

# The Circuit Rider



May, 2020  
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Issue 5

## First United Methodist Church

*"Serving Him by serving others."*

1006 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Hondo, Texas 78861  
(830) 584.0300  
[www.fumchondo.com](http://www.fumchondo.com)  
fumchondo@gmail.com

## Office Hours...

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

## Church Staff...

**Pastor,** Rev. J. Paul Bruhn  
pastorbruhn@live.com

**Choir Director,** Leon Steward

**Secretary,** Shannon Rothe  
fumchondo@gmail.com

### Custodians,

Ramon Martinez  
Angelica Martinez  
Jessica Gomez

### Nursery Attendant,

Rosario Robles  
Laurie Schuh

# The Pastor's Pondering

Rev. J. Paul Bruhn

***"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"***  
***(Psalm 122:1, ESV)***

I was probably not the only one feeling that way, when I learned that some of the restrictions concerning the fight against Covid-19 were eased. Many of us have developed "cabin fever" and we do desire to come back together to praise the LORD, worship, study the Bible, and fellowship with each other. On a side note, compared to Germany – no groups of more than two – or New Jersey – churches are non-essential businesses -- those of us who are living in Texas are truly blessed.

May 1, we are entering Phase 1 of the restart of Texas, and that includes houses of worship. Let me make one thing clear at the outset, Marion and I are loving each and everyone of you very much. We are blessed and encouraged when we find out that the Facebook minute messages, "Wednesdays with GOD's Word" and our Sunday worship services are reaching you via the internet or even the radio. Tricia, Jean, Leon, Marion, Ted, Joshua, Johanna, and Mike have proven to be a GOD-sent team.

Please understand that the restart of services does take some preparation since we will follow CDC and state guidelines.

We will reopen for Sunday morning worship service on



May 17, IF the overall numbers for Medina County do not indicate that we are having a set back as far as infection numbers are concerned.

***"Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in his holy place? The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior."***  
***(Psalm 24:3-5, NIV)***

Here are the ground rules for the restart of in-person worship experiences at First United Methodist Church.

- ⌘ If you belong in the high-risk categories of being over 65 years of age and/or have underlying health conditions, please do not feel forced to attend, act wisely and stay home. Join us over the internet or KCWM 1460AM on Sunday mornings 10:00 am.
- ⌘ If you are experiencing any of the warning signs, fever, chills, shortness of breath, etc. stay home!
- ⌘ We will only have one entrance open to enter the worship space: north side

*(Continued on page 2)*

sanctuary entrance closest to the parking lot.

You must

- ✦ Wear a face covering (mask) to enter the building and during the activities covering nose and mouth. 
- ✦ Disinfect your hands as you enter our facility.
- ✦ Sit only in one of the designated pews and keep 6 ft. distance to other individuals. People who live in the same household may sit together.
- ✦ No food or drink are allowed during the meetings.
- ✦ “Sing lustily and with a good courage.” (John Wesley)
- ✦ Clap your hands.
- ✦ Praise the LORD!
- ✦ When the event has ended return to your car immediately.

As we are restarting our in-person worship experiences we are asking for your patience and help. Please understand that at this time we will not offer snacks or fellowship time, neither Sunday School nor Children’s Church, and the nursery will also remain closed.

So, this is the game plan as of today. We all know that these are “fluid times” and changes and adjustments may have to be made on short notice.

The one thing we all can do at this point brings me back to Jeremiah 29. This chapter describes a letter that Jeremiah wrote on behalf of the LORD to the exiles in Babylon who longed to return to their home in Jerusalem, making clear that there would be no short-cuts,

and by the same token there was no reason for despair. Instead,

““Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.”” (Jeremiah 29:5-7, NIV)

Keep the prayers coming for your church, your town, your county, your state, as well as for your nation. We will not have to wait for next year in Jerusalem, but we will meet this month at Hondo First – by the grace of GOD.

Keep the faith and stay safe!  
Pastor J. Paul <><

### *Accompanist Needed*

We have an opening for an accompanist, starting whenever we are allowed to gather together again. This position is for an accompanist on piano/organ for choir practice and church services. Salary is reflective of 5-6 hrs. weekly, between practice and services. Go to our website, [www.funchondo.com](http://www.funchondo.com) or visit



1006 16th St. for a job description and application.

Please share with anyone you know who might be interested.

### *Online Giving*

Since we are not having services currently, you might like to try giving online. You can either click the link “ONLINE GIVING” on our website or go to your mobile app store and down-load the GivePlus+ app. If you click the link on our website, you will be taken to this screen:



Simply enter the amount of the donation you wish to make. Then choose the frequency by clicking the drop down arrow on Donation Frequency and make your selection. Choose the date you would like the donation to be made and click the continue button. The next screen will allow you to input how you would like to make this donation, credit/debit card, checking or savings. Enter your information. At the bottom, you have the option of saving for future use or continuing without saving. To save your information choose Select Password. To continue without saving: mark ‘I’m not a robot’ and click on Process. You are done. Thank you!

## Our Prayer Concerns



Anuheia (Kailipaka's granddaughter)  
Judy Bryant  
Sondra Burris  
Claire Carver  
Debbie Dryden  
Jan Freeman  
Ralph Gilliam  
Tracy Halliburton  
Helen Ann Jones  
Mary Marsh  
Rosa Martinez  
Ora Lee Muennink  
Roy Rivera  
Yolanda Saldana  
J.D. Schmidt  
Shaylene Voigt  
Kathy Yale  
Mary Zdeb

### Nursing Home:

Joe Kailipaka

### Our Troops:

Erik Arias  
William E. Bryant  
Logan Dean  
Joe Frank Garcia, III  
Kevin Rothe

## Mark Your Calendars...

### VBS 2020

Our Vacation Bible School is scheduled for July 13-16 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. If you are planning on helping please be sure to complete your Safe Gatherings training, go to our website in the Announcements section for information.



## Safe Gatherings is for Everyone!

This title has a whole new meaning since the coronavirus chaos has struck. I hope everyone is staying safe out there. Now is the perfect time to take the Safe Gatherings training for those that are stuck at home. In order to promote a safe environment for our most vulnerable, we encourage you to take a few hours and do the online training.

This is a three step process and is all done online. If you do not have access at home, feel free to make an appointment to use the church laptop and have Shannon help you through the process.

To begin go to [www.safegatherings.com](http://www.safegatherings.com) and create a log-in. Fill in the required information for a background check (the church covers the cost). Then go through the training, it only takes about an hour of your time for this first training. Once you have completed this one, you will need to register for the next one on <https://riotexas.org/safetrainings>. This training takes about two hours of your time. After this is complete and your background check is complete you will be certified for two years!! YAY!

Going through the training raises your awareness of the issues and gives you important tools to report any abuse you may become aware of. It is important for all of us to protect those that can't protect themselves.

## Early Response Class

TO BE OFFERED VIA ZOOM

The Rio Texas Conference Disaster Response Ministry has been asked to partner with UMCOR to pilot an online Early Response Team (ERT) Basic class. The class will be presented via Zoom.

Participants completing the class will receive credentials from UMCOR and will become part of the Rio Texas Conference Early Response network. ERT teams respond to natural disasters to assist families and communities as they deal with the devastation nature can bring. Most frequently, they assist with clean-up operations but are prepared to do many tasks as needed by the community.

The initial class will be split between two days and is limited to the first 15 people who register and complete the prerequisites. The class will be held Friday May 22 from 5:00 - 9:00 pm, and Saturday May 23, from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. Participants will be required to participate in both sessions in their entirety to receive the UMCOR credential.

For more information on the Early Response Team training and what ERTs do, go to <https://riotexasresponse.org/ert-basic>. To register for this webinar go to <https://riotexasresponse.org/ert-webinar-training-registration-form>. The Disaster Response Ministry hopes they can begin to offer in-person classes again in the near future but also that this initial online class will lead to more distance-learning opportunities.



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There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace.



*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*

*Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.*

*John Wesley*