

# The Circuit Rider



November  
2025  
Volume 54  
Issue 11

## Hondo Methodist Church

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

1006 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hondo, Texas 78861  
(830)584.0300

office@hondo.church  
[www.hondo.church](http://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



"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



Not too long ago I mentioned an old hymn entitled, "Bringing in the Sheaves," (Our Great Redeemer's Praise, #464) and I shared my conviction that many of our younger contemporaries do not understand the concept of 'sheaves' since they never witnessed the old harvesting style with a sickle and then tying the grain together in sheaves to move them easily onto a wagon that would bring them to a threshing floor.

Yes, it is harvesting time, and many things have changed. Combines speed up the process powerful light fixtures basically allow for harvesting 24/7, and even the proverbial 'cotton picking' is now automated and instead of sacks of cotton you have large bails that look like the ends of a giant's Q-Tip. We no longer receive our wages in cash, but by check – old timey, or by electronic funds transfer. While all this might be safer and more convenient, we are losing the moment of satisfaction when we receive the fruit of our labor.

Yes, we do focus on stewardship in the month of November. It is a thoughtful reminder to keep the giver of every good and perfect gift at the forefront of our minds. There are firstfruits, tithe, gift, and offering, and they all are meant to teach us the attitude of gratitude as we make giving to GOD our highest priority. With all these gifts a simple truth is reliable, "Give to GOD what is right and not what is left."

Giving of our time, our talents, as well as of our finances all fall under stewardship. Giving to GOD goes as far back as to Cain and Abel. Chapter 4 of Genesis describes how Cain gave "... some of the fruits ..." as an offering, while Abel "... brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock ...", a.k.a. firstfruits. In response the LORD accepted Abel's offering, but Cain's fell flat.

While the tithe can be traced back to Abram and Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20), which precedes the giving of the Law, GOD's Word makes clear that giving to GOD from what we first have received from Him, is considered a proper act of worship. In full disclosure, nobody ever bothered to tell me about worshipping GOD with my financial means while I was growing up in Germany. Money was not an issue that was discussed around the proverbial kitchen table, and the larger Christian denominations relied on a tax system that was based on a certain percentage of everyone's income. With no instruction I was not even aware what blessings GOD has in store for those who honor Him with their income.

It was in my second year in seminary that I truly started looking into the concept of tithing, gifts, and offerings, as well as

firstfruits. Tithing is easy, since it simply means 10%. I have encountered people who asked me if the tithe was to be taken from the gross or the net income. My tongue in cheek answer has always been the question if they would like a gross or a net blessing. Everybody wanted a gross blessing.

There are moments where GOD might direct us to give sacrificially to a particular cause in the Kingdom of GOD, e.g. providing a scholarship for a Global Methodist student at the West Africa Theological Seminary (WATS). Maybe we want to show our gratitude to GOD by giving a special offering out of thanksgiving, because He might have protected us from a bad accident. So, I understood, tithe, gifts, and offerings, yet I still struggled with 'firstfruits.' When do you give it? How much do you give? And – maybe most importantly – why do you give it?

Firstfruits are discussed in Deuteronomy 26. It is a thanksgiving offering from the first fruits that have been harvested, acknowledging GOD's lordship and that He is ultimately the provider for all our sustenance. The Israelites are encouraged to recount how GOD provided for them and their ancestors first in the wilderness and then in the promised land.

Needless to say, I blew it back in Germany. My very first paycheck would have been my firstfruits. Instead of honoring GOD I spent it on a beautiful tobacco pipe that I had had my eyes on for several months earlier.

Now I knew what firstfruits were, but I still did not know how much the appropriate amount would be. Reading some rabbinic sources, there is no set amount for firstfruits, since the LORD did not want to stifle the generosity of the giver. Free to give how much your heart desires!

May GOD's Spirit guide and direct you in this season, as you prepare to be a joyful giver and faithful steward to the glory of GOD.

In CHRIST's Unfailing Love

Pastor J. Paul Bruhn <><

### *Mid-Texas Global Methodist Church*

And pray for more Mission Groups to come and help with flood restorations.

Kerrville and the Hill Country was in the news a lot,  
however there was also great devastation in San Angelo.  
Looks like they have supplies but they need workers.

Consider attending the **Anew 2025 Women's Event** November 8 at  
First Methodist Temple.

Or the **Spirit & Truth Conference** on November 14-15, 2025, at First Methodist  
Church in Irving, TX. Registration for both are open.

Bishop Leah Gregory put her Webinar Recording on Spreading Scriptural Holiness  
on YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_rA32ea-iYM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rA32ea-iYM)

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*



### **November Adventures: Kids, Youth & Community Joy!**

As we enter this blessed month of November, let us "fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:2). This season calls us to reflect with grateful hearts on how our faithful Savior has carried us through another year.

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever"** (Psalm 107:1).

Throughout this entire year, Jesus has been our:

**Protector** - keeping us safe in His loving care

**Healer** - blessing us with health and strength

**Provider** - abundantly blessing our families

**Faithful father and a Friend** - never leaving nor forsaking us  
and being there for everything.

As the holiday season approaches, our church is preparing exciting new opportunities for growth, fellowship, and celebration!

### **Kids Church: A Season of Celebration & Learning**

#### **Every Sunday in November - Fall Festival & Thanksgiving Celebration**

#### **Don't let your child miss out!**

The entire month of November, every Sunday is a celebration your kids will talk about all week long!

Our children will experience the joy of thanksgiving through learning new worship song, interactive Bible games, fresh Bible stories about God's faithfulness, creative thanksgiving crafts to take home and treasure and much more!!

Every Sunday promises celebration, fun, and learning about Jesus — giving your child something wonderful to anticipate week after week!

**Bring your child because you don't want them to miss the celebration!**



#### **November 30th - Advent Season Begins with Lights of Christmas Celebration**

Starting the last Sunday of November, we'll begin our **Advent - Lights of Christmas festivities in Kids Church**, preparing young hearts for the coming of our Savior with joy and wonder.

**Also put December 10 and 11 in your calendars and sign-up to join us for Practice and Caroling!**

*Note from the Director of Family Ministries Continued*

**At the Table Youth Breakfast Fellowship:  
"The Gift of Being Me"**

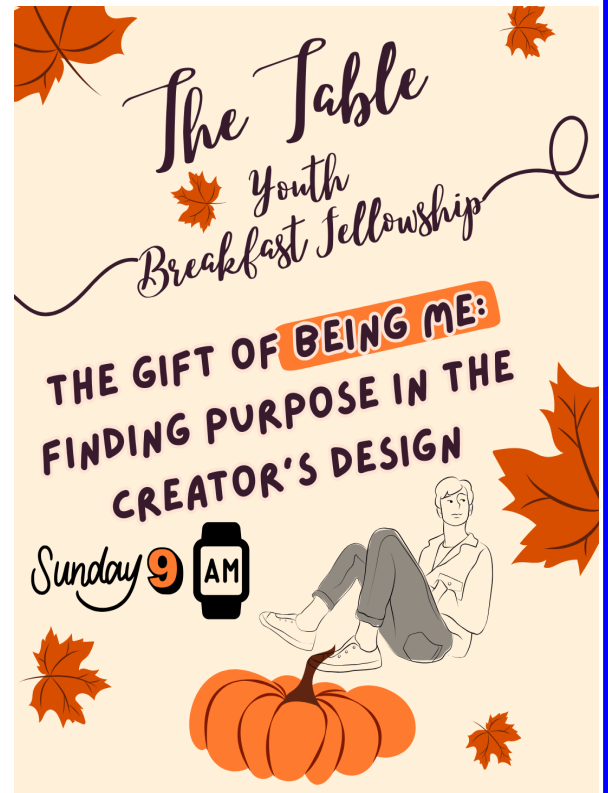
**Send your youth** for our special **Fall & Thanksgiving celebration** featuring:  
"The Gift of Being Me: Discovering identity and purpose in the One who made us—every gift, calling, and personality is part of His beautiful plan.

**Thanksgiving Reflection:** This season, we thank God not just for what He's given us, but for **how He's made us**. As Psalm 139:14 reminds us: *"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*

Your youth will explore:

- + **Who you are in Christ**
- + **Your unique purpose and calling**
- + **Your God-given identity**

Plus enjoy a delicious breakfast !



**Christmas in God's Country - Be a Light!**

**Volunteer Opportunity: November 21st-22nd, 2025**

**"You are the light of the world"** (Matthew 5:14).

Let's shine Christ's love in our community this holiday season!

**November 21st** - Non-Profit Night

**November 22nd** - Church Community Outreach

**Volunteer Positions Needed:**

**Prayer Leaders** - Pray over and encourage community members

**Games Booth Coordinators** - Lead fun activities for families

**Support Volunteers** - Help where needed most

**Bread and water distribution team**

**Sign up** to be part of this meaningful ministry opportunity!

We need you to help us be Christ's hands and feet in our community.

*"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* — Colossians 3:17

**Let's make this November a month of thanksgiving, growth, and service as we look to Jesus together!**

**Nihar Judah**

**Director of Family Ministries Hondo Methodist Church**

familyministries@hondo.church

### *Hondo Methodist Women*

**Hondo Methodist Women will meet  
at the home of Sandy Callis on  
November 5 at 9:30am.**

**The program will be given by Sandy.  
We will cover the last two Right Now Media  
sessions over the Book of Daniel.**

**Those who would like to carpool  
should meet at the church at 9am.  
All ladies are welcome and encouraged  
to join us.**

**We look forward to seeing everyone  
on November 5th!**

### *Room to Pray*

We had a Covenant Area 16  
Prayer Training last month.

It encouraged to make room to pray.  
Well we are pretty pressed for space,  
but we started to create a prayer nook f  
or 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.

### *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  
(Cake, Brownies)  
Flour, Oil, Sugar

### *Angel Tree*

**Signed up to provide  
Christmas gifts for 20 (?+)  
children in our community  
on behalf of incarcerated  
parent.**

**We are scheduled  
to receive the list with  
names October 30.**

**Barb will contact the  
caregivers to find out  
the needs and wishes.**

**Thank you for your  
support in both  
Christmas Boxes for  
children afar through  
Operation Christmas Child  
and for those here with  
Angel Tree.  
As well as the Garment Tree  
for Blue Bonnet.**

## *Christmas in God's Country*

Christmas in God's Country is coming up soon—Saturday November 22. The pans for bread along with plastic bags to put them in are ready to pick up in the Narthex. They have been put in bundles of ten, but feel free to take more than one bundle if you would like to bake more than 10 loaves. Please **avoid using nuts** in the bread to protect those with allergies. Let us know how many loaves you'd like to bake and share on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the church. Every loaf helps make this event special for our community! We are hoping to have 300 loaves to share with visitors to our booth.

We urgently need more volunteers that day since we're expanding activities in our CIGC area. If you can help, please let know which time shift you could help by signing on the volunteer roster also in the Narthex.

We are excited to introduce a Prayer Station at this year's event, where visitors can share any special concerns and receive support through prayer. If you feel called to offer a listening ear and pray with others, we would love to have you join our team. No special experience is required—just a caring heart and willingness to support others. If you're interested in volunteering, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office and let them know so we can add your name to the prayer team. Thank you for helping us make this event meaningful for our community.

A blow-up slide will be set up behind our booth in part of our parking lot for kids to come and enjoy some fun free of charge. We will also have other games and arts and crafts for young and old to enjoy. There will be tables and chairs set up under the oak tree for folks to sit and eat or just relax.

Cora Rothe and the Outreach Committee

## *Worship Committee News*

Yes, we are approaching the Holiday season. Operation Christmas Boxes are already out, Sock-Tree for Blue Bonnet and Angel-Tree for gifts for children of inmates are soon to come.

We plan to decorate the Sanctuary and narthex for Advent on November 29, starting at 9:30AM, and yes we need strong and energetic helpers !!!

We are also looking for families to volunteer to be readers during Advent. In Advent we love to have couples and families light the candles and do the readings at the beginning of the services. Please contact Jan Weems, who coordinates the readers.

## *November 2*

We will celebrate  
All Saints Day.  
To worship with us please  
remember to  
set our clocks back  
to Winter time.



## *Our Prayer Concerns*

Shannon Anna  
Betty Barlow  
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  
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**

Nov. 2 Martha Galbraith  
Nov. 9 Chip Thornsburg  
Nov. 16 JoLynn Bragg  
Nov. 23 Joe Vavricek  
Nov. 30 Chris Kailipaka

### **Counters**

Nov. 2  
Nov. 9  
Nov. 16 Chris Aelvoet  
Nov. 23  
Nov. 30 Tricia Boll

### **Counters**

Nov. 2  
Nov. 9  
Nov. 16 Martha Galbraith  
Nov. 23  
Nov. 30 Martha Galbraith

### **Children's Church**

Nov. 2 Linda Bohlen  
Nov. 9 Tammy Lynch  
Nov. 16 Cora Rothe  
Nov. 23 Marcy Rothe  
Nov. 30

## *Worship Attendance*

Sept. 28 74  
Oct. 5 72  
Oct. 12 95  
Oct. 19 71  
Oct. 26 64

We are responsible for  
ringing the Bell for  
Salvation Army on  
December 6

## *Financial Report*

### **September 2025**

General Fund: \$ 191,246.21  
Income: + \$ 25,396.33  
Expense: - \$ 33,241.78  
Balance: \$ 183,400.76

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

Building Fund: \$ 8,635.02  
Income: + \$ 10,800.00  
Expense - \$ 629.87  
Balance: \$ 18,805.15

Memorial: \$ 38,141.26  
Income: + \$ 20.00  
Balance: \$ 38,161.26

Altar Fund: \$ 9,022.33  
Income: + \$ 307.08  
Expense: - \$ 337.08  
Balance: \$ 8,992.33

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



## *Volunteers needed*

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

## *Memorials*

Received this month  
**IN MEMORY OF:**

**Bryan Hartnett**

by

Marcy Rothe  
Ralph & Betty Gilliam  
Doug & Carrie Self

**Chuck Riddell**

by

Raph & Betty Gilliam  
Alan & Linda Bohlen

**George Brucks**

By

Doug & Carrie Self

Let the words of  
my mouth and  
the meditation of  
my heart be  
acceptable in your  
sight O Lord,  
my rock and  
my redeemer.  
Psalm 19:14



## *Samaritans Purse*

Would you like to fill a box for Operation Christmas Child?  
Take one from the narthex. Don't forget the label.  
There are also flyers with packing ideas.  
You can pay shipping with the QR-code.  
(please mark it paid!) Shipping cost is \$10. If you don't  
want to use the QR write label code on envelop with cash,  
make checks out to HMC, so we can arrange payment.  
Please return box by November 16.





Growing in GOD's Grace  
Rooted in His Word

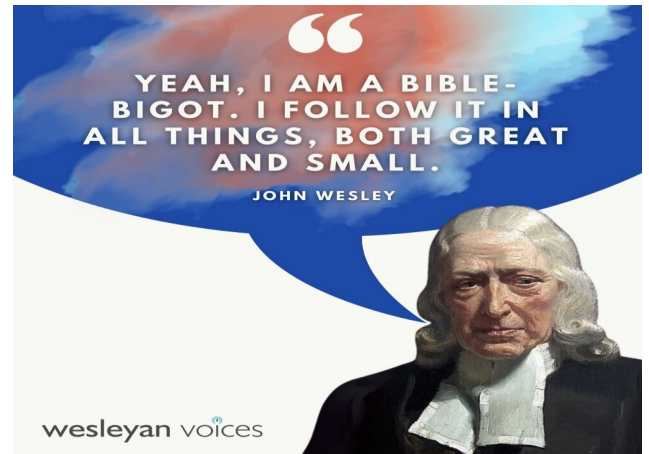
## Hondo Methodist Church

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wesleyan voices

# November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Turn your clocks back one hour!
2 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM <b>Dive Team + The Table</b> 10 AM Worship w. C. Children's Church <b>6PM Healing Service</b>	3 Health Talk Express 10-11:30 FH  <b>Finance C. 6 PM office</b>	4	5 HMW 9:30 AM Sandy Callis home	6 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar <b>Educ. C 6 PM office</b> 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	7	8
9 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM <b>Dive Team + The Table</b> 10 AM Worship Children's Church 4:30 W w Jesus Gath. St. Paul's Lutheran	10  <b>SPRC 6 PM office</b>	11	12  <b>Worship C. 5 PM office</b> 6 PM Choir	13 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	14  Wedding Rehearsal	15 Zerr Wedding
16 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel C. <b>+ The Table</b> 10 AM Worship Children's Church	17 True Count A. 9-12 FH	18 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	19	20 Backpack Ministry 8:30 10-12 FH FA & Nihar 7-8:30 PM FH occupied	21  Christmas in God's Country	22 Christmas in God's Country
23 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel C. <b>+ The Table</b> 10 AM Worship Children's Church	24	25 <b>Newsletter Prep&amp;Mail</b>	26	27 Happy Thanksgiving Office closed! 	28	29 9:30 Hanging of the Greens
30 8:30 AM Fellowship 9:00 AM Chapel C. <b>The Table</b> 10 AM Worship w. C. Children's Church						



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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](http://www.hondo.church)*

### *San Antonio Food Bank*

Next Food Bank Distribution will be  
Nov. 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 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*

November 9, at 4:30 PM at  
St. Paul's Lutheran Hondo

### *Methodist Websites:*

Hondo Methodist Church  
[www.hondo.church](http://www.hondo.church)

Mid Texas Conference GMC  
<https://midtexasgmc.org/>

Global Methodist Church  
<https://globalmethodist.org/>

General Conference Website  
<https://www.sotheworldwillknow.org/>