

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church

102 West Tryon Street
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www.hillsboroughpres.org [YouTube Channel](#)



ORGANIZED 1816

*To those who seek the joy of sharing
in worship and praise; to those
who seek to know and serve the Lord,
our Church opens wide its doors.*

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

11:00 AM

Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor

Beth Jordan, Music Director

JoAnn Harrison, Secretary

Gathering of the People

Prelude
Welcome

Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

arr. Lind

Praise of God

Call to Worship

(Unless otherwise noted, all liturgy and prayers written or adapted from Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org)

One: Tell me something good!

All: God loves you more than you could imagine.

One: Tell me something good!

All: God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

One: Tell me something good!

All: God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

One: This is good news indeed!

All: Let us worship our compassionate God.

* Hymn No. 425

Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace

1 Son of God, whose heart is peace, Son of God, most ho - ly,
2 Take a - way our sin - ful - ness, e - vil that im - pris - ons us;
3 Warm our hearts to love you, Lord, you who died to save us;

to your pres - ence we have come; give us now your love.
free us from what trou - bles us; give our souls re - lease.
gath - er us with - in your arms, Je - sus, on this day.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you something to eat? Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink? Did we see you alone and offer you compassion? Or did we cross the street? Did we avert our eyes? Did we come up with every excuse in the book?

God, we long to be people who love our neighbors with the same overwhelming love that you have for them. But we must admit, we have a long way to go. Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray.

Silent Individual Confession

Sung Response No. 578

O Lord, Have Mercy

Please join in singing this response.

Capo 2: (G) (C) (D) (G)
A D E A

1 O Lord, have mer - cy; O Lord, have mer - cy; O
2 O Christ, have mer - cy; O Christ, have mer - cy; O

(E) (Am) (D) (G)
 F# Bm E A

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.
 Christ, have mer - cy, have mer - cy on us.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Family of faith, even when we act with judgment, even when we are guided by fear, even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need, God does not turn God's back on us. So join me in this good-news declaration:

All: We are seen. We are forgiven. We are invited to try again. Thanks be to God for this unending love.

* Response No. 414

Be Still and Know That I Am God

Please join in singing this response.

Capo 4: (C) (Am) (C7) (Am)
 E C#m E7 C#m

Be still and know that I am God.
 Be still and know that I am God.

Sharing of God's Word

Conversation with the Children

Jane McIver

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:35-40 (pg. 1207)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Wondrous Love

Cooman

Scripture Reading

Luke 7:36-50 (pg. 1255)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Alex Fischer

Response to the Gospel

* Hymn No. 417

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin. From
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, a - mid the bat - tle's strife. In
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray. Through
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when this life is past, I

earth-born pas - sions set me free, and make me pure with - in.
 all my pain and mis - er - y be thou my health and life.
 dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point thou the heaven - ly way.
 may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see, and share thy joy at last.

Reception of New Members

Bob and Ann Sullivan
 Amanda Ridenhour

* Affirmation of Faith (The Apostle's Creed)

We believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People and The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Offering

Offertory

* Hymn of Dedication No. 701 *Lord, Prepare Me*

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
 With thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

* Prayer of Dedication

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 441 *Hear the Good News of Salvation*

1 Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.
 2 All the sins I have com - mit - ted, to my Sav - ior now I bring.
 1 Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:
 2 Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,

Such great kind-ness! Such great mer-cy! Come to us from heaven a-bove.
 I bow down with tears of an-guish; Christ for-gives and so I sing:
 to - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, he de - han i - yo - ma - hi.
 kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - si - ma - da ce.

Je - sus Christ, how much I love you! Je - sus Christ, you save from sin!
 Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: han, wa -

How I love you! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.
 ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

Variation

arr. Lind



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CHURCH NOTES

March 1, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS! We welcome you to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and to this worship service. We are truly pleased that you have chosen to worship with us today because we believe that everyone who enters these doors is God's guest. We welcome all to be part of our community of faith, and participate in any of our activities and events.

The **FLOWERS** are shared today to the Glory of God by Jane and Hervey McIver as a reminder of God's surrounding love.

Assisting in Worship today:

Liturgist and Children's Sermon: Jane McIver

Acolyte: TBD

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Chris O'Connor

Video: Alicia Gonzalez, Hervey McIver

Intergenerational Sunday School series - "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" based on Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood. Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering and exploring again. On **March 1, 8, 15 and 22**, we'll all gather in Strudwick Hall during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) to learn and engage in lessons from Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. The four lessons foster kindness and community and focus on empathy and neighborhood building for all ages. Together, we'll enjoy stories, songs, activities, and memorable clips like this one - watch the "Mister Roger's Neighborhood: Opening Theme": [bit.ly/NeighborhoodOpeningVideo](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0445A8A729A3FB6-58001396-2526#/)

HPC's Youth Group (grades 6-12) will gather at 5:00 PM on Sundays, March 1, 8 and 22, at 5:00 PM in Strudwick Hall. We'll have a Youth Fun Day on Sunday, March 15. We'll gather at the HPC parking area at 2:00 PM and go to a Trampoline Park. If you would like to provide a Sunday meal for our youth, please use sign-up genius link: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0445A8A729A3FB6-58001396-2526#. Interested in being an adult volunteer? Other questions? See Eric Cathey.

Christian Education Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 3, at 7:00 PM. Join us on Zoom. Questions? See Katherine Cathey.

HPC Coffee & Tea Club will gather on Thursday, March 5, at 9:00 AM at The Village Diner. All are welcome to join us! We'll also meet on Thursday, March 19, at 9:00 AM at Antonia's. Questions? See Joe Crane.

Tuesday, March 10th (time TBD), we are invited to gather at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church for **Relational Meeting Training** offered by Justice United. Relational Meetings are a practice that Justice United promotes to share, hear, and understand one another's stories and concerns we hold about issues in our lives and our communities. Relational Meetings take intention and effort, so learning this is an important skill. It will not only be beneficial for our ministry, but it'll also help us to grow closer to our neighbors in the Heaven Practice Group. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Wednesday, March 18th, at 6pm, you are invited to gather for **Heaven Practice Bible Study** at Hester Grove Missionary Baptist Church (590 Wheelers Church Rd, Hurdle Mills, NC 27541). This will be lead by Rev. Tony Neal.

Sunday, March 22nd, at 6pm will be our next **Heaven Practice Gathering** at 6pm, also at Hester Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Lisa Frost-Phillips from St. Matthew's will be our preacher.

Women's Fellowship – Last Saturday breakfast will be at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 28, in Strudwick Hall. A light breakfast (fruit and pastry) will be provided. Please join other women in the church for a time of food and fellowship. Children are welcome. A breakfast table will be set up for the little ones. Questions, see Karoline Mathewson.

HPC Directory – If you have any updates for the HPC Directory – please pass them along to the church office. Need a new photo? Let us know that too! (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)

An invitation to a **Community Lecture Series** offered by the Orange County Historical Museum as we celebrate 250 years of our country – all are welcome! Talks will be highlighting important historical documents. Join them on Saturdays, March 7, 21, 28. All talks begin at 4:30 PM in Strudwick Hall.

Orange County Historical Museum is also hosting an event on Saturday, March 14, gathering at 2:00pm to use Strudwick Hall. This special event will include presentations, refreshments provided by the Daughters of the American Revolution, and a plaque dedication in the Old Town Cemetery to honor Anne Hooper, wife of William Hooper, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. We encourage our church members to participate!

2026 Flower Chart – Sign up and share with your Church the joy of an anniversary, a special occasion, or memorialize someone important to you! Sign up on the sheet outside the church office or drop us an email with a date! (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)

New Hope Camp has long been a place where people of all ages grow in faith, fellowship and leadership. The camp is seeking volunteers to serve on committees: Finance, B&G, Strategic Growth & Marketing, Personnel. Camp staff and Board directors are working hard to re-vitalize the camp. We need your time and talents. Donations can be designated as part of your Sunday offering at HPC or donate directly to <https://newhopedonations.campbraingiving.com/>. Contact: Jan McKelvey, HPC representative to New Hope Camp.

Cold Weather Shelter: Hillsborough residents needing transportation to the Chapel Hill cold weather shelter may contact the Street Outreach Team by 6 p.m. at (919) 886-3351 for assistance. Questions? Ask David Remington or Jan McKelvey. **NOTE:** Church members hosting evening groups should be aware that unhoused people may ask for assistance. Let's help them by either calling the Street Outreach Team, or taking them down to the Chapel Hill shelter if that is the best option. Location: 828 MLK Jr. Blvd.

WAYS TO GIVE - Giving Opportunities

The residents of **Orange County Correctional** are in need of personal hygiene items this Spring. Regular size toothpaste; Arm and Hammer Deodorant, Suave 3 in 1 body wash and shampoo. These can be brought to the OCC basket in the Narthex. They will be picked up and delivered monthly. Thank you for any items and prayers for our neighbors. Questions? See Robin Barnhill.

Many of you are aware of **OCIM** and its feeding of those in need. We are known as the “peanut butter church”. There is always a need for peanut butter --- creamy peanut butter, preferably. You may place peanut butter in the covered OCIM basket in the Narthex at any time. A jar can go in every bag given to a client. You can always see immediate needs in the weekly NewsFlash.

Check out our **HPC WEBSITE** at www.hillsboroughpres.org – click on any event on our calendar page for details! You will also find the monthly newsletter and Sunday bulletin posted on this website!

A great way to keep up with what’s happening at HPC!

In an emergency or to share a concern, please contact the church office, 919-732-3131. You may also contact the Pastor, Reverend Alex Fischer, at hillsboroughpresrev@gmail.com.



THIS SUNDAY: March 1 Second Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Readings: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121;
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

9:45 AM Intergenerational Sunday School – for all ages!
(Strudwick Hall)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)

5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

Tue - 7:00 PM Christian Ed Meeting (#204/Zoom)

Wed - 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal (#221)

Thu – 9:00 AM HPC Coffee & Tea Club (Village Diner)

Sat - 4:30 PM Museum Lecture Series (Strudwick)

Volunteers:

Liturgist: Jane McIver

Children’s Sermon: Jane McIver

Acolyte: TBD

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Chris O’Connor

Video: Alicia Gonzalez, Hervey McIver

NEXT SUNDAY: March 8 Third Sunday in Lent

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95;
Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42

9:45 AM Intergenerational Sunday School – for all ages!
(Strudwick Hall)

11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)

12:15 PM Building and Grounds Meeting (#204)

5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

Volunteers:

Liturgist: Sam Nesbit

Children’s Sermon: Rev. Alex Fischer

Acolyte: TBD

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Ann Sebesan, Hervey McIver

Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson