



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

September 17, 2026

Forged in the Valley

A couple of weeks ago, Lindy had to fly to Newark, New Jersey, for work. Once we found out about the trip, I suggested that since she would be finishing work on Wednesday of that week, I should fly up that day and take her to see my sister and brother-in-law, who live in Danville, Pennsylvania, about two hours away. I flew up, and we had a great two-day visit. We also got to revisit a portion of the state where I grew up.



One of the realities I experienced growing up in Pennsylvania was being regularly reminded of the history that surrounded me. Between school trips and Boy Scouts, I visited Gettysburg, Independence Park (the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, and Betsy Ross's home), and Lafayette's headquarters, to name a few. I also remember well the day we walked through a rather famous place called Valley Forge.

If you are not familiar with Valley Forge, it is remembered as one of the most difficult moments of the American Revolutionary War. Strictly speaking, however, Valley Forge was not a battle. It was the winter

encampment of General George Washington and the Continental Army from December 1777 to June 1778. Yet, in another sense, Valley Forge was a battle—a battle against hunger, disease, freezing temperatures, exhaustion, discouragement, and the temptation to give up. And we think our lives are hard. Many of us don't have a clue.

When Washington's army arrived at Valley Forge, the soldiers were exhausted after years of war. Supplies were scarce, clothing was inadequate, and many soldiers lacked proper shoes. Disease spread through the crowded camps, and hundreds of men died during the winter. The suffering was real, and the future of the American cause was uncertain. The army could easily have fallen apart.

Instead, Valley Forge became a place of transformation. Under Washington's leadership the soldiers developed greater discipline, organization, and confidence. They entered Valley Forge as a struggling army and emerged as a more capable fighting force. Their circumstances had not been easy, but their endurance had strengthened them.

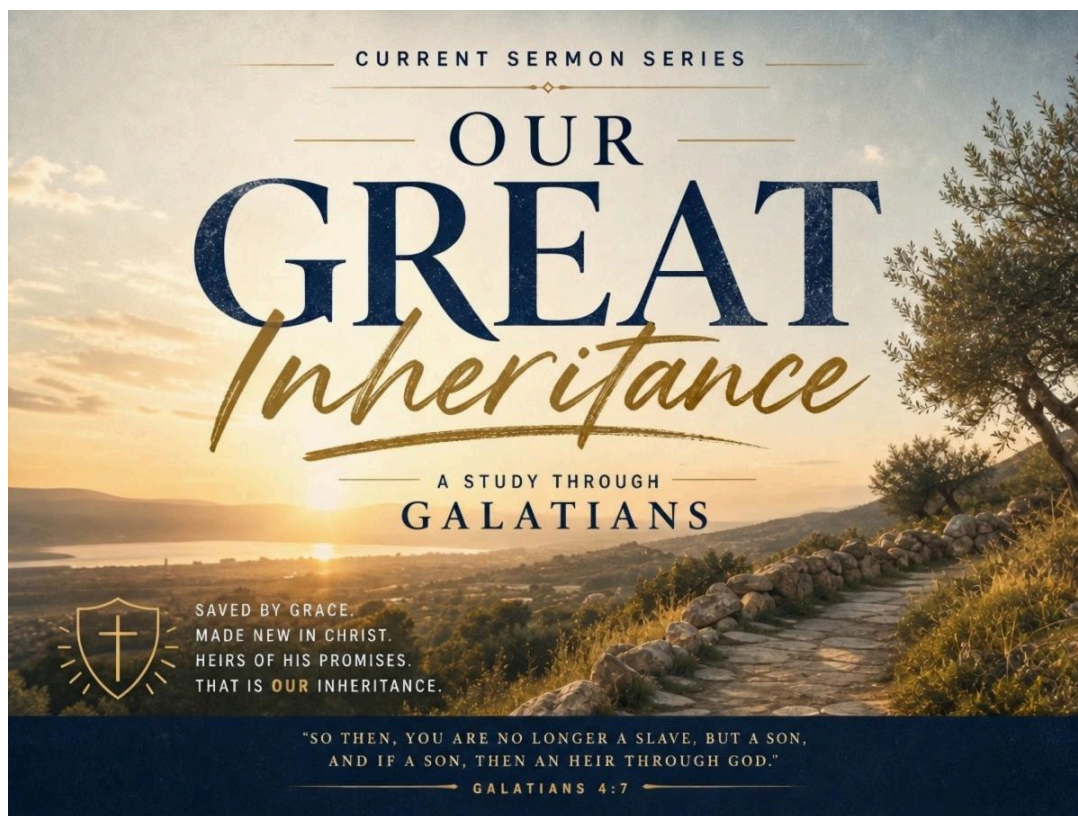
Here is one thing I find interesting about this event, and it makes me wonder if there was something of God's providence in the choice of this location. Valley Forge got its name from an iron forge built along Valley Creek in the 1740s, long before Washington and his army found themselves encamped there for the winter. Yet it was at this very location that the Continental Army found themselves being "forged in the valley," preparing them to overcome the British Army and secure our freedom as a nation.

This work of forging us in our valleys is spoken of in James 1:2–4, where it says: *"Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."* Perhaps the valleys we find ourselves in are not simply places of suffering. Perhaps they are places where God is forging us—strengthening our faith, developing our endurance, and preparing us for what lies ahead.

Blessings,

John





MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
"Our Freedom in Christ" (Galatians 5:1-15)

We are continuing our sermon series through the book of Galatians, titled "Our Great Inheritance." This coming Sunday, we will be looking at Galatians 5:1-15, where Paul challenges the Galatians to live in the freedom we have been given through Christ.

This is a particularly relevant challenge for us today. We live in a world filled with more opportunities for addiction and bondage than perhaps any generation in history. So, what does it actually look like for us, as followers of Christ, to walk in the freedom He has given us? How do we experience and live out the freedom Paul speaks about in a world that so often seeks to enslave us?



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP SERVING AT THE ASBURY PIE CAFE

On Tuesday, Stacy Camacho, Grant and Jackie Claycomb, Allan Esquibel, Gina Rivera, and Pastor John enjoyed a great day serving at the Asbury Pie Cafe. For 66 years, the cafe has brought together local churches to bake and serve pies, raising funds to support ministries serving Albuquerque's poor.



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.

You can sign up and pay **online** (select **Monthly Fellowship**) or in our Coffee Room by the entrance area. Please do so by this Sunday, **September 20**. 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.

PURSONALITIES PLUS ABQ
Gift Purses for Deserving Women

We're Seeking
PURSES
(NEW & LIKE NEW)
& TOILETRY ITEMS

 **Help us uplift and empower!**
Your donations will bring dignity, confidence,
and joy to women in our community.

MORE INFO:
www.sandiamc.org/current-news

Thank You ♥ for making a difference!

PURSONALITIES PLUS ABQ **Gift Purses for Deserving Women**

Sandia Fellowship Women's Breakfast Group is once again assisting Pursonalities Plus ABQ in collecting new or like new purses to be delivered to over 35 area women's programs. These programs are for those out of domestic violence, trafficking, sexual assault, homelessness, incarceration, etc. Since 2016 Pursonalities Plus ABQ has collected, filled and distributed 16,000+ purses!

In October and November, Pursonalities Plus ABQ will start preparing the gift purses for the Christmas season. Any donations you can make are greatly

appreciated.

Needed items include:

- Toothbrushes/toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo, brush/comb, and hairspray
- Mirror
- Lipstick and make-up
- Hand cream
- Socks/mittens/scarf/hat
- Hand sanitizer
- Lip balm
- Tissue packages
- Notebook

Also, if you have costume jewelry (new, used, broken pieces or jewelry supplies) they have creative artists to curate a jewelry set for each purse.

Purses and filler items can be brought to the next Women's Breakfast which takes place on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM at Dave's High Desert Grill (5200 Eubank Blvd NE). Purses and filler items can also be put in the blue rolling cart in the coffee room during both church services through October.

"He will cover you with his feathers, He will shelter you with His wings. His faithful promises are your armor and protection." Psalm 91:4



BUILDING UPDATE

We appreciate your prayers and patience as we are coming closer to completing the renovation of our Tennessee building. Thanks for your prayers on the HVAC system. The AC units are scheduled to arrive and to be installed for Wednesday(9/16).











MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our Men's Breakfast meets this upcoming Tuesday, September 22 at 7:00 AM at Sunnyside Up (6909 Menaul Blvd NE). All are welcome!

Visit our LIFE Groups page to learn more about the various LIFE Groups Sandia Fellowship offers: www.sandiagmc.org/life-groups

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 1 at 9:30 AM. Please RSVP by September 24 by clicking [here](#) and provide us your contact information.



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!

Bookmark our site and check back regularly!

[**www.sandiagmc.org**](http://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:

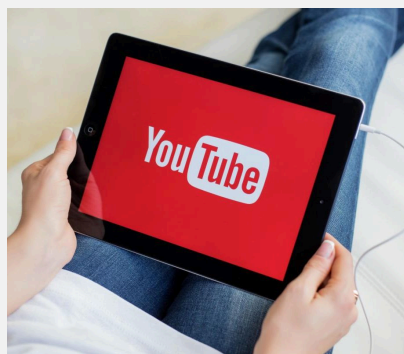
- Send a request through our **website** or click the red button below.
- Email us at **prayer@sandiagmc.org**.
- Fill out a **Prayer Request card** available at the Welcome Tables on Sunday mornings.

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
FELLOWSHIP**
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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