

The Circuit Rider



December
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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

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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
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Custodians,

Jessica Gomez

Nursery,

Lupe Diaz



"But blessed is the one who
trusts in the Lord, whose
confidence is in Him."
Jeremiah 17:7

The Pastor's Pondering Rev. J. Paul Bruhn



Many years ago, before our children were born, Marion and I had been invited to attend a football game in Dallas, Texas. No, it was not "the Cowboys," we attended the first football game of SMU after their ban was lifted. SMU played the "Arkansas Razorbacks," and we won. Great excitement until we reached the parking lot. It turned out that we had parked our trusty Ford Taurus right in the center of a sea of Razorback vehicles. So, we did what every self-respecting Pony would do, took off our caps, kept our heads down and prayed that no one would see the tiny little SMU parking sticker until we had reached the highway.

St. Paul writes to the Christian community in Rome, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel (of Jesus Christ,) because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Romans 1:16, NIV.) Paul boldly declares, "I am not ashamed," and that most definitely held true for his life and ministry 2000 years ago. Reading his letters and the story of the early Church in the "Acts of the Apostles" we cannot help but wonder, where he got the courage to stand so boldly for the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the midst of adversity.

Today many of us seem to be as courageous for Christ as Marion and I were as "Ponies" in the midst of "Razorbacks." We are challenged for our convictions all the time, and the easiest way out seems to be keeping a low profile and praying that the pressure will go away.

However, there is a great difference between our allegiance to a football team and our conviction that Jesus Christ is the Savior and Lord, the Son of the living GOD. The difference is twofold. First – and I know some of you will disagree – football does not carry any eternal consequence. Second, the good news of Jesus of Nazareth being the Messiah for all humankind is not a human invention, but the divine answer for the need of humanity to be reunited and at peace with its creator. While there are many different football teams there is only one Name by which man must be saved (Acts 4: 12, John 14: 6.) Furthermore, when we testify to GOD's love we are not left to our own devices. GOD promises to give us HIS power and the guidance of His Holy Spirit as we testify to our contemporaries (Acts 1: 4-8.)

During the season of Advent, with wreath of evergreen, candy canes and mistletoes people tend to be more open for the good news of Jesus Christ. Let us determine to become more courageous – like St. Paul – and be prepared to share with those around us that Jesus was not just a cute little baby, but the Son of GOD who died at the cross of Calvary so that we may live eternally. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for our Advent worship services, the caroling, the “Jingle Bell Bash” and our Christmas Eve Candlelight service. Why? Because Jesus did not only die for our sins, but GOD raised Him from the dead. Christ is alive, seated at the right hand of GOD – preparing to come back in glory – and trust me you don’t want to miss that pep-rally. This Christmas give the gift that truly makes a difference – CHRIST Himself!

In CHRIST’s Unchanging Love
Pastor J. Paul Bruhn <><

Thank You

The generous gifts
you gave to Brenda
Sunday November 16
provided for 21 turkeys
for the Medina County
Food Pantry distribution.
You also donated over
500 lbs of food in
November

And you sent 11 boxes
to Operation Christmas
Child

Angel Tree

Signed up to provide
Christmas gifts for
Up to 20 children
in our community
on behalf of an
incarcerated parent.
Barb is in contact
with the caregivers
finding out about
the needs and wishes
and will get a little
tree ready.

Memorials

Received this month
IN MEMORY OF:

Bryan Hartnett

by

Thelma Lehmberg
Mike & Jan Weems
Ken & Nola Hanson
Tad & Bette Wooten
Billy & Cheryl Stroud
Clifford & Kimberly
Reed
Richard & Peggy Clay

Glenn Bragg

by

Ken & Nola Hanson

Next Level Evangelism Conference | April 9-11 Waco TX

The **Next Level Evangelism Conference** at Truett Theological Seminary will feature plenary teaching from leading Wesleyan evangelists, breakout workshops, and real-life exercises! Each participant will receive a copy of a church-based curriculum for reactivating the gift of evangelism in their local churches!

Speakers: Matt Reynolds, Rev. Dr. Pete Bellini, Bishop Leah Higge-Gregory, and Rev. Dr Jason Vickers

Break-out Sessions: Evangelism for Introverts, Servant Evangelism, Show & Tell Evangelism, Rural Evangelism, Work of Prayer in Evangelism, Student Evangelism
Early Bird Price until 12/31/25 \$110

Place: George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Waco TX

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



The Light That Changes Everything

As we enter the Christmas season, we're reminded of one of the most profound truths in Scripture: "Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people." - John 1:4 (NIRV)

This isn't just a nice holiday sentiment. Jesus didn't come as another religious figure—He came as Life itself, bringing light into our darkest moments. And this Christmas, we have an incredible opportunity to help the next generation experience and understand that transformative truth.

Why This Matters for Every Generation

In a world filled with confusion and uncertainty, we all need to remember there's a Light that never goes out—Jesus. But there's something particularly powerful about helping children understand this truth. When young hearts truly grasp that Jesus is the Light of the World, something beautiful happens. Fear loses its grip. Hope becomes real. Life takes on eternal meaning.

As a church family, we have the incredible privilege of introducing children to Jesus as the source of life and light. This isn't about religion for religion's sake—it's about connecting young hearts to the very foundation of hope, purpose, and unconditional love. When children encounter Jesus as the Light, they discover that no matter how dark things get, there's always a way forward. There's always hope.

Christmas is the perfect season to plant these life-changing truths deep in young hearts. These early encounters with Jesus will shape how they face challenges, make decisions, and understand their own worth for years to come. And as we invest in children, we're investing in the future of our church and community.

Our Invitation This Advent

We're excited to invite families to be part of something special. Throughout Advent, we'll be celebrating "Lights of Christmas" in our Kid's Church—a season focused on helping children encounter Jesus and truly understand who He is..

We encourage families to bring children consistently throughout Advent. Every week builds on the last, creating a complete picture of Jesus' love and light. Regular attendance sends a powerful message to children: Jesus matters. Faith matters.

Christmas Remix at The Table — Breakfast Youth Fellowship

Every Sunday at 9:00 AM, join us for breakfast, great conversation, and a deeper dive into "Christmas Remix: Ancient Story, Modern Hope." Over 5 weeks, we're exploring how the ancient Christmas story speaks to modern hope—from finding light in darkness to discovering God's purpose in your ordinary life.

Come hungry for food and truth. All youth welcome!

Take Home Advent Devotional

Each child will receive a special Advent devotional designed for families. These are perfect for reading together at home, creating precious moments of faith-building conversation around dinner tables or during bedtime. We encourage families to make this a rhythm—spending time together discovering Jesus as the Light.

Note from the Director of Family Ministries Continued

December 21st - Jesus' Birthday Party!

Mark your calendars! We're throwing a spectacular Birthday Party for Jesus with games, story time, cake, and a beautiful celebration of the greatest gift ever given. It's a fun, memorable way to help children understand that Jesus' birth is the most significant event in history.

The Light Shines On

This Christmas, let's help children see beyond the decorations and presents. Let's help them encounter Jesus—the Life and Light of the World. The lights of Christmas will fade after the season ends, but the Light of Jesus shines forever in the hearts of those who know Him.

We can't wait to see families celebrate together this Advent season!

Merry Christmas and God Bless!

Nihar Judah

Director of Family Ministries Hondo Methodist Church

familyministries@hondo.church

Wesley Nurse Corner

Dear Hondo Congregation and Community Members.

Christmas in God's Country was a HUGE success. Nihar, Nola and Cora's hard work paid off. Many times, over the 2-day event I stood back and watched our church show up to help serve our community. I thought to myself, THIS IS COMMUNITY !!

Friday was the "non-profit night". We held a sign that said, "ask a question about Jesus and get a free cookie". The children asked such great questions!! We gave out bibles both days and hopefully will encourage new members to join our church. The slide and our bread are the highlights of the weekend.

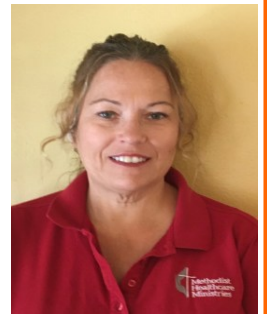
We are looking for members to join the Health Community, please reach out if you are interested.

We have registered for the Angel Tree program and will set up a tree with names in November. If anyone has a small Christmas tree to donate, please contact me.

Thank you for all you do to support me and the Wesley Nurse Program!!

God Bless,
Barbara Brennan-West RN Wesley Nurse

For appointment call: 830-584-1760



Hondo Methodist Women

The Hondo Methodist Women will meet in the Fellowship Hall on December 3 at 11am. Sandy Callis will present and teach an arts and crafts activity. Everyone participating in the activity will have something to take home.

We decided to have a potluck luncheon. A ham will be provided, therefore, members are asked to bring a salad, side or dessert.

We look forward to seeing everyone on December 3rd!

Socks in the Box

The Hondo Methodist Women's Group is collecting items for Bluebonnet Children's Center for the Holidays.

Items that are needed are SOCKS, SPORTS BRAS, and UNDERWEAR for children ages 4-18.

Also large reusable shopping bags come in handy for emergency assistance.

The collections box will be in the Narthex of the church until December 21.

If you would like to make a monetary donation, please speak to Emily Duron and she will glad to put on her Elf Hat and do a little shopping for the children.



Food Drive MCFP

HOLIDAY ITEMS TO DONATE:

Stove Top Dressing
Boxed Instant Mashed Potatoes
Cream of Mushroom Soup
Canned Corn
Canned Green Beans
Canned Yams
Canned Cranberry Sauce
Canned Fruit Cocktail
Canned Pumpkin
Canned Evaporated Milk or
Powdered Milk
Gravy Packets
Fried Onions
Boxed Dessert Mix
Flour, Oil, Sugar

Room to Pray

We had a Prayer Training in October.

It encouraged to make room to pray.

Well we are pretty pressed for space, but we started to create a prayer nook for up to 4 people in the back of the Chapel.

There are also some material to get you started. You can come through office Monday—Thursday 8:30-4:00.

The Women Accountability Group plans to meet once a month in the Sanctuary and will try to announce and invite you to join them the Sunday before.

One big Prayer Request:

Workers for the Harvest field

At National Night the HMC offered "hands on prayer" and had many people take the opportunity.

So we want to offer prayer also at Christmas in God's Country.

Please pray for volunteers and those in the community needing prayer.

Our Prayer Concerns

Shannon Anna
Betty Barlow
Carla Carlton
Glenn Carlton
Richard Crosby
Jeff Friesenhahn
Dale Gage
Ray Gomez
Pearson Hackebeil
Alice Harris
Angie Hawley
Vickie Hill
Martha Holcomb
Jed Knowlton
Angelica Martinez
Jack & Keith Neumann
Mason Plummer
Meleah Plummer
Christine Price
Vicky Sablatura
Denise Saucedo
Debbie Southwell
Carolyn Taylor
Lee Taylor
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

Dec. 7 Hart Family
Dec. 14 Weems Family
Dec. 21 Aelvoet Family
Dec. 24 Lynch Family
Dec. 28 Carrie Self

Counters

Dec. 7 Tricia Boll
Dec. 14
Dec. 21 Lorine Hackebeil
Dec. 28 Tricia Boll

Counters

Dec. 7 Chip Thornsburg
Dec. 14 Mike Weems
Dec. 21
Dec. 28

Children's Church

Dec. 7 Sandy Callis
Dec. 14
Dec. 21
Dec. 28 Tammy Lynch

Worship Attendance

Nov. 2 87
Nov. 9 68
Nov. 16 69
Nov. 23 124

Volunteers needed

We are eager to train
more people on slides,
sound board and
media.
Please talk to
Roger or Dee

Financial Report

October 2025

General Fund: \$ 183,400.76
Income: + \$ 24,571.15
Expense: - \$ 31,274.05
Balance: \$ 176,697.86

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

Building Fund: \$ 18,805.15
Income: + \$ 30.00
Expense - \$ 624.95
Balance: \$ 18,210.20

Memorial: \$ 38,161.26
Income: + \$ 50.00
Balance: \$ 38,211.26

Altar Fund: \$ 8,992.33
Expense: - \$ 59.70
Balance: \$ 8,932.63

Our 2025 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



We are responsible
for ringing the Bell
for Salvation Army
on December 5
Sign-up sheet is in
the narthex



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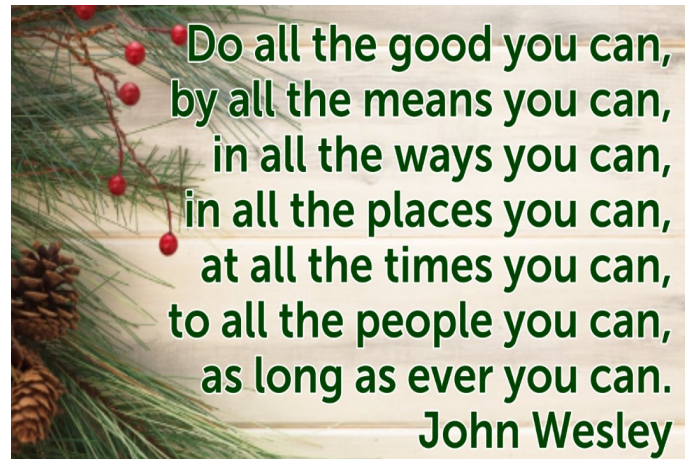
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December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10-11:30 FH Barb West 6PM Board of Trustees M office	2	3 11 AM HMW FH Annual Lunch 6 PM Choir	4 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	5 Sal. Army Bell Ringing	6 11:30 Bryan H Service
7 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship w. C. Children's Church 3 PM Church Conference 6PM Healing Service	8	9	10 1-4 True Count FH 6 PM Choir 6:30 Caroling Practice	11 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 5:30 Caroling 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	12	13
14 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship w. C. Children's Church	15	16	17 FA Christmas 2-3 FH & Sanctuary	18 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 5:30-7 Jingle Bell Bash 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	19	20
21 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship w. C. Children's Church	22	23	24 6PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas Office closed	26	27
28 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship w. C. Children's Church	29 Newsletter Prep&Mail	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 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
Dec. 9, 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

January 11, 4:30 St. Paul 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/>