

The Circuit Rider



July 2026
Volume 55
Issue 7

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

**For the Lord is good
and his love
endures forever;
his faithfulness
continues through
all generations.**

Psalm 100:5

The Pastor's Pondering Rev. J. Paul Bruhn



By the grace of GOD we will have our Vacation Bible School "Illumination Station" and hope to reach about 70 children – keep praying, not only for the children, but also for their guardians and our wonderful volunteers.

We may have a limited number of days that we can reach and direct the hearts of the children, but it is the constant example of the parents and guardians that truly create the child's path to our Savior and LORD Jesus Christ, in the way that they – the adults – behave and bring the young ones alongside on their own journey nearer and closer to GOD.

Just the other day I came across some biographical notes of a young gentleman. Let's call him Freddy. Freddy was born into a family of an industrious father and a loving and caring mother. Freddy's little sister died unexpectedly, and his mother responded with despair and deep depression. You might know someone in your own sphere of influence that may have similar experiences.

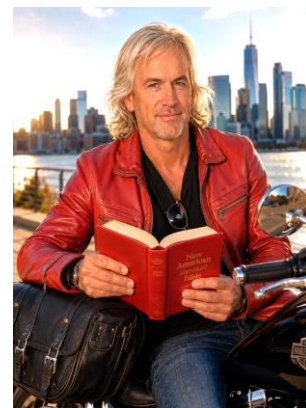
Freddy's mom suffered her depression for several years until she attended a live worship service in which she rededicated her life to Jesus. Putting her newfound faith into practice she prayed and studied her Bible faithfully, setting an example for her son Freddy and encouraged him to do the same.

Needless to say, that Freddy's classmates did not share his enthusiasm for the Christian faith – so much for public schools – and he was harassed quite frequently. Instead of living his faith 'more private' Freddy decided to dive deeper into the word of God. A caring pastor took Freddy under his wings and encouraged him to explore some rather Methodist means of grace. He began meeting weekly with three other teenage men for accountability. The pastor saw potential in this apprentice of the Christian faith and raised him up to become a youth group leader for about 25 individuals.

Freddy found an employer that shared his love for Jesus, and he flourished in this supportive Christian work environment. It did not take very long and Freddy finally 'surrendered to ministry' – a rather Baptist term describing that an individual knows themselves called to fulltime ministry.

Up to this point all that I shared with you could have happened in the 18th, 19th, 20th, or 21st century. The gentleman that I am talking about is the Reverend Francis Asbury, born August 21, 1745, in England and finishing his life on earth on March 31, 1816, at the age of 70.

Francis had such a great relationship with his employer Thomas Foxall that he joined them when they moved to the colonies. He served as



a lay preacher and circuitrider in the thirteen colonies / United States of America until Thomas Coke and Philip Otterbein – properly authorized by the founder of Methodism the Reverend John Wesley – ordained Francis at the Christmas Conference of 1784 a Deacon, an Elder, and consecrated him as General Superintendent / Bishop of the Methodist on the American continent.

Under his leadership the Methodist movement grew from 1,200 to 214,000, ordaining approximately 700 preachers he rode an average of 6,000 miles a year, in his later years replacing the saddle with a carriage.

It all started with Francis' mother guiding him to pray, studying the Bible, attending church, and putting his discipleship first when it came to prioritizing his time, energy, and resources to the glory of God. Without Francis no Methodist structure for the disseminating of the Gospel, no Arican Methodist Episcopal Church, and no Peter Cartwright – his life's story is a cliff-hanger for another day.

My urgent plea is for all the parents and grandparents in our church to reconsider their priorities and to raise up their children in the fear of the LORD and putting Christ first. Y'all might want to read Deuteronomy 6: 1-9, NASB 1995:

Now this is the **commandment**, the statutes and the judgments which the Lord your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, **so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the Lord your God**, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged. O Israel, you should listen and be careful to do it, that it may be well with you and that you may multiply greatly, just as the Lord, the God of your fathers, has promised you, in a land flowing with milk and honey.

Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall **teach** them diligently to your sons and shall **talk** of them when you **sit** in your house and when you **walk** by the way and when you **lie down** and when you **rise up**. You shall **bind** them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead. You shall **write** them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Emphasis mine)

May the LORD bless you richly and may you walk closer to Him every day.

SHALOM

Pastor J. Paul Bruhn <><

Memorials

Received last month

IN MEMORY OF:

Vicky Gilliam

by

Douglas & Laura Faseler
Bill & Helen Halliburton
M.G. & Denise McWilliams
Marcy Rothe

Lance Griffin

by

Evelyn Brucks
Sarah Gray
Bill & Helen Halliburton
M.G. & Denise McWilliams
Marcy Rothe
Tad & Bette Wooten

Deborah Heyen Barnett

by

The Class of 1968

Berta Neumann

by

Mike & Janet Weems
Marcy Rothe

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



Are We Ready When They Ask?

Picture this.

It's a Tuesday evening. Dinner is done, the dishes are piling up, homework is barely finished, and the day has been — like most days — *a lot*.

You're tucking your child into bed, ready to finally exhale, when they look up at you with those wide, earnest eyes and ask quietly...

"Mom... does God really know who I am?"

And in that moment, everything else fades. The noise, the rush, the to-do list — none of it matters. Because your child just opened a door. A sacred, tender, once-in-a-moment door.

And all you want — with everything in you — is to be ready to walk through it with them.

The World They're Growing Up In

We don't need to tell you that parenting today is *not easy*. You already know. The world your children are navigating is fast, loud, and full of voices — all competing for their attention, their identity, and ultimately, their heart. And in the middle of all of that, **you are doing your best**. We see that. We honor that.

But we also believe — with great tenderness and love — that there is something your child carries within them that no school, no sport, no screen, and no achievement can ever truly satisfy. It's a longing to be *known*. To be *loved without condition*. To have a purpose that is bigger than themselves.

The Christian faith isn't just a set of rules or a Sunday morning tradition. It is a **living relationship** — one that shapes how our children see themselves, how they treat others, how they face hard days, and how they understand what this life is truly for. These are not small things. These are **eternal things**

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." — 3 John 1:4

There's a beautiful old image of a father who gets up early every morning, long before the house is awake, and sits by the window with his Bible and a cup of coffee. He never announced it. He never made a sermon out of it. He just... did it. Faithfully. Quietly. Years later, his grown daughter was asked what shaped her faith the most. Without hesitation she said,

"I used to sneak down the hallway just to watch my dad read his Bible in the early morning light. I never forgot that image. It told me everything I needed to know — that God was real to him. And slowly, He became real to me too."

No speech. No pressure. Just a life quietly lived.

"These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." — Deuteronomy 6:6–7

Continues next page...

Note from the Director of Family Ministries continues

Faith passed down through family is rarely loud. It is mostly **gentle, consistent, and present.**

As your church family, we want you to know — **we are not here to add pressure to your already full plate.** We are here to *walk alongside you.* To be a place of rest, of community, and of truth — for you *and* for your children.

We know life has seasons. Schedules get crowded. Weekends fill up faster than we ever expect. And somewhere in the beautiful, exhausting busyness of raising a family, it can become harder and harder to carve out that space — the space to bring your little ones into a community where they are truly seen, truly known, and truly loved in the name of Jesus.

We feel that. And we want you to know — **our doors are not just open, they are waiting.**

Because here is something we deeply believe: **raising children in faith was never meant to be a solo journey.** It was always meant to be communal — a village of believers, linking arms around the next generation together. And when the *whole family* walks in together? Something shifts in a child's heart that simply cannot be replicated anywhere else. They take mental notes in ways we often don't realize. They are watching you. And **your presence — just showing up — speaks a thousand quiet sermons.**

So here is a question we ask — with the most open and loving arms we have — **how can we help?** What would make it easier for your family to connect? What barriers can we help remove? What would make this church feel more like *home* for you and your children?

Because this — right here, this church family — is one of the greatest gifts we can give our kids.

And Now — Some Wonderful News!

VBS 2025 is HERE!

"Illumination Station" Jesus — The Light of the World!

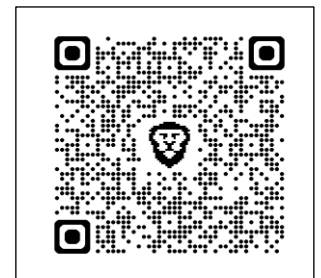
July 13-17th 9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Hondo Methodist Church

Age group- 4-12 Years Register Now!

Your child deserves this. And honestly? So do you — a whole week of watching them come home glowing, singing, and talking about Jesus

Bring your kids. Bring your neighbor's kids. Bring everyone's kids. Let's fill this place with light — because that is exactly what it was made for.



Nihar Judah

Director of Family Ministries HMC

familyministries@hondo.church

Hondo Methodist Women

The "Card Again" crafting and luncheon were a great success. And we have some nice pictures to publish.

Upcycled greeting cards are available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall for \$0.50 each.

There is no meeting in July.
Our next meeting will be August 6.



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

Save the Date

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

Anew
2026

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
Jeff Friesenhahn
Ray Gomez
Pearson Hackebeit
Nola Hanson
Alice Harris
Angie Hawley
Linda Hayes
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

July 5 Chris Kailipaka
July 12 Janet Weems
July 19 Skie Rozyskie
July 26 Bo Buescher

Counters

July 5 Bob Hart
July 12 Lorine Hackebeit
July 19 Brenda Vavricek
July 26 Sherry Hartnett

Counters

July 5 Brenda Vavricek
July 12 Skie Rozyskie
July 19 Bo Buescher
July 26 Carrie Self

Children's Church

July 5 Nihar Judah
July 12 Tammy Lynch
July 19 Nihar Judah
July 26 Sandy Callis

Worship Attendance

May 31 81
June 7 73
June 14 78
June 21 74

Nursing Home:

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

Financial Report

May 2026

General Fund: \$ 194,680.52
Income: + \$ 25,640.00
Expense: - \$ 28,315.91
Balance: \$ 192,004.61

General F. CDs: \$ 40,000.00
Balance: \$ 40,000.00

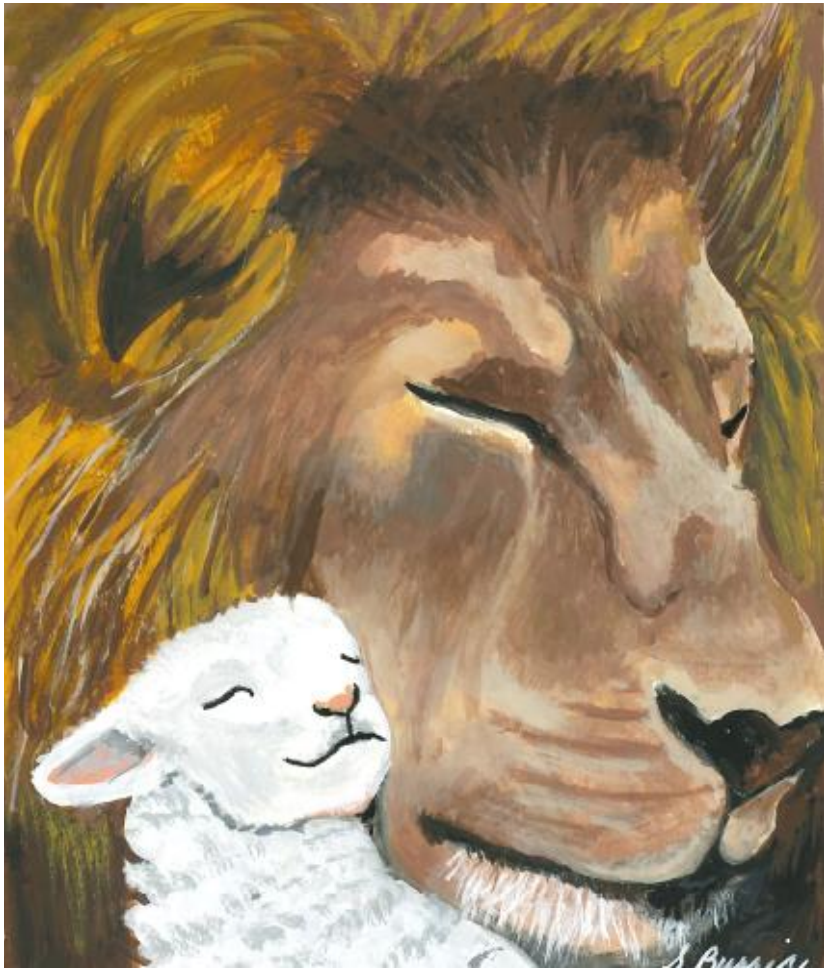
Building Fund: \$ 18,834.76
Income: + \$ 6,830.00
Expense: - \$ 125.00
Balance: \$ 25,539.76

Memorial: \$ 41,495.50
Income: + \$ 1,988.01
Balance: \$ 43,483.51

Altar Fund: \$ 10,728.47
Balance: \$ 10,728.47

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





Dear Church Family,

It is with sadness that Jack and I are going to be leaving Hondo Methodist Church. This church has blessed us in so many ways, and we are grateful. Jack and I have been traveling to church each Sunday from San Antonio for the past five years, and the drive has become more difficult each year. Also, we cannot participate as much as we once did because of the distance. We have actively been searching for another global methodist church in San Antonio. We are trusting in God's plan for us. Our new church will be Northwest Global Methodist Church which is approximately five miles from where we live. We know we will be blessed in this new church just as we were blessed in Hondo Methodist Church.

With a grateful heart,
Jack & Sondra

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>

Scholarships 2026

Jackie Stoner Scholarship to
Karman Duron

Nancy Groff Memorial &
HMC Scholarship to
Vivian Snell

HMC Scholarships to
Jackson Cross
Kayleigh Lewis
Nicolas Riff
Sabrina Rodriguez

Thank you for the Scholarship
It means a lot to me. I am very
blessed to have an amazing
Church family.

Thank you for everything that
y'all have done for me since
I was 2,

Thank y'all again! God Bless
Karman

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I am truly honored and grateful to have been
selected as a recipient of this scholarship.

Thank you for your generosity and for investing in
my education and future.

Receiving this scholarship means so much to me
and my family. Your support will help ease the
financial burden of pursuing my educational goals
and allow me to focus on achieving academic
success. I am committed to working hard, making
the most of this opportunity, and striving to make
a positive impact in my community.

I would also like to thank God for this blessing and
for guiding me throughout my educational journey.
I am sincerely appreciative of your confidence in
my potential and your commitment to helping
students succeed.

Thank you again for your generosity and support.
I am honored to be a recipient of this scholarship
and will do my best to make you proud.

Sincerely,

Xavier Gonzales

Dear Church Family,
Thank you very much
for the Chick-Fil-A gift
card during finals week.
You always know the
perfect thing we need at
this busy time. We
appreciate all of your
support as we continue
our education
Love Katy & Kelly Self

*Reflect
His
Love
And
Shine*



"Hondo Area Big Event 2026"

'Hammering Home the Love of God'

October 2-3, 2026 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 team leader,
Please fill out a Volunteer form preferably
before August 14.



Project Appl.



Volunteer Appl.



Hondo Methodist Church

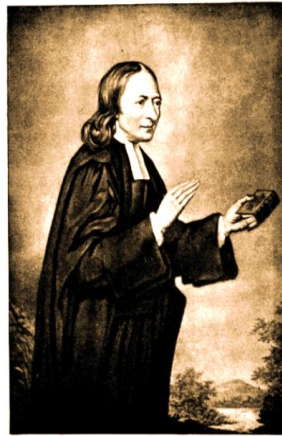
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THE 'PREACHING' PORTRAIT OF JOHN WESLEY
From a mezzotint by Houdou, after the painting by John Russell, R.A., 1773

No man should
dream of going
to heaven by any
faith that can not
produce holiness

John Wesley

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6 PM Choir	2 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	3	4 Happy 250th Birthday U.S.A.
5 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship, C. + Kid's Church	6	7 Summer House 9:30-12:30	8 6 PM Choir	9 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	10	11
12 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church 4:30 WwJesus Gath. Lytle MC	13	14	Vacation Bible School 9:30-12:30			18
19 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Pastor out of town for SOS Conference					
	Newsletter Deadline		6 PM Choir	FH 4-6 prep Forgiven M 7-8:30 PM FH occupied		FH 6:30-6 Forgiven M
26 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	27	28	29	30	31	
	Pastor's Vacation July 27 - August 2					
	Newsletter Prep & Mail	1-3 FH WN Resource Meeting	6 PM Choir	7-8:30 PM FH occupied		



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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
July 14, 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

July 12, 4:30 PM at Lytle MC

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/>