The Circuit Rider

Nov. 2026
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Hondo Methodist Church

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

1006 16th Street
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www.hondo.church

Office Hours...

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

Church Staff...

Pastor
Rev. J. Paul Bruhn
pastorbruhn@live.com

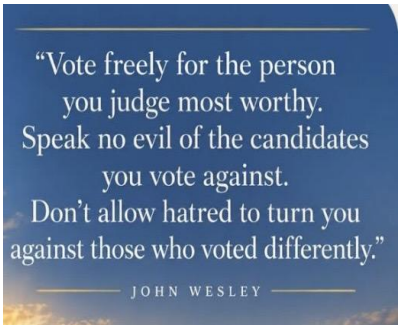
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The Pastor's Pondering October 2026



We are excited about the way in which our LORD Jesus Christ has blessed our ministry to second to seventh graders in our new "den." Nihar and her volunteers have created a great atmosphere to feel all most cozy while the participants are learning about GOD's love for them. A special shout out to those cooking the meal and the dads who, in very professional manner hung the new TV. As we are kindly asking for your support I want to share a short story that I came across many years ago.

"The Parable of the Talents" by John Duckworth

It came to pass that a Master had 300 servants, and the Master, who was about to embark on a long journey, called his servants together and entrusted talents to each of them, To some, he gave one talent, to others two, to others three or more. But each servant — short or tall, clever or dull, trained or untrained — received at least one talent.

Some received the talent of singing, some dancing, some painting pictures of waterfalls in the moonlight. Others were talented in public speaking, baking cookies, pushing children up and down on the playground swings, or visiting the sick. Still others received talents enabling them to collect money, vacuum the floor, or teach. "I am going on a long journey," the Master said when he had finished handing out the talents. "As my servants, work wisely with the talents I have given you." With that, he left.

"Very well," said one of the servants, a fellow who had the talent of organization. "Let us band together in our Master's service, using these talents to do the work he has left us." He pointed at a servant who had the talent of speaking the Master's words. "You will remind us of what the Master has said. Those of you who have musical talents will sing to us of the Master and his work,'

So it went, and before long each servant was given something to do according to his or her talent. Some cared for servants who were old or ill, some brought water to those who toiled in the Master's orchards, some invited strangers into their homes and made them feel welcome, and some taught others about the Master and his goodness. Soon a group of servants who could use hammers and saws built a meeting house for the benefit of all, and those who were talented in making furniture and sewing curtains furnished it. People came from miles around to the meeting house to hear of the Master and honor him.

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The Pastor's Pondering *continuing....*

For a while the Master's work flourished, but one day a change occurred.
A servant who was talented in mending shoes decided his task was not important enough. "I want to do something important," he complained, "like singing or speaking the Master's words in the meeting house. Mending shoes is for nobodies." "But mending shoes is important," another servant said. "Wouldn't it be harder to do the Master's work in bare feet?" "That's not my problem," the disgruntled worker replied. "I want a more important place. Those singers and speakers we've got now aren't so important anyway."
The servant whose talent was mending shoes promptly stopped exercising his talent. Before long the other servants' shoes began to leak, and they became discontented, too. "I'm tired of working with wet feet," said one.
"Let's hire a shoemaker."
"I want a more important job, too," chimed in another. "Placing long-distance calls to the Master isn't very exciting."
"Yeah," agreed still another. "I'm tired of inviting strangers into my home. Let someone else do it."
Soon the length and breadth of the Master's property was in an uproar. Some servants refused to exercise their talents, while others demanded a more exalted place. Some accused others of laziness or being puffed up or requiring too much work. Still others said that certain talents should not be exercised, that perhaps the Master had not meant to give them at all. When the Master's business had finally ground to a halt, the servant who had the talent of organization called an emergency gathering in the meeting house.
"All right," he cried over the noise. "The Master's plan for us to carry out his work according to the talents he gave us is obviously not going to work. Therefore, we will make the following changes.
"One: The speakers of the Master's words will also visit the sick, teach outsiders about the Master, sing, talk to strangers, and perform organizational duties. But their most important task will be to try to convince the rest of us to work, too."
"Two: Should a servant decide to work, his job will be determined by what he feels like doing and how convincing the speaker of the Master's words has been. Servants are welcome to keep their talents but need not feel obligated to exercise them." The servant whose talent was organization left the platform, surrounded by the cheers of the congregated servants. The few speakers of the Master's words reluctantly took on their new responsibilities, and the rest of the people went home.
The new plan was immensely popular, but before long the trees in the orchard stopped bearing quite so much fruit. Weeds grew around the meeting house, and attendance at the meetings dwindled. Fewer strangers heard about the Master and his goodness, and the servants began to get used to walking around in leaky shoes. There were some servants who faithfully continued at their tasks, often having to pretend they possessed others' talents.
Many, however, having time on their hands, put their talents to other uses. Instead of welcoming strangers into their homes, they gave elaborate parties for their friends.

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The Pastor's Pondering *continuing. . . .*

Instead of visiting the sick, they went on vacations to faraway places. Rather than singing about the Master, they collected recordings of others who did it for them. The servant whose talent was organization kept right on exercising his talent, making lists of potential workers for the speakers of the Master's words to cajole. But the weeds grew longer, and the orchards harvest grew smaller each year.

By the time the Master returned from his journey, only a few servants were still at their posts. The speakers of the Master's words were exhausted from overwork, and the harvest filled only half as many bushel baskets as before.

"What happened?" the Master cried to the assembled servants, a mixture of anger and sadness in his voice. "What happened to the talents I entrusted to you?"

"We — we buried them," came the reply.

You should have seen the Master's face.

(From the book, JOAN 'N'THE WHALE by John Duckworth, 0 1987 by John Duckworth. Published by the Fleming H. Revell Company, Old Tappan, NJ 07675)

Please ask GOD in your prayer time to reveal to you how to be a living stone in the temple that GOD is building right here at Hondo Methodist Church as we are "Growing in Grace" while being "Rooted in Scripture."

I recommend that you break open your Bible and study

1 Corinthians 12:1-11; Romans 12:1-9; 1 Peter 4:10;
2 Timothy 1:6-7 and 2 Timothy 2:20-21.

In CHRIST's Unfailing Love
Pastor J. Paul <><

Memorials

Received last month

IN MEMORY OF:

Margot Hintermaier
by
Marcy Rothe

Mary Alice Barrow
by
Billy & Cheryl Stroud

Thanksgiving Observance

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.
Count your gains instead of your losses.
Count your joys instead of your woes.
Count your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears.
Count your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean.
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth.
Count on God instead of yourself.

Author Unknown

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



Before the Christmas Rush: A Moment to Pause

"Be still, and know that I am God." — Psalm 46:10

November is here, and before we know it, another year will be coming to an end. As we look ahead to Thanksgiving and the Christmas season, this is a good time to pause and look back at the year God has brought us through.



Our days are often filled with things that need our attention. Between work, family responsibilities, children's activities, and the many things we try to fit into a day, it is easy to move from one thing to the next without stopping to appreciate what we have. We spend so much time doing, planning, and preparing that sometimes we forget to simply say, "Thank You, Jesus!"

When was the last time we stopped to think about how good God has been to us this year? Perhaps it was through a prayer He answered, a difficult situation He helped us through, a person He placed in our lives, or the simple blessing of having our family around us. Not every day has been easy, and not everything has gone according to plan, but even in the middle of it all, God has been with us.





As parents, one of the most beautiful things we can teach our children is to recognize God's goodness, even in the little things. Our children have busy schedules of their own, with school, sports, and other activities filling their days. Just as we need to pause, they need those moments too. We can help them develop a thankful heart by making gratitude a part of our everyday conversations. Before bedtime or around the dinner table, ask them, "What is one thing you want to thank Jesus for today?" It might be something as simple as playing with a friend, enjoying their favorite meal, or spending time with family.

And let's remember to do this ourselves! We don't have to wait for Thanksgiving Day to express our gratitude. Even in the middle of a busy day, we can take a few quiet moments to pray, reflect, and thank God for His goodness.





As Psalm 118:24 reminds us, *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."*

This Thanksgiving, let's make an intentional effort to pause amid our busy schedules, count our blessings, and give thanks. And as we teach our children to do the same, may they grow up knowing that no matter what each day brings, there is always a reason to thank Jesus.

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Note from the Director of Family Ministries continues ....



What's Happening at THE DEN?

Wednesday nights at THE DEN continue to be a blessing! Our kids in grades 2–7 come together each week to learn about Jesus, share a meal, and enjoy time with friends. It's been so encouraging to see the kids and volunteers enjoying these evenings together.

On October 28, we had a fun movie night with pizza, pajamas, and popcorn! It was such a joy to spend the evening watching a movie and making memories together.
We have more fun coming up! We're getting ready for a special Thanksgiving celebration at THE DEN, followed by our Christmas special. We can't wait to celebrate this wonderful season with our kids!



Getting Ready for Christmas at Kids Church!

As we enter the Advent season, our Kids Church will have special Sunday lessons and activities to help children prepare their hearts for Christmas. Through Bible stories, fun activities, and learning together, we want our kids to understand the true meaning of Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus. We're looking forward to a wonderful season of learning, growing, and celebrating together!



Get Ready for the Jingle Bell Bash!

Mark your calendars! December 15 | 5:00 PM onwards

The Jingle Bell Bash is coming, and this year, it's going to be even more exciting and fun! We're getting ready for a wonderful time filled with Christmas cheer, fun activities, and special memories for our children and families. You won't want to miss it, so save the date and get ready to celebrate with us! More details coming soon!



We are thankful for every child who walks through our doors and every volunteer who gives their time to make these evenings speci
Please keep our children, families, and volunteers in your prayers as we together in faith.



Wishing you and your Family
a wonderful and blessed
Thanksgiving!

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

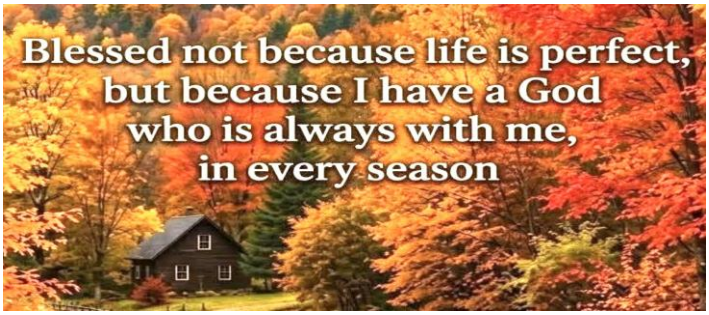
Hondo Methodist Women

The Hondo Methodist Women's group will meet at the home of Sandy Callis on Nov. 4 at 9:30am. We will continue our study of Extraordinary Women of the Bible. The program will cover Eve. Those wishing to carpool should meet at the church at 9am. See you on Nov. 4th!

November 1

We will celebrate All Saints Day. To worship with us please remember to set your clocks **back** to Wintertime.





Angel-Tree

Barb West is working on organizing the Angel tree project for children in this community with an incarcerated parent.

Food Drive MCFP

ITEMS TO DONATE:

Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes 13.75oz
Cream of Mushroom Soup 10.5 oz
Canned Corn15.25 oz
Canned Green Beans 15.25 oz
Canned Yams 29 oz
Marshmallows 10 oz
Canned Cranberry Sauce 14oz
Canned Fruit Cocktail 15.25oz
Canned Pumpkin 15oz
Graham Cracker Crust 9oz
Canned Evaporated Milk 12oz
Turkey Gravy Packets
Fried Onions 2.8oz
Boxed Desert Mix
(Cake, Brownies, Muffins)
Flour 2lbs
Oil 16oz
Sugar 2lbs
4 pack Toilet Paper
Bar Soap

Every basket like this (without meat) is about $31, if you want to make a monetary donation instead of shopping. Monetary donations for meat are also appreciated. Note Food Pantry Holiday boxes on the check.



Medina County Food Pantry Holiday Box

Samaritans Purse

Would you like to fill a box for Operation Christmas Child? Boxes are available in the narthex. Don't forget the label! There are also flyers with packing ideas. You can pay shippir with the QR-code. (please mark it paid!) Shipping cost is $10 If you don't want to use the QR write label code on envelop with cash, make checks out to HMC, so we can arrange payment. Please return box by November 15.

Our Prayer Concerns

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

Our Troops:

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

Nursing Home:

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

Worship Assistants

Liturgists

Nov. 1 Skie Rozyskie
Nov. 8 Bo Buescher
Nov. 15 JoLynn Bragg
Nov. 22 Brenda Vavricek
Nov. 29 Weems family

Counters

Nov. 1
Nov. 8 Brenda Vavricek
Nov. 15 Chad Elder
Nov. 22 Brenda Vavricek
Nov. 29 Cheryl Stroud

Counters

Nov. 1
Nov. 8 Cassie Aelvoet
Nov. 15 Tricia Boll
Nov. 22 Lorine Hackebeil
Nov. 29

Children's Church

Nov. 1
Nov. 8 Tammy Lynch
Nov. 15 Marcy Rothe
Nov. 22
Nov. 29 Sandy Callis

Worship Attendance

Oct. 4 66
Oct. 11 85
Oct. 18 73
Oct. 25 74



Financial Report
September 2026

General Fund:		$ 143,539.47
Trans. to MF	-	$ 925.00
Income:	+	$ 20,302.30
Expense:	-	$ 27,035.16
Balance:		$ 135,881.61
Scholarship CD		$ 70,500.00
Building Fund:		$ 26,731.34
Expense:	-	$ 914.90
Balance:		$ 25,816.44
Memorial:		$ 45,713.51
Trans. f. GF	+	$ 925.00
Income:	+	$ 300.00
Balance:		$ 46,938.51
Altar Fund:		$ 8,393.55
Balance:		$ 8,393.55

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

Capital Campaign:
Received in October
Income: $ 27,700.00
Thank you for your fast and generous support.

Thanksgiving Lunch

This Year we will have our Thanksgiving lunch a week earlier on November 15, after Worship.

Global Methodist Church / Mid-Texas Conference News

Introducing our new Bishop



Jonathan Sunghyun Lee

Korean-American

Nominated by: Korean-American

Elected for:

Episcopal Area 2

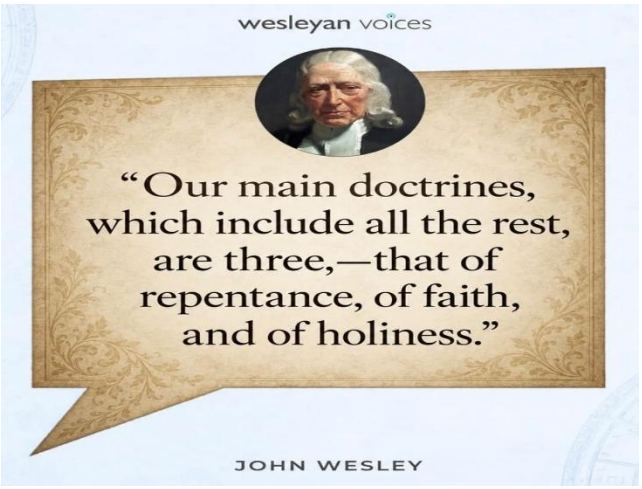
Bulgaria, Mexico, MidTexas, Northeast,
Afrika Mashariki, Korean-American

General Conference Bio

I am a pastor and church planter called to build spiritually vibrant and culturally diverse communities, serving Christ and His Church with clarity, conviction, and grace. Shaped by my immigrant and cross-cultural journey, I have been led to connect people across generational, cultural, and theological boundaries—especially in seasons of transition and discernment. I have served in both established congregations and new church plants, guiding churches through renewal with a steadfast commitment to Scripture, prayer, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Early in my ministry, I planted a congregation within an English-speaking church in New Jersey. Most recently, I planted a congregation in Hawaii, cultivating a thriving multicultural community marked by deep spiritual formation, active lay engagement, and the multiplication of emerging leaders. Through this ministry, I have witnessed both spiritual and numerical growth and the raising of faithful lay and clergy leadership. My leadership is rooted in a life of prayer and the ministry of the Word—expressed through equipping leaders, fostering unity, and helping the Church remain anchored in biblical truth while responding wisely to a rapidly changing world. I am deeply committed to guarding the faith, strengthening the Church's theological identity, and encouraging pastors and congregations to lead with both conviction and grace. I have also engaged in denominational leadership during a significant season of transition, contributing to conversations on theological clarity, ecclesial identity, and global mission. Through these experiences, I sense a growing call not only to serve the local church, but also to strengthen, connect, and shepherd the broader body of Christ. If entrusted with this responsibility, I will serve as a faithful shepherd—faithful to the Word, led by the Spirit, and devoted to the Church of Jesus Christ across every culture and nation.

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Growing in GOD's Grace
Rooted in His Word



November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Hope you set your clocks back an hour on Oct 31!** **All Saints Day** 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel S** 10 AM Worship w. C + Kid's Church	2 **Finance C. meets 6 PM office**	3	4 **8-8:30 FH DoF FA** **HMW meets at 9:30** *(Callis)* **4:30-6PM W.Bible Study** 6 PM Choir	5 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** **Nomin. Com. 6 PM office** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	6	7
8 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel S** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church 4:30 WwJesus Gath. At Devine Wesleyan	9	10	11 **8-8:30 FH DoF FA** **4:30-6PM W.Bible Study** 6 PM Choir	12 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** **SPRC meets 6 PM office** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	13	14
15 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel S** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church Thanksgiving Lunch	16	17 **Newsletter Deadline**	18 **8-8:30 FH DoF FA** **4:30-6PM Wednesday Bible Study** 6 PM Choir	19 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	20	21 **Christmas in God's Country 9-4**
22 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel S** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	23	24	25 **Newsletter Prep & Mail**	26 Happy Thanksgiving **Office closed**	27	28 **10 AM Decorating Sanctuary for Advent**
29 **First Sunday of Advent** 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel S** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	30					

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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 Nov. 10 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

Nov. 8, at 4:30 PM at
Devine Wesleyan Fellowship

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/