*Brothers and sisters, family and friends, good and wise companions to share our journey,
the gifts of God, for the people of God.*

*Abundant blessings accompany our days, freely given by a loving Heavenly Father.
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!*

***Hymn of Praise**

For the Beauty of the Earth

92, vs 1,2,4,6

1. 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.

2. For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

4. For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

6. For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven:
Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

Words: Folliot S. Pierpoint, 1864. Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; arr. by W. H. Monk, 1861. Public Domain

Proclamation

***Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God,

*you have brought us to this place, in this time,
so that we might celebrate your abundant grace.*

When our spirits are thirsty, you provide Living Water to refresh our parched soil.

When we hunger, you give us the Bread of Life to feed our souls.

Abundant blessings come to us daily, when we walk in the light of your Word.

**Help us to be rooted in truth, nurtured by love,
and growing daily into the likeness of Jesus our Lord.
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.***

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

New Testament Reading – Luke 6:43-45 ⁴³ “No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; ⁴⁴ for each tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they pick grapes from a bramble bush. ⁴⁵ The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil, for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.

**All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;
wheat and tares together sown are to joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear;
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.**

Words: Henry Alford, 1844. Music: St. George's Windsor 77:77 D, George J. Elvey, 1858. Public Domain.

Old Testament Reading – Jeremiah 17:5-13

⁵ Thus says the Lord:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the Lord.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert
and shall not see when relief comes.

They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.

It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;

it is perverse—who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the Lord test the mind and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

¹¹ Like the partridge hatching what it did not lay,
so are all who amass wealth unjustly;

in midlife it will leave them,
and at their end they will prove to be fools.

¹² O glorious throne, exalted from the beginning,
shrine of our sanctuary!

¹³ O hope of Israel! O Lord!

All who forsake you shall be put to shame;

those who turn away from you
shall be recorded in the underworld,

for they have forsaken
the fountain of living water, the Lord.

Special Music

I Shall Not Be Moved

J.T. Benson, Mrs. J.A. Pate

Pastor Tony Tomasino and Don Gambill

Sermon Text – Psalm 1:1-6

¹ Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked
or take the path that sinners tread
or sit in the seat of scoffers,

² but their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so

but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked
will not stand in the judgment

nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,

⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

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

Message

A Tale of Two Trees

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Song of Response

1. Thou my everlasting portion,
more than friend or life to me,
all along my pilgrim journey,
Savior let me walk with thee.

Close to thee, close to thee,
close to thee, close to thee,
all along my pilgrim journey,
Savior, let me walk with thee.

2. Not for ease or worldly pleasure,
nor for fame my prayer shall be;
gladly will I toil and suffer,
only let me walk with thee.

Close to Thee

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Close to thee, close to thee,
close to thee, close to thee,
gladly will I toil and suffer,
only let me walk with thee.

3. Lead me through the vale of shadows,
bear me o'er life's fitful sea;
then the gate of life eternal
may I enter, Lord, with thee.

Close to thee, close to thee,
close to thee, close to thee,
then the gate of life eternal
may I enter, Lord, with thee.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby, 1874. Music: Silas J. Vail, 1874. Public Domain.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Juice and gluten-free bread are served. Please form a line down the center aisle and come forward to receive the elements.

*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, (spoken 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.

*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.

*...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.*

Lord's Prayer **Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.** (spoken by ALL)
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.

Sharing the Bread and Cup *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* F.C. Atkinson, arr. S. Nielson

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Sung Prayer Response *How Can I Keep from Singing* 2212, v1

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Words and Music by Robert Lowry, Public Domain

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 him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

***Prayer of Dedication** *Gracious God, you send your sunshine and your rain,
causing the earth to give fruit in its season.*
Make us fruitful, as well.

The gifts of the earth nurture our bodies and our spirits.

May our gifts bring life and light to others.

*We offer to you the first fruits of our labors,
with humble acknowledgement that all good gifts come from you.*

All thanks and praise to you, O God.

In the name of Jesus our Lord, amen.

Sending

*Hymn

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The service is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of our worship in all who believe.

The seed of the teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's kingdom and answer the call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your grace you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and that name which we bear.

Words by Omer Westendorf, 1964. Words © 1964 World Library Publications, Inc. Music: Welsh folk tune.
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*Benediction

Postlude

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

W.M. Runyan, arr. O. Young

Prayer Requests

Prayers for anyone in need of God's comfort and peace.

Colleen Fadden, Joyce Potter, Liam Trombly, Cheryl Paul, Al Jagger, friend of Robin Curtis (health),
Jeff Everett, Brad Nisbett, John Gabriele, Robin Curtis

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, August 9	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Trustees (if needed)	5:30 pm	Monday, August 10	In person – Lounge
• Praise Band	5:15 pm	Tuesday, August 11	In person – Fellowship Hall
• Finance	7:00 pm	Tuesday, August 11	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Loaves & Fishes	9:00 am-1:00 pm	Saturday, August 15	Fairgrounds
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, August 16	In person – Sanctuary / Online
• Worship with breakfast	11:00 am	Sunday, August 16	In person – Fellowship Hall

MISSIONS | This month the Missions Team invites your support for UMC Missionary Ngoy Mulanga Kalangwa serving at Susannah Wesley Education and Healthcare Center in Tanzania.

Ngoy has served in ministry since 1992. "My calling as a missionary," she writes, "focuses especially on children, women, and the elderly. I work to uplift orphans by supporting their education. Through training programs, I teach women practical skills such as sewing, soapmaking, and batik-cloth production. These skills help women earn income, support their families, and discover their God-given strength and creativity."

LOAVES AND FISHES | A reminder that Loaves and Fishes day is this coming Saturday, August 15.

GUEST MUSICIAN | Our guest accompanist today is Debby Wyse. We are grateful to have Debby assisting us in worship while Calista is on vacation.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT ONSITE | In July 2026, the Michigan Conference of the UMC reduced the number of districts from seven to four. Some previous districts, such as our Heritage District, were merged, and we are now part of the Greater Southwest District, overseen by District Superintendent Rev. Dean Prentiss.

Rev. Prentiss will be onsite to attend our 9:30 am worship service next Sunday, August 16.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK, AUGUST 23 | The ONE Team would like to invite the entire congregation to a **Volunteer Appreciation Potluck on Sunday, August 23 at 11:00 am.**

From ushers to counters, from liturgists to tech folks, from singers to kitchen help, we are blessed with a wonderful core of volunteers who serve selflessly each week, often behind the scenes. Please join us in this time of fellowship and thanks. We will provide main dishes and drinks. If you are able, please bring sides, salads, desserts, or other passing dishes to share.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Debra Wyse, Guest Musician | Val White, Liturgist