



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

January 8, 2026

In the Presence of the Mighty

For as long as I can remember, I've had a fascination with alligators. As an adult I've followed the work of wildlife biologists and conservationists, taken many trips into the Everglades and handled smaller crocodilians. But until last month I'd never had an up close and personal encounter with an adult alligator. So for my birthday Bill spent weeks planning a big surprise: He took me to an alligator wonderland where I had the opportunity to interact face-to-face (without barriers) with a 12-foot, 750-pound adult alligator!



I'd always imagined if I ever had the opportunity to interact with a large adult alligator, it would of course be a fascinating experience but also probably tinged with a bit of trepidation. (Or maybe more than a little bit!) Alligators are apex predators, after all. These ancient behemoths are powerful, unpredictable, lightning fast, and capable of catastrophic devastation.

Yet when the moment finally arrived, I was surprised that fear was the one thing I didn't feel.

I walked across the grass until I was standing right in front of the alligator. The handlers stood nearby but not directly beside me. I bent down in front of the alligator's massive gaping mouth to feed him several pieces of gator chow, and I could see his dark marble eyes fixed on mine. He was watching my every move. I remember feeling acutely aware that no barrier stood between us.

The experience that day brought to mind the biblical imagery of Leviathan which many Bible commentators believe refers to a crocodile. "Can you draw out Leviathan with a fish hook?" God asked Job, a reminder that some creatures possess power far beyond the ability of humans to control them.

And yet Scripture also says, speaking of the sea and the sea creatures that God created, "There go the ships, and Leviathan, which You formed to play in it." To me that contrast is both mesmerizing and striking: A creature that strikes fear in the human heart, yet God describes almost playfully. The Lord is sovereign over all things: from the lions that surrounded Daniel and even the jaws of a massive alligator. There is nothing that is outside of His control.

It is a truism that faith does not promise a danger-free life; it promises the faithful keeping of the One who holds us. We shouldn't act in a reckless way, but we also aren't called to let fear dictate our decisions. During the alligator encounter that day, I relied on what I knew about alligator behavior and also trusted the handlers who were nearby in case anything went wrong. They couldn't eliminate all risk; nothing can when dealing with a creature whose bite force crushes bone within seconds. If an alligator decides to lunge and grab you, there's not much anyone can do.

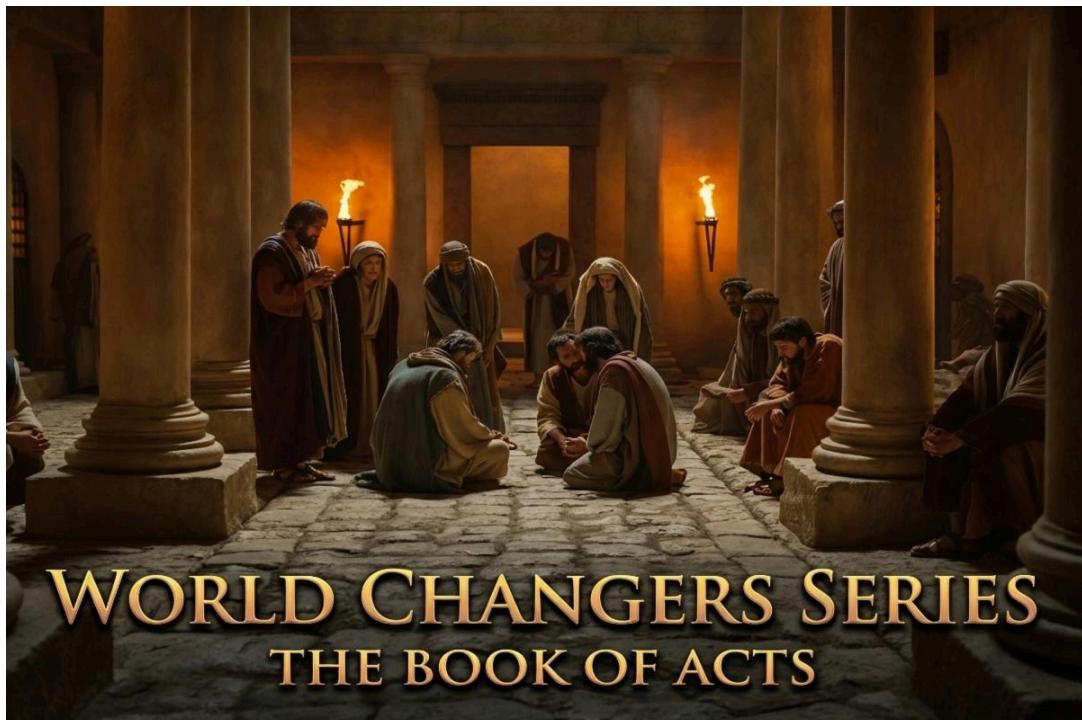
This is true as a general principle. Risk itself is unavoidable and we're not meant to live life in a bubble. If we did, we'd never travel to unfamiliar and sometimes dangerous places, try new things or explore any of the wonders God created for us to enjoy in this beautiful yet untamed world.

Standing in the presence of the mighty alligator that day, I remember feeling such awe for the creature God had made and also a renewed awe for the God who holds our days in His hands. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." Sometimes fullness of life awaits just on the other side of fear.

Blessings,
Holly Klein
Director of Communications



This is Brandon. He was formerly a wild alligator but was captured and relocated to a sanctuary because he was being a nuisance in the community. At 12 feet long and 750 pounds, he was enormous and also impressively toothy in a cute (albeit reptilian) sort of way.



WORLD CHANGERS SERIES THE BOOK OF ACTS

MESSAGE FOR THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 "The Outpouring" Acts 2

In this twelve-week series on the Book of Acts, we will discover and be challenged by the amazing group of Christian converts who turned the Roman Empire upside down through the power of the Holy Spirit. This coming Sunday we will focus on Acts 2 with a message looking at how the transforming power of the Holy Spirit spread the Gospel message so quickly and the encouraging message delivered by the Apostle Peter.



BUILDING UPDATE

The construction has **finally begun** as of this past Tuesday!!! Please keep the working crew in your prayers as some of them experienced flu symptoms the day they started the construction. Prayers for health and safety and healing for everyone working on our building would be greatly appreciated.

Fellowship Luncheon @ Sheraton Uptown

**Sunday, Feb. 8
11:30 AM**



FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON FOR FEBRUARY

Our next Fellowship Luncheon is coming up on Sunday, February 8! It will be held at the Sheraton Uptown at 11:30 AM, after our worship service. Menu options will be available soon.

Season 1 Begins Jan. 20!

The CHOSEN

Interactive Bible Study

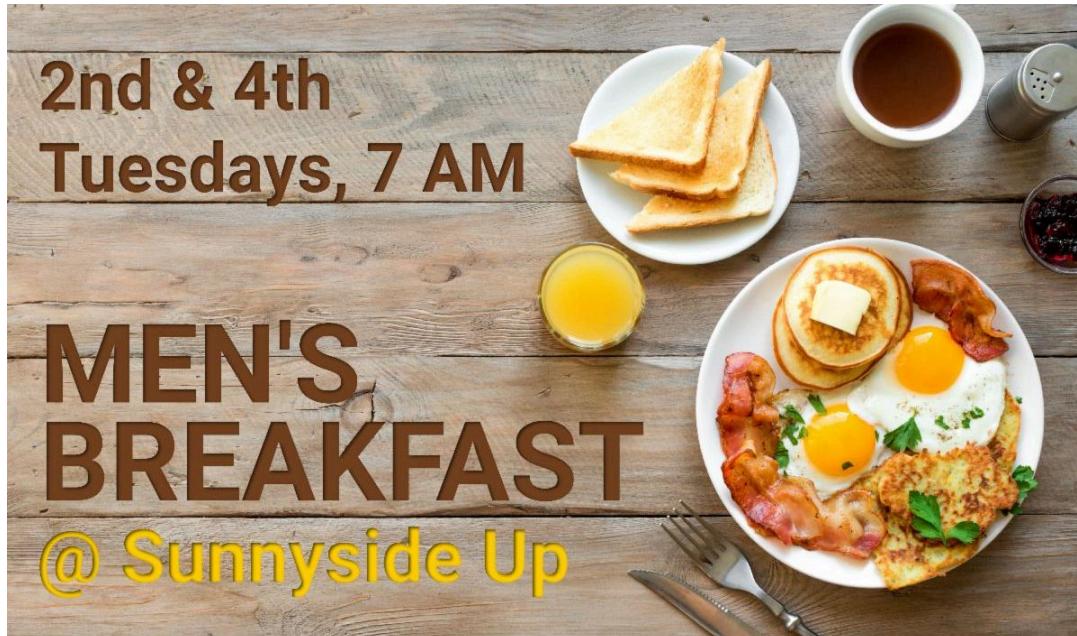
**Tuesdays | 6:30-8:00 PM
2609 Texas Street NE**

"THE CHOSEN" SEASON 1 BEGINS SOON!

"The Chosen" Life Group is starting over again with Season 1 this year, so if you haven't seen "The Chosen" or even if you have but would like to watch it again, join us! The season begins on Tuesday, January 20. Led by Gina Rivera, the Bible study uses an interactive guide that follows along with the television series by the same name.

Only newcomers need to register. If you're new to the study, please sign up [here](#) so we can purchase the correct amount of books.

Sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 PM in the Sandia Fellowship church office building located at 2609 Texas Street NE. This study is open to all interested men and women.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our Men's Breakfast meets this upcoming Tuesday, January 13 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

2nd Tuesdays,
9AM

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

@ Dave's High
Desert Grill



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Our monthly Women's Fellowship Breakfast meets this upcoming Tuesday, January 13 at 9:00 AM at Dave's High Desert Grill (5200 Eubank Blvd NE). Reservations are helpful but not required. Please email Linda Hess [here](#).

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



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!



NEED ASSISTANCE WITH HEARING AT CHURCH?

If you are needing assistance with hearing, please download the **Listen Everywhere** app on your cell phone.

When you arrive at our service, please connect to our Wi-Fi.

The password is: **17x9c9s0ua**

On your hearing aid, make sure your Bluetooth is turned on. If you do not want to use the app on your phone, we have two devices available. It has a headphone that goes over your ear and you can adjust the volume on the provided phone. Please ask an usher if you need one of these devices.



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



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