

The Circuit Rider



Aug. 2026
Volume 55
Issue 8

Hondo Methodist Church

*"Growing in GOD's Grace
Rooted in HIS Word"*

1006 16th Street
Hondo, Texas 78861

(830) 584.0300

office@hondo.church

www.hondo.church

Office Hours...

Monday - Thursday
8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Church Staff...

Pastor

Rev. J. Paul Bruhn
pastorbruhn@live.com

Family Ministries Director

Nihar Judah
familyministries
@hondo.church

Choir Director

Leon Steward

Office Manager

Marion Bruhn
office@hondo.church

Custodians

Jessica Gomez

Nursery

Lupe Diaz
Sarah Holley

May grace and
peace be multiplied
to you in the
knowledge of God
and of Jesus our
Lord. 2 Peter 1:2

The Pastor's Pondering August 2026

Rev. J. Paul Bruhn



Here I am sitting in the airplane on my way back from Louisville, Kentucky as dozens of more travelers are moving around the cabin in an effort to find their assigned seat. This — originally Texas airline — lately redesigned their seat assignment procedure.

Supposedly, everything is better and faster.

I might disagree, yet it is beneficial for all parties to follow the new procedure so everybody can continue on their way home.

To adapt is the ability that has allowed humanity to survive difficult and ever-changing surroundings for thousands if not eons of years. One might desire past ways of life, yet we are required to adapt should we wish to survive and maybe even thrive.

My friend Jim and I spent last week at a special training and conference focused on church safety—and I do not mean learning how to apply bandages after someone gets a paper cut from a bulletin. Instead, we learned how to recognize potential threats to our worshiping community. For example, did you know that 78% of all violent encounters in a church begin in the parking lot? Attentive, friendly greeters walking the blacktop square north of our sanctuary can help ensure that everyone inside is able to draw close to our Great I AM without interruption.

We learned how simple steps can protect our Sunday School classes in case an aggressor intends to do harm to the congregants. We learned about hardening soft targets and what it means to gather in a hard corner.

We were inquiring about ways to make sure that our church remains a place where people are safe. As challenges develop, we adjust to ever changing circumstances. A few years ago, we were told we needed to train our volunteers and background check everyone that might come in contact with children, youth, and/or vulnerable adults. The rule of two adults for every youth

group or children's Sunday School class seemed an uncircumventable obstacle. We tackled the challenge, made ourselves knowledgeable and informed our congregation. Training our volunteers is now just part of daily living. We are blessed that we have the support of our church members for our ministry.

Circumstances have changed again and we will need your prayers and support as we adjust. Between 1999 and 2024 there were over 2,000 attacks on houses of worship. You can help,

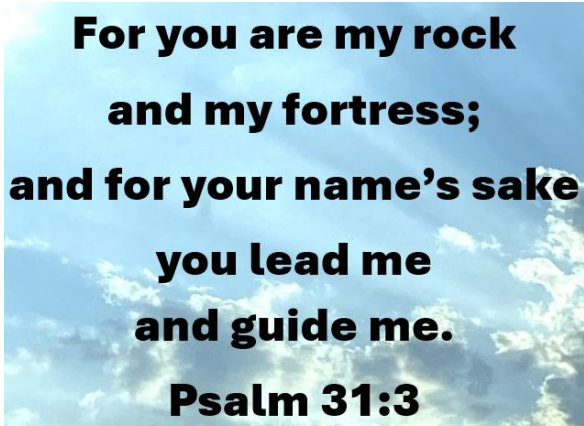
1. See something — say something! If you observe something out of the ordinary let the office or the ushers know.
2. Help us determine how we can “harden” our outside structure, e.g. concrete boulders in front of our entrances, concrete benches that are firmly anchored in the ground, concrete flower planters.
3. Prayerfully consider if you would like to be trained as an unarmed or armed responder.

Finally, I want to leave you with a passage from the Book of Nehemiah, when they had to protect themselves against a possible attack, “Nevertheless we made our prayer to our God, and because of them we set a watch against them day and night.” (Nehemiah 4:9, NKJV) Let's be prepared and be wise while trusting in the LORD.

Keep the faith and stay safe!

Pastor J. Paul <><

PS: “The horse is prepared for the day of battle,
but victory belongs to the LORD.” (Proverbs 21:31, NASB'95)



**For you are my rock
and my fortress;
and for your name's sake
you lead me
and guide me.
Psalm 31:3**

Memorials

Received last month

IN MEMORY OF:

Yvonne Nations

by

Marcy Rothe

Jack & Beverly Gruber

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries
**Rooted in Him, Shining for the World —
A Summer to Remember**

*"I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you,
you will bear much fruit." — John 15:5*



What a summer it has been. To God be all the glory. As we reflect on this beautiful summer of ministry, our hearts are overflowing with gratitude — not only for what was accomplished, but for every little face, every song sung, every prayer whispered, and every seed of faith planted in the hearts of our children.

The Summer House Program

Week after week, between **40 to 50 children** walked through our doors, and week after week, **Jesus showed up**. Our Summer House Program became more than a program; it became a place where kids experienced the love of Jesus in real and tangible ways. At our closing day, **8 to 10 children** stood before our pastor to receive anointing and certificates of participation — a precious moment of recognition, not just for what they learned, but for who they are. They were reminded of a truth that will carry them through their entire lives: **they are the sheep of our Heavenly Shepherd, and He knows each one by name.**



Illumination Station Vacation Bible School

We had planned five days. God had something even more powerful in store. Due to severe weather conditions and flood warnings, we prayerfully made the decision to cancel two days of VBS — because the safety of our children and our incredible volunteers always comes first. And yet, in just three days, God moved in a mighty way.

Between **85 and 91 children** gathered each day, filling the room with energy, laughter, and the unmistakable presence of the Holy Spirit. Those three days were packed with **powerful Bible lessons** that brought God's Word to life, **Creative crafts** that gave little hands a way to express big

faith, **Fun games** full of joy and connection, **Worship sessions** that taught young hearts to praise, **Yummy snacks** that fueled both body and spirit. And then there was the **Glow in the Dark Party**. In a room lit with neon glow, children danced and worshipped freely

Continues next page...

Note from the Director of Family Ministries continues



Our Final Day Was Epic

On our last day, the atmosphere shifted into something holy. After hearing the Gospel message of **Jesus' finished work on the cross and His resurrection power**, our children responded with beautiful, heartfelt prayers — words that rose like incense before the throne of God. Each child received prayers of blessing, spoken over their lives with love and intention.

Our closing ceremony welcomed parents into that sacred space where children were worshipping and singing songs to Jesus, and what followed was sweet fellowship —

a lunch shared together, family by family, as one community. Parents saw what God had built, and they saw it in the eyes of their children.

The Work Continues — Stay Connected to the Vine

The good work the Lord has started, He will carry it to completion — and so will we. In a world that is constantly pulling our children in every direction, it is more important than ever that they understand one foundational truth: **Jesus is the Vine, and we are the branches**. Apart from Him, we can do nothing. But in Him, we bear fruit that lasts.

This summer was not just a program. It was a declaration — that our children matter, their faith matters, and this ministry will keep shining for Jesus every single week of the year. Thank you to every volunteer, every parent, every supporter, and every child who made this summer extraordinary.

You are loved.

You are seen.

And the best is still ahead.

— With a full and grateful heart,
Nihar Judah

Director of Family Ministries HMC
familyministries@hondo.church



Hondo Methodist Women

We will meet at the home of Gina King
on August 5th at 9:30am.

If you would like to carpool please meet
at the church at 8:50am.

For the program we will continue to study
Twelve Extraordinary Women of the Bible.

Our focus will be Mary Magdalene.

All women are welcome to join us.

We look forward to seeing everyone on
August 5th!

Dear friends at Hondo Methodist

Thank you so much for participating in Restore
Reproductive Health's Baby Bottle Fundraiser.
You raise more than two thousand dollars.

Your Support of the vital services we provide to
assist people in difficult situations is so
appreciated and truly helps us make a
difference in their lives.

Please consider dropping by our office for a tour
or to volunteer in our center.

Gratefully, Diane Cosgrove

Food Drive MCFP

ITEMS TO DONATE:

Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
Ramen Noodles
Spaghetti Noodles
1lb Bag Rice
Any Dry Pasta
1lb Bag Pinto Beans
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Dry Cereal or Oatmeal
Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken
Canned Chili with Beans
Spam
Spaghetti Sauce
Vegetable Oil 16oz
Flour Tortilla Mix
Sugar 2lbs
Canned Vegetables (Corn,
Green Beans, Peas, Potatoes)
4 pack Toilet Paper
Small Dish Soap
Bar Soap
PLEASE NO CANNED BEANS

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank y'all so much for the scholarship.
It really helps a lot and I am so grateful.
I also want to say thank you for the gift
card I received during finals!

That was very thoughtful and
I am so blessed to have everyone's
support from the church during
my college journey.

Sincerely,
Vivian Snell

Save the Date

Mid-Texas GMC Women's Conference
will be held in Corpus and Dallas



PLEASE JOIN US AT ONE OF THESE LOCATIONS

CORPUS CHRISTI
NOV. 7, 2026

DALLAS
NOV. 14, 2026

Our Prayer Concerns

Shannon Anna
Betty Barlow
Billie Bell
Karen Callis
Carla Carlton
Glenn Carlton
Grayson Cowart
Richard Crosby
Arelli Cruz
Kathy Ferrarini
Jeff Friesenhahn
Ray Gomez
Pearson Hackebeil
Nola Hanson
Alice Harris
Angie Hawley
Vickie Hill
Martha Holcomb
Georgia King
Jed Knowlton
Mason Plummer
Meleah Plummer
Christine Price
Connie Shullanberger
Debbie Southwell
Carolyn & Bob Taylor
Lee Taylor
Joleen Nixon Torres
Joy Trimble
Dade Turner
Kirk Van de Walle
Haley Young

Our Troops:

Erik Arias
Joshua Bruhn
William E. Bryant
Logan Dean
Bryan Franklin
Joe Frank Garcia, III
J. J. Garcia
Roman Hernandez
Logan Petersen

Worship Assistants

Liturgists

Aug. 2 Cassie Aelvoet
Aug. 9 JoLynn Bragg
Aug. 16 Jan Weems
Aug. 23 Brenda Vavricek
Aug. 30 Carrie Self

Counters

Aug. 2 Vince Gilliam
Aug. 9 Chad Elder
Aug. 16
Aug. 23 Sherry Hartnett
Aug. 30

Counters

August 2
August 9 Tricia Boll
August 16
August 23 Carrie Self
August 30

Children's Church

August 2 Nihar Judah
August 9 Marcy Rothe
August 16
August 23 Sandy Callis
August 30

Nursing Home:

Ralph Gilliam
Johnny Wilson
Albert Castro (Cast.)
Florine Carman (SA)
Judith Kuykendall (SA)
Sterling Martin (SA)

Our 2026 Budget is \$471,875.
We have received
GF Pledges for \$73,481.56
from 13 family units

Financial Report

June 2026

General Fund: \$ 192,004.61
Income: + \$ 21,430.30
Expense: - \$ 38,987.56
Transf. f BF + \$ 5,480.00
Transf. S CD - \$ 67,600.08
Balance: \$ 112,327.27

General F. CD : \$ 40,000.00
Scholarship CD \$ 70,500.00
Balance: \$ 110,500.00

Building Fund: \$ 25,539.76
Income: + \$ 50.00
Expense: - \$ 840.00
Transf. to GF - \$ 5,480.00
Balance: \$ 19,269.76

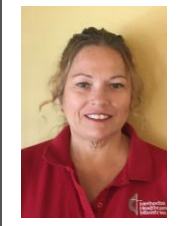
Memorial: \$ 43,483.51
Income: + \$ 210.00
Transf. S CD - \$ 700.00
Balance: \$ 42,993.51

Altar Fund: \$ 10,728.47
Transf. S CD - \$ 2,199.92
Balance: \$ 8,528.55

Worship Attendance

June 28 82
July 5 68
July 12 77
July 19 78
July 26 67

Wesley Nurse Corner



Healthy Living Tips for August

As your church nurse, I encourage everyone to make small, healthy choices that have a lasting impact.

- Stay hydrated, especially during the summer heat.
- Eat colorful fruits and vegetables every day.
- Stay active by walking, gardening, or enjoying outdoor activities.
- Get 7–9 hours of restful sleep each night.
- Protect your skin by using sunscreen and seeking shade during peak sunlight.
- Schedule annual wellness visits and preventive screenings if you are due.
- Pray daily and seek God's peace to reduce stress and anxiety.

August often marks a season of transition. Summer begins to wind down, children return to school, routines change, and many families prepare for a busier schedule. As we enter this new season, it is a wonderful time to reflect on how we care for the whole person—body, mind, and spirit.

As Christians, we understand that our health is more than physical wellness.

God calls us to be faithful stewards of the bodies He has entrusted to us (1 Corinthians 6:19–20). Caring for ourselves allows us to better serve our families, our church, and our community.

I will be starting a GriefShare soon. Please reach out if interested.

Thank you for all you do to support me and the Wesley Nurse Program!!

God Bless,

Barbara Brennan-West RN Wesley Nurse

Telehealth & Visit by Appointment

Hours: M-F 8am – 5pm

Call: 830-584-1760

"Hondo Area Big Event 2026"

'Hammering Home the Love of God'

The Big Event will be held October 2-3, 2026 and is organized by First Baptist Church Hondo.

The plan is to send out work crews that can do jobs such as minor repairs and carpentry, install fixtures, doors, windows, painting, yard clean-up, cleaning, etc.

Projects Applications are due August 14,

Projects will be evaluated during the week of August 24th, 2024

Project will be selected based on need, cost and available labor.

If you can help plan, or help either or both days, maybe even as team leader, please fill out a Volunteer form preferably before August 14.



Project Appl.



Volunteer Appl.

Flood Buckets Report

Hondo Methodist Church has received 759 flood buckets from Global Methodist Churches in Breckenridge, Arlington, Lorena, Corpus Christi, Pearsall and Kerrville.

With the help of Leon S., Jamie J., Jim C., Robert S., Bruce M., Brenda V., and Barb W. we brought them to Sabinal (138), Batesville (66), Uvalde (461), and Carrizo Springs (94).

Thank you for all who helped.

Grateful we could be a blessing in a time of need. Marion



Global Methodist Church News

General Conference 2026 Prayer Guides:

40 Day Prayer Guide: July 15 – August 23

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/4829cd2f/files/uploaded/GenCon2026-40Day+Prayer+Guide-EN-FORMATTED.pdf>

14 Day Prayer Guide: August 24- Sep. 6

<https://irp.cdn-website.com/4829cd2f/files/uploaded/14DayPrayerGuide-ENGLISH-GC26.pdf>

They are in the prayer corner in the Chapel

Mid Texas:

Spreading Scriptural Holiness Webinar Recording by Bishop Leah Gregory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA32ea-iYM>

Hand-out: <https://storage2.snappages.site/ZW35F3/assets/files/MidTexas-Spreading-Scriptural-Holiness-H-74.pdf>



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*Whosoever will reign
 with Christ
 in heaven must have
 Christ reigning in him
 on earth.*
John Wesley



August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship, C. + Kid's Church	3	4	5 HMW meets at 9:30 AM at G. King 6 PM Choir	6 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	7	8
9 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church 4:30 WwJesus Gath. Western Heritage C. C. Pipe Creek	10	11	12 6 PM Choir	13 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	14	15
16 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	17 Education C. Meeting 5:30PM office	18 B.o.Trustees Meeting 6PM office	19 Newsletter Deadline 6 PM Choir	20 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	21	22
23 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	24	25 Newsletter Prep & Mail 1-3 FH WN Resource Meeting	26 6 PM Choir	27 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	28	29
30 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	31					



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Volunteers Needed

To revive Communion to the Homebound we are looking for a pair or two of people willing to go take (or already have) the Ministry-Safe training and visit Homebound on a monthly basis. Please contact the office.

*The Newsletter can be seen
in full COLOR online at
www.hondo.church*

San Antonio Food Bank

Next Food Bank Distribution will be
Aug. 11, 2026, at the Fairground.
Volunteers start at 7:30AM
**Clients must pre-register
by calling the
SAFB at 210-431-8326.**

Walking With Jesus

Reunion Group

We have a Men's group Wednesday's
at 7PM in the Seeker Class.
The Women's group will meet the first
Monday of the month at noon.

Gathering

Aug. 4:30 PM at Western Heritage
Cowboy Church Pipe Creek

Methodist Websites:

Hondo Methodist Church
www.hondo.church

Mid Texas Conference GMC
<https://midtexasgmc.org/>

Global Methodist Church
<https://globalmethodist.org/>

General Conference Website
<https://www.beautyofholiness2026.org/>