

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 **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** **September 6, 2026** **11:00 AM**

Reverend Alex Fischer, Pastor
JoAnn Harrison, Secretary

Gathering of the People

Prelude
Welcome

Praise of God

Call to Worship (from the Iona Abbey Worship Book)

One: The world belongs to God,

All: the earth and all its people.

One: It is good to live in community,

All: to work and talk with each other.

One: Love and faith come together;

All: justice and peace join hands.

One: If the friends of Jesus keep silent,

All: those stones would shout aloud!

One: We are glad to be in God's house,

All: To listen and sing and pray.

* Hymn No. 692

Spirit, Open My Heart

Refrain Capo 3: (D) (G) (D) (G) (A7)
F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$ C7

Spir - it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of

(Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7) (Bm) (D/A) (Em)
Dm F/C B $\flat$ C7 Dm F/C Gm

liv - ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing

(D) (G) (Em7) (D) (G) (D)
F B $\flat$ Gm7 F B $\flat$ F *Fine*

and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

(D) (G) (D) (G)
F B $\flat$ F B $\flat$

1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of

(A7) (Bm) (D/A) (G) (A7)
C7 Dm F/C B $\flat$ C7

kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
sis - ter, broth - er. In the wel - come of

(Bm) (Em7) (D) (G2) (G)
Dm Gm7 F B $\flat$ 2 B $\flat$ *to Refrain*

fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
Christ, may we wel - come one an - oth - er.

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God, you know us. You know that we can be loving and kind; and you know that sometimes we get things wrong. We're sorry for the times we hurt other people, forget to listen to you, and don't bother to take care of your world. Forgive us, we pray.

Silent Individual Confession

Sung 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.

(F) (C) (Dm) (Em) (Fmaj7) (G7)

A E F#m G#m Amaj7 B7

Be still and know that I am God.

Words of Forgiveness

One: Family of faith, receive this blessing: may God forgive you, Jesus bless you, and God's Spirit help you to grow in love.

All: Because of God's great love, working through Jesus and the Spirit, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God, 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)

Bb F Bb F Bb 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 Bb Eb Bb 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

Ann Sebesan

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (pg. 818)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:13-16 (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. 507

Come to the Table of Grace

Capo 3: (D) F (A) C (Bm) Dm (D7/A) F7/C (G) Bb

1 Come to the ta - ble of grace. Come to the

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

ta - ble of grace. This is God's ta - ble; it's

(D/A) F/A (G) Bb (D/A) F/C (A7) C7 (D) (G) (D) F Bb F

not yours or mine. Come to the ta - ble of grace.

2 Come to the table of peace...

3 Come to the table of love...

4 Come to the table of hope...

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Invitation

Prayer

Words of Institution, Sharing of the Meal

Prayer after Communion 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. 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* Old One Hundredth

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* Prayer of Dedication

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

We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Go Forth to Serve

Invitation to Share and Serve

* Hymn No. 543

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that

move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es - en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

* Charge and Benediction

* Postlude

Now Thank We All Our God

J. G. Walther



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CHURCH NOTES

September 6, 2026

WELCOME VISITORS! We welcome you to Hillsborough Presbyterian Church and to this worship and this live-stream 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 and with appreciation for, and well wishes to, Rev. Alex, Lisa, and Margot by the O'Connor family.

Assisting in Worship today:

Liturgist and Children's Sermon: Ann Sebesan

Guest Musician: Rev. Alex Fischer, guitar

Acolyte: Gabe Hall

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, TBD

Video: Alicia Gonzalez, Hervey McIver

Join us immediately following worship on Sunday, September 6, for a **Potluck Lunch in Strudwick Hall** as we say farewell to Rev. Alex and Lisa, and Margot.

Join us for **Lemonade on the Lawn** immediately following worship on Sundays, September 13 and 20. Lemonade on the Lawn will resume in the Spring.

The **Christian Education Committee** will meet on Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 PM on Zoom. Questions? See Katherine Cathey.

Join us at Hillsborough Presbyterian Church on Saturday, September 12, at 4:00pm for an **Orange County Historical Museum** fundraiser event. "LiberTea" with the ladies of Hillsborough 1776! Fundraiser tickets are available on the OCHM website: orangehistorync.org/events

Our new Sunday School year will begin on September 13th. Join us for Sunday School Kickoff in Strudwick Hall at 9:45 a.m.

Classes are offered each Sunday from 9:45-10:45 a.m. We have choices for all ages!

Nursery (infants and toddlers)

Children (preK-2nd grade) (meets upstairs)

Children (3rd-5th grade) (meets upstairs)

Youth (6th - 12th grade) (meets downstairs)

Young Parents class (meets in Strudwick Hall)

Adult Lectionary class (meets downstairs)

Community Conversations adult class (meets upstairs)

Children and youth will learn from PC(USA)'s Feasting on the Word curriculum, which follows the Revised Common Lectionary and allows everyone to explore the same Bible passage each week. The adult lectionary class will continue using the Keeping Holy Time: Studying the Revised Common Lectionary by Douglas Wingeier through November and will then explore a new curriculum. Young Parents and Community Conversations are adult classes that focuses on theology and various cultural topics that class members wish to pursue.

At our Sunday School Kickoff, we'll share more information about our classes. On September 13th, come for breakfast and fellowship and give Sunday School a try!

The **Congregational Care Committee** will meet on Sunday, September 13, immediately following worship in Room #204. Questions? See Sam Nesbit or Jan McKelvey.

HPC FALL WORKDAY - Saturday, September 19th, from 9:00am-12:00 Noon. All are welcome – there will be tasks for all! Our quarterly B&G Committee meeting will be at 11:00am in Strudwick Hall on 9/19. The Agenda: Request for 2nd AED at the Sanctuary, wait until 2027 to do further Stucco repairs, do B&G Policies updates. Questions? See Jan McKelvey.

We will be collecting the World Communion Offering on September 20, 27 and October 4th, which is World Communion Sunday. All of God's people gather around the Table to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of the atonement that happens around this Table is reconciliation, which is the focus of the World Communion Offering. Experience the grace that comes from reconciling all peoples from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this offering. You can give your offering with cash (using an envelope stating it is for the World Communion offering), by check and putting World Communion in the memo line, or you can use the online link from our website (on the dropdown list select “PC-USA Outreach”).

HPC's 210th Anniversary will be on **Sunday, September 27!** Join us following worship for a potluck celebration in Strudwick Hall – Bring a **covered dish** of your choice (main dish, side dish, or dessert) to our Potluck Luncheon in Strudwick Hall following our worship service. Congregational Care Committee will provide beverages.

The 11 member Syrian family hosted by Welcome House last year are encountering challenges. Their SNAP benefits were cut in July, and they were informed that the father and mother will be cut from Medicaid in October. In response to that hurdle, New Hope Presbyterian Church has started a fund to help the family with food costs. The plan is to assist on a monthly basis through this fund until their green cards are processed, which will then qualify them for SNAP again. Donations for this fund can be sent by check to New Hope Presbyterian Church, with “Welcome House Refugee Fund” on the memo line. The address is: New Hope Presbyterian Church, 4701 NC 86, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. Questions? See Ann Sebesan.

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! (Open dates: September 13, October 11, 18, 25) (hpchurch@hillsboroughpres.org)

WAYS TO GIVE - Giving Opportunities

The residents of **Orange County Correctional** are in need of personal hygiene items. 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 it's 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 donations in the covered OCIM basket in the Narthex at any time. **Right now they are also in need of:** Ketchup, Mayo, Juice boxes, Water, Laundry detergent (powder or pods).

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.



Volunteer for CE Programs -
Nursery, Sunday School,
and Youth Group.



Give

app.easytithe.com

THIS SUNDAY: September 6 Communion / OCIM Collection

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149;
Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20

- 9:45 AM Sunday School Kick-off – for all ages! Join us in
in Strudwick Hall for breakfast and fellowship!
11:00 AM Traditional Worship – Communion / OCIM Collection
(Sanctuary / YouTube)
12:15 PM Farewell Potluck for Reverend Alex and Lisa, and
Margot in Strudwick Hall

Wed - 7:00 PM Christian Education Meeting (Zoom)

Sat - 4:00 PM “LiberTea” Museum Fundraiser (Strudwick Hall)

Volunteers:

Liturgist and Children’s Sermon: Ann Sebesan

Guest Musician: Pastor Alex Fischer, guitar

Acolyte: Gabe Hall

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, TBD

Flowers: O’Connor Family

Video: Alicia Gonzalez, Hervey McIver

NEXT SUNDAY: September 13

Lectionary Readings: Exodus 14:9-31; Psalm 114; Exodus 15:1b-11 20-21;
Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35

- 9:45 AM Sunday School – for all ages!
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (Sanctuary / YouTube)
12:15 PM Lemonade on Lawn (Sebesan Family)
12:15 PM Congregational Care Meeting (#204)

Volunteers:

Guest Preacher: Rev. Joy Alford

Liturgist: Sara Clay

Children’s Sermon: Barbara Younger

Guest Musician: Tom Bloom

Acolyte: TBD

Nursery: Ximena Ceja-Reyes, Emma Cathey

Flowers: TBD

Video: David and Kathy Remington