

The Banner

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!

February 2021

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 47, No. 2

From our Pastor...

In Mark's Gospel, we read of Jesus calling some of his first disciples, Simon and Andrew, with an unusual catch phrase:

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' And immediately they left their nets and followed him. – Mark 1:16-18

For two men who make a living catching smelly, slippery, writhing fish, the idea of trying to “catch” human beings (...who can also sometimes be smelly or elusive, let's be honest...) must have been too intriguing to pass up.

I admittedly don't know much about fishing myself. But this past fall I enjoyed a novel that introduced me to an amazing culture of fishing and diving in the Korean province of Jeju. The book was *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, a work of fiction, but based on the real communities of women divers on the island of Jeju. The narrative follows the lives of the *haenyeo*, female divers who have effectively created a matrifocal society on Jeju: they are the breadwinners of their families, while their husbands take on the domestic duties of cooking and raising children. But the amazing part of the *haenyeo* is that these women are trained from a very young age to dive for fish, shellfish, and other food from the cold ocean without the help of any breathing equipment. Starting when they are teenagers, the women learn how to hold their breath for longer and longer periods of time, until they can literally go for as long as 3 minutes underwater, harvesting urchins, mollusks, and other sea life, before coming back up for air.



As amazing as these female divers are, the part of the book that was even more captivating for me was the relationships between the women themselves. The heart of this book was truly about the bonds forged between friends and family, bonds that were deepened by the strenuous and demanding work of deep sea diving and fishing.

When Jesus told his first disciples that they would be fishing for people, I don't think he was referring to ensnaring and trapping those around us, in an effort to force their eventual conversion. What if he was referring instead to building the kinds of relationships with those around us that inherently draw others in, to build those deep and strong bonds that make the opportunity to talk about Jesus and his love for us natural, and not calculated?

How are the relationships in your life? Do you feel comfortable sharing about your faith with those friends and family members who don't know about the amazing love of Jesus? Perhaps this is one of the most important ways that Jesus calls us to be fishers of people today.

Yours in grace and peace,
Pastor Lauren



...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
Bill Lemon
Rochelle Lovelace

District Prayer Calendar – February

Feb. 7 Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)
 Feb. 14 Invite God to show how your church might share more of God's love in your community
 Feb. 21 Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren (Peoria, AZ)
 Feb. 28 Conexión Pasadena (Spanish language plant in Pasadena)

February Zoom Meetings

Stewards: Thursday, February 4, 6:00 p.m.
 Congregational Business Meeting: Sunday, February 7, after worship
 Service & Outreach: Wednesday, February 10, 10:00 a.m.
 Music & Worship: Thursday, February 11, 11:00 a.m.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5) Connie Good
- 9) Karin Herndon
- 10) Frank Ness
- 12) Laurie McKellip
- 14) Spencer Smith
- 17) Jason Cohen
- 18) Wanda Lacy
- 21) Franklin Hemsworth
- 24) Jan Spicer

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

(NONE)

Lent 2021

Wilder · ness: 'state of the wild'
Beginning February 21



Image credit: A Sanctified Art LLC

Lent begins in the wilderness. The Spirit guides Jesus into the wilderness where he comes face to face with temptation and struggle. Yet, in his forty days of fasting, resisting, and wandering, Jesus is shaped and formed for ministry. Similarly, through the wilderness of Lent, we are invited to surrender to the wild leadings of the Spirit. We rarely enter the wilderness willingly, but hopefully through our wandering we remember who we are and whose we are. The wilderness can become sacred even if it remains dangerous. There is no wilderness space too harsh or threatening for God's love. This Lent, we welcome you to the journey.

Join us Sunday mornings at 10am PST over Zoom. Contact us for the Zoom link.



Berkley Davis

June 2, 1932 – December 15, 2020

Berkley and Jerry celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in July of 2020. They dated for 3 years before they were married in 1951. So Jerry was blessed with loving and being loved by Berkley for more than 72 years. Berkley was a caring, loving, friendly person. Her father died an accidental death when she was 13. She had some serious health issues in her mid-teens. Early in their relationship they were discussing her positive attitude. Jerry remembers that she told him that we can't control all that happens to us, but we can choose how we react. We can choose to be miserable or we can choose to be happy. She told Jerry that she was choosing to be happy. Jerry decided that he wanted to marry this teenager someday. She shared her positive, caring, friendly attitude with all she met and served.

They had the opportunity to go to various places and share their understanding of the love of God as shown to us in Jesus. Wherever they went Berkley continued to reach out to friends, family and acquaintances with her love and positive attitude.

Berkley is survived by 4 children and their spouses: Donald and Linda Davis, Anita and Randy Cook, James and Denise Davis, and Thomas and Elizabeth Davis. She is also survived by 21 grandchildren including their spouses and by 12 great grandchildren. Berkley and Jerry have always stated how much they have been blessed by God's love and the love of a large family and many friends.



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, our church continues to meet over Zoom on Sunday mornings for worship. Some congregations have implemented “live streamed” or “pre-recorded” services to watch at any time, but we have chosen to meet over Zoom, a video conferencing platform that allows us to meet at the same time, seeing each other's faces and hearing each other's voices. Our services are simplified, but typically include pre-recorded music, the sharing of joys and concerns, prayer, scripture, and a pastoral message, often followed by a time of discussion and talk-back. Even while it is still unsafe for our church to gather in-person, we are being spiritually nourished and remaining connected to one another in this way. An added bonus of worshipping over Zoom is that we have welcomed many out-of-town family and friends, who join us from different parts of the country each week! If you have not joined us, we would love to welcome you this Sunday! Contact Pastor Lauren for details on how to log into Zoom.

Through December 2020

December Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$410.00
Women's Fellowship	\$30.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$395.00
Adopt-a-Family	\$1,050.00
Messenger	\$83.00
Christmas Card Tree	
(Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity)	\$615.00

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 20th of each month.