

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:** Jane Holdcraft

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

- January 28, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part IV
- February 04, 2024 - Special Guest Speaker
- February 11, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part V
- February 18, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part VI
- February 26, 2024 - BEattitudes Series I of VIII

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

Questions: ask@hilltran.org

Welcome to

Transformation Church

January 28, 2024

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, past, age, or differing abilities, we hope you find healing and acceptance in our Jesus-centered community. Whatever doubts, questions, or challenges you may have about God and spirituality, we hope you discover the truth about God, have a spiritual awakening, and experience a Jesus-centered life. We are excited you are here and truly wish to connect with you wherever you are in the stream of life.



Order of Praise, Worship, and Teaching

Opening Video: “*Welcome to Church*”

1st Song - Bringing in the Light: “*Hymn 89, vs. 1-2*”

***2nd Song:** “*I’m Alive*”

Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist

Opening Prayer: Liturgist

3rd Song: “*Fear is a Liar*”

Offering Message and Prayer: Liturgist

Giving: Online @ www.hilltran.org/online-giving/

Prayers, Joys, and Concerns: Pastor Harold

Sharing of the Peace: Welcome Your Neighbor

Scripture Reading: - Acts 8:1-40 (NLT)

Sermon Bumper Video: “*Unstoppable*”

Message: “*We Are Seeds of Faith*” - Pastor Harold

4th Song: “*I Can Only Imagine*”

Sending Forth: Pastor Harold

Closing Song: “*Survivor*”

"Inside every seed is the potential for an incredible harvest."
~ **Farrah Gray**

*"Dreams are the seeds of change. Nothing ever grows without a seed,
and nothing ever changes without a dream."*
~ **Debby Boone**

*"Success is... knowing your purpose in life, growing to reach your
maximum potential, and sowing seeds that benefit others."*
~ **John C. Maxwell**

*"Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that
you plant."* ~ **Robert Louis Stevenson**

Reflection Questions

1. Who was Saul and to whose death was he "consenting" (Acts 8:1)?
2. Why were the other Christians "scattered" (Acts 8:1, 4)?
3. What did Saul/Paul say about that later on (see 1 Corinthians 15)?
4. How significant was Philip going to Samaria?
5. Why don't more Jewish Christians preach Christ to the Palestinians today?
6. How often do you and your church go to a racially different neighborhood in your town to share Jesus' love and truth?
7. Could demonic powers be mistaken as Godly powers today?
8. What is meant by "receive the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:15 & 19)?
9. What English word did Simon give us?
10. Would Jesus see any trace of it in your church?
11. How much 'organized' Bible training is required for one to end up evangelizing an entire nation?
12. How have you used seeds of faith to help advance God's Kingdom?
13. How many seeds do you still possess?
14. When are you going to spread your seeds?
15. What are you waiting for?

Hill-Tran Announcements

- **HUMC Women's Group:** will meet on February 15, 2024, at 6:00 PM at HUMC.
- **HUMC Leadership Meeting:** Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 PM
- **TUMC Leadership Meeting:** Sunday, January 28, after service.
- **TUMC Launch Team Meeting:** Monday, February 12, 2023, on ZOOM at 6:00 PM.
- **HUMC Church & Mowing Teams:** We will need folks for the church cleaning and mowing teams in 2024. Please see Tina to serve on the church cleaning team or see Marty to serve on the mowing team. (Teams are on a Rotating Schedule)
- **HUMC Worship Team:** Please see Krystal Van Houten to join the praise and worship team. We would love for you to share your musical gifts and talents with our faith community. We strive to have live musicians and vocalists every week, performing a blend of traditional and contemporary music.
- **HUMC: Chicken and Dumpling Dates:** March 13-16, 2024 & October 23-26, 2024.
- **Easter Sunday (No 5th Sunday Joint Service)**
- **@HUMC: Joint-Service & Potluck:** (*Pastor Harold and Suzie's last Sunday*) at HUMC: June 30, 2024.
- **HUMC & TUMC: New Year Sermon Series "Unstoppable."** We are spending six weeks in the Book of Acts. The focus will be on how the early Christians formed and carried the gospel in a bold and effective way. How can HUMC, receiving a new pastor in July, and TUMC relaunching in 2025, learn and replicate from the early Christians to create thriving communities in the future?

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Hill-Tran Prayer Requests

Praying For _____, ...

- Peace in the Middle East & Ukraine.
 - The unhoused as cold and inclement weather begins.
 - The victims of violence of every kind.
 - The victims of all accidents, diseases, and illnesses.
 - The Bondurant's and all Nomads in mission, The Reiters, The Thebeaus, Mary Baumgarth, Rob's mother Ruby, Mary Lacey's friend Janet Kidd-Grannemann, The Thebeau's new grand baby "Todd David Overland II and their daughter." Joan Baumgarth, Suzie and Harold's friends daughter Shannon, Rick Collins, who are all dealing with cancer treatment.
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Lord, please hear our prayers.

Hill-Tran Joys

- **HUMC & TUMC:** All Audits and Reports Complete.
- **FOOTBALL:** Chiefs in the AFC Championship!
- **HUMC & TUMC:** New DS Jon Thompson.
- **HUMC & TUMC:** Our Message Series "Unstoppable."
- **HUMC & TUMC:** We have dodged severe inclement weather so far, the cold weather a different story.

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Act 8:1-13 (NLT)

8 Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.

Persecution Scatters the Believers

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.² (Some devout men came and buried Stephen with great mourning.)³ But Saul was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.

Philip Preaches in Samaria

⁴ But the believers who were scattered preached the Good News about Jesus wherever they went.⁵ Philip, for example, went to the city of Samaria and told the people there about the Messiah.⁶ Crowds listened intently to Philip because they were eager to hear his message and see the miraculous signs he did.⁷ Many evil [a] spirits were cast out, screaming as they left their victims. And many who had been paralyzed or lame were healed.⁸ So there was great joy in that city.

⁹ A man named Simon had been a sorcerer there for many years, amazing the people of Samaria and claiming to be someone great.¹⁰ Everyone, from the least to the greatest, often spoke of him as “the Great One—the Power of God.”¹¹ They listened closely to him because for a long time he had astounded them with his magic.

¹² But now the people believed Philip’s message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.¹³ Then Simon himself believed and was baptized. He began following Philip wherever he went, and he was amazed by the signs and great miracles Philip performed.

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Act 8:14-28 (NLT)

¹⁴ When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. ¹⁵ As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.

¹⁸ When Simon saw that the Spirit was given when the apostles laid their hands on people, he offered them money to buy this power. ¹⁹ "Let me have this power, too," he exclaimed, "so that when I lay my hands on people, they will receive the Holy Spirit!"

²⁰ But Peter replied, "May your money be destroyed with you for thinking God's gift can be bought! ²¹ You can have no part in this, for your heart is not right with God. ²² Repent of your wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive your evil thoughts, ²³ for I can see that you are full of bitter jealousy and are held captive by sin."

²⁴ "Pray to the Lord for me," Simon exclaimed, "that these terrible things you've said won't happen to me!"

²⁵ After testifying and preaching the word of the Lord in Samaria, Peter and John returned to Jerusalem. And they stopped in many Samaritan villages along the way to preach the Good News.

Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch

²⁶ As for Philip, an angel of the Lord said to him, "Go south ^b down the desert road that runs from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and he met the treasurer of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under the Kandake, the queen of Ethiopia. The eunuch had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and he was now returning. Seated in his carriage, he was reading aloud from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.”

³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?”

³¹ The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” And he urged Philip to come up into the carriage and sit with him.

³² The passage of Scripture he had been reading was this:

“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter.
And as a lamb is silent before the shearers,
he did not open his mouth.

³³ He was humiliated and received no justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth.”^[c]

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, was the prophet talking about himself or someone else?” ³⁵ So beginning with this same Scripture, Philip told him the Good News about Jesus.

³⁶ As they rode along, they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “Look! There’s some water! Why can’t I be baptized?”^[d] ³⁸ He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

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