



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

April 23, 2026

Persistent Love

I recently heard a pastor's testimony regarding his mother and her strength through a very difficult illness. At eight years old, his mother contracted polio. When their pastor visited them, he no longer wanted them to come to their church because he said it frightened the other congregants. She said she understood people's fear, and asked the preacher, "Will you pray to God that I could do something for Him?" The preacher replied, "God is through with you." She replied, "You're wrong. I am extremely damaged goods, but God loves to use extremely damaged goods." She told her son, "As long as you have breath, God is never through with you."



A short time later, a new preacher was in town and stopped by to pay the family a visit. He informed the woman that his new church had no kids, but they did have a Sunday School. "How would you like to head that up?" She said, "I'd love to. I have two children, so now we have two."

She poured her heart into her lessons as if she were sharing the message with 2,000 kids. Pretty soon people wanted to hear this lady in the wheelchair and the school began to grow.

Inspired, she thought, "We need to find a way to get more kids in here."

She suggested going across town to a gentlemen who owned a bus company and seeing if he would give them a bus to get children to the church on Sunday mornings. Her son said, "Mom, I don't think they give buses away..." She told her son, "Don't you understand, ask and you shall receive."

So they went across town to talk to the owner. She explained that they had no money and they would simply need one provided. The owner told her that he could not just give her a bus, although something was tearing him up inside. She told the owner, "One day when you stand before God He is going to be awfully upset with you.... If you don't give me a bus." He said "Lady, if I give you a bus who's gonna drive it?" She said, "I didn't think of that... I'm going to need you to give me a bus and a driver."

The owner replied, "Boy, something is tearing me up. Ok, I will give you one bus and one driver for ONE SUNDAY!"

Her son was shocked. He couldn't believe his mom was getting the bus after all.

She told the owner shakily, "I was a little frightened to say this when we first got here – there's two sides of town, so I'm actually going to need two buses and two drivers."

The owner replied, "FINE! Two buses and two drivers for ONE Sunday, but you better promise that God knows about this." She said, "He will!"

True to his word, he gave them the two buses and two drivers on that Sunday, only because on the next Sunday he gave them 3. Within less than two years that man was providing 35 buses and 35 drivers every Sunday.

The Sunday school that had no kids, in five year's time never had less than 5,000 kids every Sunday - All run by a lady who couldn't do anything for herself. Who in her own words was "damaged goods."

When it was all done, the bus owner wrote her a letter and said, "Because you cared about a bus and believed God was in control, my whole family is saved, every driver in my fleet is saved. I don't know how you got us to paint all the buses the church colors, but we did that too."

Her son said, "Mom, look at all you've done!"

She said, "I didn't do it, God did, and he is in control."

I hope this story has been as inspiring to you as it has been for me. All is God's and in Him we can do any and all things for His kingdom.

Blessings,
Allan Esquibel
Director of Worship and Music Ministries



MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 26
"Paul Meets Jesus" (Acts 9:1-8, 17-19)

We are continuing our "Jesus Encounters" series and this week we are looking at the well-known encounter that Paul had with Jesus on the Road to Damascus. This is the last appearance of Jesus on earth after the resurrection, and it took place at least a year after His ascension. This is a story that is repeated three times in the book of Acts, and even though we had a series on this book early this year, I only referenced this event. This Sunday we will take a deep dive into this story that speaks clearly about the marks of a true conversion to Christian faith.

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY



CHANGING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES, IMPACTING THE WORLD

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Kairos Men's Weekend #26 is coming up April 30-May 3 at Guadeloupe County Correctional Facility. A sign-up table is available before and after church with opportunities to participate. There will be a volunteer present to answer any questions.

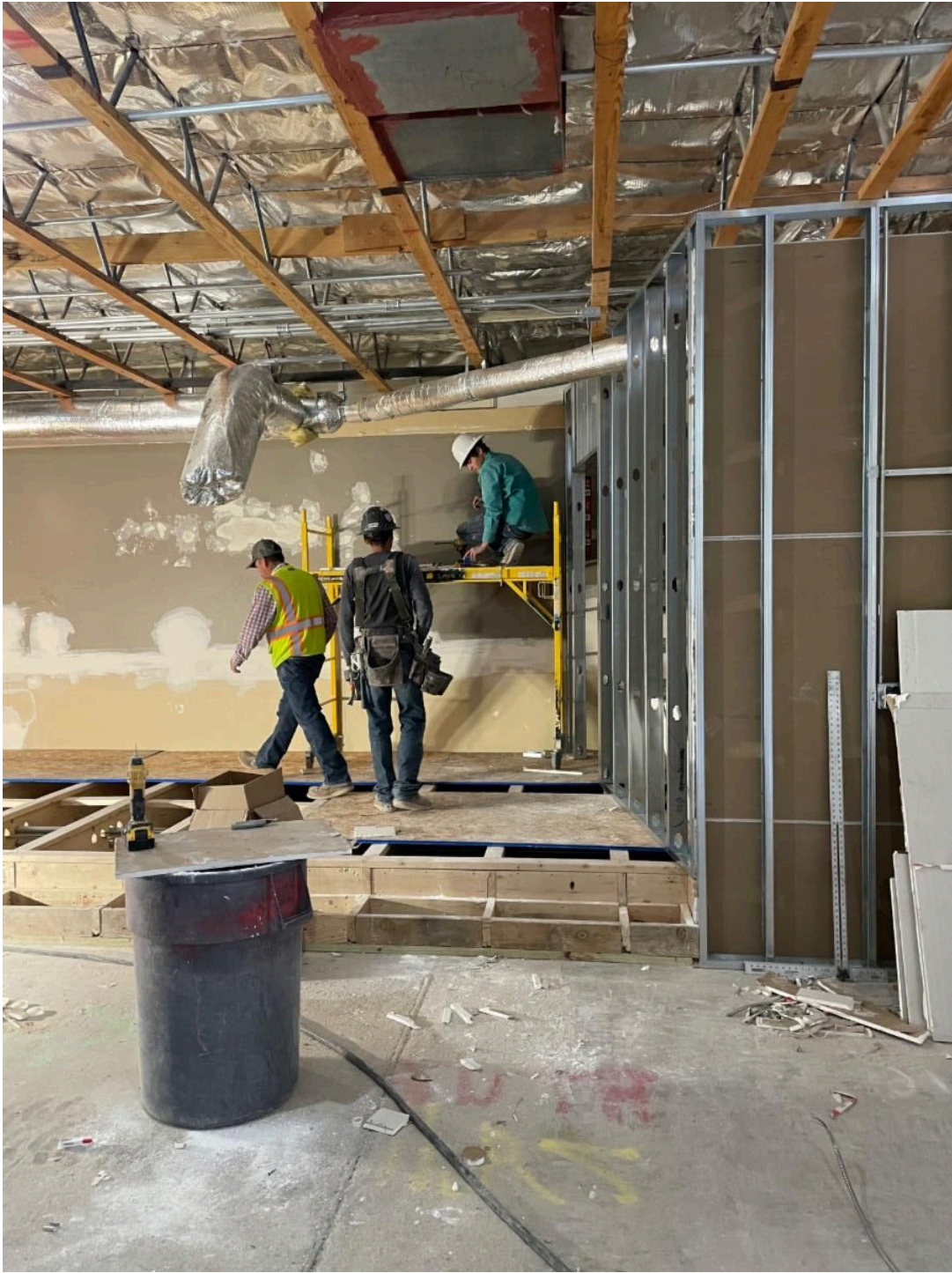
THANKS to everyone who signed up to bake cookies as we have MORE THAN ENOUGH cookies to cover the weekend.

We still need help on signing up for the prayer opportunities.

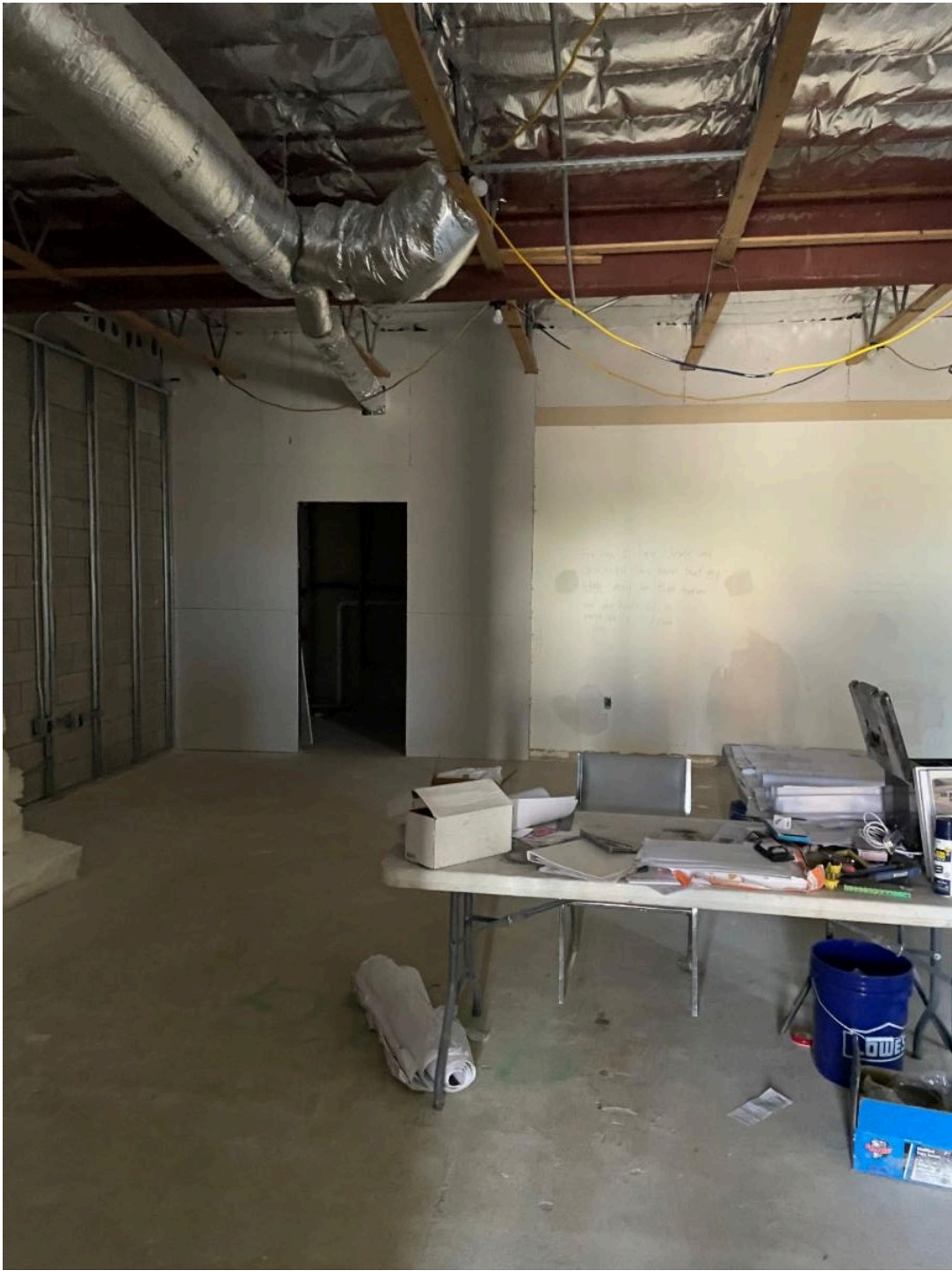


BUILDING UPDATE

These are a few pictures of recent construction. The rest of the staging, sheetrock, and possibly HVAC is scheduled for this week and the next.









SANDIA FELLOWSHIP GOLF GATHERING

Would you like to have the chance to play golf with others from Sandia Fellowship? We are starting to organize a group to gather for a yet-to-be determined time for a round of 9 holes at one of the public courses in town. Grant Claycomb is going to be our point person, and if you are interested in participating, click [here](#) and provide us your contact information and we will work on organizing this great time of fun and fellowship.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our Men's Breakfast meets this upcoming Tuesday, April 28 at 7:00 AM at Sunnyside Up (6909 Menaul Blvd NE). All are welcome!



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**

Foothills Group: This LIFE Group meets every first and third Tuesday from 2:00-3:00 PM. Contact: **Jim Turner**

“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!



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



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP

Global Methodist Church

SHERATON ABQ
UPTOWN
2600 Louisiana Blvd NE

VISIT US ONLINE
www.sandiagmc.org



Sundays @ 10 AM

Join us for worship this Sunday!

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**.



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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