

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | January 25, 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

Fugue in E-flat ("St. Anne")

J.S. Bach

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

The Lord is great and mighty. Why should we fear what mortals can do?

The Lord is loving and kind, and he holds in his hands the weak and the wounded.

Strengthen our hearts, O God. Give us courage to stand with you, for the cause of your Kingdom.

Challenge us to be people of integrity, unafraid to hold fast to the truth of your Word.

*Hymn of Praise

1. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home!

2. Under the shadow of thy throne,
still may we dwell secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting, thou art God,
to endless years the same.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

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4. A thousand ages, in thy sight,
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night,
before the rising sun.

5. Time, like an ever rolling stream,
bears all who breathe away;
they fly forgotten,
as a dream dies at the opening day.

6. O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come;
be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts, 1710 (Ps. 90). Music: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by H.W. Monk, 1861. Public Domain.
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*Prayer of the Day

Lord God,

you are mighty beyond our imaginings, and your power knows no rival.

*Yet we confess that we are often intimidated by people or circumstances that challenge our resolve,
so that we do not hold fast to what is right and true.*

**Forgive us our weakness, O Lord, and grant us the wisdom and the courage we need
to stand for goodness, and to be agents of justice in our world.**

In the name of Jesus our Lord, 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

Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 2:1-7

He said to me: “O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you.” ² And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard him speaking to me. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. ⁴ The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD.’ ⁵ Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them. ⁶ And you, O mortal, do not be afraid of them, and do not be afraid of their words, though briars and thorns surround you and you live among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words, and do not be dismayed at their looks, for they are a rebellious house. ⁷ You shall speak my words to them, whether they hear or refuse to hear, for they are a rebellious house.

Sung Response

How Firm a Foundation

529, v2

**"Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I'll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.**

Words: Rippon's A Selection of Hymns 1787. Music: early USA melody; harm. from Tabor, 1866. Public Domain

Psalm 56:1-11

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;
all day long foes oppress me;
² my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many fight against me.
O Most High, ³ when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.
⁴ In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?
⁵ All day long they seek to injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.
⁶ They stir up strife; they lurk;
they watch my steps, as they hoped to take my life.

⁷ Do not deliver them for any reason;
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!
⁸ You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your record?
⁹ Then my enemies will retreat
in the day when I call.
This I know, that God is for me.
¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise,
in the LORD, whose word I praise,
¹¹ in God I trust; I am not afraid.
What can a mere mortal do to me?

Solo

I Shall Not Want

A. Assad, B. Brown

Sermon Text – Matthew 14:1-11

At that time Herod the ruler heard reports about Jesus, ² and he said to his servants, “This is John the Baptist; he has been raised from the dead, and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” ³ For Herod had arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, ⁴ because John had been telling him, “It is not lawful for you to have her.” ⁵ Though Herod wanted to put him to death, he feared the crowd, because they regarded him as a prophet. ⁶ But when Herod’s birthday came, the daughter of Herodias danced before the company, and she pleased Herod ⁷ so much that he promised on oath to grant her whatever she might ask.

⁸ Prompted by her mother, she said, “Give me the head of John the Baptist here on a platter.” ⁹ The king was grieved, yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he commanded it to be given; ¹⁰ he sent and had John beheaded in the prison. ¹¹ His head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, who brought it to her mother.

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

Message

The Fear of the Crowd

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

1. Give to the winds thy fears;
hope and be undismayed.
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.
2. Through waves and clouds and storms,
God gently clears thy way;
wait thou God's time;
so shall this night soon end in joyous day.

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

3. Leave to God's sovereign sway
to choose and to command;
so shalt thou, wondering, own that way,
how wise, how strong this hand.
4. Let us in life, in death,
thy steadfast truth declare,
and publish with our latest breath
thy love and guardian care.

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Words: Paul Gerhardt, 1653; trans. by John Wesley, 1739
Music: William H. Walter 1894. Public Domain

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

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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 Bourgeois, Public Domain

*Prayer of Dedication

God of righteousness and holiness,

you call us to stand firm when the world urges us to blend in.

Strengthen our hearts to choose what is right, even when it is not easy.

As we bring these gifts, free us from the fear that keeps us silent or still.

Make us bold in generosity, bold in compassion, bold in witness.

Let this offering be a sign of our trust in you rather than in the approval of others.

May our lives reflect your justice, your mercy, and your steadfast love.

Receive these gifts, O God, and shape us into people who stand firm in faith.

With courage we give, with courage we live, and with courage we follow Christ. Amen.

Sending

*Hymn

1. God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring her bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!
Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

God of Grace and God of Glory

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3. Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom's goal.

4. Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930. Music by John Hughes, 1907. Public Domain

*Benediction

Postlude

God of Grace and God of Glory

G. Martin

*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

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, January 25	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• ArtWorks Music Competition	1-5:00 pm	Sunday, January 25	In person – Sanctuary / rehearsal rooms
• Ad Board	7:00 pm	Monday, January 26	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Bible Study	10:30 am	Wednesday, January 28	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Midweek Meditation	12:30 pm	Wednesday, January 28	In person – Sanctuary
• Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, January 29	In person – Music Room
• Gull Lake Music Recitals	1-3:00 pm	Saturday, January 31	In person – Sanctuary
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, February 1	In person – Sanctuary and Online

MISSIONS | The Mission Team's focus for January is our local Share the Warmth of Hillsdale County.

The recent winter snows and the dangerously cold temperatures and wind chills reminded us that the services of the Share the Warmth Warming Center are vitally essential for the safety of the unhoused in our community. Warm meals, beds, showers, and laundry facilities are provided at the center through contributions like ours and with unpaid volunteers who help provide guests with a sense of safety and community.

Thank you for your contributions this month in support of Share the Warmth of Hillsdale County.

BIBLE STUDY | Bible study continues to meet weekly on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Lounge discussing the book of 1 Peter. You may also join by ZOOM at <https://us02web.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.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor
Calista Brunett, Music Director
Jan Tesch, Liturgist

Pam Laurell, Church Administrator | Jeff Kornak, Facility Supervisor