

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 07, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part I
- January 14, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part II
- January 21, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part III
- January 28, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part IV
- February 04, 2024 - Unstoppable Six-Part Series on Acts, Part V

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 7, 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: “*New Year and New Beginnings*”

1st Song: “*Surely the Presence of the Lord*” TUHM #328

Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist

Giving Message and Prayer:

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

***Call To Worship:** Liturgist

***Opening Prayer:** Liturgist

***2nd Song:** “*This is Amazing Grace*”

***3rd Song:** “*All My Hope*”

Prayers, Joys, and Concerns: Pastor Harold

Sharing of the Peace: Pastor Harold

Scripture Reading: - Acts 1:1-26 (NLT)

Sermon Bumper Video: “*Unstoppable*”

Message: “*The Promise, Ascension, and New Disciple*”

- Pastor Harold

Communion: (We use grape juice and bread—gluten free available)

4th Song: “*I Will Rise*”

***Sending Forth:** Pastor Harold

***Closing Song—5th Song:** “*Glory Glory God is Able*”

*** = Please Rise in Posture**

"Ascensions into heaven are like falling leaves sad and happy all at the same time Going away isn't really sad especially when your going enables a new kind of presence to be born."

~ Ernest Hemingway

Study & Reflection Questions

1. Who wrote the Book of Acts? Acts 1:1-2; Luke 1:1-4 (The 'we narratives - Acts 16:10-17; 20:5 - 21:18; 27:1 - 28:16;), Paul refers to Luke (Col. 4:14; 2 Tim 4:11).
2. Which other Books did he write in the bible?
3. What striking similarities can you see between the beginning of Jesus ministry in the gospel of Luke and the start of the Apostles ministry in Acts?
Luke 3:21-22, Acts 1:7-8, Acts 2:1-3.
4. Was Luke one of the twelve disciples of Jesus?
Luke 6:12-16.
5. Do you have to be anyone 'special' to be used by God?
Discuss
6. Who did Jesus appear to during the 40 days after his resurrection?
Acts 1:3; 1 Corinthians 15:1-9; John 20:11-18; John 20:19-31; John 21: 1-14.
7. Try and give an estimate of how many people Jesus appeared to after his resurrection? Why is Jesus resurrection so important?
8. What did Jesus mean by saying?
".. you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit"? Acts 1:5
9. What was the condition of the disciples as they waited for the "Promise of the father"? Acts 1:1-14
10. Judas "fell" from his ministry (Acts 1:25).
Is it possible for a Christian to "fall away" from the truth of the Gospel?
11. 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 4:10 17. What do you think was the most important factor that lead to the choosing of Matthias?
Acts 1:23-26

Hill-Tran Announcements

- **HUMC Women’s Group:** will meet on January 18, 2024, at 6:00 PM at HUMC.
- **HUMC Leadership Meeting:** Thursday, January 25, at 6:30 PM
- **TUMC Leadership Meeting:** Sunday, January 14, after service.
- **TUMC Launch Team Meeting:** Monday, January 8, 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.
- **@TUMC: Joint–Service & Potluck:** *(The last one at TUMC)* on March 31, 2024
- **@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.
 - Japan Earthquake and plane crash victims.
 - The unhoused as cold and inclement weather begins.
 - The victims of violence of every kind.
 - Everyone to better replicate the life of Jesus in 2024.
 - The victims of all accidents, diseases, and illnesses.
 - Everyone who is struggling at the start of the New Year.
 - The Bondurant's and all Nomads in mission.
 - New beginnings for HUMC & TUMC in 2024.
 - The Church family with the loss of a family member.
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Lord, please hear our prayers.

Hill-Tran Joys

- **HUMC & TUMC:** New Year & New Beginnings
- **FOOTBALL:** Mizzou wins the Cotton Bowl. The Kansas City Chiefs clinch the AFC West and playoff birth.
- **HUMC:** We can finally drink the water.
- **HUMC & TUMC:** New Message Series “Unstoppable.”
- **HUMC & TUMC:** We have dodged severe inclement weather so far.

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Acts 1:1-11 (NLT)

The Promise of the Holy Spirit

1 In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach ²until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. ³During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

⁴Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. ⁵John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

The Ascension of Jesus

⁶So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?”

⁷He replied, “The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

⁹After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. ¹⁰As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹“Men of Galilee,” they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”

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Acts 1:12-26 (NLT)

Matthias Replaces Judas

¹² Then the apostles returned to Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives, a distance of half a mile. ¹³ When they arrived, they went to the upstairs room of the house where they were staying.

Here are the names of those who were present: Peter, John, James, Andrew, Philip, Thomas, Bartholomew, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Simon (the zealot), and Judas (son of James). ¹⁴ They all met together and were constantly united in prayer, along with Mary the mother of Jesus, several other women, and the brothers of Jesus.

¹⁵ During this time, when about 120 believers were together in one place, Peter stood up and addressed them. ¹⁶ “Brothers,” he said, “the Scriptures had to be fulfilled concerning Judas, who guided those who arrested Jesus. This was predicted long ago by the Holy Spirit, speaking through King David. ¹⁷ Judas was one of us and shared in the ministry with us.”

¹⁸ (Judas had bought a field with the money he received for his treachery. Falling headfirst there, his body split open, spilling out all his intestines. ¹⁹ The news of his death spread to all the people of Jerusalem, and they gave the place the Aramaic name *Akeldama*, which means “Field of Blood.”)

²⁰ Peter continued, “This was written in the book of Psalms, where it says, ‘Let his home become desolate, with no one living in it.’ It also says, ‘Let someone else take his position.’

²¹ “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus— ²² from the time he was baptized by John until the day he was taken from us. Whoever is chosen will join us as a witness of Jesus’ resurrection.”

²³ So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias. ²⁴ Then they all prayed, “O Lord, you know every heart. Show us which of these men you have chosen ²⁵ as an apostle to replace Judas in this ministry, for he has deserted us and gone where he belongs.” ²⁶ Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven.

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