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# SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

## October 29, 2026

### Thinking About Grace



*“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,*
*that saved a wretch like me!*
*I once was lost, but now I’m found.*
*Was blind, but now I see.”*
*("Amazing Grace" by John Newton)*

*“It is done, it is finished,*
*no more debt I owe*
*Paid in full, all-sufficient merit*
*now my own.”*
*("All Sufficient Merit" by Shane Barnard and Shane*
*Everett)*

Have you ever heard someone say, “All religions are the same. Everyone finds his own way to God”? Whenever I hear something like that, it reminds me of the quote from Daniel Patrick Moynihan who said, “You are entitled to your opinion. But you are not entitled to your own facts.”

I have spent some time looking at the teachings of the major religions of the world, and they are most certainly not the same. In fact, there is

one thing above all else that sets Christianity apart, and that is the doctrine of grace. No other religion takes the position that remission of sin, and the salvation that derives from that redemption, is a free gift, available to anyone willing to accept it. There are other religions that teach that we can benefit from merit that originates outside ourselves, but they all ultimately teach that salvation must be earned.

If you think about it, this is truly a radical idea. We are so used to a transactional world. You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. I'll give you what you want – for a price.

But with Christianity, we believe that Jesus paid the full price for our sin, allowing for our redemption, while we were yet sinners.

I must admit that, having at least intellectually understood the doctrine of grace for decades, it is still difficult for me to comprehend. In the vast scale of the universe, none of us even qualify as a speck. And yet, the Creator of that universe loved us so much that He was willing to suffer beyond anything we can imagine to bring us back to Him.

David said it better than I can in Psalm 8:3-4: "When I consider Thy heavens, the work of Thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which Thou hast ordained; What is man, that Thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" In other words, perhaps the most natural reaction to the offer of God's grace is ……awe.

But, even though God offers us His grace without condition or price, there is a "catch." And it is that, like any gift, grace can be rejected. It seems to me that grace is rendered even more amazing, given that God -- having paid an unspeakable price to save us -- won't force us to accept His gift. He insists on our free will, even if it means allowing some of His children whom He loves so much to spend eternity apart from Him.

So it seems to me that we have something to be thankful for in addition to Jesus' sacrifice for us, and that is the faithful witness of all who have gone before, so that we might know just how far God was willing to go to bring us home. And I count all of you, brothers and sisters of Sandia Fellowship, as among those faithful witnesses for whom I am profoundly thankful.

Wishing you blessings and peace,

Cliff Renschler
Chair of Leadership Team




**MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**
**"A Well-Timed Meeting" (John 4:1-26)**

This Sunday we'll be exploring Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the town's well—a conversation that is fascinating, revealing, and even humorous (IMHO!). This encounter reveals not only much about the woman herself but also how Jesus relates to us and how we can best respond to this unique revelation of who He is.

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**DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS THIS SUNDAY**

Don't forget that Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday, so remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night!

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## COMMUNION OFFERING FOR NOVEMBER

Many of you have seen the devastation that has taken place in the northwest corner of New Mexico from the flooding of the San Juan River. Our communion offering this month will go to help provide assistance to those who have experienced loss through this event. These funds will be distributed through River Stone Methodist Church pastored by Rev. Jeremy Barbee which is a Global Methodist Church in Farmington, New Mexico.

Donations can be made at church or on our website here:
**https://sandiagmc.org/how-to-give**

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## SANDIA FELLOWSHIP FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is our third quarter summary report. Typically quarterly reports will come out a few weeks after then end of each quarter. We have an open policy on our financial information for our members. Additional information or details can be obtained through emailing us through our **church website.**

**Sandia Fellowship GMC**
Quarterly Financial Information
3rd Quarter 2026
9/30/2026

**Financial Statement**

| | 3rd Quarter | YTD |
|---|---|---|
| Income General Fund | 172,840.98 | 466,091.00 |
| Expense | 134,075.16 | 406,012.44 |
| Net Income | 38,765.82 | 60,078.56 |
| Income FDD* | 101,250.00 | 101,250.00 |

**Outreach / Missions**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Church Budget Giving | 15,000.00 | 28,020.00 |
| Congregational Giving | 3,365.00 | 11,280.00 |
| Connectional Funding | 5,601.00 | 16,803.00 |
| Total Outreach | 23,966.00 | 56,103.00 |

* Family Discipleship Director

If you have trouble viewing the image, click below for the PDF:

**3rd QUARTER FINANCIAL UPDATE**

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## SYMPATHY AND PRAYERS

Several families in our church have recently experienced the loss of their mother or father. Please pray for God's comfort and peace to surround them as they mourn these losses:

- **Suzanne Lawson's father, Ray Hackworth, recently passed away.** Please keep Eric, Suzanne, and Elizabeth in prayer.
- **Vanessa Ownbey's mother, Mary Jo Laredo, recently passed away.** Please keep Vanessa, Tim, and their family in your prayers.
- **Rick Freeman's mother, Colleen Freeman, recently passed away.** Please keep Rick and Dale and their family in your prayers.

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## UPDATE FROM S.E. COLEMAN
## Missionary to Guatemala and Africa

[S.E. Coleman is now in Colombia and sent us the following update.]

We had 10 women for workshop! What a time that was!  Other picture , we did family visit, wayyyyyyy to the top of Medellin, government housing. You see the smiles, they were so happy to have us, meet with them. I took about 30 dollars worth of groceries, did craft, learnt about their histories and of course we prayed for them. They were so grateful to have us. There was the mother, her daughter and granddaughter.  The daughter has an amazing talent with designing hair. We really encouraged her and let her know God could use this talent!!

The workshop went well. I spoke first, gave the ladies ideas, we prayed for them. Telma taught them how to make bags to make some extra money for themselves and families. They were all so grateful!

This was with International Prison Fellowship. One of the women in workshop had been in prison about 20 years!!

S.E. Coleman


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## FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON FOR NOVEMBER

Our next Fellowship Luncheon is coming up on Sunday, November 8! It will be held at the Sheraton ABQ Uptown at 11:30 AM, after our late worship service.

You can sign up and pay **online** (select **Monthly Fellowship**) or in our Coffee Room by the entrance area. Please do so by Monday, November 2.

The entree choices are:

- Sliced Beef Pot Roast with a Mushroom Madeira Reduction. Served with Chive Whipped Potatoes and a Seasonal Vegetable, ***or***
- Chicken Marsala w/ Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetable

For kids 10 and under: Chicken strips, French fries and fruit cup

Click **here** to RSVP and let Holly know how many are planning to attend, as well as which entree selection each person in your family would like.

Cost is $25 and children are free.

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## CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sandia Fellowship will host the area Charge Conference on **Sunday, November 15 at 3 PM.** This gathering will include our church and several other congregations in the area, with similar conferences taking place throughout the conference.

Everyone is invited to attend. We will address budget matters, renew Certified Lay Ministry servants, and hear a presentation from our new Bishop, Lyndol Loyd.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for this special opportunity to gather with other churches and participate in the life and ministry of our conference.

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## BUILDING UPDATE

I want to thank everyone who was able to join us for our prayer gathering last Sunday morning in the new Worship Center. When I scheduled our Prayer Gathering for last Sunday, I didn't realize it would take place just before our mechanical inspection related to our new HVAC system which was a significant hurdle to overcome. This allows us to move forward with closing the ceiling and completing other work that depended on the successful completion of that inspection. I'm encouraged by the timing and grateful that we are beginning to see answers to prayer. Keep the prayers coming, we are making good progress.

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## 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, November 5 at 9:30 AM. Please RSVP by TODAY by clicking **here** and provide us your contact information.

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## 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.

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## 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!

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**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**

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## 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

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




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## 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).

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**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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Subscribe by clicking **HERE.**

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Global Methodist Church

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