

[Having trouble viewing this email? Click here to view as a webpage.](#)



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

April 30, 2026

Thinking About Blessings

"You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and His rule." Matthew 5:3 (the Message)

"May God grant you strength, courage, clear vision and a good night's sleep, that you may rise to each day's challenges in ways that please Him. Thank Him for life, and the chance to try and try again, to learn and become." Paul of Endicott



Most of us would probably agree that, at least in the physical sense, we have won the lottery of life just by virtue of having been born in the United States of America. We have access to food, medical care, and creature comforts that not so long ago even kings and emperors could only have dreamed of. And yet it seems to be a feature of human nature that when we receive blessings of whatever kind, our proper reaction of gratitude and thanksgiving is instead often ingratitude and complacency. In fact, the more richly we are showered in blessings, the more we take the Source of those blessings for granted. Then, when things are not going so well, we ask, "Why is God allowing this to happen to me?" After all, as Christians we believe that God always

loves us and is all-powerful. If He wants the best for us and could prevent our suffering, why does He sometimes allow it? And why, if heaven will be eternally blissful, didn't God just put us there in the first place, instead of forcing us to live for a time in this broken world?

Surely part of the reason that God allows suffering is that so much of the world's suffering originates from the hand of mankind. And it seems that human free will is inseparable from being "made in the image and likeness of God." So if God is going to allow us to make our own choices, we are bound to make some bad ones, and suffering will inevitably follow.

But I think there is another reason why God sometimes allows suffering, having to do with what He wants us to become. Pastor John told us in a fairly recent sermon (I'm paraphrasing) that we can only learn from self-sacrificial acts while still on this earth, since in heaven it will be impossible to be in want. This point is made beautifully by my best friend from college, Paul, whom I quote above. Paul wrote a blessing, and he understood that what he was wishing for us could only be a blessing if it were in complete alignment with the love of God. Working from the end of his blessing backward, Paul is telling us that God wants us to become everything He designed us to be. In order to do that, there are some things we must learn. And to learn, we must "try and try again." Notice that the only reason you would need to try more than once is if you first failed. Repeated failure is a form of struggle, and it can feel like a curse. But if it ultimately results in our becoming what God intended us to be, it is a blessing indeed.

Of course, our ultimate Source of wisdom in these matters is Jesus Himself. The quote from the Gospel of Matthew above is from the Beatitudes ("Blessings"), contained within the Sermon on the Mount. In the more familiar King James version, it is rendered "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." But the vivid imagery of the Message conveys that even when (or perhaps especially when) we are "at the end of our rope," we are becoming what He wants us to be.

So I leave you once again with my friend's blessing, which I think bears repeating:

"May God grant you strength, courage, clear vision and a good night's sleep, that you may rise to each day's challenges in ways that please Him. Thank Him for life, and the chance to try and try again, to learn and become."

Wishing you blessings and joy,

Cliff Renschler



THE JESUS ENCOUNTERS

MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, MAY 3 "Peter Meets Jesus" (John 21:1-17)

If you have ever been fishing, you probably have a fishing story or two. I think that Peter has all our stories beat. This week, we will look at the last chapter of the Gospel of John when Peter and some of the disciples go fishing and end up having an encounter with the risen Jesus. In this amazing encounter, we can see the mercy and forgiveness that Jesus offers to Peter and to all of us.



Children's Church

TIMING CHANGE FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Beginning in May, Children's Church will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and NOT the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Thank you for your attention to this adjustment.



COMMUNION OFFERING FOR THE STOREHOUSE

Our communion offering this month is for The Storehouse, a nonprofit community-based food pantry that has been providing free groceries to people in need for almost 50 years.

In 1970, Titus and Charlotte Scholl, a local pastor and his wife, realized that too many people in Albuquerque were going hungry. They took it upon themselves to help. They spoke to friends and family, gathered collections, and began to distribute food out of the trunk of their car. One in five New Mexican children go hungry every day.

In an effort to find more ways to end hunger in New Mexico, a few years later the Scholls also founded the Roadrunner Food Bank. To this day, The Storehouse continues to work closely with Roadrunner to feed the community. Then in 1976, The Storehouse was born. This wonderful community organization now serves over 50,000 per year!

Learn more about The Storehouse by visiting their website:

www.storehousenm.org

Donations can be made at church or on our website here:

<https://sandiagmc.org/how-to-give>

KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY



CHANGING HEARTS, TRANSFORMING LIVES, IMPACTING THE WORLD

KAIROS WEEKEND

THANKS to everyone who signed up to bake cookies, signed the prayer campaign and offered donations. This Men's Kairos #26 begins this Thursday afternoon, April 30, and will continue through Sunday afternoon, May 3, at the Guadeloupe County Correctional Facility in Santa Rosa, NM. We will be serving 24 residents with a team of 26 from a variety of churches. Brent Bateman, Lee Beard, Ed Boucheron, Grant Claycomb and Pastor John Rech from Sandia Fellowship GMC are serving on the inside team this weekend. Please keep everyone in your prayer and we'll give an update on the following Sunday.



BUILDING UPDATE

BUILDING UPDATE

We are continuing to make progress. We'll be sending some updated pictures next week. Continue to keep all the workers in your prayers.



Sandia Fellowship
GOLF

BEGINS  May 7 | AT  9:30 AM

— *Arroyo del Oso* —

— RSVP by 4/30 —
SFGMC-golf@sandiagmc.org

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 our point person, and if you are interested in participating, click [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**

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](#).

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



Receive this Weekly News in your inbox each week!
Subscribe by clicking **HERE**.



**SANDIA
FELLOWSHIP**
Global Methodist Church

Sandia Fellowship Global Methodist Church | P.O. Box 16702 | Albuquerque, NM 87191 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!