

The Circuit Rider



February
2025
Volume 54
Issue 2

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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www.hondo.church

Office Hours...

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

Church Staff...

Pastor

Rev. J. Paul Bruhn
pastorbruhn@live.com

Choir Director

Leon Steward

Office Manager

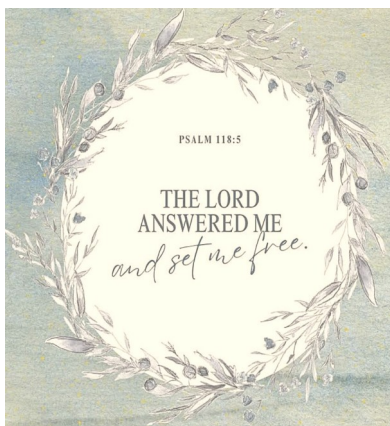
Marion Bruhn
office@hondo.church

Custodians,

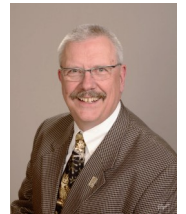
Ramon Martinez
Angelica Martinez
Jessica Gomez

Nursery,

Lupe Diaz
Jasmine Martinez



The Pastor's Pondering Rev. J. Paul Bruhn



Grace and peace to y'all in JESUS' mighty Name! Let me begin this Pondering by welcoming our newest staff member, Ms. Nihar Judah, Director of Family Ministries. She and her family – husband Aadesh and son Nathan – arrived in late December and she began her work for us in early January. You can read more about her, her background and ideas for the ministry with children and youth in her own words in this newsletter.

Looking at the always “self-refilling” shelves at Wal Mart it dawned on me how close Valentine's day is already. Valentine's Day – what comes to mind are chocolates, roses and pink stationery and other frilly stuff. This does not seem to be very attractive to guys. Is there a redeeming purpose in celebrating this day?

So I decided to do some research and learn more about the “Hallmark-holiday” Valentine's Day. The following quote is taken from “On This Day,” a Devotional by Morgan, R. J. (2000), 365 amazing and inspiring stories about saints, martyrs & heroes (electronic ed.). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

“Legends have occasionally crept into Christian history. Stories of some of the early martyrs, for example, handed down orally, have sometimes become embellished and romanticized. Such is the story of St. Valentine.

Two Valentines are actually described in the early church, but they likely refer to the same man — a priest in Rome during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. According to tradition, Valentine, having been imprisoned and beaten, was beheaded on **February 14**, about 270, along the Flaminian Way.

Sound romantic to you? How then did his martyrdom become a day for lovers and flowers, candy and little poems reading Roses are red ... ? According to legends handed down, Valentine undercut an edict of Emperor Claudius. Wanting to more easily recruit soldiers for his army, Claudius had tried to weaken family ties by forbidding marriage. Valentine, ignoring the order, secretly married young couples in the underground church. These activities, when uncovered, led to his arrest.

Furthermore, Valentine had a romantic interest of his own. While in prison he became friends with the jailer's daughter, and being deprived of books he amused himself by cutting shapes in paper and writing notes to her. His last note arrived on the morning of his death and ended with the words “Your Valentine.”

In 496 February 14 was named in his honor. By this time Christianity had long been legalized in the empire, and many pagan celebrations were being “christianized.” One of them, a Roman festival named Lupercalia, was a celebration of love and fertility in which young men put names of girls in a box, drew them out, and celebrated lovemaking. This holiday was replaced by St. Valentine’s Day with its more innocent customs of sending notes and sharing expressions of affection.

Does any real truth lie behind the stories of St. Valentine? Probably. He likely conducted underground weddings and sent notes to the jailer’s daughter. He might have even signed them “Your Valentine.” And he probably died for his faith in Christ. ...*1”

Morgan has done the research for us, and it is now up to us to follow through with the application of truth in our lives. Application number 1, Valentine did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, even when society frowned upon him. He got in trouble for upholding the moral principle of marriage, a covenant between one man and one woman in devotion to and to the glory of GOD Almighty. Emperor Claudius purposefully weakened the concept of family and out of his faithfulness to the King of kings Valentine opposed the emperor’s decree.

We can take it for granted that we will be at odds with our society whenever we uphold the standards of Christ and the truly Methodist concept of holiness. Set yourself apart for GOD and see how others will set their sights on you trying to stop you from following Christ whole-heartedly.

Application number 2, roughly two hundred years later the early church claimed a heathen holiday and reworked it unashamedly to the glory of GOD. Since Psalm 19 and other passages teach us that all creation is meant to point towards the Creator and to lead us into worship we need to learn from the early church and claim our surroundings for Christ. JESUS is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end and there is no one like Him.

Knowing the history behind Valentine’s Day is giving us the opportunity to share with co-workers and friends about the love of Christ that caused a humble priest to put his life on the line for the Kingdom of our Savior. We can share that love by sharing the truth about CHRIST’s *agape* love. Agape love is the power that moves us to respond to someone else’s needs with no expectation of reward. *2

A proper way to celebrate Valentine’s Day is to show unconditional and undeserved love to someone in need. May GOD bless you as you ponder who to bless. What a great way to make Christ known.

In Christ’s Unfailing Love

Pastor J. Paul +

*1 Morgan, R. J. (2000). *On this day : 365 amazing and inspiring stories about saints, martyrs & heroes* (electronic ed.). Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

*2 Jeremiah, D. (2004). *The power of love : Study guide* (11). Nashville, Tenn.: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

With an Attitude of Gratitude

Take it from the Bruhns,

THANK YOU

from the bottom of our hearts for all your gracious Christmas gifts to our family. We are blessed being part of this church family and we are praying GOD’s richest blessings for you and your loved ones.

In CHRIST’s Unfailing Love

Nihar Judah Director of Family Ministries



A Heartfelt Introduction: Our Family's Journey of Faith

Greetings in Christ!

It is a great honor to introduce myself to you as the new Director of Family Ministries here at Hondo Methodist Church. My name is Nihar Judah, and my family and I have recently moved to Hondo, Texas. It has been my privilege to serve the Lord for over

12 years, and throughout this time, my husband, Aadesh Narayan, and I have been deeply passionate about sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Together we have a 3-year-old son, Nathan, who is a miracle testimony of God's grace in our lives.

Over the past 12+ years, I have been actively involved in ministry to children, youth, and women. I feel a strong calling to serve children, youth and young families, nurturing their faith and equipping them to walk boldly in their identity in Christ. I have a deep passion for teaching the Word of God and believe in the power of prayer to bring healing and miracles.

In addition to church ministry, I have had the unique opportunity to serve in the realm of media evangelism. I directed an Indian Christian television show called Ek Nayi Zindagi, produced by Christian Broadcasting Network, and worked with a worldwide Christian media platform known as Christian Vision, developing and creating impactful media content for church pastors and engaging in media evangelism across India.

As I step into this new chapter of ministry here, I am truly blessed to be part of a church so filled with passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The mission of Hondo Methodist Church aligns deeply with my own, and I feel that God has brought us here at the perfect time to be a part of His kingdom work in this community.

Called for Such a Time as This: Embracing the Ministry

As we enter this new season of ministry, I want to take a moment to reflect on the times we are living in. The world around us is constantly shifting, and it's easy to get caught up in the busyness of our lives. The distractions are many, and sometimes we forget to pause and consider where we are headed. But Scripture reminds us that we are living in the end times, and the need for the Gospel has never been more urgent. In 2 Timothy 3:1-5, we are reminded that "in the last days, there will come times of difficulty... people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive... having the appearance of godliness but denying its power." These words remind us that the signs of the times are evident, and we must be vigilant. We see the world growing darker with each passing day, yet in the midst of it, God's Kingdom is shining brighter and brighter. His light is still at work, and He is still calling His people to rise up, to stand firm, and to be a light in the world.

Shining the Light in a Dark World: A Gentle Reminder

This is where the Church becomes so vital. We, the Body of Christ, are called to be a refuge in this broken world. We are the chosen Kingdom of God—His people, His hands, His feet. The Church should be a place where we find hope, encouragement, and the power of God to sustain us. And now, more than ever, our children and youth

need to experience the love, safety, and transformation that come from being part of God's family. They need the Gospel to guide them through this world that so often leads them astray.

As it says in Joel 2:28, "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." This is the time! This is the appointed season for the outpouring of God's Spirit. And our children and youth—just like the generations before them—are called to be part of this great work. They are not the future of the Church; they are the Church today.

The Outpouring of God's Spirit: Empowering Our Children and Youth

In this exciting season of ministry, we are launching new programs and initiatives designed to strengthen and equip our children, youth, and families. I believe this is a critical moment for our church to invest in the next generation. Together, let's ensure that our young people grow in the light of God's love, guided by His Word, and protected by His truth.

As parents and families, we are called to be intentional in guiding our children toward Christ. I encourage you to be excited about the opportunities we are offering at Hondo Methodist Church. Encourage your children and youth to participate in our programs, as this is a chance for them to grow in faith, build meaningful relationships, and experience the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit.

Together We Rise: How We Can All Contribute to God's Kingdom

The world may seem overwhelming, but remember that we are building our lives on the foundation of Jesus Christ—the one who is our rock, our firm foundation (Matthew 7:24-25). Now, more than ever, we need to be intentional about raising up a generation who will stand firm in the faith. Together, let us shine brightly for His glory and be the light in a dark world.

I also want to remind you that this work isn't just about sending our children and youth to participate—it's about all of us actively engaging in this ministry. We need parents to volunteer, mentor, and become prayer partners in this journey. Let's come together as a family and support these programs with enthusiasm, knowing that as we invest in our children and youth, we are building up God's Kingdom.

I Am Here for You: Let's Build Strong Foundations Together

Finally, I want to let you know that I am here for you—whether you need prayer, counseling, or simply support. I am here to walk alongside you and your family, and together, we can build a strong foundation in Christ. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at any time.

Let us move forward with hearts full of anticipation for what God will do in our lives, in the lives of our children, and in the life of our church. God is faithful, and His Spirit is at work in and through us.

In Christ's love,

Nihar Judah

Director of Family Ministries Hondo Methodist Church

Our Prayer Concerns

Shannon Anna
Betty Barlow
Glenn Bragg
Rita Callis
Carla Carlton
Glenn Carlton
Richard Crosby
Barbara Fisher
Jeff Friesenhahn
Ray Gomez
Pearson Hackebeil
Angie Hawley
Vickie Hill
Martha Holcomb
Jed Knowlton
Sterling Martin
Ramon Martinez
Fred Meyer
Yvette Pirkle
Mason Plummer
Meleah Plummer
Christine Price
Denise Saucedo
Debbie Southwell
Billy Stroud
Joy Trimble
Rose Vavricek
Haley Young

Our Troops:

Erik Arias
Joshua Bruhn
William E. Bryant
Logan Dean
Nathan & Samantha
Embers
Bryan Franklin
Joe Frank Garcia, III
Logan Petersen

Nursing Home:

Ralph Gilliam
Johnny Wilson
Glenn Bragg (Cast.)
Albert Castro (Cast.)
Florine Carman (SA)
Judith Kuykendall (SA)

Worship Assistants

Liturgists

Feb. 2 Carrie Self
Feb. 9 Skie Rozyskie
Feb. 16 Bo Buescher
Feb. 23 Tammy Lynch

Counters

Feb. 2
Feb. 9
Feb. 16
Feb. 23

Counters

Feb. 2 Jim McMahon
Feb. 9 Jim McMahon
Feb. 16 Brenda Vavricek
Feb. 23

Children's Church

Feb. 2 Sandy Callis
Feb. 9 Linda Bohlen
Feb. 16 Tammy Lynch
Feb. 23 Cora Rothe

Worship Attendance

Jan. 5 86
Jan. 12 77
Jan. 19 71
Jan. 26 99

Volunteers needed

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

Financial Report

December 2024

General Fund: \$ 96,130.72
Income: + \$ 39,185.44
GF CD mat. +\$ 102,668.37
Expense: - \$ 34,358.22
Balance: \$ 203,626.31

Gen. Fund CD \$ 100,000.00
Interest + \$ 2,668.37
Matured: \$ 102,668.37
Transf. to GF - \$ 102,668.37
Balance: \$ 0.00

Scholarship CD \$ 46,000.00
Balance: \$ 46,000.00

Building Fund: \$ 36,851.64
Income: + \$ 9,100.00
Expense: - \$ 590.00
Balance: \$ 45,361.64

Memorial: \$ 40,097.69
Income: \$ 1,096.05
Balance: \$ 41,193.74

Altar Fund: \$ 8,565.48
Income: + \$ 615.86
Expense - \$ 356.26
Balance: \$ 8,825.08



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

Our 2024 Budget is \$ 379,969.
We have received GF Pledges for \$ 156,574. from 24 family units

Hondo Methodist Women

The 2024 clothing drive for the Bluebonnet Children's Center was very successful!

Thank you to all of you that donated socks and underwear to the Christmas Garment Tree. The children are always excited to receive the new items to wear. A total of 444 Items were donated to the Bluebonnet Children's Center by our congregation! (See the photo below.)

Hondo Methodist Women will be hosted by Lorine Hackebell on February 5 at 9:30 a.m. at the church Fellowship Hall. Joan Lindeman will bring the program, *"Where are you sitting?"*.

As we start a new year we need project leaders. Please consider your service in various areas.

All women of the church are invited to join fellowship every first Wednesday of each month.

See you on February 5!

Food Drive January 5

The January Food Drive produced **151 pounds** of goods for the Medina County Food Pantry! Your dedication to the Food Drive and distributions is greatly appreciated!

The next Food Drive will be on **February 2, 2025.**

These goods will be delivered on February 3 to the Food Pantry.

Thank you, Church, for your generous support of the Medina County Food Pantry.



Wesley Nurse Corner

Dear Hondo Congregation and Community Members.

February is the month for LOVE. It is when we ask for guidance in relationships and to strengthen bonds with Love, patience and understanding. As this colder weather settles in I have witnessed a community that comes together to take care of our own. We collected almost 100 heaters and have distributed 96 of them. What shocked me was that the highest level of education for 90 of those was 6th grade. We gave out 37 blankets to our homeless or those without electricity. As the cost of everything rises the need is even greater.

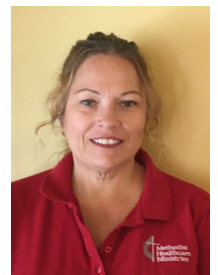
My prayer is that we grow together in love and faith, and to build relationships that honor God.

Please feel free to contact me on how we can work together to serve our community.

Barbara Brennan-West RN—Hondo Methodist Church, Wesley Nurse

Telehealth & Visit by Appointment Hours:

M-F 8am – 5pm **1-830-584-1760**



Memorials

Received this month

IN MEMORY OF:

Tom Rothe

by

Mr & Mrs Weynand
Heikat, LLC
Texas AG Insurance

Billie Porter

Tim Lambright

Roberto Barron Castro

by

Jim & Sandy Callis

Glenn Garrison

by

Clifford & Kim Reed
Bob & Jeannie Hart
Vince & Ronna Gilliam
Marcy Rothe
Eric & Lisa Rothe
Billy & Cheryl Stroud
Glynn & Kate Parrish
Myrna Haglund
Mark & Lisa Cowan
Tony & Ester Johnson
Bob Shepard
Bill & Helen Halliburton
Class of 68
W. G. Marling
Susan Herrmann
Rosie Rothe
Mike & Shannon Rothe
Jordan Tinar

Memorials

Received this month

IN MEMORY OF:

Glenn Garrison

continue

by

Ralph & Betty Gilliam
Charles & Vicky Sablatura
Ted & Joan Lindeman
Eric & Lisa Rothe
Greg & Cora Rothe
Alan & Linda Bohlen
W. J. & Phyllis Vaughan
Randy & Becca Rouse
& Jimmy Jordan
Mr. & Mrs. Weynand
Fredrick A. & Mary E. Rylander
William Bibb
Mary Puckett
William Holland
Phyllis Hellums
John Clader
Robert & Cheryl Warnecke
Mary 'Shorty' Ward
Heikat, LLC Texas AG Ins.
Gilliam Enterprise



Committees and Ministry Groups 2025

Corp. Board of Trustees

Chair: Linda Bohlen
25: Tricia Boll
Chip Thornsburg
Lorine Hackebeil
26: Cassie Aelvoet
Linda Bohlen
Jim McMahon
27: Brenda Vavricek
Cheryl Stroud
Craig Ditsch
J. Paul Bruhn

Church Conference

All active professing
members of HMC

Nominations & Lay leadership

Chair: J. Paul Bruhn
Tricia Boll
Lorine Hackebeil
Chad Elder
Ted Lindeman
Brenda Vavricek
Dee Willman
Chip Thornsburg

SPRC

Chair: Chris Aelvoet (26)
Secretary: Susan Freeman (25)
25: Carrie Self,
Martha Galbraith
26: Craig Ditsch
Sherry Hartnett
27: Ted Lindeman
Tad Wooten
Skie Rozyskie
Tricia Boll
J. Paul Bruhn

Church Council

Chair: **Linda Bohlen**
Vice Chair: **Chad Elder**
Lay Leader: **Tricia Boll**
Finance Chair: **Robert Hart**
SPRC Chair: **Chris Aelvoet**
Corp. BoT Chair: **Linda Bohlen**
Music Director: **Leon Steward**
Education Director: **Melissa Neumann**
Outreach Chair: **Cora Rothe**
Nominating Chair: **J. Paul Bruhn**
Worship Chair: **Jan Weems**
Lea Lindeman
Health Com. Chair:
History Com. Chair: **Ethel Martin**
Memorial Chair: **Robert Hart**
Scholarship C. Chair:
Conference Delegate: **Linda Bohlen**
Alternate: **Chris Kailipaka**
HM Women: **Janice Highsmith**
Treasurer: **Dee Willman**
Wesley Nurse: **Barb West**
Dir.of Fam. Min: **Nihar Judah**

Worship Com.

Chair: Jan Weems &
Lea Lindeman
J. Paul Bruhn
Leon Steward
Chad Elder
Dee Willman
Nola Hanson
Bryan Hartnett
Nihar Judah

Finance Committee

Chair: Robert Hart
Tricia Boll
J. Paul Bruhn
Linda Bohlen
Chris Kailipaka
Dee Willman
Brenda Groff
Chris Aelvoet
Board of Trustees Chair:
Susan Freeman
Chad Elder
Katelin Buescher
Ted Lindeman

Scholarship Com.

Susan Freeman
Judy Bryant
Betty Crowell
Candace DelBosque
Cheryl Stroud
Linda Bohlen
Tiffany Headrick

Education

C: Melissa Neumann
Marcy Rothe
Lisa Rothe
Anna Elder
Cassie Aelvoet
Lauren Busse
Kara Mumme
Emily Duron
Nihar Judah

Outreach

Chair: Cora Rothe
Lisa Rothe
Carrie Self
Lea Lindeman
Lorine Hackebeil
Cheryl Stroud
Lauren Busse
Jennifer Griffin
Nihar Judah

Health Committee

Chair:
Barb West
Nola Hanson
Jeannie Hart
Bette Wooten
Jean Martin
Mike West
J. Paul Bruhn
MV UMC Liaison

Building Com.

Chad Elder
Greg Rothe
Jamie Johnson
Bryce Lynch
Manuel Duron
Pat Ditsch
Jonathan Rothe

Memorial Fund C.

Chair: Bob Hart
Ethel Martin
Carolyn Muennink
Anna Elder

History Com.

Ethel Martin
Janice Highsmith
Lorine Hackebeil

Friends Academy Liaisons

Tricia Boll
Jim Callis
Chad Elder

MC Food Pantry

Ethel Martin
Hasey Hollmig
Sandy Callis
Linda Hayes

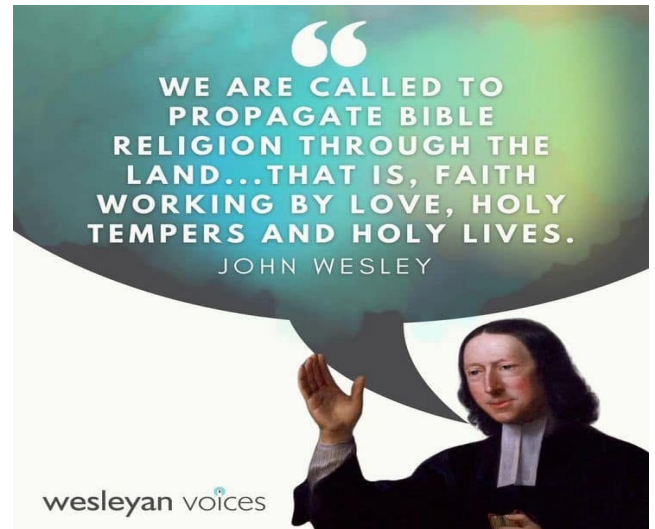


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Rooted in His Word

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February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Food Drive 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship w. C. Children's Church	3 4:30PM Outreach C. 6PM SPRC	4	5 HMW 9:30 FH 6 PM Choir	6 8:00 AM Back Pack Min. Bible Study 10 -11:30 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	7	8
9 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship Children's Church 4:30 Walking with Jesus Gathering Somerset MC	10 5PM Worship Committee	11	12 6 PM Choir	13 8:00 AM Back Pack Min. Bible Study 10 -11:30 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	14	15
16 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship Children's Church	17	18	19 Newsletter Deadline 6 PM Choir	20 8:00 AM Back Pack Min. Bible Study 10 -11:30 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	21	22
23 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Ad. Sun.-S 10 AM Worship Children's Church	24 6PM C. Board of Trustees	25 2-3 PM FH WN Com. Resource Meeting	26 Newsletter Prep & Mail 6 PM Choir	27 8:00 AM Back Pack Min. Bible Study 10 -11:30 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	28	

Awakening Conference at Coker MC
Pray for our Annual Conference



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Growing in GOD's Grace
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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
Feb. 11, 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 Groups

We have a Women's Reunion group
Tuesday's at noon at the Church office
And a Men's group
Wednesday's at 7PM in the Seeker Class.

Gathering

February 9, at 4:30 Somerset Methodist Church

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/](https://www.sotheworldwillknow.org/)