



SANDIA FELLOWSHIP WEEKLY NEWS

May 14, 2026

Lessons from a Pamamanhikan

Bill and I were recently in the Philippines celebrating pamamanhikan for Allen and his fiancée Francia. Pamamanhikan is a formal Filipino engagement celebration uniting two families together. They had been dating for 1 and 1/2 years including five trips to the Philippines, so we were excited to finally meet the young woman who'd captured his heart. After several days in the Philippines, we spent two weeks together traveling to Vietnam and Singapore getting to know our soon-to-be daughter-in-law.



Weeks before the pamamanhikan, Francia had asked me to write and deliver the formal prayer and blessing. As I wrote the prayer that Bill and I would later give, several themes emerged. Although Pamamanhikan is an engagement celebration, its themes echo truths central to the Christian life as well.

First, pamamanhikan celebrates the truth that love and commitment are not meant to exist in isolation. Families and friends are present because relationships are shaped within community: parents, siblings,

aunts and uncles, grandparents, friends. Marriage is not simply the union of two individuals; it is the joining of two families. It was a theme inscribed on one of the engagement gifts we gave them: “Two Worlds, One Family” with an American flag and a Philippines flag depicted as one heart.

In the same way, we are part of the Body of Christ. We don't live out our faith alone but in community. God gave us the local church to nourish us and to shape us in our faith journey. Pamamanhikan reminds us that important commitments should be witnessed and supported by others. That applies not just to marriage, but to our walk with God. We need fellow Christians for mutual encouragement and growth.

Second, Allen and Francia deliberately placed the prayer and blessing at the beginning of the event. Before the joyful festivities began, before the feast was served, before the wine started flowing, before dancing or games – they called Bill and I up to begin the event by asking for God's blessings. They wanted Christ to be the centerpiece of their union.

God is not meant to be an afterthought or an addition to our lives. He is to be first. He is worthy of our first moments, our first devotion, our first efforts, our first offering. In placing prayer at the beginning of their celebration, they were, in essence, setting the tone for their life together. As Basil the Great wisely said, “When we give to God the first place, all other things fall into the proper order.”

Lastly, pamamanhikan reflects intentional commitment. Nothing about pamamanhikan is casual. It is deliberate, sacrificial, purposeful, with every detail focused on making sure the event reflected their commitment to each another. The overarching theme of the pamamnhikan says, “I am serious about entering into this covenant of marriage with you.”

In the same way, Christ gave Himself for His bride, the Church, even to death. Husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loved the church. It is the agape love to which we are all called. Love is not self-seeking but prioritizes the other person above ourselves. Love is sacrificial commitment.

In the end, what made their pamamanhikan so profound was the truth it embodied. A love grounded in community, centered on God, and strengthened by intentional commitment. Those aren't just the ingredients of a strong marriage; they are the foundations of a faithful life. Our lives and our marriages become a reflection of the Savior, the very source of Love itself.

Blessings,
Holly Klein
Director of Communications

PAMAMANHIKAN

(Engagement Celebration)



Francina and Allen



Francia, Allen, Holly and Bill



Holly and Bill delivering the opening prayer and blessing for the pamamanhikan.



Francia's parents delivering a heartfelt tribute





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

We are wrapping up our *Jesus Encounters* series and looking at the last person to actually meet Jesus after His resurrection. Jesus' revelation of Himself to the Apostle Paul is like no other encounter. This encounter was quite shocking, unexpected and very confrontive. It resulted in Paul's conversion and becoming arguably the most influential of all Jesus' apostles. We will see how Paul's conversion can help us better understand our own conversion.



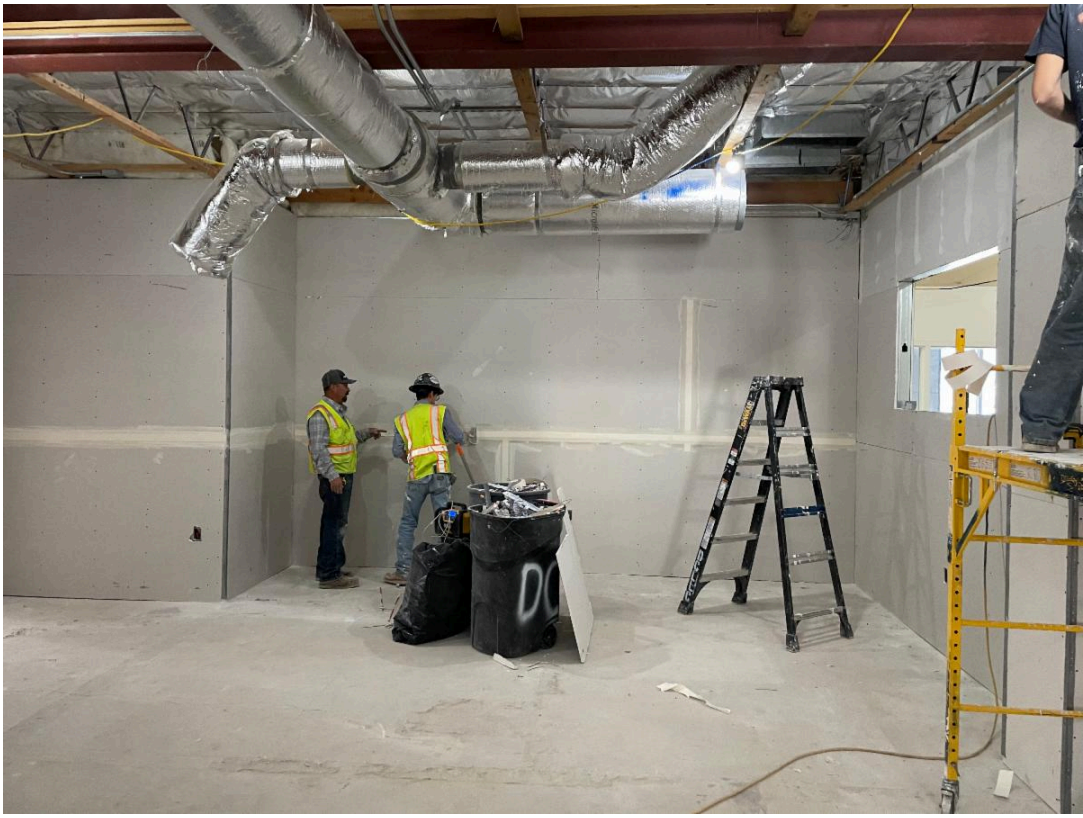
NEW SERIES BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Next Sunday, May 24 begins our new four-part series *Summer Psalms* where we will look at four different chapters in the book of Psalms. We will cover topics on Forgiveness, Beauty and Worship, The Wonder of Worship, and the Majesty of God.



BUILDING UPDATE

This week a group of us met with our interior decorator Kelsey Berger to paint some samples on the wall and put the “final touches” on our color choices. Very soon we will have multiple subcontractors working at the same time to finish the bathrooms, café, HVAC, ceiling and other areas that are beyond the work of the crew doing the foundational work. Here are some recent pictures:





Sandia Fellowship
GOLF

THURSDAY  May 21 | AT  9:30 AM

— *Arroyo del Oso* —

— **RSVP by 5/14** —
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, May 21 at 9:30 AM. 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.sandiamc.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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