

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church | September 20, 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

Song of Hope
O God, Our Help in Ages Past

A. Giamanco
G. Young

Pastoral Greeting

*Call to Worship

Rejoice, children of God! The Lord is with us.

The Lord is our God, unbounded in power, and unmatched in compassion.

In the sacred assembly, we proclaim his mighty deeds.

With songs of thanksgiving, we declare the mercies of our Lord.

*Hymn of Praise

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

117

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.

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, 1719 (Ps. 90)
Music: Attr. to William Croft, 1708; harm. by H.W. Monk, 1861. Public Domain.
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*Prayer of the Day

*Gracious God, we have heard from our childhood
the stories of your mighty acts of deliverance and your steadfast love for your people.*
**In the pages of the Bible, in the accounts of the saints, and in our own stories,
we have seen the evidence of your compassion.**

*But when troubles come into our lives, we still may be tempted to despair.
How quickly we forget your faithfulness!*

Remind us again, O Lord, that you will never abandon us.
**Reassure us that your plans for your people cannot be frustrated
by unfortunate accidents or wicked devices.**

Impress in our hearts the conviction that nothing in Creation can separate us from your love.
And teach us to rest in your everlasting arms. 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.**

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

Proclamation

Gospel Reading – John 16:1-4a, 32-33 *“I have said these things to you to keep you from falling away. ² They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, an hour is coming when those who kill you will think that by doing so they are offering worship to God. ³ And they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. ⁴ But I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them.... ³² The hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each one to his home, and you will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone because the Father is with me. ³³ I have said this to you so that in me you may have peace. In the world you face persecution, but take courage: I have conquered the world!”*

Sung Response

Thine Be the Glory

308, v3

***No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.***

Words by Edmond L. Budry, 1904; trans. by R. Birch Hoyle, 1923. Music: Harmonia Sacra, ca. 1753; arr. from G. F. Handel, 1747. Trans. by permission of The World Student Christian Federation. Public Domain

New Testament Reading – Romans 8:31-39 ³¹ What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³² He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³ Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵ Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶ As it is written,

*“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”*

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹ nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Anthem

We Are Singing

arr. H. H. Hopson

Sermon Text – Psalm 124

- ¹ If it had not been the Lord who was on our side
—let Israel now say—
- ² if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,
when our enemies attacked us,
- ³ then they would have swallowed us up alive,
when their anger was kindled against us;
- ⁴ then the flood would have swept us away;
the torrent would have gone over us;
- ⁵ then over us would have gone
the raging waters.
- ⁶ Blessed be the Lord,
who has not given us
as prey to their teeth.
- ⁷ We have escaped like a bird
from the snare of the hunters;
the snare is broken,
and we have escaped.
- ⁸ Our help is in the name of the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.

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

Message

Unfair Advantage?

Pastor Tomasino

Response

*Hymn of Response

Standing on the Promises

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1. Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
through eternal ages let his praises ring;
glory in the highest, I will shout and sing,
standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing
I'm standing on the promises of God.

2. Standing on the promises that cannot fail,
when the howling storms of doubt and fear assail,
by the living Word of God I shall prevail,
standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing
I'm standing on the promises of God.

3. Standing on the promises of Christ the Lord,
bound to him eternally by love's strong cord,
overcoming daily with the Spirit's sword,
standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing
I'm standing on the promises of God.

4. Standing on the promises I cannot fall,
listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
resting in my Savior as my all in all,
standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing
standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Words and Music R. Kelso Carter, 1886 (Eph. 6:14-17)
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, forever. Amen.**

Sung Prayer Response

How Can I Keep from Singing

2212, v3

***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?***

Words and Music by Robert Lowry. 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!***

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. By Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978. Adapt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House
Music: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906; Public Domain. All rights reserved. Reprinted under CCLI #3134300

*Prayer of Dedication

***If the Lord had not been on our side, we would have been swept away.
But your mercy has upheld us, and your purpose for us will prevail.***

***Though troubles rise, and worries may come, yet your Spirit works within us.
Inspire us, O God, not to long for comfort, but to seek after holiness and love.***

***May these gifts we offer be blessed, that righteousness and justice might be spread throughout the earth.
Make our lives a living offering, conformed to Christ's image.
In His name we pray, Amen.***

Sending

*Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

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1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty;
let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song
full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song
full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come
over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come,
treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet
stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest our hearts
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Words: James Weldon Johnson, 1921. Music: J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921. Public Domain

*Benediction

Postlude

In Thee Is Joy

J.S. Bach

*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,
Jeff Everett, Brad Nisbett, Mike Dix, Betty Fast, Dee Curcio
(Please contact the office to add or remove a request from our list.)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS THIS WEEK

• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, September 20	In person – Sanctuary / Online
• Worship with breakfast	11:00 am	Sunday, September 20	In person – Fellowship Hall
• Bible Study	10:30 am	Wednesday, September 23	In person – Lounge / ZOOM
• Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm	Thursday, September 24	In person – Music Room
• Worship	9:30 am	Sunday, September 27	In person – Sanctuary / Online

MISSIONS | This month the Missions Team invites your support for Next Generation Ministries. NGM began as an outreach to orphans in Haiti and also partners with organizations who are daily acting as the hands and feet of Jesus here in the United States.

NGM partner, S.E.A. Place (Support, Education, Advisement), operates in Lexington, SC to combat poverty in that area by offering its clients a FREE GED through classes and mentoring. NGM partner, City Lights in Winston-Salem, NC, helps the underserved in that dangerous, high crime inner city with programs that offer beds for children, a mobile food pantry, and a first class after school program. Thank you for your support this month for Next Generation Ministries.

BIBLE STUDY | Bible Study meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 am in the Lounge and via ZOOM. A recording of the session will also be available on request. Contact the office for the ZOOM links.

DINNER IN A BAG | Recipes and ingredient lists are available at the back of the sanctuary if you wish to support our 2nd annual Dinner in a Bag outreach. A box is also available to collect your assembled meals. See Jan Tesch for additional details. Thank you for your support of this ONE Team ministry.

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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Rev. Tony Tomasino, Pastor

Calista Brunett, Music Director | HFUMC Chancel Choir

Cordelia Tomasino, Liturgist