

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | May 17, 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

*A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

P. Manz
D. Cherwien

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

Lift up your hearts and worship the risen and ascended Christ, who reigns at the right hand of the Father.
We lift them up to the Lord, who calls us to follow in faithfulness.

In his love for us, Jesus entrusted to us the task of building his Kingdom.

But we confess that we have often lost our focus, and drifted from our first love.

*Yet the ascended Christ has not abandoned His church;
he intercedes for us and sends His Spirit to renew us.*

We pray for God to set our hearts again on his mission and his truth.

Come, let us worship the Lord, who reigns in glory and walks with us on our way.

Let us seek our God with praise, with repentance, and with hope.

*Hymn of Praise

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

154, vs 1-3, 6

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all.

2. Ye chosen seed of Israel's race,
ye ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace,
and crown him Lord of all.

3. Sinners, whose love can ne'er forget
the wormwood and the gall,
go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.
Go spread your trophies at his feet,
and crown him Lord of all.

6. O that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
and crown him Lord of all.

Words by Edward Perronet, 1779; alt. by John Rippon, 1787; Music by Oliver Holden, 1792. Public Domain
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*Prayer of the Day

*Risen and ascended Lord,
you reign over all things, yet you draw near to your people with mercy.
Through the ages, you have raised up for us leaders, people of vision and commitment.*

**But when those leaders have gone, we have often lost their passion,
and we have wandered from the Way.**

*You sent Moses and Joshua to bring your people to the Promised Land,
but after they were gone, the Israelites forgot your mighty acts and neglected your covenant.*

**We confess that the church has often done the same—losing focus,
settling for form without faith, and allowing your mission to fade from our hearts.**

Forgive us when we neglect the task that our Lord Jesus laid upon us at his Ascension.

**Forgive us when we forget the Spirit you have poured out,
and the calling you have placed upon us.**

Renew us today.

Stir our devotion, sharpen our obedience, and awaken in us a fresh desire to serve you.
**As we worship, restore our love, and make us faithful witnesses of your kingdom
until you come again in glory.
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.**

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

Proclamation

New Testament Reading – Revelation 2:2-7 ²I know your works, your toil and your endurance. I know that you cannot tolerate evildoers; you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not and have found them to be false. ³I also know that you are enduring and bearing up for the sake of my name and that you have not grown weary. ⁴But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. ⁵Remember, then, from where you have fallen; repent and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. ⁶Yet this is to your credit: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. ⁷Let anyone who has an ear listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches. To everyone who conquers, I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God.

Sung Response

Looking Always Unto Jesus

(Sung to the tune of #89 *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*)

**Let us run with perseverance, pressing forward by God's grace,
looking always unto Jesus, 'til we see him face to face.
In the day when we are tempted and enticed to leave the way,
let us keep our eyes on Jesus and in him we shall not stray.**

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Epistle – Philippians 3:8-14 ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Anthem

Fight the Good Fight

D. H. Williams

Sermon Text – Judges 2:8-17 ⁸Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of one hundred ten years. ⁹So they buried him within the bounds of his inheritance in Timnath-heres, in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash. ¹⁰Moreover, that whole generation was gathered to their ancestors, and another generation grew up after them who did not know the LORD or the work that he had done for Israel.

¹¹Then the Israelites did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and served the Baals, ¹²and they abandoned the LORD, the God of their ancestors, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; they followed other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were all around them and bowed down to them, and they provoked the LORD to anger. ¹³They abandoned the LORD and served Baal and the Astartes. ¹⁴So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers who plundered them, and he sold them into the power of their enemies all around, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. ¹⁵Whenever they marched out, the hand of the LORD was against them to bring misfortune, as the LORD had warned them and sworn to them, and they were in great distress.

¹⁶Then the LORD raised up judges who delivered them out of the power of those who plundered them. ¹⁷Yet they did not listen even to their judges, for they lusted after other gods and bowed down to them. They soon turned aside from the way in which their ancestors had walked, who had obeyed the commandments of the LORD; they did not follow their example.

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

Message

Nation in a Death Spiral

Pastor Tomasino

Response

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*Hymn of Response

Let Us Plead for Faith Alone

1. Let us plead for faith alone,
faith which by our works is shown;
God it is who justifies,
only faith the grace applies.

2. Active faith that lives within,
conquers hell and death and sin,
hallows whom it first made whole,
forms the Savior in the soul.

3. Let us for this faith contend,
sure salvation is the end;
heaven already is begun,
everlasting life is won.

4. Only let us persevere
till we see our Lord appear,
never from the Rock remove,
saved by faith which works by love.

Words: Charles Wesley © 1740. Music: Foundry Collection © 1742. Public Domain.

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

Hear My Prayer, O God

***Hounded by a foe who crushed me to the ground,
I am like the dead or those in prison bound.
Hopeless, numbed by fear, I ponder all your care;
thirsty as parched earth, I lift my hands in prayer.***

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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

***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

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*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious Lord,

*you have entrusted your mission to your people in every generation.
Even when we falter, you call us back and give us work to do.*

**As Israel was summoned again to faithfulness, so you summon us—
your ascended Christ still leading His church.**

*Receive these gifts as signs of our renewed devotion.
Use them to strengthen your church, to heal what is broken,
and to advance your kingdom in this world you love.*

**Make our giving more than a ritual;
make it an act of faith, gratitude, and obedience.
In your holy name we pray, Amen.**

Sending

Jesus Shall Reign

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*Hymn

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom spread from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2. To Jesus endless prayer be made,
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3. People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns;
all prisoners leap and loose their chains;
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5. Let every creature rise and bring
honors peculiar to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen!

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719 (Ps. 72). Music: John Hattton, 1793. Public Domain

*Benediction

Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign

D. Cherwien

*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, Joyce Potter, Liam Trombly, Cheryl Paul, Lenore Snyder, Al Jagger,
friend of Robin Curtis (health), Anna Hatfield (Robin Curtis's niece), Jeff Everett

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, May 17	In person – Sanctuary and Online
• Worship with breakfast	11:00 am	Sunday, May 17	In person – Fellowship Hall
• Worship Committee	1:00 pm	Tuesday, May 19	In person – Lounge
• Bible Study	10:30 am	Wednesday, May 20	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Choir rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, May 21	In person – Music Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, May 24	In person – Sanctuary and Online

MISSIONS | The Missions Team continues its support for **Grace Outside, a camping ministry of the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.**

Week-long Youth Summer Camps for elementary, middle school, and high school students take place this year from **June 14 to July 24 at Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat** in Dowling, Michigan. **Registration is \$400** per camper (down from \$475 last year), and all camps are run by volunteer teams from within the conference. In fact, this year's **July 19-24 Middle School Camp** at Wesley Woods will be led by **Pastor Scott Marsh from Coldwater First UMC**. Thank you for your contributions this month that help support church summer camps.

BIBLE STUDY | Bible study meets on Wednesdays 10:30 am in the Lounge and by ZOOM at <https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/88917951563>. Sessions will be recorded, and you may contact the office to get a link to watch at your convenience.

JOYFUL NOISE! July 13-16, 2026 | Registration is open for kids and due by Friday, June 26. Forms are available at the back of the sanctuary or online at bit.ly/2026_joyfulnoise_registration. We're also still signing up volunteers—no musical ability required! If you are interested, please fill out and return a volunteer sign-up card found at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help!

POSTSECONDARY SCHOLARSHIPS | Applications and reference letters are due by May 20.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Chancel Choir

Cordelia Tomasino, Liturgist