The Circuit Rider

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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

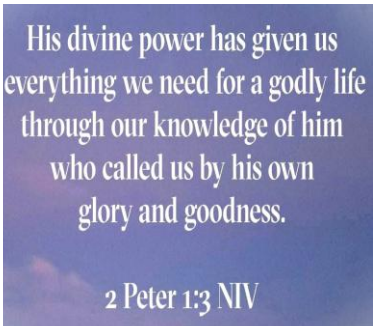
Family Ministries Director
Nihar Judah
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Leon Steward

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Marion Bruhn
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Custodians
Jessica Gomez

Nursery
Lupe Diaz
Sarah Holley



The Pastor's Pondering October 2026



Rev. J. Paul Bruhn

Those who were in church the last couple of Sundays may remember my Young Disciple Moment in which I focused on the power of Thanksgiving and praise. Psalm 100:4, NKJV, reads: "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with **praise**." I explained that the Hebrew term used there is *tehillah* which stands for a celebration, a lauding of someone praise-worthy, an exaltation, or a song of admiration We continued with an impromptu game of "One *Tehillah* … two *Tehillah*, … three *Tehillah*, **PRAISE!**" Then I went around the sanctuary and asked worshipers what it was that they were thankful for. No, we did not focus on a certain country and western song that glorified a certain distilled drink.

The first Sunday was truly slow in the taking. However, my friend Rüdiger in Germany told me 35 years ago that repetition is the mother of wisdom. Practice does not make perfect, only perfect practice makes perfect. So, we repeated the exercise and this time people were more inclined to respond and offer a moment of praise to our Creator, Savior, and Lord. For many of us "enter His gates with thanksgiving can begin when we enter our cars to drive to church and we can begin to declare for what we are thankful for. Once we arrive at church we can switch over to "courts with praise."

"What is the difference?" You might ask. THANKSGIVING means we remember WHAT GOD has done FOR us. PRAISE means to extol HIM for WHO GOD IS An earthly example might be in order. I might thank my wife for the cup of coffee she brings me. Praise is when I extol her love for me bragging on her in front of my friends. Thanks is like warming up the engine and then you are prepared to take it to the next level with praise.

You will remember how you had to impress on your young children to say 'thank you,' but — at least in my

case — asking for something came quite naturally to them from candy in the check-out lane to the Hot-wheel car as you push your cart through the store.

I do not envy the parents I come across in a local retailer who must decide if they give in to the demand so the child will be quiet or risking a scene of public embarrassment when the child throws an almost professional temper tantrum.

We know what we want and we want it now! The antidote to such behavior is an attitude of gratitude. There is a difference between throwing a tantrum or respectfully asking GOD to intervene. Just read the life of Abraham or Moses to become aware that their requests to GOD were respectful and not simply demanding.

Marion and I met Father Casey Minor of the Anglican-Orthodox Church.

He would always recite the liturgy from a large book on the altar. I asked him one day if he had not memorized the words after having spoken them for years every time they celebrated mass. He smiled at me and said, “The weakest pencil is stronger than the best memory.”

I am so old that in my elementary school years at a Lutheran School we had to memorize a hymn a week with the test coming on Monday morning right after the school worship service. I would sit at home copying the verses by hand and putting that piece of paper under my pillow — the last thing I read at night and the first thing I read in the morning. Even today I might be able to recite one of those hymns, but do not ask me in the afternoon what I had for breakfast that morning.

It takes effort to remember and to be thankful. That is why the image for this message is a small 3x5 inch notepad and a pen. You might want to carry those two with you and every time you come across something to be thankful and you jot it down.
At the end of the day, you can take a moment with GOD and share your ‘thankfulness cliff notes’ with GOD.
In addition, you gather a multitude of reasons to enter HIS gates with thanksgiving, leading you to enter His courts with praise.

One *TEHILLAH*!
Two *TEHILLAH*!
Three *TEHILLAH*! — PRAISE!
SHALOM

Pastor J. Paul <><



Memorials

Received last month
IN MEMORY OF:

Yvonne Nations
by
Patty Hunter

Vicky Gilliam
by
Hondo Victory Lodge

Margot Hintermaier
by
Mike & Jan Weems
Craig & Pat Ditsch

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



Different This Fall

Every season has a way of shaping us and Fall is no different. As the season changes, so does the culture around us. Our stores, neighborhoo and communities are already filled with Halloween decorations, costumes, candy, and reminders to join in the celebration. And perhaps this is a good time for us to pause and simply ask- "What does my life say about the One I follow?"

Following Jesus has never been about simply going along with what everyone else is doing. Jesus calls us to live differently—not better than others, but different because we belong to Him. I recently read an Instagram post that said, *"I don't celebrate Halloween for the same reason witches and warlocks don't celebrate Resurrection Day or Good Friday."* Whether or not we have heard that statement before, it challenges us to think about what we choose to celebrate and what those choices communicate.

Not everything that is fun, popular, or harmless-looking is necessarily something we need to participate in. As Christians, we are called to be in the world, but not of the world (John 17:16). That doesn't mean we judge others or think we are better than anyone else. It means we are willing to prayerfully make choices that reflect who we belong to.

We don't celebrate death—we celebrate life.
We don't celebrate darkness—we celebrate the Light of the World.
We don't simply follow the crowd—we follow Jesus.

And sometimes, living out our faith begins with the smallest choices. I keep saying this in every article—'Our children are watching us,' because they are. Those everyday choices of what we celebrate, what we make room for, what we consider important, and what we are willing to stand for , is quietly shaping their understanding of what it means to follow Christ. So, this fall, let's accept a challenge:

Let's be different—not difficult.
Let's be bold—not judgmental.
Let's be faithful—not fearful.

We can enjoy the beauty of fall without embracing everything associated with the season. We can enjoy pumpkins, fall colors, desserts, cozy evenings, and family time while choosing to make our homes places where Christ is celebrated. And if your children want to dress up, why not make it an opportunity to bring the Bible to life? Let them be David, Daniel, Ruth, Esther, Abraham, or Moses—people who trusted God, stood courageously, and refused to compromise their faith.

Imagine your child telling someone, *"I'm dressed as Daniel because Daniel stood for God even when everyone around him was doing something different."*

Continues next page **…..**

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

What a beautiful opportunity to start a conversation. We are currently teaching the stories of the Old Testament in Kids Church, but our goal is bigger than simply helping children remember Bible stories. We want them to discover that these stories are about real people who faced real choices—and that their faith can teach us how to live today. We want our children to know more than the names of Bible characters. We want them to develop the faith of Abraham, the courage of David, the conviction of Daniel, the boldness of Esther, and the faithfulness of Ruth.

Because one day, our children will face their own moments when they have to decide whether they will follow the crowd or stand for what they believe. And those moments are not only shaped by what we teach them. They are shaped by what they see us live. So, parents, this fall, let's give our children something greater than another tradition.

Let's give them an example.

Let them see that following Jesus is worth standing for.

Let them see that it is okay to be different.

Let them see that we don't have to compromise our faith to fit in.

Let them see that we can be super cool and fun while still being bold about what we believe.

Perhaps one of the greatest lessons we can give our children is this:
In a world that tells you to follow the crowd, you can choose to follow Jesus.

Wednesday Bible Study Is Underway!

Our first and second Wednesday Bible Study was a wonderful time with the kids, and we are excited about what God is doing through this ministry! Our Wednesday program is for Grades 2–7, every Wednesday from 4:30–6:00 PM. We share a hot dinner, enjoy fun games, worship together, and spend time learning God's Word.

If you have a child in Grades 2–7, we would love to have them join us!

Every Wednesday | 4:30–6:00 PM

Come, bring your kids, and let's grow in faith together!

Wishing you and your family a blessed October!

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

Hondo Methodist Women

We will meet at Melissa Neumann's house in October 7th at 9:30am. Chris Kailipaka will present our program about Hannah.
In September we had a wonderful time together with our lunch at the Acadiana restaurant in La Coste.
We hope you can join us at one of our next meetings or field trips.



Save the Date

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



November 1

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



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

Angel-Tree

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

Our Prayer Concerns

Shannon Anna
Betty Barlow
Billie Bell
Karen Callis
Carla Carlton
Glenn Carlton
Grayson Cowart
Richard Crosby
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
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

Oct. 4 Bob Hart
Oct. 11 Chip Thornsburg
Oct. 18 Martha Galbraith
Oct. 25 Vivian Reed

Counters

Oct. 4 Cheryl Stroud
Oct. 11 Lorine Hackebeil
Oct. 18 Tricia Boll
Oct. 25 Cassie Aelvoet

Counters

Oct. 4 Bob Hart
Oct. 11
Oct. 18 Chad Elder
Oct. 25 Cora Rothe

Children's Church

Oct. 4 Nihar Judah
Oct. 11 Sandy Callis
Oct. 18 Marcy Rothe
Oct. 25 Tammy Lynch

Worship Attendance

Aug. 30 71
Sept. 6 58
Sept. 13 70
Sept. 20 67
Sept. 27 68

Nursing Home:

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

Financial Report
July 2026

General Fund:		$ 112,327.27
GF CD mat.		$ 40,000.00
GF CD Interest		$ 914.91
Income:	+	$ 27,644.13
Expense:	-	$ 30,217.89
Balance:		$ 150,668.42

General F. CD : $ 40,000.00
Matured & was added back to the General Fund.
Balance: $ 0.00

Scholarship CD $ 70,500.00

Building Fund:		$ 19,269.76
Income Lease:	+	$10,000.00
Expense:	-	$ 1,998.42
Balance:		$ 27,271.34

Memorial:		$ 42,993.51
Income:	+	$ 2,570.00
Balance:		$ 45,563.51

Altar Fund:		$ 8,528.55
Balance:		$ 8,528.55

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

Heads-up Announcement

Our annual "Thanksgiving Lunch" will be held a week earlier on November 15, to lighten the load of the CiGC weekend.

Wesley Nurse Corner



Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers." 3 John 1:2

As the seasons change, October reminds us of God's faithfulness and the beauty of renewal. Cooler weather offers opportunities to spend time outdoors, connect with family and friends, and focus on healthy habits that support our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.
This month let's commit to caring for ourselves as faithful stewards of the bodies God has entrusted to us. Small daily choices can make a significant difference in our overall health.
I will be facilitating a GriefShare in the new year. 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

Christmas in God's Country

It is that time of year to start thinking about Christmas in God's Country which will be on Saturday, November 21. Once again our church will have a reserved space and hand out loaves of bread and water to the visitors to our booth.
We will be asking members to help us out by baking loaves of the bread of your choice (NO NUTS). We will furnish small (3.5x6in) aluminum loaf pans in which to bake your bread and label what kind it is and bring it (still in the pan) to the church. More details to come as we get into October and November.
If you would like to begin baking now and freezing them, you can bring them to the church by November 18.
We will have a sign up sheet in the foyer in early October so you can let us know how many you would like to make. We would like to shoot for at least 300 loaves to be distributed at CIGC.

Cora Rothe, Outreach C.

A note from the Finance Committee

Over the past three years HMC has been activity working to keep our Church facilities in good repair. Along those lines our 50+ year old Sanctuary appears to be next in line for renovation particularly the air conditioning systems along with a remodel of the garage behind the church offices for a youth facility.

In preliminary discussions among committees the renovation of the Sanctuary A/C systems will be a rather large expense. While HMC has a good financial standing at the moment we cannot cover the costs of these renovations out of our existing funds. So, in the next few weeks we will be initiating a capital campaign to fund these needs.

A presentation will be made to the congregation when the final estimates are in so all will be informed of the scope of the fundraising needed. Meanwhile please be in prayer for a successful campaign to fund these renovations.

Yours in Christ,
Robert Hart, Finance Chair

Financial Report
August 2026

General Fund:		$ 150,668.42
Income:	+	$ 28,562.87
Expense:	-	$ 35,691.82
Balance:		$ 143,539.47
Scholarship CD		$ 70,500.00
Building Fund:		$ 27,271.34
Income:	+	$ 50.00
Expense:	-	$ 590.00
Balance:		$ 26,731.34
Memorial:		$ 45,563.51
Income:	+	$ 150.00
Balance:		$ 45,713.51
Altar Fund:		$ 8,528.55
Expense:	-	$ 135.00
Balance:		$ 8,393.55

Samaritans Purse

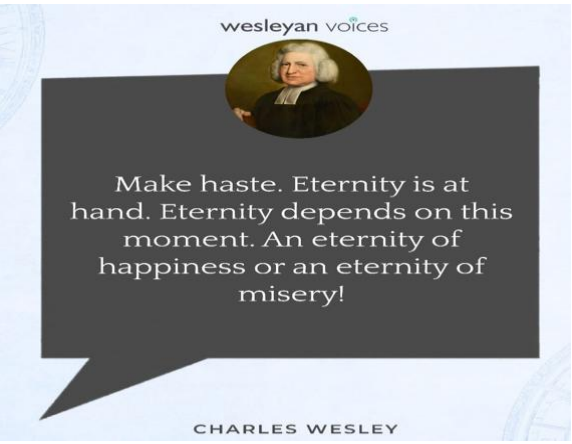
Would you like to fill a box for Operation Christmas Child? Boxes will be in the narthex October 11. Don't forget the label! There are also flyers with packing ideas. You can pay shipping with the QR-code. (please mark it paid!) Shipping cost is $10. If you don't want to use the QR write label code on envelop with cash, make checks out to HMC, so we can arrange payment. Please return box by November 15.

Global Methodist Church News

Bishops Study "Methodist Roots" https://www.globalmethodist.org/methodist-roots
A new video was posted every week.
Study Guide https://irp.cdn-website.com/1876eae9/files/uploaded/ENGLISH_2026-08-07_MethodistRoots_StudyGuide_v2.pdf
For posts from the General Conference go to https://www.beautyofholiness2026.org/

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Growing in GOD's Grace
Rooted in His Word



October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	2	3
4 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel** 10 AM Worship World Communion Sunday + Kid's Church	5	6	7 **8-8:30 FH DoF FA** **HMW meets at 9:30** **4:30-6PM W.Bible Study** 6 PM Choir	8 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	9	10
11 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church 4:30 WwJesus Gath. At St. Paul's L.C.	12 Worship Com. Meeting 6PM office	13	14 **8-8:30 FH DoF FA** **4:30-6PM Wednesday Bible Study** 6 PM Choir	15 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	16	17
18 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	19	20 **Newsletter Deadline** SPRC Meeting 6PM office	21 **8-8:30 FH DoF FA** **4:30-6PM Wednesday Bible Study** 6 PM Choir	22 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	23	24
25 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	26 **Newsletter Prep & Mail**	27 1-3 FH WN Resource Meeting	28 **8-8:30 FH DoF FA** **4:30-6PM Wednesday Bible Study** 6 PM Choir	29 8-9 Backpack Ministry **10-11:15 FH DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	30	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 Oct. 13 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

Oct. 11, at 4:30 PM at St Paul's Lutheran

Methodist Websites:

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https://midtexasgmc.org/

Global Methodist Church
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General Conference Website
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