

The Circuit Rider



May
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55
Issue 5

Hondo Methodist Church

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

1006 16th Street
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Office Hours...

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

Church Staff...

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pastorbruhn@live.com

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Lupe Diaz
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The Pastor's Pondering

Rev. J. Paul Bruhn



Many of us have heard about a grandpa telling his offspring how he had to walk to school – uphill – in both directions – and we all snicker, because we know it is hyperbole, since it is a geographical impossibility. However, we often tend to have a very similar attitude towards biblical stories and testimony. “If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.” We want to be sure not to be taken advantage of, and I completely understand. With mere humans the answer is definitely “yes,” be careful when someone promises you things they can’t deliver.

BUT GOD! GOD is not given to hyperbole, His Word is true and we can rely on His promises. We might just have to look a little closer. In the Gospel of John, chapter 5, we learn about a paralyzed man who hung out at the pool of Bethesda. The blind, the lame, the paralyzed, the disabled all gathered there and waited for the water to be stirred. Tradition holds that at certain times an angel would stir the water. When that happened the first one into the pool received their physical healing.

The person in question was a man paralyzed for thirty-eight years. Jesus seeks him out and asks one simple yet hard question, “Do you want to get well?” When I first read the story many years ago my immediate response was, “Duh! Isn’t that why the guy hangs out at those five colonnades.” Not so fast. Many of us have physical, spiritual, and emotional limitations, some visible, others invisible. The longer they last the more challenging it becomes for us not to identify with that sickness or limitations. They can become part of our identity.

In a sudden, it is no longer about a disability but a part of our existence or maybe a benefit like the handicap placard those of us who are mobility impaired are allowed to place on the rearview mirror of our vehicle. Being healed sounds great, but it also means no more ‘early boarding’ at the airport. Jesus is not only asking if the man wants to be made whole, but he also asks are you willing to have your very persona touched and changed to the glory of GOD.

I will give thanks
to you, Lord,
with all my heart;
I will tell of all your
wonderful deeds.

Psalm 9:1

The Pastor's Pondering continuing....

This is not as farfetched as you might think. Many people come to Jesus to have their sins forgiven. However, the number of those who then joyfully agree to begin the hike on the path of sanctification, ever-increasing holiness, to be transformed into the likeness of our Savior and LORD Jesus CHRIST is much smaller.

Ultimately, the gentleman's response is something like, "Yeah, but ..." Jesus takes this microscopic 'yes' and restores his health after thirty-eight plus years. One consequence was that he was now able-bodied and expected to work for a living. He was given a new lease on life.

And then there are two more observations. Many of us know the story of the paralyzed men that was carried by four friends to the feet of Jesus. In that case Jesus forgave the sins before physical healing occurred. In the Bethesda story Jesus seeks out the formerly lame man and warns him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." (John 5:14, ESV) Could it be that – on occasion – sickness and sin do have a connection? Honestly, I do not have an answer to that question other than, "One hundred percent maybe!"

A question I do have an answer for deals with the surroundings of this particular miracle. We are told that the colonnades were filled with lame, blind, paralyzed individuals, but – to the best of our knowledge – only one individual was healed. Why did Jesus duck into the crowds and disappeared? And why did Jesus not feel guilty about it?

Jesus had honed his spiritual sensitivity under the tutelage of the Holy Spirit to such a degree that He could confidently state, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise." (John 5:19, ESV)

What a liberating statement. Oh, that we could have the same confidence. Listening to GOD's still small voice, spending time in intimacy with GOD and then confidently inviting people for healing according to the words of knowledge received from our Heavenly Father. No word from Abba GOD can mean no miraculous ministry, but also no guilt for not healing someone. All healing comes from GOD, hence, when we receive a message about healing will we be courageous and present it to the persons in need?

GOD is inviting you and me into His ministry and the greatest adventure we could ever ask for. I pray we all will have the courage to be the messengers GOD has called us to be.

In HIS Unfailing Love Pastor J. Paul <><

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



Wait—Don't Plan Your Summer Just Yet!

Dear Church Family,

The last bell of the school year is about to ring, and I can almost hear the suitcases zipping and the GPS voices chirping, "Let's hit the road!"

If your kitchen table is buried in plans, schedules, sunscreen, and half-packed suitcases, I'm right there with you. Go—make those memories. Splash in the ocean, chase fireflies, eat too much ice cream, and come home with sandy Bibles and hearts full of laughter.

But before you lock the front door, can I reserve a tiny corner of your summer calendar? Because while you're planning the perfect getaway, we've been planning the perfect giveaway—hours that will outlast any souvenir, moments your kids will replay long after the beach towels are folded away.

This summer, we're handing our children and students something better than a postcard—we're handing them Jesus, wrapped in Irish green, beautiful lights, and poolside blue.

SUMMER HOUSE – "Emerald Crossing"

Journey through Ireland without ever boarding a plane! Every Tuesday this summer, kids will step into Psalm 23 like never before. One week we're in Donegal's emerald pastures; the next, we're dodging (paper) Viking ships in Dublin—every stop revealing a new facet of our Shepherd-King.

Dates: June 2nd – July 7th (Every Tuesday)

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Ages: 4–12 years

(must have preschool/daycare or school experience)

Apologetics made kid-sized, crafts that end up on bedroom walls, and sheep noises guaranteed!

Missing a Tuesday because you are going to a cousin's house? No worries—register anyway and come when you can.



VBS – "Illumination Station"

While the world talks about Jesus, we're turning the lights on to who He really is.

Five mornings, one brilliant message: Jesus is the Light that brightens, reflects, reveals, and never burns out.

Dates: July 13th – 17th (5 Amazing Days!)

Time: 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Ages: 4–12 years

(must have preschool/daycare or school experience)

Registration is live—grab a neighbor and sign up early!

We have limited spots for explorers.



Note from the Director of Family Ministries continues

POOLSIDE PARABLES – High School Only

This is not your typical youth group night.
Come wondering. Come with every hard question tucked inside your towel.

And definitely come with your friends to share the journey.
Each Thursday, we'll dive into a different life parable, then float—literally—in a church family's pool.

Dates: June 4th – July 9th (Every Thursday)

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Who: All High Schoolers Welcome!

Location: Once registered, the pool location will be texted to parents each week. We gather at one of our wonderful church members' private pools!
Bring sunscreen, bring doubts —just don't bring formal clothes. Jesus met people beside the water; we figure we'll do the same.

HOW TO REGISTER

One link, three events, zero hassle.
Scan the QR code in your Newsletter or head to hondo.church/family-ministries, fill out the form, and you're done!



Pro tip: Put it on today's to-do list before the beach calls your name.
Follow Family Ministries HMC or Hondo Methodist Church on Facebook for regular updates, photos, daily dress codes, and important information throughout all our summer programs!
Parents, thank you for entrusting us with your most precious travelers. Our goal this summer is simple: to send them back to you with deeper dimples, stronger lungs from laughing, and a Shepherd they know by name.
I can't wait to hear them retell David's story with an Irish lilt, explain light refraction through the lens of John 8:12, or share the "secret" of Jesus walking on water (just kidding!). These are the souvenirs that don't fade.
Let's give our kids a summer they'll never forget—and a Savior they'll never outgrow.



With joy and Jesus,

Nihar Judah
Director of Family Ministries HMC
familyministries@hondo.church



Hondo Methodist Women

The next meeting of the Methodist Women will be on May 6 at 9:30am. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall and Nihar Judah will be our hostess. We will continue our study on Women of the Bible. Nihar will lead our program about the Samaritan Woman. All women are welcome. We look forward to seeing everyone on May 6th!

Save the Date

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



CORPUS CHRISTI | **DALLAS**
NOV. 7, 2026 | NOV. 14, 2026

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

The Lord
favors those who
fear Him,
those who wait for His
lovingkindness.
Psalm 147:11

Memorials

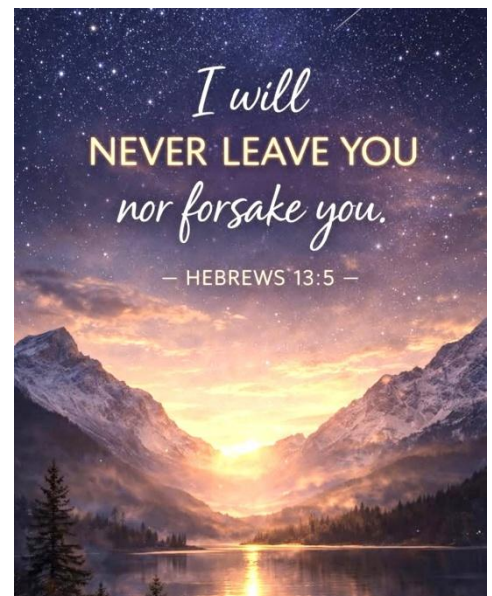
Received this month

IN MEMORY OF:

Hasey Hollmig

by

Tad & Bette Wooten
Ken & Nola Hanson



I will
NEVER LEAVE YOU
nor forsake you.

— HEBREWS 13:5 —

Our Prayer Concerns

Shannon Anna
Betty Barlow
Billie Bell
Karen Callis
Carla Carlton
Glenn Carlton
Grayson Cowart
Richard Crosby
Jeff Friesenhahn
Ray Gomez
Pearson Hackebeit
Nola Hanson
Alice Harris
Angie Hawley
Linda Hayes
Vickie Hill
Martha Holcomb
Jed Knowlton
Angelica Martinez
Mason Plummer
Meleah Plummer
Christine Price
Debbie Southwell
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
Logan Petersen

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

Financial Report March 2026

General Fund: \$ 85,319.61
Transfer CD + \$ 40,000.00
Interest CD + \$ 283.74
Transfer MF + \$ 100.00
Income: + \$ 31,734.60
Transfer BF - \$ 606.00
Expense: - \$ 30,625.58
Balance: \$ 126,206.37

General F. CDs: \$ 80,000.00
Transfer to GF: -\$40,000.00
Balance: \$ 40,000.00
Scholarship CD \$ 67,515.86
Balance: \$ 67,515.86

Building Fund: \$ 19,378.76
Transfer GF + \$ 606.00
Transfer MF + \$ 30.00
Expense: - \$ 1,180.00
Balance: \$ 18,834.76

Memorial: \$ 39,765.50
Transfer GF - \$ 100.00
Income: + \$ 1,605.00
Balance: \$ 41,240.50

Altar Fund: \$ 8,698.63
Grant SAAF \$ 2,199.92
Expense: - \$ 170.08
Balance: \$ 10,728.47

The financial records posted
in April's newsletter were for
February 2026 (not January)

Our 2026 Budget is \$471,875.
We have received
GF Pledges for \$73481.56
from 13 family units

Worship Assistants

Liturgists

May 3 (Picnic)
May 10 JoLynn Bragg
May 17 Jeannie Hart
May 24 Bob Hart
May 31 Sondra Burris

Counters

May 3 Martha Galbraith
May 10 Lorine Hackebeit
May 17 Tricia Boll
May 24 Bruce Martin
May 31

Counters

May 3
May 10 Eric Rothe
May 17 Chad Elder
May 24 Tad Wooten
May 31 Katelin Buescher

Children's Church

May 3
May 10 Cora Rothe
May 17 Marcy Rothe
May 24 Sandy Callis
May 31

Worship Attendance

March 29 85
April 5 183
April 12 128
April 19 82
April 26 68



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**I saw that giving even
all my life to God
(supposing it possible to do
this and go no further)
would profit me nothing
unless I gave my heart,
yea, all my heart to Him.**

John Wesley

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10 AM Worship in City Park 1 w. C. and Picnic 4:30 WwJesus Gath. St. Paul's Lutheran	4 5:30 FH Volunteer Summer Kick-off	5 2PM Scholarship Com.	6 HMW meets at 9:30 FH 2-4 PM Summer Decoration Work-shop 6 PM Choir	7 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	8	9
10 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	11	12	13 6 PM Choir	14 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	15	16
17 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 6 PM Choir	21 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 2-3:15 FH+San FA Awards 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	22	23
24 Pentecost 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	25 Memorial Day Office closed	26 1-3 FH WN Resource Meeting	27 Newsletter Prep & Mail 6 PM Choir	28 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	29	30
31 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church Lunch Men's Acc. G.						



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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
May 12, 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

May 3, 4:30 PM at
St Paul's Lutheran Church

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/>