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SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

September 10, 2026

Remembering 9/11 - Hope in the Ashes

It is hard to believe that 25 years have passed since September 11, 2001—a day that changed our nation and left an imprint on the hearts of a generation. Most of us can still remember where we were, what we were doing, and how, in a matter of moments, our world seemed to change forever.





The following spring, I took Candice and Michael to Washington, D.C., and New York City. It was an experience our family will never forget. Many buildings in the Financial District were still covered in black material, and personal memorials surrounded places such as St. Paul's Chapel. My children had never been there before, but having visited previously, I was struck by how profoundly different everything looked.



Yet amid the devastation, one truth became remarkably clear: on a day when we witnessed some of the worst of humanity, we also witnessed some of the very best. We saw courage, compassion, sacrifice, and selflessness. First responders ran toward danger while others were running away. Ordinary people performed extraordinary acts of love. In the midst of tragedy, we caught glimpses of something greater—human beings willing to lay down their lives for others.

And then there were the crosses.



Among the ruins of the World Trade Center, steel beams were discovered in the unmistakable shape of crosses. To me, they became a tangible reminder that even in the darkest places, God's grace has not disappeared. Evil may destroy buildings, but it cannot destroy the hope found in Christ.

One of those crosses now stands in the 9/11 Memorial Museum. I hope to see it someday—not simply as a piece of steel recovered from the ruins, but as a witness. A witness that the Cross of Christ still stands when everything else has fallen. A witness that God can bring hope out of devastation, beauty out of ashes, and life out of death.

Twenty-five years later, our nation once again seems deeply divided. We often feel as though we have lost our moral compass and forgotten how to listen, love, and live together. Many wonder whether our nation can withstand the conflicts that surround us.

But history reminds us that America has faced dark and seemingly impossible moments before. From the Revolutionary War to the Civil War and World War II, there were times when our survival seemed uncertain. Yet God repeatedly brought light out of darkness and renewal out of brokenness. Some of the greatest spiritual awakenings in our history followed some of our darkest seasons.

Could it be that we are once again in a season when God is preparing hearts for revival? I choose to believe that He is.

I believe the power of the Cross is still at work beneath the ashes of our brokenness. I believe God is not finished with our nation, our communities, or His Church. And I believe the greatest days of spiritual awakening may still be ahead of us.

So let us not lose heart. Let us pray. Let us serve. Let us stand for truth while extending grace. And above all, let us wait and believe.

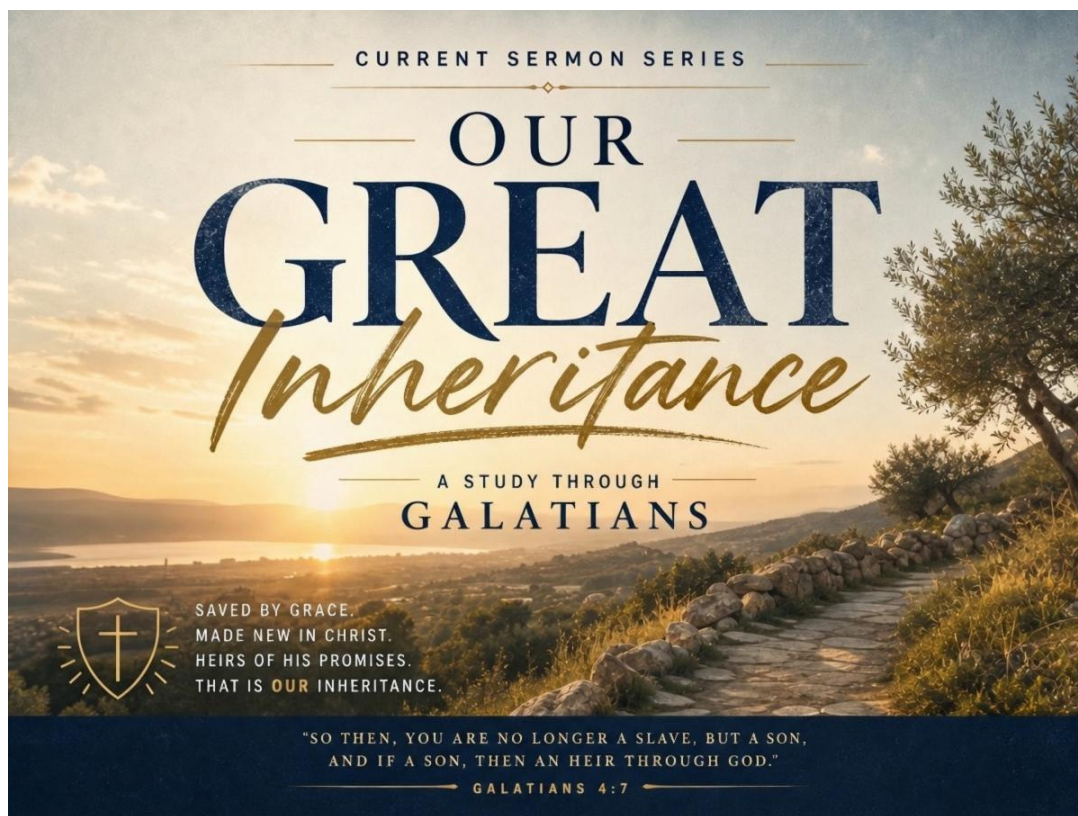
Here these words from the Apostle Paul:

“We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.” - 2 Corinthians 4:8–9

The ashes are not the end of the story.

The Cross still stands. Christ still reigns. And there is still hope.

In God's Grace,
John



MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13
"Grace to the Barren" (Galatians 4:24-31)

We are continuing our sermon series this Sunday through the book of Galatians, "Our Great Inheritance." Together we are exploring Paul's letter to the churches in Galatia and his explanation of the foundational truths of the Gospel of Christ.

This Sunday we will be looking at Galatians 4:24–31, where Paul draws a comparison between Sarah and Hagar, as well as Isaac and Ishmael. We will consider what these individuals and their relationships teach us about the distinction between slavery and freedom, the promise of God, and the significance of Christ's redemptive work on our behalf.

Fellowship Luncheon @ Sheraton ABQ Uptown

Sunday, September 27
11:30 AM



FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON FOR SEPTEMBER

Our next Fellowship Luncheon is coming up on Sunday, September 27! It will be held at the Sheraton ABQ Uptown at 11:30 AM, after our late worship service.

Click [here](#) to RSVP by **September 20** and let Holly know how many are planning to attend, as well as which entree selection each person in your family would like. The entree choices are beef pot roast or a chicken dish. For kids 10 and under: chicken strips, French fries and fruit cup.

Cost is \$25 and children are free. Pay online [here](#) (select **Monthly Fellowship Luncheon** from the **Fund** drop down menu)



BUILDING UPDATE

We appreciate your prayers and patience as we are coming closer to completing the renovation of our Tennessee building. Please pray for the delivery of our HVAC system. It was ordered back in April and there was a 12-16 week delivery range and the nine AC should have already been delivered, but we don't have them yet.

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

First of all, I want to say 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.

After a couple of phone interviews, our Leadership Team did interview a rather promising candidate for this position on August 30. However, following the in-person interview, the Team decided that this person was not the right match for the position.

The Leadership Team will be meeting this coming Monday to review the job description, qualifications, and salary for this position. Our goal is to have the position ready to list nationwide early next week.



A QUICK RECAP OF THE RECENT GMC GENERAL CONFERENCE

The Global Methodist Church (GMC) held its historic second General Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 30 to September 5, 2026.

Event Overview:

- Significance: This marked the first time a major global Methodist denomination held its general conference on African soil.
- Theme: "The Beauty of Holiness – A Spirit-Filled Life. A Holy Calling"
- Location: Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa
- Attendance: Delegates, clergy, and laity gathered from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.

Key Actions and Decisions:

- Legislation: Delegates debated and voted on 451 petitions to form the structural foundations, governance, and long-term discipline of the Global Methodist Church.
 - Leadership: The assembly discussed processes for electing bishops and focused on strengthening the church's global connectional structure. There were eight newly elected bishops, and one of them is Rev. Lyndol Loyd from our West Plains Conference currently serving as pastor of Lakeridge UMC in Lubbock, Texas.
 - Growth: The gathering highlighted the rapid expansion of the denomination, which now encompasses over 7,200 churches and 55 annual conferences worldwide.
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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, September 17 at 9:30 AM. Please RSVP TODAY by clicking [here](#) and provide us your contact information.

LIFE Groups



**SANDIA
FELLOWSHIP**
Global Methodist Church

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@sandiacmc.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!

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).



**SANDIA
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Global Methodist Church



PARTNER WITH US!

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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