



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

August 13, 2026

The Pilgrim's Progress

As I walked through the wilderness of this world, I came upon a certain place where was a den, and I laid down to sleep. As I slept, I dreamed a dream.

Those words mark the opening lines of "Pilgrim's Progress: From This World to that Which is to Come." Written in 1678 by John Bunyan, it has long held the remarkable record of being the most widely read book after the Bible. I remember it was one of the first books I read after becoming a Christian.



John Bunyan was a poor man living in 17th century England who worked as a "tinker," someone who traveled around fixing broken pots and pans. One day he overheard a group of women excitedly talking about how God had convicted them of their sins and brought about a "new birth" in their hearts. He would later write in his autobiography *Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners* how he felt his own heart shake as he listened, realizing they spoke of a relationship with Christ that he lacked. "Almost as if they'd found a new world," he wrote.

It was after this that Bunyan began really studying the Bible. He shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. However, “preaching without a license” was illegal in those days and he was jailed for 12 years in Bedford Jail. But it was behind those bars that he began to dream, writing the story that would later be translated into 200 languages and beloved worldwide.

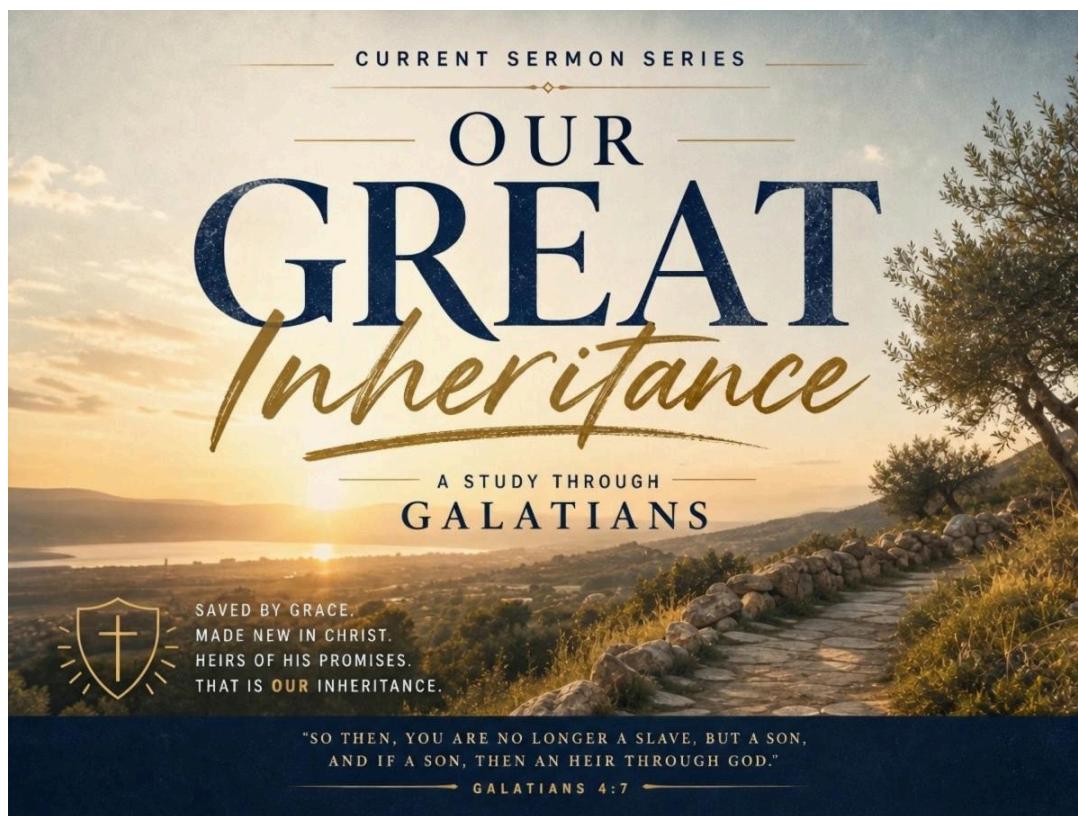
As Bunyan tells it, “As I walked up and down in the prison, I saw the world as from a mountain.” He tells about a young man named Christian living in the City of Destruction, walking around with a heavy boulder on his back (symbol for sin). As he reads from his “Book” (the Bible), he realizes he needs to repent and turn from his ways. He discovers the City of Destruction is about to be destroyed. A man named Evangelist is sent to encourage Christian and point him towards the Celestial City (symbol for heaven). Christian runs to his wife and children and begs them to flee with him. But they thought he’d lost his mind so they refused. Christian fled the City of Destruction, leaving everything behind. The story of Pilgrim’s Progress is Christian and his journey to the promised Celestial City.

Throughout the book, Bunyan uses vivid allegories to describe the winding journey Christian goes through. He describes the doubts and fears we face as the “Slough of Despond.” The comfort and care of the local church is described as “The Palace Beautiful.” The “Valley of the Shadow of Death” describes the dark nights of the soul we all endure. “Vanity Fair” depicts the glittery and sometimes-enticing temptations this world offers. And finally, the “River of Death” that Christian crosses to enter the “Celestial City.”

Pilgrim’s Progress reminds us that the walk of faith is a journey common to all believers throughout history, whether AD 95 in Jerusalem, 17th century England, or 2026 in America. If you’ve never read Pilgrim’s Progress, consider adding it to your reading list.

As Bunyan wrote, “I seek a place that can never be destroyed, one that is pure and fadeth not away. It is laid up in heaven and safe there – to be given, at the time appointed, to them that seek it with all their heart. Read it so, if you will, in my book.”

Blessings,
Holly Klein
Director of Communications



MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, AUGUST 16

"Do We Choose Faith or is it Chosen for Us?" (Galatians 2:19-21)

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 2:19-21 and the message is called "Do We Choose Faith or is it Chosen for Us?" In this passage Paul talks about Christ living through him and yet it might appear to be unclear as to whether his actions are controlled by Jesus or if he is choosing them freely. While this is not a text normally used to argue for or against the issue of man's free will, we are going to dive into looking at some of the Calvinist and Arminian perspectives on whether our decisions are predetermined by God or if we have free will and why it matters to our understanding of the nature of God.



FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Thank you to everyone who attended the luncheon this Sunday! It was a wonderful time of great food and fellowship.









SYMPATHY FOR BEN AND CAROLYN MILARCH AND FAMILY

This is a difficult time for the Milarch family as Ben's brother Andrew passed away July 24 which was followed by the passing of Ben's mother, Lois Milarch, on Wednesday, August 5.

We lift up Ben and Carolyn, Kylie and Jack and Jack Milarch (Lois's husband) and the entire family as they grieve these difficult losses. Memorial services for both Andrew and Lois Milarch will take place at 10 AM on August 21 at French Funerals at 7121 Wyoming Blvd NE, with a reception to follow.



PAINTERS AND PAINT CREW COORDINATOR NEEDED

Our parking lot is in great need of restriping. We can provide the paint and tools to manage the task, but we are in need of a coordinator and volunteers to paint the stripes on our parking lot. If you are interested in leading the team or at least helping paint, please click [here](#) and provide your contact information and how you would be willing to serve.

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.
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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.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

As we continue to grow in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ, we believe there is an important area where we can strengthen our ministry: family discipleship.

Our Leadership Team recently met to begin preparations to prepare for a new staff position of **Family Discipleship Director**. This person will help provide leadership, vision, and support for discipling children, students, and young families throughout our church. This role will help equip parents and caregivers to lead their families spiritually, strengthen our ministries to the next generation, and create greater connection and continuity between the church and the home. We believe discipleship begins in the home, and the church has the privilege of coming alongside families to encourage, equip, and support them. This position will be an important part of helping us pursue that vision.

We ask our congregation to **pray** for God's direction as we seek the right person for this role. 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. Please pray for wisdom for our leadership, for the person God may be calling to serve in this capacity, and for the families and children who will be impacted through this ministry.

If you or someone you know may be gifted and called to serve as our Family Discipleship Director, we would love to **hear from you**. More information about the position and how to express interest will be available soon.

Thank you for continuing to invest in the spiritual growth of the next generation. We are excited about what God may do through this opportunity and look forward to pursuing it together as a church family.

Let's pray, trust God's leading, and faithfully invest in the discipleship of our families.

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@sandiagmc.org

⇒ *Thank you!* ⇐

DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

If you have an item you would like advertised in the weekly newsletter, please email your submission to Holly (hklein@sandiagmc.org) by Tuesday morning at 10 AM in order to be included in the Thursday newsletter. Thank you!

**Faith & Family
Night @
the Isotopes!**



**Sunday, Aug. 23
1:35 PM**

FAITH AND FAMILY NIGHT AT THE ISOTOPES!

Last Week to Sign Up

Come join your church family for "Faith and Family Night at the Isotopes" on Sunday, August 23! The game starts at 1:35 PM. Group tickets must be purchased in advance, so please email us [here](#) by this Monday, August 17 to let us know if you and/or your family would like to participate. Tickets are \$20.



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



HELP AT THE ASBURY PIE CAFE!

Volunteers are needed to work at the Asbury Pie Café during the New Mexico State Fair. Sandia Fellowship will be sending a crew to work the morning shift, 8:45 AM – 2:00 PM, on Tuesday, September 15. Six or seven workers are needed.

If you'd like to participate or want more information, please contact Stacy Camacho by phone/text at 505-585-8969 or via email [here](#).



BUILDING UPDATE

We appreciate your prayers and patience as we are coming closer to completing the renovation of our Tennessee building. Currently the ceramic tiles are being installed in the bathrooms and the kitchen area. The lighting is all in place and electrical inspections are completed. As of this writing, the HVAC units are scheduled to be delivered Wednesday (8/13) as the duct work is completed. The ceiling fans are in the building and awaiting the installation of the HVAC units. All the sound and AV equipment is connected. We are getting closer!



Sandia Fellowship **GOLF**

 **THURSDAY**
Aug. 20 |  **AT**
9:30 AM

Arroyo del Oso

RSVP
SFGMC-golf@sandiagmc.org

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, August 20 at 9:30 AM. Please RSVP **TODAY** 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!



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.

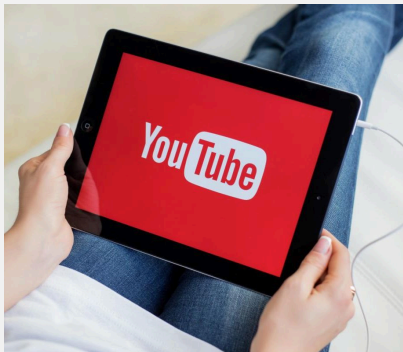
If you'd like to be a part of this Prayer Ministry, please email Holly at **hklein@sandiagmc.org**.

SUBMIT YOUR PRAYER REQUEST HERE



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



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