

The Circuit Rider



August
2025
Volume 54
Issue 8

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...

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,

Ramon Martinez
Angelica Martinez
Jessica Gomez

Nursery,

Lupe Diaz
Jasmine Martinez



The Pastor's Pondering Rev. J. Paul Bruhn



It is the end of July and I am sitting down to write the next article for our monthly newsletter. The last two and a half weeks went by in a storm as we all began helping our neighbors to the north after the flood of the Guadalupe river. Being a fire chaplain for over twenty years and trained in Critical Incident Stress Management, I was asked to join the peer-led group that would go alongside law enforcement firefighters and emergency medical personnel. We would listen to their stories, offer them coping skills and make sure everyone knew that they were not alone.

What was so devastating for many was the fact that so many young children lost their lives. Driving into and through the disaster zone it was painful to observe the destruction this massive tsunami-like flood had caused destroying homes, and camps, uprooting century old trees and changing the flow of the river permanently. Who would allow for something like this to happen?

While driving to Kerrville I had time to ponder this question and meditate what a possible answer could look like. Let me be clear, I would love for you to reach out and seek the opportunity to share your thoughts with me. At this point

I do have a 'temporary answer', and it is based on Scripture. Paul writes in Romans 8:19-21, New Living Translation,

¹⁹For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.

²⁰Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope,

²¹the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay."

We are living in a broken creation. Our current physical environment is not paradise or the Garden of Eden at all. Everything is broken to a certain extent. Yes, we make joke like, "Why did Noah have to allow the mosquitos to get on board of the ark?" and no, I do not have a satisfactory answer. Catastrophes like July's flood bring the point home that all creation is broken and waiting for redemption that will ultimately happen upon Christ's return.

While living in a broken world we are ambassadors of Christ presenting to our contemporaries the only way out of damnation to forgiveness and holiness, restoring our fellow-humans to proper relationship with our Savior and LORD Jesus, of Nazareth, GOD's Anointed One – the Christ.

The amazing thing is that GOD is not only interested in restoring humankind, but He wants all creation to be restored. That is a far cry from the idea that 'mother nature' is mad at us and we will need to pacify her.

While we are eagerly awaiting Christ's return we are called to actively pursue opportunities to make even this broken world a better place. In the first part of July the Global Methodist Church has signed a letter of understanding with Texans on Mission – and yes, I do call them 'ToM' – to join them in endeavors of disaster response.

To my great joy I did encounter some ToMs serving large groups of first responders by providing shower trailers and laundry service. Those responders were tired and dirty from spending all day close to the river. They would get hot showers and clean clothes which are amazing gifts. And right in the middle of their neatly folded shirts and pants they would find a little tract reminding them of GOD's love for them.

What a much needed ministry and creative way to share the love of GOD. I am looking forward to joining arms with ToM for many years to come spreading GOD's love in a broken world.

Keep the faith and stay safe!

In CHRIST's Unfailing Love

Pastor J. Paul Bruhn <><



Global Methodist Church News

Did you know we recently received 4 Conferences into the Global Methodist Church? Central Russia, East Russia and Central Asia, Northwest Russia and Belarus, and South Russia.

Did you know the Global Methodist Church has a YouTube channel?

There are clips where each Bishop introduces him/herself to us.

Our Bishops recorded a mini-teaching series on Scriptural Holiness?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beOFv_hqSEk

They are on working on a second one "The Guardians of Faith".

I highly recommend you visit the website of the Global Methodist Church

<https://globalmethodist.org> and subscribe to it!

Mid-Texas Global Methodist Church

Did You know Utopia Methodist Church recently joined the Global Methodist Church?

They were independent at first but now are in our Covenant Area.

Did you know Mid-TexasGMC has 3 International Partnerships?

Bulgaria, Costa Rica and since February Rwanda. Here is a link to find out more about specific needs in Rwanda go to:

<https://www.midtexasgmc.org/rwanda-partnership>

I hope you also visit the website of our Conference and subscribe to their weekly updates at: <https://www.midtexasgmc.org>

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



The Church Without Walls

This summer reminded us of something powerful: Church was never meant to stay within walls. While our programs happened inside the church building, the hearts they touched came from all over our community.

Children and families—some new, some familiar—were drawn in by the joy, the stories, and the love that filled every space.

From popsicle-sticky fingers to paint-dripping laughter, from cardboard crafts to quiet prayers near the Storytime tent—ministry happened everywhere. It happened in the giggles of kids hearing about Jesus for the first time. It happened when a firefighter knelt to high-five a child and shared what real-life courage looks like. It happened as our volunteers, tired but full of joy, kept showing up with open arms and serving hearts.

Jesus said, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:37). This summer, the harvest was right in front of us—and our church didn’t miss it.

Our VBS and Summer House programs weren’t just seasonal events. They were divine appointments—God-orchestrated moments that brought our community together and pointed young hearts to Him. One of the most special days was July 15, when our Summer House welcomed real-life heroes—firefighters, police officers, EMS responders, and nurses from our local health unit. They didn’t just visit—they inspired. They reminded our children that faith is more than words; it’s how we live, serve, and love.

And behind every snack table and worship song, every craft corner and prayer circle, stood an army of volunteers—our very own laborers in the field. You prayed. You planned. You poured out. You loved like Jesus. Some of you gave hours. Others gave energy. All of you gave your hearts.

To our volunteers and church family—thank you.

You were the church without walls. You showed that ministry doesn’t require a pulpit—only a willing heart. You believed that kids deserve more than entertainment—they deserve encounters with God. And you helped create sacred spaces where that could happen. As we look ahead to the fall and all that God still has in store, let’s carry the fire of this summer with us. The harvest isn’t over. The doors are still open. The little ones are still watching.

With deep gratitude and joyful hope,

Nihar Judah

Director of Family Ministries

Hondo Methodist Church

Email: familyministries@hondo.church



Hondo Methodist Women

The Methodist Women will meet on August 6th at the home of Joan Lindeman. Our program is entitled "Praying Personalities." We look forward to seeing everyone. Those who would like to carpool please meet in the church parking lot at 9am. See you on the 6th!

Food Drive MCFP August 3

ITEMS TO DONATE

CANNED BEANS
BOXED MACARONI & CHEESE
RAMEN NOODLES
BOXED VERMICELLI (Fideo)
16 OZ SPAGHETTI NOODLES
1 LB BAG RICE
16 OZ ELBOW MACARONI
1 LB BAG PINTO BEANS
8 OZ PEANUT BUTTER
18 OZ JELLY
DRY CEREAL
OATMEAL
CANNED TUNA
CANNED CHICKEN
CANNED CHILI
SPAM
POTTED MEAT
VIENNA SAUSAGE
CANNED VEGETABLES

Dear Friends at Hondo Methodist,

Thank you so much for your sweet generosity in conducting a Baby Bottle fundraiser for Restore Productive Health Your gifts help make possible important programs to help women & couples experiencing unintended pregnancies. These programs include our Padre Program, which supports young fathers through mentorship, and our ultrasound exams, which shows mommas and their partners their babies in the womb.

Our Earn While You Learn program educates our clients about healthy pregnancy, labor & delivery, caring for their babies & so much more. It is the backbone of our services and enables clients to obtain needed items for their babies.

Bless your for your participation in this effort!

Your congregation collected \$1,809.67
through Baby Bottle Drive

Gratefully,

Diane Cosgrove, Executive Director

Wall Shaker Prayer Training September 13, 9-11 A.M.

Teaching individuals and churches to
go beyond the prayer chain
to experience wall shaking prayer
To let us know you are coming
please email: office@hondo.church

C.S. Lewis said, "Children are not a
distraction from more important work.

They are the most important work."

In the end, the *legacy* that matters won't
be what you built in the world. It will be
who you raised and whether they felt
safe, seen, and loved in your presence.

@aubertbastiat
adapted

WE NURTURE
collective

Financial Report **May 2025**

General Fund: \$ 201,745.72
 Income: + \$ 25,901.33
 Expense: - \$ 34,572.81
 Balance: \$ 193,074.24

Scholarship CD \$ 67,515.86
 Balance: \$ 67,515.86

Building Fund: \$ 14,716.67
 Expense: - \$ 3,911.36
 Balance: \$ 10,805.31

Memorial: \$ 35,848.62
 Income: + \$ 25.00
 Balance: \$ 35,873.62

Altar Fund: \$ 8,940.48
 Balance: \$ 8,940.48

Financial Report **June 2025**

General Fund: \$ 193,074.24
 Income: + \$ 33,833.64
 Expense: - \$ 37,834.64
 Balance: \$ 188,973.3

Scholarship CD \$ 67,515.86
 Balance: \$ 67,515.86

Building Fund: \$ 10,805.31
 Income: + \$ 30.00
 Expense: - \$ 5,465.00
 Balance: \$ 5,370.31

Memorial: \$ 35,873.62
 Income: + \$ 770.00
 Balance: \$ 36,643.62

Altar Fund: \$ 8,940.48
 Balance: \$ 8,940.48

Our 2024 Budget
 is \$ 431,017.
 We have received
 GF Pledges for
 \$120,865 from
 15 family units

You can use this
 QR-code to get to
 our secure
 VANCO site



*"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
 and his ears are open to their prayer."
 —1 PETER 3:12, ESV*

Thank You

Thank y'all so much for the Scholarship.
 The money will help me so much for
 college and I am so grateful.
 This Church has been such a light in
 my life ever since I was little.
 This Scholarship means so much to me.
 Once again thank you so much!
 Sincerely Vivian Snell

Thank You

Thank you so much for
 choosing me as a recipient of
 the Jackie Stoner Scholarship.
 It will help me so much in paying
 for my Tuition! It truly is an honor.
 I miss spending my Sunday's
 with y'all!
 Sincerely Kenna Herrmann

Wall Shaker Prayer Training

September 13, 9-11 A.M.

Teaching individuals and churches to go beyond
 the prayer chain to experience wall shaking prayer through
 TII Prayers (transformational, intentional, intercessory prayers),
 Armor Prayers, Canopy Prayers, Community Prayers,
 and Revolutionary Prayers.

To let us know you are coming please email: office@hondo.church

Our Prayer Concerns

Shannon Anna
Betty Barlow
Brian Bullard
Carla Carlton
Glenn Carlton
Richard Crosby
Jeff Friesenhahn
Dale Gage
Ray Gomez
Pearson Hackebeil
Alice Harris
Bryan Hartnett
Angie Hawley
Vickie Hill
Martha Holcomb
Jed Knowlton
Jack & Keith Neumann
Yvette Pirkle
Mason Plummer
Meleah Plummer
Christine Price
Vicky Sablatura
Denise Saucedo
Michelle Smith
Debbie Southwell
Joy Trimble
Dade Turner
Susan Wright
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)

Worship Assistants

Liturgists

Aug. 3 Chris Kailipaka
Aug. 10 JoLynn Bragg
Aug. 17 Cade Aelvoet
Aug. 24 Chip Thornsburg
Aug. 31 Martha Galbraith

Counters

Aug. 3 Carrie Self
Aug. 10
Aug. 17 Cassie Aelvoet
Aug. 24 Lorine Hackebeil
Aug. 31

Counters

Aug. 3 Sherry Hartnett
Aug. 10
Aug. 17 Brenda Vavricek
Aug. 24 Tricia Boll
Aug. 31

Children's Church

Aug. 3 Tammy Lynch
Aug. 10 Nihar Judah
Aug. 17 Linda Bohlen
Aug. 24 Sandy Callis
Aug. 31 Marcy Rothe

Worship Attendance

June 29 89
July 6 77
July 13 63
July 20 82
July 27 77

Memorials

Received this month
IN MEMORY OF:

Glenn Bragg

by

Greg & Cora Rothe
Thelma Lehmberg
Patti Hunter
Mike & Betty Crowell
Chris Kailipaka
Rita Vance
Billy & Cheryl Stroud
Tad & Bette Wooten
Robert Schmidt
Alan & Linda Bohlen
Glen & Linda Harrison
Bob & Jeannie Hart
Robin Weynand

Volunteers needed

We are eager to train more
people on slides, sound
board and media.

Please talk to
Roger or Dee

But whoever keeps His word,
truly the love of God
is perfected in him.
By this we know we are in Him.
1 John 2:5





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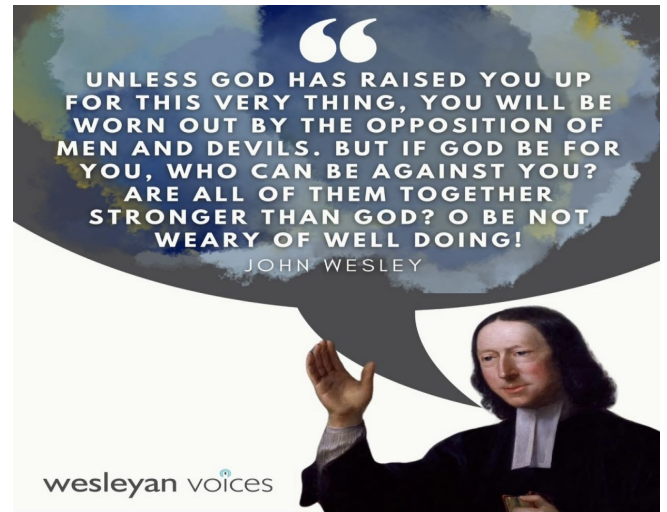
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August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Food Drive 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship w. C. Blessing of backpacks Children's Church Lunch 6PM Healing Service	4 BoTrustees 6PM office	5	6 HMW 9:30 AM at J. Lindeman's home Carpool at 9AM 6 PM Choir	7 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	8	9
10 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship Children's Church 4:30 W w Jesus Gath. St Paul's Hondo	11	12	13 Worship Com. 5PM office 6 PM Choir	14 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	15	16
17 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship Children's Church 5 PM Youth Service	18	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 6 PM Choir	21 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	22	23
24 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship Children's Church	25	26	27 Newsletter Prep&Mail 6 PM Choir	28 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	29	30
31 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship Children's Church Lunch						



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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 Safe-Gathering training and visit Homebounds 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
August 12, 2025, 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
week of the month

Gathering

August 10, at 4:30 PM at
St. Paul's Lutheran Church Hondo

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.sotheworldwillknow.org/>