



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!

April 2019

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 43, No. 4

From our Pastor...

The month of April brings many things—the beginning of spring, the end of the season of Lent, Holy Week, and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection over sin and death, the Easter season! In many parts of the world, snow melts and gives way to the first signs of spring: the appearance of crocuses. In our “neck of the woods,” our historically rainy winter will give way to consistently blue skies and rising temperatures. Daylight Savings Time has already ended, marking the arrival of longer and sunnier days. Something in the air seems to shift this time of the year.



It's quite appropriate that we celebrate Easter, a time of renewal, new life, and resurrection during the time of the year that the earth seems to be resurrecting itself. Throughout the season of Lent, we have examined the ways in which Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and to the cross invites us to cultivate certain marks of faithfulness (trust, repentance, forgiveness, joy) and calls us to let go of that which pulls us away from God (fear, judgment, obligation, and selfishness). As Lent draws to a close, we anticipate the New Creation that God is calling us to become, through our faith and discipleship to our resurrected Lord. On Easter Sunday we will celebrate how Christ's death and resurrection create for us a new way of knowing, seeing, loving, and living. I look forward to worshipping with you!

Yours in grace and peace,
Pastor Lauren

(image credit: A Sanctified Art)



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

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

Harvey Good
Rochelle Lovelace

April Host, Ushers, etc.



Hosts: Yvonne Belcher
Ushers: George & Jan Spicer
Offering: Bill Lemon
Hymn Leader: Linda Lovelace



Pastor Lauren & Jason Cohen
1201 Elm Avenue
San Gabriel, CA 91775

Acia Jernigan
188 E. Bonita Ave. #308
Pomona, CA 91767
(same phone number)

John & Karen Stewart
2700-J Hillcrest Dr.
La Verne, CA 91750
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APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 11) Janet Short
- 14) Shane Gordon
- 25) Faith Eikenberry

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2) Gary & Linda Shappard 1971
- 16) James & Karin Herndon 1994

District Prayer Calendar – April

- Apr. 7 Pasadena Church of the Brethren
- Apr. 14 For Love Feast gatherings that show us Christ's love and humility
- Apr. 21 Celebrate the joy of Easter and the power of the Resurrection
- Apr. 28 - Empire Church of the Brethren



All-Church Retreat

Please join us for our Annual Church Retreat on Saturday, April 13. In addition to times of worship and fellowship, in a spirit of play and joy we will be remembering our own personal spiritual and faith journeys through an activity called spiritual life mapping. Bring your imagination and your creativity! We will meet at Hillcrest in the Citrus Room from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FROM SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphasis for **April is Potatoes & Canned Fruit**. As always, staple items are always needed and welcome.



Our giving emphasis for **April is Brethren Disaster Services**.

Service and Outreach News

Spring check-up and clearing out! Pomona Trash Day is April 27, a time to get rid of worn out or no longer usable items to make Pomona a more attractive place to live. We will be greeting people and handing out water bottles that morning, and you are welcome to come and help for whatever time you can, between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

Don't forget yourself. Inland Valley Hope Partners is holding a Wellness Fair at the Farmers Market at Pearl and Garey on April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The little yellow wagon was empty on Sunday, as Graham makes regular trips to the pantry to deliver the food you bring to share. For the month of April the emphasis is on canned fruit and potatoes – all kinds of potatoes that can be stocked in the pantry. Potatoes are the most eaten of all vegetables, ranking behind only the three main grains: maize, rice and wheat. Staples are always welcome, and maybe you can add something special for Easter.

Our Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Invite your neighbors and their children, bring your own extended family, share the invitation. The children not only hunt eggs but they do crafts and hear the Easter story. We thank you for bringing the candy filled eggs, and there will be more information on that later.

Happy Easter, everyone!

April Giving Emphasis Brethren Disaster Ministries

Our April offering will be for Brethren Disaster Ministries. BDM is made up of three parts:

- Rebuilding Homes
- Nurturing Children
- Responding Internationally.

After a disaster, when communities start rebuilding, teams of people who have the expertise to rebuild their homes are sent in. These teams consist of carpenters, plumbers, electricians, roofers, painters and anyone who can help in the rebuilding process. Brethren Disaster Ministries equip them with all the tools needed, along with a place to stay and food to eat. These teams stay anywhere from 2 weeks to a month and then are replaced with other teams who continue the effort of rebuilding. We still have teams in Puerto Rico rebuilding homes after the hurricane there as well as here in the US to help with the floods, hurricanes, fires and tornadoes we have had.

Nurturing Children is what Children's Disaster Services does. We offer training to volunteers around the country who then go to the disaster sites and set up child care centers. When parents are busy trying to get their lives straightened out CDS takes the children and provides a safe, calm place where they can be kids and have fun as they start their own healing.

We also respond internationally to countries who are in the midst of turmoil from civil wars or from terrorist groups. We sent people to Nigeria after their girls were kidnapped by Boca Haram. We are still there working with the Nigerian people who started an organization called Healing Hearts that support the families affected by the loss of their girls.

It is very expensive to send out our volunteers but we Brethren have put our efforts into Brethren Disaster Ministries to show people around the world what we can do when we have God's hand guiding us to help our brothers and sisters in need.

So please consider adding a little to your offering this month for Brethren Disaster Ministries. Thank you.



Pomona Fellowship Church Property Sale

The Pomona Fellowship congregation is not large enough to be able to afford to continue to maintain and repair the large facility we are using for worship and other activities. The congregation voted last year to sell the facility and move to a smaller property that we can afford.

We have talked to some possible buyers and the most promising has been our discussions with Lewis Acquisition Company. If they are able to get the necessary permits they will demolish the current buildings and build houses and apartments. We will begin a search for a smaller home for our congregation.

We have signed an agreement with them that gives them 2 months to determine if they believe that they can obtain these permits. If they decide they probably can do that, then they will give us a small down payment and begin the process of obtaining the necessary permits from the city, county and state. This lengthy process will take one to two years. Their best estimate at this time is 18 months. We have prepared a time line estimate for this process. (see timeline on the next page)

When they have the needed permits, then they will pay us the balance due on the purchase and take possession of the property. Until that happens we will continue to worship and serve here. Pray for the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren that God will lead us to a new location where we will continue to serve God and our neighbors in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.



Fun Facts from the Pages of Our History

An issue that arose more than once in the 2nd decade of the Pomona congregation's history (1917-1927) was the admonishment of the women of the congregation who had discontinued wearing their prayer coverings during worship and Sunday School. Some of them had taken to wearing hats instead! How scandalous!

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through February 2019

2019 Annual Budget	\$217,946.00
Giving '19	\$14,093.00
Interest & Other Income '19	\$13,693.08
Total Budget Income thru Feb.	\$27,786.08
Total Budget Expense thru Feb.	\$(29,152.27)
Plus Budget overage from 2018	\$29,304.84
Budget Balance thru February	\$27,938.65
February Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$125.00
IVHP Hunger	\$25.00
Women's Fellowship Pennies	\$40.00

The Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren seeks to glorify God and to promote Christian life and character through worship, instruction, evangelism, fellowship, and service to this community and to the world at large.

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

Office@MyPomonaChurch.org

Services & Activities

Sunday Worship	Sunday, 9:15 a.m.
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 20th of each month.

Agreed upon timeline for purchase and sale of the PFCOB property:

1. Start of escrow on Friday, March 15, 2019
2. Within 3 business days, (3-19-19), \$50,000 into escrow by Lewis
3. Within 7 business days (3-23-19), PFCOB shall provide Lewis with copies of all entitlements, permits, plans, surveys, soils, environmental and biological reports
4. Lewis has the right to enter upon the property to conduct any and all inspections & tests when no Church services or events in session with 24 hour notice to PFCOB
5. Within 10 business days, (3-27-19), deliver to Lewis a preliminary title report at our expense and legible copies of all documents referred to in the title report, if they are reasonably available
6. Within 10 days after receiving these title documents Lewis shall give PFCOB written notice of approval or disapproval
7. If any disapproval, PFCOB has 10 days to agree to remove any such disapproved title concerns, if not the sale is over and all deposits must be returned
8. Such disapproval must occur before the Feasibility Deadline, 5-14-2019
9. Within 60 days (5-14-19), Lewis shall decide whether to issue its Notice of Feasibility
10. If no Notice then this sale and escrow is over
11. If the Notice of Feasibility is issued, then the following proceed.
12. The next business day (5-15-19) the \$50,000 is released to PFCOB
13. Additional deposits of \$15,000 are issued every 90 days thereafter until the escrow is closed.
14. Close of escrow: 30 days after final approval of entitlements has been received by Lewis, but no later than 18 months, (9-15-2020), unless final approval of entitlements has not been received then no later than 3-15-2021.
15. Prior to closing:
 - a. No new encumbrances
 - b. No material adverse changes in the condition of the property
 - c. Sign the grant deed
 - d. Provide Transferors Certification of Non-Foreign Status
 - e. Withholding exemption certificate (Calif. Form 593C)
 - f. Cell Tower Lease Assignment, 2 copies
 - g. Agree to the proration of property taxes
 - h. No leases or agreements for use of Property after closing
 - i. Gerald meet monthly with Lewis and attend meetings
 - j. Cure any breach of our obligations within 5 days
 - k. Provide Ticor Title with copies of our Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Tax Exemption and other such documents as they may require.
16. At Closing:
 - a. Pay Title Policy, ½ of escrow fee, cost of recording and documentary transfer taxes, and ½ of escrow holder's customary miscellaneous charges
 - b. Pay PFCOB share of property taxes
17. No one using the property except PFCOB after closing
18. Be out of the property within 90 days of closing

In response to the latest acts of violence around the world, Laura Lovelace shared her poem in worship last month. Maybe you could add it to your daily meditation.

Peace

I am an idea and a hope
I am a thought and a prayer
I am a wish and a way of life
I am what I am

I feed the hungry
I shelter the homeless
I comfort the sick and calm the angry
I stop war and help enemies become friends

I am a want and a longing truth
I am a word that stops violence
I am what children of violence cry for
I am peace
The answer to all thoughts and prayers

Inland Valley Interfaith Working Group for Peace
presents our first

Interfaith Pot Luck Picnic

Sunday, April 28, 2019

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Develop Relationships That
Can Help Bring Us All
Closer to Peace

An Opportunity to Share That "We
Do Care" About Preserving Our
Planet for Future Generations!
Earth Day is April 22nd

Please bring your
blankets or other
personal seating



Support Interfaith
Dialogue, Respect and
Understanding

Please Bring Dish
to Share.
Please label dishes to inform
those with food boundaries.

All Are Welcome!
Bring the Family to
Meet the Family

Griffith Park

1800 Woodbend Dr., Claremont 91711



Join us on Facebook- www.facebook.com/InlandValleyInterfaithWG
or call 909-542-8150 for more info

Participants encouraged to attend Holocaust Remembrance Commemoration
following picnic at Temple Beth Israel, 3033 N. Towne Ave., Pomona @ 4 p.m.

Letter opposes drone strikes, Brethren invited to rally

The Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in February signed an interfaith letter about CIA drone strikes. The letter from 25 faith-based organizations asked Congress to end the CIA's use of armed drones to carry out lethal attacks.

"There must be transparency and accountability regarding the use of lethal force undertaken on our behalf," the letter said, in part. "The CIA's program of drone strikes has expanded in the past two years to include strikes in Libya and Afghanistan. This is in addition to the CIA's long-term program of carrying out strikes in Pakistan, Yemen, and pos-

sibly other countries. . . . By refusing to acknowledge most of its strikes, the CIA prevents civilian victims from receiving justice and conveys moral responsibility for killing on to an American people who have never been informed about this secret war, nor had their members of Congress vote on it."

The office invites Brethren to a rally against drone warfare on May 3 in Washington, D.C. The rally will call for an end to CIA drone strikes and for General Atomics, the company responsible for development of Predator and Reaper drones, to sign the "Future of Life" pledge on lethal autonomous weapons.

GFI visits Brethren-founded groups in Ecuador



wheat, alfalfa, and corn. FBU is seeking those with farming or gardening experience to spend time working on the farm and in community programs.

Contact JBoshart@brethren.org.

In Llano Grande, Boshart was greeted warmly by elders who remember the US mission and asked about many mission workers by name. These elders were educated in the Brethren school and remain fiercely proud of the formation they received in both school and church many years ago. Although the church is now United Methodist, Brethren values of service, peacemaking, and concern for the most vulnerable members of society have become embedded in the community. In parting, the elders sent their greetings and hopes for more news and communication from old friends.

A photo album is at www.bluemelons.com/churchofthebrethren/globalfoodinitiativeecuadorvisit.



Although Church of the Brethren mission work in Ecuador ended in the 1970s,

the name lives on in Fundación Brethren y Unida (FBU, Brethren and United Foundation) and Unidad Educativa "Brethren" (Brethren Educational Unit). FBU is a non-governmental organization in Pícalqui, about an hour north of the capital Quito, focused on environmental education for youth and teaching organic food production to women's groups. Unidad Educativa "Brethren" is in Llano Grande, in the greater Quito metropolitan area.

In 2017, Dale Minnich, a former Brethren mission worker in Ecuador and the first executive director of FBU, revisited Ecuador and the Global Food Initiative (GFI) began collaborating with

FBU. Two GFI grants supported FBU work with women and youth. This January, GFI manager Jeff Boshart visited to see FBU's work and attend a meeting as a newly appointed board member.

FBU is repairing and upgrading its facilities to attract more international volunteers and visitors. Boshart observed a cooking class and made several field visits. One morning was spent hiking near Lagunas de Mojanda, a crater lake in a protected biological reserve. Although deforestation is extreme in the area, the road to the lake was lined with more than 500,000 native trees planted over 15 years by school children with direction from FBU.

FBU maintains a tree nursery, a small dairy herd of 12 cows, plots of blackberries, tree tomatoes (tomarillo), and vegetables. Larger fields produce

Detrick and Sollenberger top ballot for moderator

Topping the ballot for the 2019 Annual Conference are nominees for moderator-elect **Joe A. Detrick** of Seven Valleys, Pa., an ordained minister and retired district executive; and **David Sollenberger** of Annville, Pa., a videographer who has documented Brethren conferences and ministries.

Other positions and nominees:

Program and Arrangements Committee: **Carol Hipps** Elmore, Salem, Va.; **Seth Hendricks**, North Manchester, Ind.

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 4: **Jess Hoffert**, Inver Grove Heights, Minn.; **J. Roger Schrock**, McPherson, Kan.; *Area 5:* **Lauren Seganos Cohen**, Pasadena, Calif.; **Don Morrison**, Nampa, Idaho.

Bethany Seminary board representing Brethren colleges: **Kurt DeGoede**, Mount Joy, Pa.; **Monica Rice**, McPherson, Kan.

Brethren Benefit Trust board: **Audrey Myer**, Elizabethtown, Pa.; **Derrick Petry**, Beaver Creek, Ohio.

On Earth Peace board: **Catherine K. Carson**, Fairfax, Va.; **Carla L. Gillespie**, Tipp City, Ohio.

Elections will be held during Annual Conference July 3-7 in Greensboro, N.C. For more information and to register go to www.brethren.org/ac.



Joe A. Detrick



David Sollenberger

Dikaos pilgrimage will visit Cherokee

Intercultural Ministries offers a Dikaos and Discipleship

Pre-Conference Pilgrimage on July 2-3. The bus trip will start in Greensboro, N.C., make an overnight stay in Cherokee, and visit the Museum of the Cherokee and Oconaluftee Living Village.

Themes for the tour include righteousness and justice, a history of faith, land and lament, and doctrine of discovery. An announcement described Cherokee as “a place that is at once a sacred homeland for the Cherokee tribe, a place of modern cultural rebirth, and a tourist destination . . . where layers of history and a modern American dream collide. Join us on a scripture-inspired tour of a region to reflect on how our values—and those of our ancestors—have shaped the lives of Native Americans.”

For more information and to register go to www.brethren.org/dikaos.

Personnel notes

Dana Cassell is managing Thriving in Ministry, a grant-funded initiative of the Office of Ministry offering support for multivocational pastors. She started half-time on Jan. 7 while continuing to pastor Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren, Durham, N.C. Three-fourths of Brethren pastors are multivocational. Recognizing one challenge for them is less time and availability to travel for education, conferences, and fellowship with other pastors, Thriving in Ministry will offer resources and support in their own context.

Shannon McNeil began March 4 as a Mission Advancement advocate working out of the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. She and Nancy Timbrook McCrickard are a team of advocates working at relationship-building with donors. She most recently was manager of human resources and constituent

affairs in the Office of the Governor, in Chicago. She holds degrees from Bridgewater (Va.) College and the University of Chicago. She is a member of Neighborhood Church of the Brethren in Montgomery, Ill.


Emily Tyler started as director of Brethren Volunteer Service on Feb. 4. She continues to work out of the General Offices where she had coordinated BVS recruitment and Workcamp Ministry since June 27, 2012. In 2006, as a BVSer, she co-coordinated National Youth Conference and Young Adult Conference. As coordinator of the Workcamp Ministry she supervised BVSers each year as the ministry offered workcamps for junior and senior highs, young adults, multi-generational groups, and We Are Able.

Steve Van Houten started March 6 as interim coordinator of the

Workcamp Ministry, working out of the General Offices. He coordinated the ministry July 2006 through January 2008 after serving as temporary coordinator beginning January 2005. He is retired as senior pastor of Pine Creek (Ind.) Church of the Brethren.

National Youth Cabinet members have been named for 2019-2020: **Eric Finet**, Nokesville congregation, Mid-Atlantic District; **Grace VanAsselt**, McPherson, Western Plains District; **Lucas Musselman**, Oak Grove, Virginia District; **Madison Creps**, Mechanicburg, Southern Pennsylvania District; **Rachel Johnson**, Mechanic Grove, Atlantic Northeast District; **Tristen Craighead**, Manassas, Mid-Atlantic District; adult advisors **Leslie Lake**, Illinois and Wisconsin District, and **Dennis Beckner**, Northern Indiana District.

APRIL 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04	05	06
		6:30 pm Stewards 7:30 pm LTG	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 9:00 am Knit Wits 7:30 pm Choir			
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
		7:30 pm LTG	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 6:30 pm M & W 7:30 pm Praise Team (No Choir)		6:00 pm S & O	10:00 am All Church Retreat at Hillcrest
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		7:30 pm LTG	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 7:00 pm Choir	6:00 pm Love Feast	OFFICE CLOSED	BANNER ARTICLES DUE 10:00 am Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		7:30 pm LTG	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 7:30 p.m. Choir	6:45 pm Church Board		8:00 am Pomona Trash Day
28	29	30				
		7:30 pm LTG				

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



POMONA FELLOWSHIP
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