

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | February 8, 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, Savior, Pilot Me / Be Still My Soul

D. Hustad / B. Portman

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

In the varied seasons of life, there are times of joy and times of grief; times of peace and times of turmoil.

But as days march on, we have come to expect that the only certainty is change.

Storms may arise with sudden fury, threatening to overwhelm us.

We're tossed helplessly in their grip, and the fear rises in our throats and clouds our reason.

Then, through the darkness, his voice calls: "Be not afraid; it is I."

And though the storm rages on, we are cradled in his arms of peace.

*Hymn of Praise

Stand By Me

512

1. When the storms of life are raging, stand by me;
when the storms of life are raging, stand by me.
When the world is tossing me,
like a ship upon the sea,
thou who rulest wind and water, stand by me.

2. In the midst of tribulation, stand by me;
in the midst of tribulation, stand by me.
When the host of hell assail,
and my strength begins to fail,
thou who never lost a battle, stand by me.

3. In the midst of faults and failures, stand by me;
in the midst of faults and failures, stand by me.
When I've done the best I can,
and my friends misunderstand,
thou who knowest all about me, stand by me.

4. In the midst of persecution, stand by me;
in the midst of persecution, stand by me.
When my foes in war array
undertake to stop my way,
thou who saved Paul and Silas, stand by me.

5. When I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me;
when I'm growing old and feeble, stand by me.
When my life becomes a burden,
and I'm nearing chilly Jordan,
O thou Lily of the Valley, stand by me.

Words by Charles Albert Tindley, ca. 1906. Words Public Domain

*Prayer of the Day

Merciful God,

you have promised to never leave us or forsake us.

But when our circumstances become difficult, we sometimes have trouble sensing your presence.

**Help us to trust that you are with us,
even in those times when we cannot hear your voice or feel your hand upon us,
and to take comfort in our belief that you have all things under control.
In the name of Christ our Lord we pray, Amen.**

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father

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*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

Proclamation

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the *LORD*,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you,
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the *LORD* your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Cush and Seba in exchange for you.

Because you are precious in my sight
and honored and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, “Give them up,”
and to the south, “Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.”

Sung Response

Every Promise of Your Word

**Hope that lifts me from despair; love that casts out ev'ry fear,
as I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.**
**Not forsaken, not alone, for the Comforter has come;
and I stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.**
**Grace sufficient, grace for me; grace for all who will believe.
We will stand on ev'ry promise of Your word.**

v4

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Psalm 46:1-11

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear,
though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad
the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice; the earth melts.

The *LORD* of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the *LORD*;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations;
I am exalted in the earth.
The *LORD* of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Anthem

How Firm a Foundation

P.E. Koch

Sermon Text – Matthew 14:22-33

Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

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

Message

The Fear of Drowning

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;
leave to your God to order and provide;
in every change God faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend
through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.

2. Be still, my soul: your God will undertake
to guide the future, as in ages past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt below.

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, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, and worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.*

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

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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.***

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

*Prayer of Dedication

***Lord God, you come to us in the wind and the waves,
speaking peace into our fear.***

When the storm rises around us, you help us to hear your voice.

You reach out your hand when we begin to sink, lifting us when our strength fails.

In our weakness, make your presence more real than our circumstances.

As we bring these gifts, we remember that you are with us in every season, whether calm or storm.

Receive our offering, and steady our hearts in faith.

Use these gifts to bring hope where fear has taken hold, and courage where the waves are high.

***With gratitude we give, with confidence we follow,
and with trust we walk toward you.
In the name of Christ our Lord, Amen.***

Be Still My Soul

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3. Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever with the Lord,
when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,
sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Words: Katharina von Schlegel, 1752; trans. Jane Borthwick, 1855
Music: Jean Sibelius, 1891; arr. from The Hymnal, 1933
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Sending

*Hymn

1. 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?

2. Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing?
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?

How Can I Keep from Singing

2212

3. What though my joys and comforts die?
I know my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth.
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?

4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing?
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: Robert Lowry. Public Domain

*Benediction

Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

D. Wood

*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 8	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Trustees	5:30 pm	Monday, February 9	In person – Lounge
• Praise Band rehearsal	5:15 pm	Tuesday, February 10	In person – Fellowship Hall
• Finance	7:00 pm	Tuesday, February 10	ZOOM
• Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, February 12	In person – Music Room
• 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

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

In addition to providing blankets for those in need, your gifts also support a program that offers blankets
“PLUS” – **plus** food and agriculture programs, **plus** water supplies, **plus** education for children and adults,
plus emergency disaster kits, **plus** temporary shelter for those evacuated by natural disasters.

Thank you for your support this month of the Church World Service Blankets **PLUS** 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

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director

Janell Wilson, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor