The Circuit Rider

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Volume 55
Issue 9

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

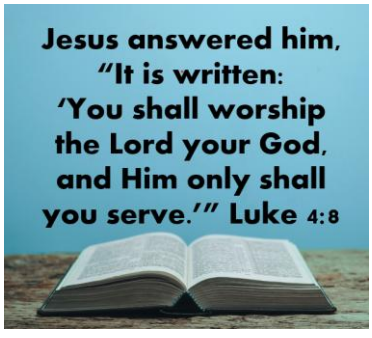
Family Ministries Director
Nihar Judah
Familyministries
@hondo.church

Choir Director
Leon Steward

Office Manager
Marion Bruhn
office@hondo.church

Custodians
Jessica Gomez

Nursery
Lupe Diaz
Sarah Holley



The Pastor's Pondering September 2026



Rev. J. Paul Bruhn

You will receive this newsletter around Labor Day weekend. This month is also the 25th anniversary of the 9.11. attack on the World Trade Center. This year's college graduates cannot remember a time without TSA at our airports. I am so old — how old are you? — I am so old I remember when I was a young child walking with my Großmutti to Tempelhof Airport in West Berlin and we could walk all the way to the gate welcoming loved ones. Part of growing old is that perspective changes. From history being something in — mostly boring — books to the realization that we have lived and are living history ourselves. I was born shortly before the infamous Berlin-Wall was built, grew up and enjoyed living on the west side of the wall, and I lived history when on November 9, 1989, the Wall came down. I had a front row seat observing how the socialist system of the GDR failed. Currently we are praying for the "*Beauty of Holiness*" General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa where 420 delegates from all around the world elect our first slate of 6-year term Bishops and finalize our Book of Doctrines and Disciplines. As our Mid-Texas prayer group got together and we began sharing, I suddenly realized I am so old — how old are you? — I am so old I remember the beginning of a nationwide prayer movement, with C. Peter Wagner, professor for Evangelism at Fuller Theological Seminary in California, the Reverend Terry Teykl of Aldersgate UMC, College Station, TX, and Ed Silvio's from Argentina. I remember the *Toronto Outpouring* a.k.a. *The Father's Blessing* that began in 1994 and lasted for over 20 years, The *Brownsville Revival* in Pensacola, FL, that began on Fathers' Day 1995. I was around when Integrity Music with Don Moen and the Vineyard Movement blessed the body of Christ with fresh worship music. I was blessed to know Beth Alves who founded "*Intercessors International*" and provided a great workshop "*Becoming a Prayer Warrior.*" It became clear that so many blessings along the way that we took for granted cannot be the foundation for the next generation if they simply do not know what to look

Continues next page

The Pastor's Pondering *continuing….*

for, expect, reach out for, and finally claim as their inheritance. We must introduce them to the rich blessings that proved foundational to us.

In chapter 26 of the Book of Genesis, we read about Isaac re-digging the wells the herdsman of his father Abraham had dug in the first place. The enemy had stopped them up. As Isaac rediscovered those wells the enemy caused trouble. We learn about three wells named Quarrel, Enmity, and — finally — Spaciousness. Our enemy would love for us to forget the firm foundation our faith is truly founded upon. He works hard making sure we do not plug into the generational blessings our forefathers and foremothers in flesh as well as in spirit have provided for us.

While political history might be intriguing, spiritual history is even more important. We owe it to young families to learn about the firm foundation the Word of GOD provides. While that sounds good in theory, we still need to figure out how to make it work.

Back in Germany the Methodist were known for their *"Zeugnisstund."* People would attend the normal Sunday morning worship service. Then they would return on Sunday night and listen to one another sharing what GOD had done in their life. Testimony — the fresher, the better — is the life blood that keeps our faith pumping and moving us forward fulfilling GOD's calling on our life.

May you follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit, rediscovering your history with our Heavenly Father and sharing it with your fellow believers. Proverbs 27:17 states, "As iron sharpens iron so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend." Start sharpening!

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

"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 were due August 14,
Projects will be evaluated during the week of August 24th,
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 as soon as possible.

Volunteer Appl.

Memorials

Received last month
IN MEMORY OF:

Lance Griffin
by
Billy & Cheryl Stroud

Joy Trimble
by
Mike & Jan Weems
Marcy Rothe

Margaret Duron
by
Mike & Jan Weems
Marcy Rothe

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



Wednesday Is Back — And Your Kids Don't Want to Miss This

What if one evening a week could change everything for your child?

Not an exaggeration. Not a sales pitch. A genuine question — because history, testimony, and the Word of God all point to the same answer: when children are planted in Scripture consistently, faithfully, week after week, something extraordinary happens. And for generations of American families, that evening was **Wednesday**.

There was a time in this country when Wednesday evening belonged to the church — and everybody knew it. No scheduling conflicts. No debates at the dinner table. Wednesday was *church night*, and that was that. As far back as the 1800s, the midweek gathering was burning across America, ignited by revival movements led by men like Charles Finney and D. L. Moody. By the early 1900s, it had become so deeply woven into the fabric of community life that civic clubs, sports leagues, and social organizations had an *unwritten rule* — don't schedule anything on Wednesday night. You'll lose. The church will win every time. That was not a trend. That was a *conviction.* A people who decided, in the middle of their week, to stop, gather, and say — *this still matters most.* **It's in Our Methodist DNA**

For those of us in the Methodist tradition, this is not a borrowed idea — it is in our blood.

John Wesley, the father of Methodism, understood that Sunday alone was never enough. His famous class meetings — small, passionate gatherings mid-week for prayer, Scripture, and real accountability — were the very engine of the early Methodist revival. Wesley was so serious about children specifically that he instructed his ministers directly: *"Where there are ten children in a Society, spend at least an hour with them twice a week."*

Twice a week. For the children. Wesley was not playing around.

That spirit shaped Methodist churches for generations — Wednesday nights alive with voices, prayer, open Bibles, and kids who grew up knowing that faith wasn't just a Sunday morning feeling. It was a *lifestyle.*

Ask anyone who grew up in a thriving church in the 1950s, 60s, or 70s. They'll get a look on their face — a little nostalgic, a little misty — and they'll tell you: *Wednesday nights were something special.* Dinner was eaten fast. Cars backed out of driveways early. Kids piled into classrooms already laughing and talking. Parents didn't overthink it, didn't check the schedule, didn't weigh their options. They just *came.*

They didn't ask *"Should we go?"*

They asked *"Are you ready?"*

That one small difference in the question? It shaped a generation.

Still not sure it matters? Let's talk evidence.

Stephen Curry — two-time NBA MVP, four-time NBA Champion, arguably the greatest shooter in basketball history — said it without hesitation: *"My mom and dad raised us to believe in God, and we were at church every Wednesday for youth Bible studies and every Sunday for services."* That boy who showed up to Wednesday Bible study grew into a man who writes Scripture on his sneakers before stepping onto the championship floor.

Deion Sanders — NFL Hall of Famer, two-sport professional athlete, and one of the most electrifying figures in sports history — credits faith as the unshakable anchor of everything he has built. He prays openly with his players, quotes Scripture in press conferences, and says plainly: *"My faith is my foundation."*

These are not coincidences. They are **fruit**. Deep, lasting, visible fruit — grown from seeds planted faithfully, week after week, in the heart of a child.

What Our Calendar Is Actually Saying

Here is a truth that is simple but hits hard: **children are watching what we prioritize — and they are taking notes.**

Continues next page **…..**

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

When a family rearranges everything to make a Friday night game, the kids notice. When a family shows up at church on a Wednesday night without being dragged, the kids notice that too. They are not just watching what we say, we believe. They are watching where we point the car.

Setting apart Wednesday for the Lord sends a message louder than any sermon: *God is not a weekend convenience in this house. He is Lord of our whole week.*

No curriculum can teach that lesson. It is taught by the calendar, by the car keys, and by walking through those church doors in the middle of an ordinary Wednesday — and making it holy.

We Are Bringing It Back — And We Are Beyond Excited

We believe it is time — and we are inviting you into something God is stirring in our church.

We are launching a Wednesday Bible Study for our kids because we refuse to let this generation grow up thinking faith is something that happens on Sundays and then pauses the rest of the week. We are building a space — a real, intentional, beautifully-designed space — where children will encounter the living God through His Word, ask the questions that matter, forge friendships rooted in something eternal, and learn from their earliest years that following Jesus is a whole-life commitment.

This is not just another program. This is a spiritual rhythm — one that shaped the greatest Christians in history, one that our Methodist tradition was founded on, and one that your family needs.

The details are locked in. The room is being prepared. The volunteers are ready. And we cannot wait to welcome you.

But here is what we need from you *right now*: ready your heart. Start praying. Talk to your kids about it. Let the anticipation grow in your home. Because something this important — something that will shape your child's faith for decades to come — deserves more than just showing up. It deserves your intentionality, your expectation, and your commitment.

Wednesday is coming. And it belongs to the Lord.

Details dropping soon — but start getting ready now.

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

Global Methodist Church News

General Conference 2026 Prayer Guides:

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

General Conference Website: https://www.beautyofholiness2026.org/
Livestream starts August 30

Bishops Study "Methodist Roots" https://www.globalmethodist.org/methodist-roots
First lesson is available already. Study Guide https://irp.cdn-website.com/1876eae9/files/uploaded/ENGLISH_2026-08-07_MethodistRoots_StudyGuide_v2.pdf

Hondo Methodist Women

September is Field Trip month!
Hondo Methodist Women will meet on September 2nd.
We will have lunch at the Acadiana restaurant in LaCoste.
Please meet at the church at 11am if you would like to carpool.
We look forward to seeing everyone on September 2nd!

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

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



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
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

Sept. 6 Tammy Lynch
Sept. 13 Chris Kailipaka
Sept. 20 Jan Weems
Sept. 27 Cassie Aelvoet

Counters

Sept. 6
Sept. 13 Linda Bohlen
Sept. 20 Brenda Vavricek
Sept. 27 Cheryl Stroud

Counters

Sept. 6
Sept. 13 Trica Boll
Sept. 20
Sept. 27

Children's Church

Sept. 6 Nihar Judah
Sept. 13 Tammy Lynch
Sept. 20 Sandy Callis
Sept. 27 Tammy Lynch

Worship Attendance

Aug. 2 67
Aug. 9 60
Aug. 16 94
Aug. 23 78
Aug. 30

Nursing Home:

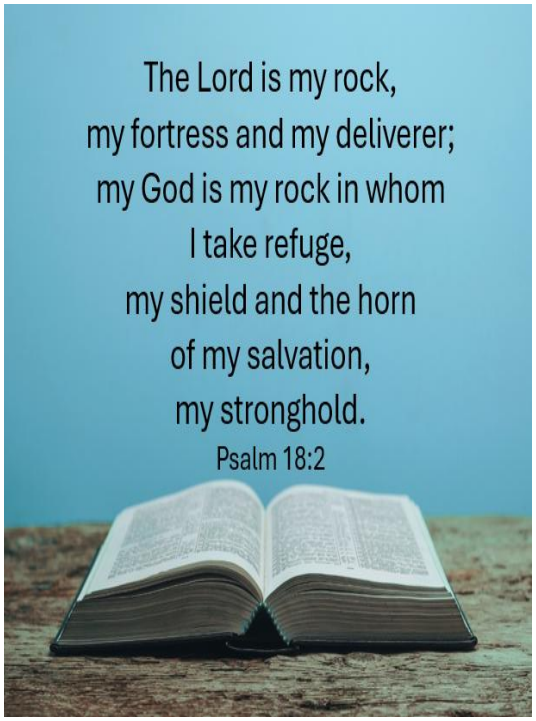
Ralph Gilliam
Johnny Wilson
Albert Castro (Cast.)
Florine Carman (SA)
Judith Kuykendall (SA)
Sterling Martin (SA)

Financial Report
July 2026

Will be in September's Newsletter

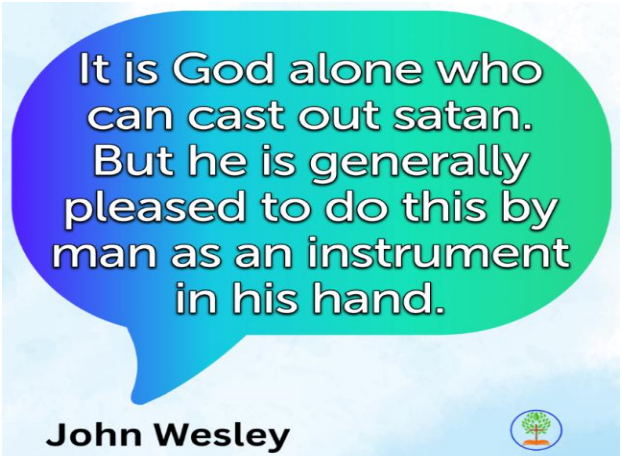
Our 2026 Budget is $471,875.
We have received
GF Pledges for $73,481.56
from 13 family units





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Growing in GOD's Grace
Rooted in His Word



September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 First day of School at Friends Academy M. B. Vacation	2 **8-8:30 FH** **DoF FA** **HMW meets at 11 AM for carpool** 6 PM Choir M. Bruhn Vacation	3 **10-11:15 FH** **DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied M. Bruhn Vacation	4	5
6 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel + The Table** 10 AM Worship, C. + Kid's Church	7 **Labor Day office closed**	8 M. B. Vacation	9 **8-8:30 FH** **DoF FA** 6 PM Choir M. Bruhn Vacation	10 **10-11:15 FH** **DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied M. Bruhn Vacation	11	12
13 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel + The Table** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church 4:30 WwJesus Gath. Here at HMC	14 M. Bruhn Vacation	15 SPRC Meeting 6PM office M. B. Vacation	16 **8-8:30 FH** **DoF FA** 6 PM Choir M. Bruhn Vacation	17 **10-11:15 FH** **DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied M. Bruhn Vacation	18	19
20 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel + The Table** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	21 Church Council Meeting 6PM Fellowship-hall	22 **Newsletter Deadline**	23 **8-8:30 FH** **DoF FA** 6 PM Choir	24 **10-11:15 FH** **DoF FA** 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	25	26
27 8:30 AM Fellows. 9:00 AM **Chapel + The Table** 10 AM Worship + Kid's Church	28 **Newsletter Prep & Mail**	29 1-3 FH WN Resource Meeting	30 **8-8:30 FH** **DoF FA** 6 PM Choir			

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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 Sept. 8, 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 meets the first Monday of the month at noon.

Gathering

Sept. 13, at 4:30 PM here at Hondo Methodist Church Help needed!

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/