

## CONTACT US

- **General Information & Other Ministry Contacts:**  
info@hilltran.org / (636) 671-0876
- **Senior/Teaching Pastor:** Harold Long  
pastor@hilltran.org / (314) 422-2395
- **Student Ministries:** (Contact Pastor Harold)
- **Children's Ministry Coordinator:** (Contact Pastor Harold)
- **Worship Leaders:** Monica Haley (636) 222-4779 or  
haleyfamily5@yahoo.com and Chrissy Dunshee (314) 420-7276  
or dcdunshee@yahoo.com
- **Today's Liturgist:** Pam Church

## Transformation UMC

### Contact Info

4869 Scottsdale Creek Blvd  
House Springs, MO 63051

Office hours: Wednesday 9-1:00 PM or by appointment  
B: (636) 671-0876 / email: pastor@hilltran.org

## Worship and Preaching Calendar

- September 24, 2023 - *TPG Series - The People Around Jesus*
- October 1, 2023 - *TPG Series - The Two Lost Sons*
- October 8, 2023 - *TPG Series - Redefining Sin*

## Social Networks

**HUMC Facebook:** @HillsboroUMCMO

**TUMC Facebook:** @TransformationUMCMO

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/c/HillTranMinistries>

**Join Our Faithlife Community:** @<https://faithlife.com/hilltran-umc/>

**Website:** [www.hilltran.org](http://www.hilltran.org)

**Questions:** ask@hilltran.org

**Prayer Request:** prayer@hilltran.org

## Welcome to

## Transformation Church

**September 24, 2023**

### Our Mission

Our mission is to develop Jesus-centered followers committed to sharing God's love in a Jesus-looking way to help change the world.

### Our Vision

Our vision is to create a spiritual community where individuals and families can come as they are, fall in love with Jesus, have a spiritual awakening, and rediscover life.

### Our Purpose

*"We are people helping people experience a Jesus-centered life."*

### Welcome Home

Whatever your faith tradition, beliefs, culture, race, orientation, age, or differing abilities, we hope you find healing and acceptance in our Jesus-centered community. Whatever doubts, questions, or challenges you may have, we hope you will discover the answers you are searching for and experience a Jesus-centered life.

**THE PRODIGAL GOD**  
Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith  
*Sermon Series*

**LIVE** Sunday  
9:00 @ HUMC  
11:00 AM @ TUMC

SUNDAYS, SEPTEMBER 24  
THRU NOVEMBER 5, 2023 [WWW.HILLTRAN.ORG](http://WWW.HILLTRAN.ORG)

## Order of Praise, Worship, and Teaching

**Opening Video:** “Welcome To Church”

**Bringing in the Light Song:** “I’m Alive”

**Welcome and Announcements:** Liturgist

**\*Call to Worship:** Liturgist

**\*Opening Prayer:** Liturgist

**\*Song:** “Give Me Jesus”

**Sharing of Prayer Requests and Joys**

**Sharing The Peace**

**\*Scripture Reading:** - Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 - Liturgist (Please Stand)

**Sermon Bumper Video:** “The Prodigal God”

**Message:** “The People Around Jesus ” - Pastor Harold Long

**Song:** “I Can Only Imagine”

**Offering:** Online @ [www.hilltran.org/online-giving](http://www.hilltran.org/online-giving) (Liturgist)

**\*Sending Forth**

**\*Closing Song:** “Glory Glory, God is Able”

**\* = Please Rise**

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*“Jesus’s teaching consistently attracted the irreligious while offending the Bible-believing, religious people of his day. However, in the main, our churches today do not have this effect. The kind of outsiders Jesus attracted are not attracted to contemporary churches, even our most avant-garde ones. We tend to draw conservative, buttoned-down, moralistic people. The licentious and liberated or the broken and marginal avoid church. That can only mean one thing. If the preaching of our ministers and the practice of our parishioners do not have the same effect on people that Jesus had, then we must not be declaring the same message that Jesus did.” ~ Timothy Keller, The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith.*

## Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 (NIV)

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable:

### The Parable of the Two Sons

<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

<sup>13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ <sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

<sup>31</sup> “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

## Hill-Tran Announcements

- **HUMC & TUMC:** The Hill-Tran Men's group will meet on October 3 & 17, 2023, at 6:30 PM at HUMC. The men meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at 6:30 PM.
- **HUMC & TUMC:** The Hill-Tran Women's Group will meet on October 19, 2023, at 6:00 PM at HUMC.
- **HUMC & TUMC:** Our fall small group growth campaign has started: *"The Prodigal God: Recovering the Heart of the Christian Faith"* by Dr. Tim Keller. *Pastor Harold will lead a group on ZOOM*; here are the dates and times: September 21, 28, October 5, 12, 19, & 26. This group is coed and is held on Thursday nights at 6:30 PM CST. It's not too late to join, and each session will be recorded. *There will be live small group at TUMC on Monday's at 10:00 AM, starting September 18. Please contact Judy Davis to sign up for this small group: 573-405-0211 or jad.davis@hotmail.com. HUMC and Hillside are welcome to join.*
- **HUMC Leadership Meeting:** Monday, November 13 at 6:30 PM.
- **TUMC Leadership Meeting:** Sunday, November 5 after service.
- **Chicken and Dumplings:** October 7 @ HUMC.
- **Joint Service with Potluck afterward:** on October 29, 10:00 AM at TUMC.
- **Joint Service with Potluck afterward:** on December 31, 10:00 AM at HUMC.
- **Christmas Eve:** TUMC @ 6:00 PM & @ HUMC 8:00 PM
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## Hill-Tran Prayer Requests

- Ukraine, North Korea, Russia, NATO, EU, The Middle East, China, USA, Maui fire victims, Hurricane victims, and the rest of the world. The political landscape of America.
- Prayers for our shut-in members. People living on the margins, who are wounded, excluded, and suffering in any way.
- Unhoused in our communities, especially in St. Louis City & Jefferson County. For the countless shooting victims and to an end to violence around the world.
- Everyone impacted by an illnesses or accidents of any kind & Unspoken prayers.
- Lily Wren, John Stewart (deceased), Chris Thebeau, John Stewart (Moran, KS), The Dunshees, Judy Edgar's brother, Maverick, Vicky, Gina, Peggy's friend Debbie, Mark & Kim Reed, Judy Davis, Baby Hazel, Riley, Barb Dotsy, Lynette & Dale, George and Charlotte, Jane & Angela, Lynn Schaffer, Sherry and Jerry Benton, Quilter: Janet and husband, Diana w/dementia, Kim Jellinek, Joan Baumgarth, Vicky and Mike, Larry's brother's grandkids: Alex, Tanner, and Addie, Pastor Thirza, Gary and Sara Wynn, Ron and Barb Sullens, Greg Beiber, Doug Cunningham, Rick Collins, Ray Henry, Brent Pouge, Henry Holden, Steve Bagwell, Marty and Donna, Mary Baumgartner & The Thebeaus, and Collin J. Schneider. Jane Wright, Paige, Louise Wiltz, Rose Slagg, Edna Mae and Norman, Mike and Janice Page, Nomads, Heather, Kari, Louis, Bob AK, & Jerry. Cheryl Campanya, Chris (PTSD), Joleta, All with PD. **Families that lost loved ones:** Dr. Henry, Mickie/Mike, Bradley's, Beardslee's, Shirley & Wyman Cambre, Schaeffer's, Pratt's, Adam's, and others we have not named. **All with MS:** Jeni, Benna, & Joan.

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## Hill-Tran Joys

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- Chicken and Dumplings on October 7, 2023.
- Adam Wainwright 200th win.

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# The People Around Jesus

## Lesson Plan

September 24, 2023

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32 (NIV)

- **The two brothers** represent a \_\_\_\_\_ to be \_\_\_\_\_ from God.
- **The first group** that comes to listen to Jesus were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, and represent the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **The second group** of listeners were the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, who represent the \_\_\_\_\_.
- **The parable of the two sons** takes an extended look at the soul of the \_\_\_\_\_, and climaxes with a powerful pleas for him to \_\_\_\_\_ his \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Jesus is pleading** not so much with \_\_\_\_\_ as with \_\_\_\_\_.
- **It is a mistake**, then, to think that Jesus tells this story primarily to assure \_\_\_\_\_ of God's \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Both groups** are with us today, in the same \_\_\_\_\_ and often in the same \_\_\_\_\_.
- **When Christianity first arose** in the world it was not called a \_\_\_\_\_.
- **The Romans** called Christians \_\_\_\_\_.
- **To most people in our society**, Christianity is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Religious** \_\_\_\_\_ were offended by Jesus, but those \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ observance were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to him.

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- **Jesus's teaching** consistently attracted the \_\_\_\_\_ while \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ people of his day.
- **Christian churches**, even the most contemporary, tend to draw \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ people.
- That can only mean one thing. If the preaching our \_\_\_\_\_ and the practice of our \_\_\_\_\_ do not have the same effect on people that Jesus had, then we must not be \_\_\_\_\_ the same \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus did.
- If our churches aren't appealing to \_\_\_\_\_, they must be full of \_\_\_\_\_.

## Reflection Questions

1. What stood out to you the most from today's message? Why?
2. Did you hear anything that raised questions in your mind?
3. What kind of brother (person) are you? Which brother do you most relate to, the younger or older? Why?
4. Does this revelation about who we are as a church today alarm you? It should.
5. What do you think has to change about the church to be attractive, relevant, and transformative to the outcast in our society?
6. Do you believe it's too late for the church to reconcile its ways and grow in understanding and effectiveness?
7. Why are religion, the CHURCH, and Christians so irrelevant in today's culture? What must we do to become relevant?
8. Do you believe America will become 50% secular by 2070?
9. What do you think will happen to America if it kicks God out and allows relativism and secularism to be the dominant worldviews in our culture?

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