

The Circuit Rider



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Hondo Methodist Church

"Growing in GOD's Grace
Rooted in HIS Word"

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Office Hours...

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

Church Staff...

Pastor

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Leon Steward

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Custodians,

Jessica Gomez
Connie Fieffer

Nursery,

Lupe Diaz

Be imitators of God
in everything you do,
for then you will
represent your Father
as his beloved sons
and daughters.

EPHESIANS 5:1



The Pastor's Pondering

Rev. J. Paul Bruhn



While we are still one week from Christmas, I am sitting in my study to knit together the pondering for the first monthly newsletter of 2026. There are still Christmas cookies to be eaten, and the Christmas Eve message needs some final touches.

Let's take a moment and prepare for the new year with all its hopes and excitement. In February we will have our annual Awaken Conference for the Mid Texas Conference of the Global Methodist Church, and our delegates Linda Bohlen, Chris Kailipaka, and myself will be in attendance. The motto of this year's conference is 'A Thousand Generations'.

The title can be traced back to a passage in Exodus 20. I will be quoting from the New International Version which I find most helpful and clear in their rendition of the original Hebrew.

Exodus 20:5–6 (NIV)

5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, **6** but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."

The context might be helpful. This is part of the text that presents to the Israelites the 10 Commandments. God makes clear in this passage that His covenant with the people of Israel will be a covenant that continues from generation to generation. Therefore, what we are doing or not doing today is providing the foundation for the faith of our children, grandchildren, etc. Evangelism has a generational aspect.

The text also provides us with two important qualifiers that might just help us to approach the text a little more relaxed. First, the punishment that GOD threatens is reserved for those who 'hate' GOD, and not for those who love GOD, but still make mistakes and/or poor choices.

Second, GOD's willingness to show love – the Hebrew word here is 'chesed', GOD's faithful love and steadfast kindness as in Psalm 150:6 – to a thousand generations

only requires our fallible love and willingness to be obedient to the best of our ability. When we love GOD and seek His forgiveness for our sins and iniquities, he will remove our transgressions from us as far as the East is from the West (Psalm 103:12).

By the same token, this does not give us the right 'keep on sinning'. It was the prophets who were tasked with reminding the Israelites as a community as well as individuals that their life choices will have eternal consequences. Dr. Eli Lizorkin-Eyzenberg points out, "In biblical thinking, a prophet's primary role was not to predict the future but to speak forth the word of the Lord to the present generation.

GOD does reserve the right to release blessing or pronounce judgment. Jeremiah 18 the potter recreates clay however he chooses. In Ezekiel 3:10-11 and 33:12-16 GOD explains that our actions have consequences for better or worse. It is my prayer for 2026 that we will embrace GOD's invitation to us and move forward in a lifestyle of holiness individually and as a community of faith. May generations to come call us blessed for the way in which we prepared the way of the LORD.

So put your spiritual armor on, lace up your hiking boots, and let us move in unity, bringing Christ to Hondo and Medina County, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and providing healing in spirit, soul, and body to all who are yearning for a fresh touch from our Heavenly Father.

SHALOM
Pastor J. Paul <><

Global Methodist Church News

Our Bishops recorded their third mini-teaching series:
"Spirit-Filled Methodism"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8whWUvQYM1c>



I highly recommend you visit the website of the Global Methodist Church <https://globalmethodist.org> and subscribe to it!

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

Place: George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Waco TX

A Note from the Director of Family Ministries



Not Just Another Year — A Divine Reset for Our Homes & Hearts

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness." — Colossians 2:6-7

Dear Church Family,

As we stand at the threshold of 2026, the world around us can feel heavy. Headlines shout with uncertainty; voices compete for our attention with conflicting messages, and the winds of change can seem relentless. In such a time, where do we find our footing? Where do we find our hope?

Our anchor is not in the shifting sands of this world, but in the eternal, unchanging person of Jesus Christ. He is our promise for this new year. He is our blessing. This year, let our collective resolution be to turn our eyes upward and our roots downward—to look to Jesus and commit to growing deep, spiritual roots in Him. In a world full of deception, He is the Truth (John 14:6). Amidst bad news, He is the Good News. In Him alone we find true safety, divine protection, health, healing, and provision. Our call for 2026 is to be so filled with His presence and grounded in His Word that we stand firm, discern clearly, and radiate His hope.

Nurturing the Next Generation in Truth

This mission starts at home. One of the most vital callings we have as parents and a church family is to create a spiritual atmosphere where our children can grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus. We are called to intentionally point them to the one true source of life.

We are thrilled to announce two foundational initiatives launching this January to partner with you in this mission!

Kids Church: "The Books of the Bible" Journey

Starting Sunday, January 4th

For next three months, our children will embark on an exciting journey to learn more about the Bible ! Our new "Books of the Bible" curriculum is designed to help them:

- Discover the importance of the Bible as God's love letter to us.
- Learn how to read and explore the Bible with joy and understanding.
- Uncover various books of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Let's get excited! Bring your kids every Sunday so they don't miss a single step in building a lifelong foundation on the Rock of God's Word.

"The Table" Breakfast Youth Fellowship: Diving into Romans

Starting Sunday, January 4th | 9:00 AM

For our youth navigating a complex world, we are launching a deep dive into the Book of Romans. This study will equip them to:

- Understand core biblical truths about faith, grace, and life in the Spirit.
- Build a personal and resilient faith that can answer hard questions.

Note from the Director of Family Ministries Continued

We encourage you to send your youth to be part of this transformative study every Sunday morning at 9 AM.

This is more than a schedule; it's an invitation to a year of intentional growth and shared hope. Let's make 2026 the year we, as a family of families, choose to be rooted, fortified, and joyful in Christ.

Let's commit to:

- ♥ Looking to Jesus first each day.
- ♥ Gathering faithfully as His body for worship and teaching.
- ♥ Creating homes where prayer and Scripture are the heartbeat.
- ♥ Investing in our children and youth by bringing them to where God's Word is opened.

The best is yet to come, because He holds our future.

"But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.

They will be like a tree planted by the water..." – Jeremiah 17:7-8

Happy, Blessed, and Hope-Filled New Year!

Nihar Judah

Director of Family Ministries Hondo Methodist Church

familiyministries@hondo.church

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the
Whataburger gift cards.
They really came in handy
when we needed a study break.
We always appreciate your
thoughtfulness.

Love

Katy & Kelly Self

Many Thanks

for all your cards, treats, gifts and tokens of love and appreciation you sent our way during this Advent and Christmas time.

Praying that Christ's presence, love, joy, peace and strength continue to fill your lives and homes.

A blessed New Year to all of You

J. Paul & Marion Bruhn

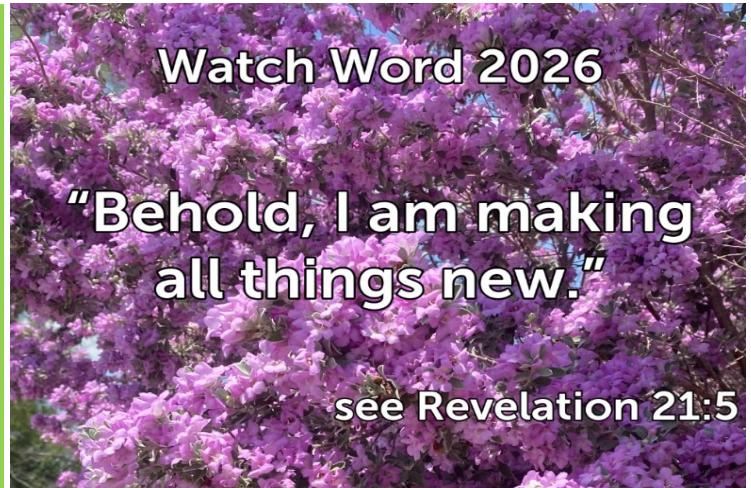
Thank You,

very much for the sweet card &
Whataburger gift card.
It helped me get through finals week!
It's nice to know that
y'all are thinking of me,
and I appreciate your support.
See you soon!
With love
Victoria Reed

Watch Word 2026

"Behold, I am making
all things new."

see Revelation 21:5



Hondo Methodist Women

Hondo Methodist Women will meet at Pat Ditsch's house at 9:30am on January 7, 2026. We will have our pledge ceremony led by Pat. This is a wonderful opportunity to start our new year focusing on how each of us can serve our community.

All women are welcome!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace... "(1 Peter 4:10)

Save the Date February 20 and 21

Prayer Seminar with Rev. Tommy Hays

We will have a two day Seminar with Rev. Tommy Hays (Messiah Ministries) His passion is the healing and equipping of the Body and Bride of Christ through ministries of inner healing, deliverance prayer and revival.

He is an ordained Global Methodist Minister under special appointment as a Spiritual Director and Evangelist.

We are starting Friday evening and will have Saturday with him.

He also will be preaching Sunday the 22nd.

Thank You

The Family of Bryan Hartnett is incredibly grateful to Cora Rothe Care Team #2 for the many delicious sandwiches, the fixings, desserts, the lovely decorations and just the love and care each of you gave our family, not only the day of the celebration, but days before and after.

The love and support every member of our Church has given has just been overwhelming. We thank you with love and blessings
Sherry, Lindsay, Laci and families.

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

Prayer Request

The MidTexas Conference Annual Awakening 1000 Generations Exodus 20:6 Will be held at First Frisco Methodist Church February 11-14 Please pray for our delegates, clergy and congregations

Memorials

Received this month

IN MEMORY OF:

Bryan Hartnett
by
Alan & Linda Bohlen
Kailipaka Family

Joyce Gray
by
Marcy Rothe

Our Prayer Concerns

Shannon Anna
Betty Barlow
Carla Carlton
Glenn Carlton
Richard Crosby
Jeff Friesenhahn
Dale Gage
Ray Gomez
Pearson Hackebel
Alice Harris
Angie Hawley
Hasey Hollmig
Vickie Hill
Martha Holcomb
Jed Knowlton
Angelica Martinez

Jack & Keith Neumann

Mason Plummer

Meleah Plummer

Christine Price

Vicky Sablatura

Debbie Southwell

Lee Taylor

Joy Trimble

Dade Turner

Bette Wooten

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

Jan. 4 Skie Rozyskie
Jan. 11 Bo Buescher
Jan. 18 Sondra Burris
Jan. 25 Brenda Vavricek

Counters

Jan. 4 Jim McMahon
Jan. 11 Katelin Buescher
Jan. 18 Brenda Vavricek
Jan. 25 Tricia Boll

Counters

Jan. 4
Jan. 11 Jim McMahon
Jan. 18
Jan. 25 Chris Aelvoet

Children's Church

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

Worship Attendance

Nov. 30 79

Dec. 7 83

Dec. 14 74

Dec. 21 106

Financial Report

November 2025

General Fund: \$ 176,697.86
Income: + \$ 32,025.17
Cor. CPS Oct + \$ 100.56
Expense: - \$ 33,870.07
Balance: \$ 174,953.52

Scholarship CD \$ 67,515.86

Balance: \$ 67,515.86

Building Fund: \$ 18,210.20

Income: + \$ 30.00

Balance: \$ 18,240.20

Memorial: \$ 38,211.26

Income: + \$ 375.00

Balance: \$ 38,586.26

Altar Fund: \$ 8,932.63

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



Volunteers needed

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

Please talk to
Roger or Dee



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IN THE DAY THOU BELIEVEST,
THOU SHALL SURELY LIVE.
THOU SHALT BE RESTORED TO
THE FAVOR OF GOD;

AND IN HIS PLEASURE IS LIFE.

- JOHN WESLEY

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year Office closed	2	3 B. Gilliam Birthday Celebration FH 3 PM
4 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship w. C Children's Church 6PM Healing Service	5	6	7 HMW meets at 9:30 at Pat Ditsch 6 PM Choir	8 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	9	10
11 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship Children's Church C. Charge Conf. Sabinal 4:30 W w Jesus Gath. St. Paul's Lutheran	12	13	14 6 PM Choir	15 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	16	17
18 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship Children's Church	19	20 Newsletter Deadline	21 6 PM Choir	22 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	23	24
25 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel + The Table 10 AM Worship Children's Church	26	27 Newsletter Prep&Mail	28 5 PM office Worship C. 6 PM Choir	29 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 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 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 Jan. 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 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/>