



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

October 1, 2026

A Missing Mortal Reminder

In my last article, I wrote about a quick trip I made to Newark, New Jersey, that coincided with a business trip Lindy needed to make last September. After landing at the airport, I picked up a rental car and headed toward the hospital to pick up Lindy. We then drove to my sister's home in Danville, Pennsylvania, for a brief visit.



On the way to the hospital, I passed a massive cemetery—the largest I can remember seeing in a long time. It was quite different from many modern cemeteries, which often have a park-like appearance with “grass marker” or “lawn-level” memorials. This cemetery had an impressive variety of large and small tombstones, some apparently hundreds of years old and others much newer. Its size and character immediately caught my attention.

The contrast between older and more modern cemeteries had me wondering whether these changes might, in some way, reflect our reluctance to be reminded of our mortality. If so, I wonder whether we

may have lost something valuable. Perhaps we have lost the blessing of a mortal reminder.

Norman Vincent Peale, in *The Power of Positive Thinking*, tells a story that illustrates this point. A successful businessman was described as an aggressive “go-getter” who constantly took work home and believed he was the only person who could do his job properly. His workaholicism was beginning to take a toll, so he went to see his physician. The doctor gave him an unusual prescription: take two hours each day for a long walk and spend a half-day each week in a cemetery.

The man was astonished. “Why should I spend a half-day in a cemetery?” “Because,” the doctor replied, “I want you to walk among those who are there permanently. I want you to meditate on the fact that many of them once thought, as you do, that the whole world rested on their shoulders.”

The doctor also gave him several Scriptures to meditate on during his walks. Giving such a prescription using Scripture obviously dates this story to an earlier generation, but the man did follow the prescription. In time, he slowed his pace, gained a healthier perspective about his own importance, and found some of the peace that had been missing from his life.

Here is one of the Scriptures: *“O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you.” Psalm 39:4–5*

Perhaps we could benefit from some reminders that our days are limited—not to make us fearful, but to help us live more faithfully, gratefully, and intentionally.

Blessings,
John



BUILDING UPDATE AND CALL TO PRAYER

Last Sunday at the end of my message, I issued a “Call to Prayer” related to the obstacles and recent roadblocks we have been experiencing in the final stages of completing the renovation of our new church building. Personally, I have sensed that this may be a form of spiritual warfare, and I have had a strong impression that the “ball is in our court” when it comes to addressing these challenges through congregational prayer.

The challenge I mentioned in the message is also related to what some of us may experience as an addiction to our phones and the many apps and distractions they provide. I am challenging us to refrain from using our phones during the first and last hour of each day and to use part of that time to pray specifically for the completion of our building renovation and for preparation for the next steps in fulfilling our call to discipleship.

I am also inviting anyone who is experiencing spiritual benefits from this particular call to prayer—a kind of fasting from our mobile devices—to email me [here](#) and share how this practice has been helpful to you. I would love to hear how God is using this simple discipline to deepen your prayer life and draw you closer to Him.



MISSIONARIES KEN AND AMELIA HUNTER JOINING US THIS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

This coming Sunday we will be blessed by hearing from Ken and Amelia Hunter about their missionary work with Youth With a Mission in Armenia. Their earnest desire through their work is to lead people into greater depth in their relationship with Jesus; and the natural result of that is to live like Jesus and worship Him through obedience to Him in their lives. Armenia has recently experienced devastating loss and heartbreak; but God is close to the brokenhearted -- and the grief they're now experiencing is not the end of the story! Ken and Amelia believe that the transformation, healing and depth of relationship with Him that they experienced is also available to the people of Armenia and the surrounding Muslim countries.

That is the cause for which the Hunters are committed and the cause for which they are in Armenia: to see God bring the people of the Middle East to restored relationship with Him, through Jesus and Jesus alone. Sandia Fellowship is honored to partner with Ken and Amelia in this vital mission to the people of Armenia.



PRAYING. PREPARING. BUILDING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.

Sandia Fellowship

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR

A new staff position to provide leadership, vision, and support for discipling children, students, and young families throughout our church.



EQUIP PARENTS
Empower parents and caregivers to lead their families spiritually and confidently.



STRENGTHEN MINISTRIES
Develop and support ministry pathways for children, students, and young families at every stage of life.



BUILD CONNECTION
Create greater connection and continuity between the church and the home.



MAKE DISCIPLES
Cultivate a culture where the next generation knows, loves, and follows Jesus.



PLEASE PRAY WITH US
Pray for God's direction as we seek the right person for this role—someone with a heart for families, a passion for discipleship, and a calling to invest in the next generation.



PARTNER WITH US
You will soon be hearing about an opportunity to help financially resource or “seed” this position that will be vital for the establishment of this ministry.

Together, let's raise up a generation of disciples who know and love Jesus.

FOR HIS GLORY. FOR OUR FAMILIES. FOR THE NEXT GENERATION.



FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the call to help seed the first-year salary for our new staff position of Family Discipleship Director. We are already receiving a great response.

Concerning this giving opportunity, we are asking that donations or year-end pledges be turned in by September 30 so that we can determine where we stand regarding our total expected income. If anyone would like to take advantage of a tax-free IRA donation, we would welcome that as well. Those donations can extend into January of next year, if needed.



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP GOLF GATHERING

Join us the first and third Thursdays of each month for a round of 9 holes! We meet at Arroyo del Oso Dam 9 at 9:30 AM. Our next date is Thursday, October 15 at 9:30 AM. Please reply by October 8 by clicking [here](#) and provide us your contact information.



NEED ASSISTANCE WITH HEARING AT CHURCH?

If you are needing assistance with hearing, please download the **Listen Everywhere** app on your cell phone.

When you arrive at our service, please connect to our Wi-Fi. The password is: 17x9c9s0ua.

On your hearing aid, make sure your Bluetooth is turned on. If you do not want to use the app on your phone, we have two devices available. It has a headphone that goes over your ear and you can adjust the volume on the provided phone. Please ask an usher if you need one of these devices.



THERE'S A LIFE GROUP FOR YOU!

Sandia Fellowship has several LIFE Groups regularly meeting in homes throughout Albuquerque, as well as two that meet in local restaurants:

Tramway Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 PM. Contact: **Ed Boucheron**

Northeast Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Wednesday from 7:00-8:00 PM. Contact: **Tim Ownbey**

Women's Group: This LIFE Group meets every second and fourth Saturday at 10:00 AM at the church offices (2609 Texas St NE). Contact: **Lindy Rech**

"The Story" Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Monday from 12:00-1:00 PM at the church offices. Contact: **Pastor John**

"The Chosen" Interactive Bible Study Group: This LIFE Group meets seasonally using an interactive guide that follows along with the popular TV series. The group meets on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 PM at the church offices (2609 Texas St NE). Contact: **Gina Rivera**

Men's Breakfast: This group meets on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 AM at Sunnyside Up (6909 Menaul Blvd). Contact: **Ed Boucheron**

Women's Breakfast: This group meets the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM at Dave's High Desert Grill (5200 Eubank Blvd). Contact: **Linda Hess**

All of these groups welcome new members! If you're interested in information about any of these, please contact the person listed or send an email to the church **here**.

Visit our **LIFE Groups page** on our website to learn more!

≡ DEADLINE ≡

FOR

newsletter submissions



Items must be submitted by **TUESDAY** morning at **10 AM** in order to be included in the weekly newsletter which is published every **THURSDAY**.



Email submissions to → **hklein@sanddiagmc.org**

≡ *Thank you!* ≡



VISIT OUR WEBSITE!

Have you visited our website lately? There's always fresh content being added: [announcements](#) and church news, current [sermons](#) as well as [past sermon series](#), weekly [newsletters](#), and more.

You can also [submit a prayer request](#), learn about our various [Life Groups](#), read about the [missionaries and outreaches](#) we support, set up [online giving](#), learn more about the [mission and vision](#) of Sandia Fellowship as well as the [Global Methodist Church](#), and so much more!

Bookmark our site and check back regularly!

www.sandiagmc.org



SEND US YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS!

Sandia Fellowship has a dedicated Prayer Ministry that intercedes weekly for various needs and requests. The Apostle Paul wrote, "**Do not be anxious about anything**, but in **everything** by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving **let your requests be made known to God**. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

There is no prayer need "too small" or "too big" for the Lord. If our hearts are burdened by anything, God wants us to bring it to Him in prayer -- and He promises us His peace when we do.

You can submit a prayer request in one of three ways:

- Send a request through our **website** or click the red button below.
- Email us at **prayer@sandiagmc.org**.
- Fill out a **Prayer Request card** available at the Welcome Tables on Sunday mornings.

If you'd like to be a part of this Prayer Ministry, please email Holly at **hklein@sandiagmc.org**.

SUBMIT YOUR PRAYER REQUEST HERE



Childcare is available for ages six months through five years old.





SANDIA FELLOWSHIP YOUTUBE CHANNEL

Did you know you can subscribe to the Sandia Fellowship YouTube channel? All of our weekly sermons are uploaded to our YouTube channel [here](#) as well as on our [website](#).

Search [@sandiafellowship](#) on YouTube (or just click the photo).



This exciting venture in faith would not be possible without God moving upon the hearts of people to give towards this work. Your generosity helps create a church where we can bear witness to the transforming power of the Gospel. The mission of Sandia Fellowship is to make disciples of Jesus Christ who worship passionately, love extravagantly, and witness boldly. We strive to humbly serve others as ambassadors of Christ.

Click [HERE](#) to give safely and securely online.

NOTE: Donations can be made to either the **General Budget** or the **Building Fund** by choosing from the dropdown menu. You can also make a donation to our monthly **Communion Offerings** via the dropdown.

Checks can also be mailed to:

Sandia Fellowship GMC
P.O. Box 16702
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87191



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