



We are a sharing, loving fellowship of Christian believers, rooted in biblical faith, that actively seeks and celebrates God. We desire to praise, love and serve with all our hearts in our faith community and to reach out to our neighbors, continuing the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.

In God we find the source of all our joy. Hallelujah!

---

January 2020

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 44, No. 1

---

### From our Pastor...

A few months ago, I came across the following words on Twitter, written by an Episcopal priest, and in light of the New Year, I thought I'd share it with you:

*"I don't know who needs to hear this, but y'all can ask your clergy for things!"*

*If you're nervous before a 'small' surgery, I will come pray with you. Please don't convince yourself it would be a waste of my time or that I'm too busy.*

*I will bless your house or sit with you in the courtroom or visit your new baby!*

*I will have a beer with you to talk about your break-up or your discernment over your kids' schooling!*

*I will pray with you at the vet while you put your dog down or go to your performance or talk about discerning retirement with you.*

*These are my favorite parts of being a priest, when you invite me into moments that are important to you.*

*And!*

*Even if you don't go to my church or think you're particularly Christian & you need someone, let me know. 'Hey, I need to talk to someone about this thing and you're the only priest I know,' is a request I'm happy to respond to or connect you with someone else."*

I couldn't agree more with these words. Being your pastor and being invited into your life, both the large and small moments, is one of the biggest privileges and joys of my life and of my call to ministry.

How can I as your pastor support you, encourage you, celebrate you, and love you in this new year? I pray that God would make these things known to us. Thank you for making my first year as your pastor a blessed one.

I thank my God every time I remember you. – Philippians 1:3

Yours in grace and peace,  
Pastor Lauren



...for those limited or confined for health reasons: **Cathy Banks, Faith Eikenberry, Marcheta Pletcher.**

We also uphold these members, friends and family members of our congregation who have prayer concerns:

**Judy Brooks**  
**Twila's niece, Vicky**  
**Rochelle Lovelace**

#### **District Prayer Calendar – January**

Jan. 5 PSWD Policy Board which meets January 10-11 and their work this year  
 Jan. 12 For those training for ministry through the Church of the Brethren in PSWD  
 Jan. 19 Casa de Modesto and Hillcrest Homes, our two retirement communities  
 Jan. 26 Bakersfield Church of the Brethren



**Jennette and Jonathan Lovelace**  
 1642 E. Eucalyptus  
 Brea, CA 92821  
**Jennette's cell phone**  
 909-816-9012



#### **JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2) Acia Jernigan  
Phyllis Eller
- 6) Carl Cook
- 7) Jennette Lovelace
- 11) Kathy Flores
- 13) Sandy Landrum
- 15) Pandra Cook
- 16) Robert Herndon
- 21) Nohemi Flores
- 24) Graham Lovelace
- 27) Nacomi Hemsworth
- 29) Linda Lovelace
- 30) Randy Good

#### **JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9) Jason & Lauren Cohen 2016



#### **Fun Facts from the Pages of Our History**

In the 1970s, the Pomona congregation supported programs for impoverished youth and programs for African-American and Mexican-American communities. The congregation also provided leadership for a seminar on racism for the La Verne, Fellowship, and Glendora congregations.

### **FROM SERVICE AND OUTREACH**

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphasis for **January is Soup and Crackers**. As always, staple items are always needed and welcome.



### **Service and Outreach Report**

The gifts for the families we adopted were gratefully received. Every gift tag was chosen in addition to money donations. Thank you to Judy Lotton who organizes this activity and sees it through to delivering the gifts, and to all of you who make this possible.

Donations to the Christmas Card Tree Fund will make it possible to keep some basic food and personal items on hand at the church, along with information and location of organizations with more complete services in the area.

The need for food and shelter continues to be challenging in the Pomona Valley. The Walk for the Hungry and Homeless in September brought in over \$32,000; less than previous years but still a big boost to helping the underserved. We will be focusing on staple and basic food contributions for the month of January, as we recover from the holidays and see what is most needed in the future.

May your new year be blessed as we look forward to ways we can share both substance and faith.

**Did you know that Pomona Fellowship is increasing our online and social media engagement? It is becoming increasingly important for our congregation to have an active and vital online presence. Read on to learn more!**

**Visit our website** at [www.mypomonachurch.org](http://www.mypomonachurch.org)! There you can read bios about our staff, download our latest newsletter, sign up for our weekly emails, and listen to recordings of Pastor Lauren's sermons. Our website is the #1 way that community members and potential visitors learn about our congregation. Folks can visit our website to learn what time worship is, what programs and services we offer, who the Church of the Brethren is, and more!

#### **"Like" us on Facebook!**

[www.facebook.com/pomonafellowshipcob](https://www.facebook.com/pomonafellowshipcob) If you are on Facebook, visit our page and click the "Like" button. Then anything we post, including pictures, articles, and other announcements will show up in your feed when you are on the site. We use Facebook to advertise upcoming events, share photos of our life together, and to stay informed on local news.



#### **"Follow" us on Instagram!**

Our Instagram handle is [@pomonafellowshipcob](https://www.instagram.com/pomonafellowshipcob). Instagram is a platform similar to Facebook, except the only content you can see and share are photos. We use our church Instagram to share sermon content, to post photos of church events, and to stay connected to local businesses, organizations, and other churches in the Pomona area. Fun Fact: After creating our Instagram account this summer, Pastor Lauren was connected to the Director of the Pomona Chamber of Commerce, which led to a meeting, and eventually the church joined the Chamber officially. All because of Instagram!



#### **"Follow" us on Twitter!**

Our Twitter handle is [@pomonabrethren](https://twitter.com/pomonabrethren). Twitter is a social media platform that allows users to communicate in short posts or messages called "tweets." Each tweet can only be 280 characters. We use our church Twitter to encourage people to visit our website and other social media pages, and to connect with Christians around the world. Twitter is often used during large events, as participants "live-tweet" their experiences with highlights of the events. For example, Pastor Lauren uses Twitter regularly during COB Annual Conference to connect both online and in-person with other churches and pastors.



If you have any questions about our website or social media pages, please reach out to Pastor Lauren!

**With JOY we welcomed three new members to our congregation on December 29: John & Karen Stewart, and Jason Cohen! Welcome to Pomona Fellowship COB!**



**Please meet our three new members.....**

### **Karen Stewart**

**BACKGROUND:** Born and raised in Fairfield in SE Iowa. Meeting John Stewart in 2nd grade was to be significant in later years. Received B.A. and M.A. from the University of Iowa (in Iowa City). Post-grad work at the University of Minnesota in later years; until I decided that I really didn't need a Ph.D. since I was already doing a job that I loved.

**FAMILY:** Two biological children: son David lives with his family in Minneapolis; daughter Julia is a police officer in Madison, Wisconsin and lives in nearby New Glarus. David and his wife Amy have a son, Isaiah (14) and a daughter Olivia, a junior at University of Wisconsin Eau Claire. Julia's two boys are our oldest grandchildren; Austin (AJ) graduated last year from University of Wisconsin Stevens Point and spent most of last year in Alaska working at a fish hatchery near the Copper River. Jacob is a senior at University of Wisconsin Whitewater. I also claim John's son, Ian, and family because they are so dear to me.

David and Julia were raised in Wayzata Minnesota, a western suburb of Minneapolis. I spent their early years as mom, and volunteer in the church and schools. When they were older, I went to work for Honeywell. First as part-time temporary in the Corporate Education Department of Human Resources. My first regular job at Honeywell was also in Human Resources, but for Commercial Aviation Operations/Division. I moved to the Corporate Research and Development Center as HR Manager, leaving there as HR Director in May 1992, moving to California to be with John after we married in 1990. Lots of commuting in between.

**HOMES & TRAVEL:** Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Nebraska, Budapest Hungary, and California. We've lived in 3 homes in Southern California: Yorba Linda, Sylmar, and now Hillcrest in La Verne. California is often too warm for me; I miss the snow and Minnesota's four seasons; but my blood is thinning, and I probably wouldn't find year-round life in MN as inviting these days after all. I've enjoyed travels in Canada & Europe, especially living in Budapest 1998-1999.

At Hillcrest I swim and am currently serving as lead for the Library Team. I continue to be active in my P.E.O. chapter in La Cañada and look forward to being a part of Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren and its exciting future.

### **John Stewart**

I was born on September 26, 1941 at Willard Hospital in Manchester, IA. I grew up in Fairfield IA. After I graduated from Fairfield high school in June 1960, I attended Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA for two semesters, and the University of Illinois in Chicago for half a semester. I enlisted in the Navy in November 1961.

I went to boot camp and Fire Control A and B schools in San Diego, CA, and then volunteered for submarine duty. After I enlisted submarine school in Groton, CT, I was assigned to USS Cavalla in Submarine Development Group 2 with a home port of Groton, CT. Near the end of my enlistment, I was selected for participation in the Navy Enlisted Scientific Education Program (NESEP). The Program required that, while continuing active duty service, I attend an eight-week Navy College Preparatory School in Bainbridge, MD and

four years of University Engineering study followed by six years in the fleet as a commissioned line officer. I agreed and chose to study Electrical Engineering at North Carolina State University (NCSU) in Raleigh, NC. In June 1970, I received a BSEE from NCSU, and an Ensign, USN, commission from the Navy. I returned to Groton, CT for officer submarine school followed by Nuclear Weapons Officer School at Dam Neck, VA, before I reported for duty as Assistant Weapons Officer to USS James Madison, with a home port of Charleston, SC. After USS James Madison, I served on two Destroyer Tenders, USS Yellowstone and USS Sierra, at Charleston, SC, to complete my obligated military service and then returned to civilian life in January 1976.

I first saw Karen Raymond on the first day of second grade at Roosevelt Elementary School, Fairfield, IA, when we were eight years old. She had blond hair, blue eyes and a peaches and cream complexion. She wore a snow-white dress with a full skirt, white socks with frilly, turned-down tops, and shiny, black patented leather shoes. I thought she looked like an angel. But I was skittish and leery of girls, so I watched her from a distance until we graduated from high school and went our separate ways. We reconnected at a Fairfield High School Class reunion in June 1990. We both had children from previous marriages. My son Ian and I were living in Southern California where I worked for Rockwell International Defense Electronics Operation. Karen and her son and daughter, David and Julia, were living in Minnesota where Karen worked for Honeywell. We were married by her Presbyterian minister in Plymouth, MN on November 22, 1990. Karen and I commuted between Minnesota and California until she left Honeywell in 1993 to come to live in California.

My first post-Navy job was as a data center manager for Raytheon Service Company in Virginia Beach, VA. In 1977, I left Raytheon to work for Data Design Laboratories as a programmer analyst. In June 1979, became Data Design Laboratories Western Region Software Development Manager at their headquarters in Rancho Cucamonga, CA. I left Data Design Laboratories in 1981 to work as an Engineering Sales Representative for Digital Equipment Corporation. In 1982 went to work for Rockwell International in Anaheim, CA. There, I worked as an analyst, a system engineer and an Emerging Technology Manager. When Rockwell laid me off in December 1994, Cap Gemini America hired me to be a systems architect in Omaha, NE. A year later, I became a Director and project manager for them. After Cap Gemini, Karen and I moved to Sylmar, California and I retired. We now live at Hillcrest.

While I attended North Carolina State University, I joined the Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, and I was president of the North Carolina State Baptist Student Union for three years. During my commissioned service in the Navy, I worshipped at the Mt. Pleasant, SC Presbyterian Church. Since then, I have been a member of the Anaheim Covenant Presbyterian Church, the Yorba Linda Presbyterian Church and the La Canada Presbyterian Church.

### **Jason Cohen**

Jason Cohen was born and raised in Bel Air, Maryland, north of Baltimore. He grew up playing multiple sports, but didn't start playing tennis until high school, where he quickly became a starter on the varsity team. He went on to play #1 at Villa Julie College (now Stevenson University) all four years. He studied Computer Information Systems and originally found a job in this field after graduation, but it was not long after that when he was asked to return to his alma mater to coach the men's and women's teams there, coaching many of his former teammates! Eventually Jason "retired" from his "professional job" in order to pursue coaching tennis as a career. He became a certified tennis pro and began teaching lessons at country clubs around Baltimore while continuing to coach at Stevenson part time.

Eventually Jason was hired to be the full-time men's and women's tennis coach at Juniata College in central Pennsylvania. Not long after, he met the Interfaith Service Coordinator working in the college's campus ministry office named Lauren Seganos. While at Juniata, Jason experienced coaching success and was even named USPTA Middle States Coach of the Year in 2014. Eventually Lauren moved to Boston to attend seminary and the two continued a long distance relationship until he received a job offer to coach at Colby College in central Maine, where they moved together. In 2016, Jason and Lauren got married. After three years in Maine, Jason was offered the position of head men's tennis coach at Caltech and the two of them (three if you include their dog, Lily!), moved from coast to coast. Under Jason's leadership the Caltech men's tennis team had its best year ever in 2019.

Jason grew up in the Catholic Church but now considers the Church of the Brethren to be his new church home.

## **What's Next with our Church Sale and Future Discernment?**

### **From Pastor Lauren**

As most of you probably know already, the feasibility period with Lewis Management has come to an end, and we have officially entered into escrow with their chosen builder: Crestwood Communities. We received \$40,000 in a wire transfer in mid-December, on top of the \$10,000 we received a few months ago when we extended the feasibility period. What this means is that Crestwood Communities feels optimistic that the sale will proceed with the support of the City of Pomona. Now that we are in escrow, we expect to receive monthly updates from Crestwood on their entitlement process, as well as additional deposits of \$15,000 every 90 days until the close of escrow. The City of Pomona has indicated to Crestwood that the entitlement process could take 9 months, although Crestwood has suggested to us that, based on their prior projects, it will likely be closer to 12 months, but perhaps up to 18 months. Many thanks to Jerry Davis and the Stewards Commission for their ongoing leadership in this process!

That's where we are with the sale of the property. In terms of our future discernment, we have made progress there as well. This fall we engaged in a series of Listening Conversations, about the following topics:

1. What does it mean for us, as PFCOB, to Love God and Love our Neighbors?
2. What are we as a community passionate and energetic about? What are our gifts and skills?
3. In what city should we live and serve? Should worship/administration/mission be under one roof?
4. Should we buy, build, rent, or share future space? And who is "us:" with Cristo Sion and/or Eden Church and/or the District?

One thing that became clear during the process of these conversations is that we agree on the need for a focused mission. We as a church have been trying to do so many of the things we have always done, but with fewer and fewer people, so that today we feel stretched and tired. Perhaps discerning a more intentional, focused mission could help both preserve and renew our energy. We discussed the idea of being a "Food Truck" church, offering something that is special and unique to us, rather than being a "Buffet-Style" church, trying to be all things to all people. This new and focused mission would likely help us determine other factors, such as a future location.

So what comes next? A Mission Team has been assembled, made up of Janet Short, Peggy Redman, Laura Lovelace, and myself, who will review the results of our Listening Conversations and plan for a retreat in 2020 that will help us begin to focus our mission.

In addition I, with the support of both the Mission Team and the Church Board, will also begin working with a clergy coach/congregational consultant named Anna Woofenden. Anna has 20



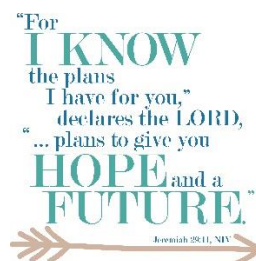
years of church planting, innovative ministries, and consulting and training on these topics. Starting in January, Anna will meet (on the phone and video calls) with me regularly to help equip me as your pastor with the tools necessary to guide us through this process of mission, visioning, and change. Together we will look at the “data” we have currently about our congregation and our wider community, sift through the various processes and models for mission and vision that exist, and discern what method or process would be the best for us at this time. I will bring these findings and suggestions back to our Mission Team, who will then use them to plan for our church process. Part of this coaching work would likely include participation in a cohort of church planters and transitional ministers led by Wake Forest Divinity School.

I am deeply grateful for the Board’s and Mission Team’s support to work with this coach/consultant during this pivotal time in the life of our congregation. You can learn more about Anna Woofenden here: <https://annawoofenden.com>.

And finally, I am pleased to share one more development. I have been selected to participate in the Pomona Leadership Network in 2020. The Pomona Leadership Network is a civic and community leadership program designed to bolster and train a pipeline of diverse leaders with a collective interest in the central issues affecting Pomona and its residents. PLN graduates will become more knowledgeable about community challenges and potential solutions and have increased capacity to engage with others in community problem-solving in order to affect positive change. PLN involves 2 evening classes a month for nine months, starting in January and ending in September. To learn more about Pomona Leadership Network, visit <https://www.pomonacommunityfoundation.org/pln>

I am excited about my participation in this program and believe it will be an invaluable resource in understanding more about Pomona, as this is where most of the congregation believes we should remain if possible. I look forward to bringing what I learn about Pomona, its governance, economy, history, and culture, back to our congregation’s overall discernment process.

Stay tuned for more information from our new Mission Team about an all-church, mission-focused retreat in 2020. But as always, the most important part of this entire sale and discernment process is prayer. **Have you been praying for the future of our congregation?** Please pray that God’s will for us would be made known, that we would have the courage, the clarity, and the creativity to step out in faith, and that through our congregation more people would come to know the love of Jesus.



## Pastor Lauren's First Year Review

During the month of January congregation members and regular attendees are invited to provide feedback on the ministry of Pastor Lauren who has now been with the congregation for just over a year. This initial review is being facilitated by District Executive Minister, Russ Matteson, working with Pastor Lauren and Moderator Janet Short. This is the recommended practice for newly placed pastors. The review questionnaire will be available beginning January 6 and needs to be completed by January 26. It will be available as an on-line form and in paper (available through the church office). The survey will focus on three areas of Pastor Lauren's work and invites both a numeric rating and comments of affirmation and areas needing attention. If you have questions please feel free to talk with Janet or Russ.

## The power of listening

Jesus repeatedly urged his followers to not simply hear but listen to his teachings. Others also have championed sincere listening to show compassion and respect.

"Part of doing something is listening."

—Madeleine L'Engle, *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*

"One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say."

—Bryant H. McGill

"And so he listened. And in his listening, his heart opened wide and then wider still."

—Kate DiCamillo, *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*

"Too often we underestimate the power of ... a listening ear ... to turn a life around."

—Leo Buscaglia

### PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through November 2019

<b>2019 Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$217,946.00</b>
Giving '19	\$93,071.00
Interest & Other Income '19	\$81,142.03
<b>Total Budget Income thru Sept.</b>	<b>\$174,213.03</b>
Total Budget Expense thru Nov.	\$(204,290.68)
Plus Budget overage from 2018	\$29,304.84
<b>Budget Balance thru Nov.</b>	<b>\$(772.81)</b>
Nov. Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$360.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners	\$172.00
Leila Brown Memorial	\$30.00

The *Banner* is published by the  
Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren  
875 W. Orange Grove Ave., Pomona CA 91768  
(909) 629-2548

**Email: [Office@MyPomonaChurch.org](mailto:Office@MyPomonaChurch.org)**  
**Website: [MyPomonaChurch.org](http://MyPomonaChurch.org)**

#### Services & Activities

Sunday Worship	Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
Adult Sunday School	Sunday, 10:45 a.m.

Rev. Lauren Seganos Cohen	Pastor
Janet Short	Moderator
Acia Jernigan	Admin. Assistant

The *Banner* is published once a month. Articles and announcements to appear in the next issue of the *Banner* are due in the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



# JANUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01	02	03	04
			OFFICE CLOSED  HAPPY NEW YEAR	6:30 pm Stewards		9:00 am Unhang the Greens & Women's Fellowship Meeting
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
11:00 am Deacons Meeting	Pastor Lauren out of the office	Pastor Lauren out of the office  7:30 pm Bible Study	Pastor Lauren out of the office  8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's  9:00 am Knit Wits  7:30 pm Choir	Pastor Lauren out of the office	Pastor Lauren out of the office	Pastor Lauren out of the office
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Pastor Lauren out of the office			8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's  4:30 pm S & O  7:30 pm Choir	11:00 am M & W  6:45 pm Church Board		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	BANNER ARTICLES DUE		8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's  7:30 pm Choir			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's  7:30 pm Choir			

Sunday Schedule: Worship 9:15 a.m., Sunday School 10:45 a.m.



POMONA FELLOWSHIP  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
875 W. ORANGE GROVE AVE.  
POMONA CA 91768