

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | February 15, 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

Two Settings of *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

D. Wood / S. Weber

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

Our lives are not cast to the wind. God has a plan for his people.

**God plans that we would learn to love without fear;
that we could give without counting the cost;**

**that we would dare to dream, when despair is all around;
that we would trust, even when we've been disappointed;**

**that we would believe that we can rise above our failures
and share our faith with those who cannot believe.**

Our fate has not yet been written. Our book is not yet sealed.

God has a plan for his people—a plan to give us a future and a hope.

Let us walk in the light of his love, for with God, all things are possible!

*Hymn of Praise

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

138

1. The King of love my shepherd is,
whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his,
and he is mine forever.

4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill,
with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still,
thy cross before to guide me.

2. Where streams of living water flow,
my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow,
with food celestial feedeth.

5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight;
thy unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight
from thy pure chalice floweth!

3. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed,
but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid,
and home, rejoicing, brought me.

6. And so through all the length of days,
thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise
within thy house forever.

Words: Henry W. Baker, 1868
Music: Irish Melody; harm. from The English Hymnal, 1906
Public Domain

*Prayer of the Day

Lord God, your love has created us;

it has redeemed us; and it leads us every day in the way of life and light.

Give us grace to embrace your love, and the courage to allow your love to reach others through us.

**Encourage us again with the example of Jesus Christ,
who laid aside glory and honor and became like a servant, all for the sake of love.
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.*

71

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

Proclamation

New Testament Reading – 1 John 3:13-24

¹³ Do not be astonished, brothers and sisters, that the world hates you. ¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death to life because we love the brothers and sisters. Whoever does not love abides in death. ¹⁵ All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. ¹⁶ We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸ Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. ¹⁹ And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰ whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹ Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God, ²² and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³ And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Sung Response

O How I Love Jesus

170, refrain

**O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!**

Words: Fredrick Whitfield, 1855. Music: 19th century USA. Public Domain

Leviticus 19:13-18, 32-34

¹³ "You shall not defraud your neighbor; you shall not steal; and you shall not keep for yourself the wages of a laborer until morning. ¹⁴ You shall not revile the deaf or put a stumbling block before the blind; you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

¹⁵ "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ "You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

³² "You shall rise before the aged and defer to the old, and you shall fear your God: I am the LORD.

³³ "When an alien resides with you in your land, you shall not oppress the alien. ³⁴ The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the native-born among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Anthem

The Gift of Love

H. Hopson

Sermon Text – John 15:9-17

⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

¹² "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

Message

The Fear of Love

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

1. Where charity and love prevail,
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.
2. With grateful joy and holy fear
true charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love Christ in return.

Where Charity and Love Prevail

549, vs 1-3, 5

3. Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.
5. Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his body joined,
we are in him made one.

Words: 9th cent. Latin; trans. Omer Westendorf, 1961
Trans. © 1961 World Library Publications, Inc.
All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under One License A-723218

Pastoral Prayer

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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

(Sung to the tune of #285 *To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord*)

***I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's Light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my Star, my Sun;
and in that Light of life I'll walk, till traveling days are done.***

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1846. Music: Kingsfold, Music: Traditional English melody, arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906. 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

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.***

Words: Thomas Ken, Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, Public Domain

*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,

you demonstrate your love for us by providing for our needs in many ways.

***The sun that shines, the water we drink, the food we eat
are all evidence of your great compassion.***

And we give our offering as a token of our love for you, and our love for our neighbors.

***May we never fear to give generously,
knowing that you shall supply all our needs
according to your riches in glory, in Christ Jesus.***

*In the name of Christ our Lord,
Amen.*

Sending

*Hymn

Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty (Sung to the tune of #196 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*)

Lavish love, abundant beauty,
gracious gifts for heart and hand.
Life that fills the soul and senses—
all burst forth at your command.
Lord, our Lord, Eternal Father,
Great Creator, God and Friend,
boundless pow'r gave full expression
to your love which knows no end.

Who am I that you should love me,
meet my ev'ry need from birth?
Why invest yourself so fully
in a creature made of earth?
In your loving heart you planned me,
fashioned me with greatest care;
through my soul you breathed your Spirit,
planted your own image there.

I am yours, Eternal Father,
all my body, mind and heart.
Take and use me to your glory,
form yourself in ev'ry part.
Lord, your love brings joy and gladness
flowing forth within my soul.
May my very breath and being
rise to you, their source and goal.

Words: Peter Ellis © 1986 Word Music. Music: Rowland Pritchard. Public domain.
Reharmonization by Julia Morgan © 1995 Abingdon Press.
All rights reserved. Used and Streamed under OneLicense #A-723218.

*Benediction

Postlude

Lavish Love, Abundant Beauty

A. Wyton

*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, Pat Bowditch, Gail Clow, Joyce Potter, David Knowles, Carolyn Billman,
loved ones in TN and throughout the south affected by power outages and winter storms

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, February 15	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Worship with breakfast	11:00 am	Sunday, February 15	In person – Fellowship Hall
• Worship Committee	1:00 pm	Tuesday, February 17	In person – Lounge
• Ash Wednesday Worship	6:30 pm	Wednesday, February 18	First Presbyterian Church
• Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, February 19	In person – Music Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, February 22	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Gull Lake Guitar Recital	3:00 pm	Sunday, February 22	In person – Sanctuary

MISSIONS | The Mission Team's focus in February is the CWS Blankets+ Program.

CWS was immediately on location this winter providing necessary items and offering hope to those affected by Winter Storm Fern. Your gift of **\$15 provided one hygiene kit, or one school supply kit**, and a gift of **\$75 provided one emergency cleanup bucket**.

Thank you for your contributions this month in support of the Church World Services Blankets+ Program.

ASH WEDNESDAY | We are joining with First Presbyterian Church for an Ash Wednesday service in their building on Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 pm.

LENTEN STUDY SERIES | We are also joining with First Presbyterian Church for a combined Lenten Study Series. The first session will be held here on Wednesday, February 25. A light supper will be served at 6:00 pm followed by a video lesson and discussion.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

45 N. Manning St., Hillsdale, MI 49242 | 517-437-3681 | www.hillsdalefirstumc.com | facebook.com/HillsdaleFirstUMC

Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Chancel Choir

Cordelia Tomasino, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor