

***Affirmation of Faith** Westminster Shorter Catechism, Questions 31 & 32
Question: What is effectual calling?

Answer. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, He doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

Question. What benefits do they that are effectually called partake of in this life?

Answer. They that are effectually called do in this life partake of justification, adoption, and sanctification, and the several benefits which in this life do either accompany or flow from them.

Prayers of God's 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Our Tithes and Offerings *“Dedication”*

***The Doxology**
***Prayer of Dedication**

Richard Martens

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*Benediction

Benediction

Gilbert Martin

The First Presbyterian Church

Organized July 22, 1843



MISSION STATEMENT

*Called by God into the joy of new life in Christ,
First Presbyterian Church of Hillsdale
seeks to live together faithfully,
committing ourselves to a life of worship,
mutual encouragement to growth in faith and knowledge,
and to the proclamation of the Gospel.*



31 North Street
Hillsdale, Michigan 49242
(517)-437-2580

Sunday, February 8, 2026

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

February 8, 2026

10:30 a.m. Worship

*Congregation May Stand

Prelude

"Make the Sounds of Praise"

Robert Hughes

Welcome and Announcements

Kevin Portteus

*Call to Worship

Psalm 111:1-2

Invocation

*Hymn

"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"

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*Responsive Reading

Psalm 112

Leader: Praise the Lord!

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
who greatly delights in His commandments!

People: His descendants will be mighty in the land;
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Leader: Wealth and riches are in his house;
and his righteousness endures for ever.

People: Light rises in the darkness for the upright;
the Lord is gracious, merciful, and righteous.

Leader: It is well with the man who deals generously and lends,
who conducts his affairs with justice.

People: For the righteous will never be moved;
he will be remembered for ever.

Leader: He is not afraid of evil tidings;
his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

People: His heart is steady, he will not be afraid,
until he sees his desire on his adversaries.

Leader: He has distributed freely, He has given to the poor;
His righteousness endures for ever;
His horn is exalted in honor.

All: The wicked man sees it and is angry;
he gnashes his teeth and melts away;
the desire of the wicked man comes to nought.

Prayer of Confession Adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook*

(unison)

Merciful God, in Your gracious presence we confess our sin. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse Your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and turn them into servants of sin. Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free to serve You as agents of Your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.

Silent Confession (*continue in silent prayer*)Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*The Gloria Patri

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Children's Sermon Why Was Jesus Baptized?

Pastor Scott Cress

First Scripture Lesson 1 Corinthians 2:1-12

Pew Bible Page #1004

Anthem "You Do Not Walk Alone"

Elaine Hagenberg

Second Scripture Lesson Joshua 5:13-15

Pew Bible Page #189

Sermon Joshua: Portrait of Allegiance

Pastor Scott Cress

***Hymn** "Blessed Assurance"

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CHURCH CALENDAR

Today, February 8

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
9:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms
10:20 a.m. Pre-Service Prayer, Chapel
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

Monday, February 9

7:00 p.m. Arts Chorale Practice, Sanctuary

Tuesday, February 10

6:00 p.m. Strong Foundations Class, Anniversary Room

Wednesday, February 11

Thursday, February 12

9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study, Anniversary Room
2:00 p.m. Memorial Service Donald Sanderson, Sanctuary
Light refreshments to follow in Fellowship Hall

Friday, February 13

Saturday, February 14 ~



Next Sunday, February 15

8:30 a.m. Choir Practice, Sanctuary
9:40 a.m. Sunday School, Classrooms
10:20 a.m. Pre-Service Prayer, Chapel
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Coffee Fellowship, Fellowship Hall

USHER SCHEDULE

February 15: Noël & Dan Bisher and Marty Games
February 22: Bev & Larry Fall and Marsha Rollins
March 1: Nancy Ashton, Ruth Brown and Doug French

WELCOME

Welcome! We're so glad you're here for worship today. Our prayer is that you experience God's presence in a meaningful way. It's a delight to be together to praise God and share in His love. Welcome!

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS worshiping with us this morning. We ask that you please include your name and address when filling out the Friendship Pads and pass the pad along the pew so others may do the same. After everyone has registered, send the pad back along the pew so you can learn the names of those sitting with you. Last Sunday's attendance: 77

The ALTAR FLOWERS are given today by the Cress Family in honor of Nicholas' 8th birthday. Happy Birthday and be blessed, Nicholas!

PASTOR: Rev. Scott Cress

CHOIR/ORGANIST: Dean James

WORSHIP LEADER: Kevin Portteus

BUILDING CLOSER: Kevin Portteus

DEACON: Sheryl Sanford and Pam Steiner

USHERS: Tom Fink, Patti Péwé and Carol Ringenberg

PRAYER REQUESTS: Charles Cress (*Pastor's Father*)

CONTINUING PRAYER REQUESTS: Aiden James Weigle (*Great Grandson Bev & Larry Fall*), Sarah Price (*Daughter Bill Barron*), Marlene Risedorph (*Wife Stuart*), Barbara Craine & Susan Wilson (*Sisters C.Hoffman*), Nancy Leutheuser, Andre Portteus (*Father Kevin*), Tom Osborn (*Brother-in-law B.Kneen*), Norma Baldwin, Melinda Foulke-Beckwith, Carissa Benavides, Jack Bowles (*Cousin Vida*), Keith Brown (*Friend H.Wood*), Elizabeth Burke (*Friend B.Kneen*), Kimberly Burlew, Rosie Dryer (*Friend S.Kinney*), Kevin & Bridget Fowler (*Parents B.Portteus*), Maxine & George Gaffney & Snookie Ham (*Friends B.Kneen*), Sheila Hall (*Friend C.Erholtz*), Ashley Hightower, Robert Jones (*Husband Irma*), Shirley McIntyre, JoAnne Rollins (*Sister-in-law M.Rollins*), John Scott (*Friend C.Ringenberg*), Lois Shrock, Theresa Tomas (*Friend C.Erholtz*), Laura VanWormer (*Friend L.Fogarty*), Amy Wright, and Elijah Wright (*Son Karen Lagasee-Wright*);

PRAY FOR MILITARY: LT. Andrea Cornett (*USN*); First Lieutenant Spencer Eves (*USN-Grandson Judy & Ron Adams*); LT. Col. Garron Garn (*US Marines*), Commander Zachary Laden (*US Navy-Grandson B.Taylor*), Major Ben Larson (*Nat'l Guard--Grandson C.Dear*); Army First Lt. Cheryl Jackson (*Granddaughter W.Schneider*), and LT. Sydney Rouble (*USN RN-Granddaughter Bishers*); **PRAY FOR MISSIONS:** Lingap Children's Foundation, Father's Table Food Pantry, King's Cupboard, Love, INC, Salvation Army, Samaritan's Purse, and Share the Warmth; **PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS:** Diane Eames and Warren Schneider

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS: It is necessary for the Annual Reports (2025) to be ready for distribution at the Annual Meeting on May 3, 2026. All Committee Reports are now due to Irma in the Church Office hfpchurch@comcast.net no later than March 1st.

GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION: *"We love because He first loved us"* (1 John 4:19, NIV). This month, let's share God's love in simple ways — a kind note, a prayer, a helping hand. Look for ways to bless someone around you!

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL: Classes are available for all ages each Sunday morning from **9:40-10:20 AM** before worship. It's a wonderful opportunity to study God's Word, ask questions and grow in faith together. Whether you're brand new or returning after a break, there's a place for you. Come learn, connect and be encouraged as we dive deeper into Scripture this year!

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Join our Men's Bible Study on **Thursday morning at 9:00 AM** in the Anniversary Room. Come ready for a great time together studying the Bible with Pastor Scott. We hope you will join in!

NEW TO THE STAFF: CHRISTIAN MINISTRY DIRECTOR! We trust you'll notice that this is a Church where children are cherished. Because they are we've created a new position and hired Rebecca Portteus as our new Christian Ministry Director! Becca has proven she is passionate about children's ministry, nurturing children's faith, and developing a deep love for Jesus Christ. We are grateful for all the ways she'll make a difference in our children!

NURSING HOME MINISTRY (February 19): First Pres has partnered with other local churches to minister at the Medical Care Facility at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday evenings on a rotation basis. The next ministry time will be on **Thursday, February 19th at 6:30 PM** for those who would like to help. If you are interested in this ministry, reach out to Pastor Scott or Marsha Rollins.

PREPARING FOR THE SEASON OF LENT: This year we will again join with our neighbors at the First United Methodist Church to recognize Lent. This will begin with a joint **Ash Wednesday Service to take place at 6:30 PM on February 18th** in the sanctuary. Then for the next five Wednesdays, beginning February 25th, we will have dinner and a short presentation at 6:00 PM, alternating between the two churches.

SPAGHETTI DINNER (February 15): The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a "Spaghetti Dinner" on **Sunday, February 15th**, immediately following the service in Fellowship Hall. The Church will provide everything. Dinner is on us! Fellowship welcomes one and all!

STRONG FOUNDATIONS CLASSES (February 3-April 28): The next 12-week Class "Affirming Potential" starts **February 3rd and continues through April 28th** and are sponsored by Love, INC. Classes are **Tuesdays from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM** with dinner included in the Anniversary Room. If you or someone you know would like to attend or you'd like to see your Church support this transformational ministry through volunteers, dinner, or incentives, speak to Pastor Scott.

A Memorial Service to honor and celebrate the life of **Donald L. Sanderson** will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on **February 12, 2026 at 2:00 PM** with Pastor Scott Cress officiating.

We honor the life of someone who lived his faith and touched the lives of many. Let us come together to remember his vibrant spirit, cherish the memories we shared, and find some peace in the love and support of one another.



Immediately following the service, the Deacons will provide **light refreshments** for any family and friends who would like to join them for fellowship and to share good memories of our dear friend.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends. His memory will live on through his loved ones, who will forever treasure the memories shared with him.