Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | November 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 *O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus / Now Thank We All Our God* P. Manz

Pastoral Greeting

***Call to Worship**

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst . . .
come worship a God who feeds the hungry.
In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed . . .
come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.
In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war . . .
come worship a God who desires peace for all people.
In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness . . .
come worship a God who gives life meaning.
In the midst of a world that imposes conditions and rations its blessings . . .
come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

***Hymn of Praise** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* 121

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.

2. There is welcome for the sinner,
and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior;
there is healing in his blood.

3. For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

4. If our love were but more simple,
we should rest upon God's word;
and our lives would be illumined
by the presence of our Lord.

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***Prayer of the Day**

God of all people,
you have declared your love for justice, and your passion for mercy.
By the voice of the prophets and the example of your Son,
you have challenged us to stand with the poor and oppressed,
and to take up the cause of the weak and the weary.

Please fill us with your Spirit, so we may be emboldened to speak and empowered to act.
Help us to do good for those in need,
to lend our voices to the cry of the oppressed,
and to work for justice for disenfranchised people of the world.
In the name of Jesus the Christ 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

Old Testament Reading – Leviticus 19:9-18 *9 "When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 You shall not strip your vineyard bare or gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the poor and the alien: I am the Lord your God.*
11 "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another. 12 And you shall not swear falsely by my name, profaning the name of your God: I am the Lord.

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.

Sung Response *Where Charity and Love Prevail* 549, vs 1,2

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

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

Psalm 146

1 Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!
2 I will praise the Lord as long as I live;
I will sing praises to my God all my life long.
3 Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.
4 When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.
5 Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,
6 who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;
who keeps faith forever;
7 who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.
The Lord sets the prisoners free;
8 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
9 The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
10 The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

Handbell Anthem *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above* arr. J. Krug

Sermon Text – Matthew 25:31-46 *31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' 45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."*

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

Message *Kindness* Chaplain Ralph Bieganek

Response

***Hymn of Response** *When the Poor Ones* 434

1. When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
when the thirsty water give unto us all,
when the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

2. When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love though hate at times seems all around us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

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Intercessory Prayer Responsively

...God of love, **Lord, hear our prayers.**
...God of peace, **Lord, hear our prayers.**
...God of mercy, **Lord, hear our prayers.**
...God of hope, **Lord, hear our prayers.**
...God of grace, **Lord, hear our prayers.**
...God of compassion, **Lord, hear our prayers.**

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, forever. Amen.**

Sung Prayer Response *We Gather Together* 131, v2

***Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glory be thine!***

Words: *Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626; trans. Theordore Baker, 1894. Music: 16th cent. Dutch melody; arr. Edward Kremser, 1877. 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 94**

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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***Prayer of Dedication**

*God of mercy,
you commanded your people to leave the edges of their fields for those in need,
and you have told us to recognize Christ in the least of the poor and the oppressed.*

**We offer our gifts in compassion,
with hope that none may be forgotten, hungry, or unjustly imprisoned.**

As we give, shape our hearts to serve our neighbors with justice, kindness, and generous love.

**Receive these offerings,
and make us faithful in caring for "the least of these" for whom Jesus died.
We ask it in his name, Amen.**

Sending

***Hymn** *Sent Forth by God's Blessing* 664

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.

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***Prayer of Dismissal**

Blessed Lord, be with us now as we leave this place of sanctuary
to share your love and life with our neighbors.
May your Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path on every step of our journey.
In Jesus' name, amen.

Postlude *Now Thank We All Our God* J. A. Behnke

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, Al Jagger, Robin Curtis, Kathy Connor, Jeff Everett, Brad Nisbett, Mike Dix, Betty Fast, Dee Curcio, Ron Boyle, Beckie Miller

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

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, November 15	In person – Sanctuary / Online
• Worship with breakfast	11:00 am	Sunday, November 15	In person – Fellowship Hall
• Worship Committee	1:00 pm	Tuesday, November 17	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, November 19	In person – Music Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, November 22	In person – Sanctuary / Online

MISSIONS | The Missions Team's focus for November is support for Heifer International.

Heifer International is striving to create a world where every child has an opportunity to grow up free from hunger and poverty. Your gifts this month will support the lives of children in need by providing their families with animal donations. A gift of $20-$30 could supply a family with a hive of honeybees, or a flock of chicks or ducks. Gifts of $120-$150 could supply a goat, sheep, pig, or alpaca. Gifts of $500 provide a heifer. Giving an animal through Heifer International is life-giving. Thank you for your contributions this month to Heifer International.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA | Everyone is invited to our annual Christmas concert on **Saturday, December 5 at 2:00 pm**. The concert will feature the original composition, ***And the Word Became Song***, written by our Director of Music, Calista Brunett. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

CANTATA READERS| The Christmas Cantata isn't just for singers- it's also for readers! If you are interested in reading some Scripture during the cantata (Saturday, December 5th at 2:00 pm), please speak with Calista Brunett or email brunett.hillsdalefirstumc@gmail.com.

SETUP FOR CHRISTMAS | The Worship Committee invites the congregation to join them in setting up the church for Advent/Christmas **on Saturday, November 28 at 10:00 am.** All are welcome!

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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

Chaplain Ralph Bieganek, Guest Speaker
Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Handbell Choir
Val White, Liturgist