

Hillsborough Presbyterian Church
102 West Tryon Street
Hillsborough, N. C. 27278
919-732-3131
Post Office Box 717
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
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany
February 8, 2026
11:00 AM

Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor
Beth Jordan, Music Director *JoAnn Harrison, Secretary*

Gathering of the People

Lord of All Good

Prelude
Welcome

Fedak

Praise of God

Call to Worship (adapted from Matthew 5)

One: Jesus says, "You are the salt of the earth,"

All: We are the spice of life, called to spread hope and Good News.

One: "You are the light of the world,"

All: We help illuminate the path, so others may experience God's grace.

One: "Not one stroke of the Law or the Prophets will fade away, until it becomes reality"

All: We long for the realm of heaven to take shape here and now.

One: "I am with you always, until the end of the age."

All: Praise the Lord, our God who is with us!

* Hymn No. 395

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

1. Bless-ed Je-sus, at your word we have come a-
 2. All our knowl-edge, sense, and sight lie in deep- est
 3. Glo- rious Lord, your - self im -part, Light of Light, from
 gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 dark-ness shroud- ed, till your Spir- it breaks our night,
 God pro- ceed- ing. Touch our lips and ears and heart;
 and in glow-ing faith be near you. By your gos- pel
 fill- ing us with light un- cloud- ed. All good thoughts and
 help us by your Spir- it's plead- ing. Hear the cry your
 true and ho- ly, teach us, Lord, to love you sole- ly.
 all good liv- ing come but by your gra- cious giv- ing.
 church now rais- es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais- es.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (from Iona Abbey Worship Book)

Eternal maker of the endless heavens; lowly Christ, befriendeer of the changing earth; Holy Spirit, wind over the flowing waters, in earth, sea and sky you are present. In everything we touch, in everyone we meet, you are near and we give you thanks. But where we have not touched but trampled you in creation, where we have not honored but avoided you in one another, where we have not received but rejected your goodness, forgive us, and hear our plea for your pardon. Holy God, have mercy on us.

Silent Individual Confession

Sung Response No. 698

Take, O Take Me as I Am
Please join in singing this response.

Take, O take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall
be; set your seal up-on my heart and live in me.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Hear and believe these words of Jesus: "Your sins are forgiven. Go in peace. Come and follow me."

All: Glory to the Creator who gives us life, glory to Jesus whose love remakes us, glory to the Spirit, companion on our journey. Amen.

* Response No. 582

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

Please join in singing this response.

Capo 3: (G) (D) (G) (D) (G) (D) (Em) (D)
B♭ F B♭ F B♭ F Gm F

1 Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me,
2 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(D) (G) (C) (G) (Em7) (A7)
F B♭ E♭ B♭ Gm7 C7

and to the Son, whose grace has par - doned me,
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(A7) (D) (F#) (Bm)
C7 F A Dm

and to the Spir - it, whose love has set me free.
World with - out end, with - out end. A - men.

(Bm7) (D) (Bdim7) (Em7) (Dm) (A7) (D)
Dm7 F Ddim7 Gm7 Fm C7 F

As it was in the be - gin-ning, is now and ev-er shall be. A - men.

Sharing of God's Word

Conversation with the Children
Prayer for Illumination
Scripture Reading

David Remington

I Corinthians 2:1-13 (pg. 1388)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Light of the World

arr. Cornelius

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-20 (pg. 1173)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Reverend Alex Fischer

Response to the Gospel

* Hymn No. 301

Let us Build a House (1, 2, 4, 5)

Capo 3: (A7) (D) (A) (D) (G) (A) (Bm)
C7 F C F B♭ C Dm

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter,
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and

(D) (A) (D) (Bm7) (Em) (A)
F C F Dm7 Gm C

safe - ly live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell
strong and true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek
wine, and wheat; a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground
wood and stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach,
vi - sions heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed

(Em) (A7) (G) (D) (F♯m) (Bm)
Gm C7 B♭ F Am Dm

how hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
to dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
where peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
and live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
as words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

(Em) (A) (D) (G)
Gm C F B♭

vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this

Refrain

love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 share in Christ the feast that frees us: all are wel - come;
 bring an end to fear and dan - ger:
 house pro-claim from floor to raf - ter:
 all are wel - come; all are wel - come in this place.

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. 609 ***Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow***

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

* Prayer of Dedication

* Affirmation of Faith (from the Iona Abbey Worship Book)

We believe in God, who conceived all that is created, who fathers and mothers all people. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's firstborn and only Lord of the earth. He came from both heaven and the womb of the virgin Mary; he lived in solidarity with humankind, befriending, teaching, healing, and restoring; he was denied and betrayed by his friends; and was done to death by the state. He descended to the place of oblivion, rose to life again on the third day, and ascended to heaven where he sits at God's right hand. This same Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and dead. We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose dynamic presence can make all things new. And we believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 700

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

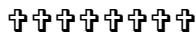
1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
 2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
 3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
 4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

How Firm a Foundation

Kerr



“Lord of All Good”, by Fedak. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

“Blessed Jesus, at Your Word”, Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1663; trans. Catherine Winkworth, 1858 alt. Music: Johann Rudolph Ahle, 1664; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 18th cent., alt. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

“Take, O Take Me as I Am”, Text and Music © 1995 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). All rights reserved. Used with permission.“

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”, Text Adapt. and Music © 2008 Paul M. Vasile. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

“Light of the World”, arranged by Cornelius. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

“Let Us Build A House”, Text and Music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission.

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”, Text by Brian Wren, 1989, Music: Hal H. Hopson, 1998 © 1998 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved.

“I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me”, Music Arr. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum. Used by permission.

“How Firm a Foundation”, by Kerr. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-731198.

CHURCH NOTES

February 8, 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.

Assisting in Worship today:

Liturgist: David Remington

Children's Sermon: David Remington

Acolyte: Marley Salem

Nursery: Ann Sebesan, Hervey McIver

Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

The Youth Group will be sponsoring our ***SOUPER BOWL* collection in February** - This year the Youth want to focus on collecting monetary donations for the purchasing of canned goods and other essential food items for OCIM. The Youth have set a goal of collecting \$2,500 for the purpose of purchasing these food items. For the past two years, I have worked with OCIM administration to ensure our collected funds went toward the purchase of the canned items that were in highest need. The Youth and I will continue to take any donated canned goods directly to OCIM during the month of February. Monetary donations may be mailed to the church office or placed in the offering. Please designate the intent of the funds "OCIM Souper Bowl". Thank you for your continued support of our community through OCIM.

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation will be held on Sunday February 8th at 12:15pm (following worship) in Strudwick Hall. We will have a potluck lunch and hear from our various committee moderators about life in the church in 2025. Please join us!

Joyful Noise Children's Choir will meet on Sunday, February 8 and 22, at 9:45 AM in Room #221 for rehearsal. They will sing in worship on February 22. Questions? See Beth Jordan.

HPC's Youth Group (grades 6-12) will gather at 5:00 PM on Sundays, at 5:00 PM in Strudwick Hall. Interested in being an adult volunteer? Other questions? See Eric Cathey.

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! (hpcchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)

Circle #1 will gather on Monday, February 9, at 11:00 AM in Strudwick Hall. Bring your lunch and join us! Questions? See Karoline Mathewson.

Women's Fellowship - we will not have a last Saturday breakfast in January. The breakfasts will resume at 9:00 AM on Saturday, February 28, in Strudwick Hall. Questions, see Karoline Mathewson.

Justice United Housing Action with County Commissioner Candidates, Thursday February 12, 7:00-8:30 pm. Please join us to request that the County Commissioner candidates commit to specific actions on property tax justice and affordable homeownership. Proposals will focus on increased funds for property tax bill assistance and home repairs, ensuring neighborhood-wide property value adjustments are done fairly, changing the entire property assessment process to be equitable, and increased funding for deeply affordable homeownership. With a competitive County Commissioner primary on March 3, the election is an important opportunity to establish public relationships of respect with candidates and call on them to commit to specific, measurable actions. Our action date, February 12, marks the first day of early voting. To register, go to: https://www.ocjusticeunited.org/countywide_prep_for_housing_action. Please see or contact David Remington (dlreming@gmail.com) for further information.

Ash Wednesday Dinner and Worship at New Hope Presbyterian Church – Join us on Wednesday, February 18, at 6:00 PM for a baked potato dinner at New Hope. Our Ash Wednesday Worship will be in their Sanctuary at 7:00 PM. Rev. Alex will lead worship. The choirs from both congregations will be offering an anthem together. Please join us as we begin the Lenten season.

The **Knitting Group** will meet on Wednesday, February 18, at 12:30 in the HPC Parlor. Questions? See Sara Clay.

The **Congregational Care Committee** meeting has been re-scheduled to Sunday, February 22, at 12:15 pm in Room #204 following worship.

Interested in learning more about the role of the Orange County Sheriff's Office in keeping our community safe? Join the **Citizens' Academy**, 6-9 pm on Wednesdays, March 18 – May 13. For details and to apply go to www.ocsonc.com/citizens-academy. Deadline to apply is February 27. Questions? See Jane Gaede.

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, February 7, 14, 21, March 21, 28. All talks begin at 4:30 PM in Strudwick Hall.

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! (hpcchurch@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, janmckelvey128@gmail.com, 919-260-9024, or catch me at church.

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. For the month of February, four churches in Chapel Hill will manage the food service to the Chapel Hill shelter. 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

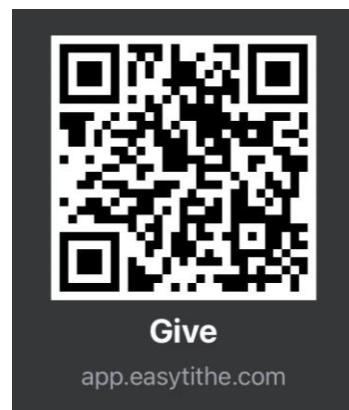
The residents of **Orange County Correctional** are in need of personal hygiene items this Spring. Regular size toothpaste; Arm and Hammer Deodorant, Suave 3 in 1 body wash and shampoo. These can be brought to the OCC basket in the Narthex. They will be picked up and delivered monthly. Thank you for 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: February 8

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 112:1-10;
I Corinthians 2:1-16; Matthew 5:13-20

9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!
9:45 AM Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal (#221)
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)
12:15 PM Annual Congregational Meeting and Lunch (Strudwick)
5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

Mon - 11:00 AM Circle #1 (#204/Zoom)

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

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

Volunteers:

Liturgist: David Remington

Children's Sermon: David Remington

Acolyte: Marley Salem

Nursery: Ann Sebesan, Hervey McIver

Video: Kenneth Stephenson, Ben Stephenson

NEXT SUNDAY: February 15

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or 99;
II Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9

9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)
-- Communion and OCIM Food Drive
12:15 PM HPC Book Club (Strudwick)
5:00 PM Youth Group (Strudwick Hall)

Volunteers:

Liturgist: Linda Jaubert

Children's Sermon: Barbara Younger

Acolyte: Morgan Salem

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, TBD

Video: Joe Crane, Lisa Fischer