

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 2020

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 45, No. 2

From our Pastor...

On January 6-9, 2020, I traveled to the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona for the Church of the Brethren's National Clergywomen Retreat. Around 60 women from across the denomination attended the retreat, which included worship services, workshops, many different recreation options, and times for fellowship. The main sessions were led by Mandy Smith, lead pastor of University Christian Church in Cincinnati.

In her sessions, Smith told about powerful experiences of God working through her own weakness and frailties, and related those experiences to the personal dynamics of a church leader's life. Citing the words of Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10--"He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.' So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me"--she encouraged us as clergywomen to "lean into" and accept our own vulnerabilities and weaknesses in order to allow God to work through them.

"The best ministry grows from reliance on God," Smith said, "and our weakness teaches us reliance on God, so weakness is a ministry resource."

Ironically, many women from the retreat took these lessons about weakness and vulnerability seriously, as about a third of the participants got sick with either the flu or other viral infections upon returning home! Overall though it was an excellent retreat and I am grateful to have attended and to have been nourished by the sessions and the time with fellow clergy women in our denomination.



Yours in grace and peace,
Pastor Lauren



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

“Lord, teach us to pray...”
 Luke 11:1
 We also uphold these members, friends and family members of our congregation who have prayer concerns:

Judy Brooks

Twila’s family at the passing of her niece, Vicky Rochelle Lovelace

District Prayer Calendar – February

- Feb. 2 Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)
- Feb. 9 Reedley Cornerstone Church of the Brethren
- Feb. 16 Laton Church of the Brethren
- Feb. 23 For deepening faith as we begin the Lenten journey



Fun Facts from the Pages of Our History

In 1976, eleven families of the Pomona congregation raised a total of 64 rabbits that were shipped to the Heifer Project ranch in Arkansas!

February Host, Ushers, etc.



- Hosts: Wanda Lacy & Twila Pruitt
- Ushers: Shirley & Frank Ness
- Offering: Bill Lemon
- Hymn Leader: Peggy Redman



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)

FROM SERVICE AND OUTREACH

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



Our giving emphasis for February is
Heifer International.

Service and Outreach News

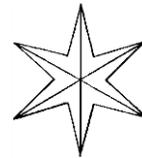
Although February is the shortest month of the year, there are still many opportunities for service. The very first Sunday is Souper Bowl Sunday, with the invitation to fill that little yellow wagon with cans of soup, wonderful soup, and things that go with it, like crackers, as well as the usual staples. If food is not your cup of tea, a donation to Heifer International will provide food for more than just one meal, if one is patient.

How can you honor those you love - or should love? Maybe chocolate candy, or maybe join a fundraising party at John's Incredible Pizza at Arrow Hwy and Central in Montclair on Friday, February 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. John's will donate 15% of all purchases made at that time to Inland Valley Hope Partners.

For the more adventurous among us, Child Disaster Services is holding its Southern California Service Training at the La Verne CoB from February 29 - March 1 (overnight). One of the trainers will be Shirley Ness, who has served children in many areas of disaster in recent years. Contact her or the La Verne Church for more information, for there is a deadline for registration, and a fee for this training.

And don't forget to smile. That's something we can all do.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our **Christmas Card Tree Fundraiser** in December. We raised \$120, which has been used by the Service & Outreach commission to purchase items to make kits for homeless or otherwise needy individuals to keep in the church office. Kits include: tissues, tuna salad & crackers, granola bar, water bottle, warm socks, band-aids, toothbrush & toothpaste, Chapstick and a \$5 McDonalds gift card. Thank you for your generosity that made this happen! -Pastor Lauren



Diane Deal

Twila Pruitt

Wanda Lacy

Phyllis Eller

PSWD Staff

Kathy Gilbert

Yvonne Belcher

Graham Lovelace

Janet & John Short

Dan & Mary Hines

George & Jan Spicer

Richard & Linda Hart

Jerry & Berkley Davis

Harvey & Connie Good

Sandi Brooks and family

Gary, Leslie, Ryan & Casey Deal



Model Railroad Club at Hillcrest - Graham Lovelace

Many of you have viewed *Willoughby* displayed in the Hillcrest Meeting House lobby over the last five years during the Christmas Holidays.



This scene is designed to portray a small northern town during the winter holidays in the 1920s. Most of the buildings were made by club members over many years of model railroading. The background was painted by Max Prothro (Hillcrest painter). The reflective lake was created by Steven Lovelace (Graham's son).

Some people see the club as a group of old men who have entered their second childhood by playing with toy trains. I see us as people who have had an interest in railroads and enjoy creating a three-dimensional scene, complete with motion and sound, to reflect a period in railroad history. We spend most of the year working on the main layout, which depicts a railroad town during the early diesel era (1950's thru 1970's). It is very challenging to use all kinds of materials to construct realistic scenes that are true to the time period and the HO scale.

We are sometimes asked when the project will be finished. The answer is "never!" There are always ways to add to the display or make improvements. Besides, if we did finish it, it would become very boring to just sit there watching the train go around and around.

Burden bearers

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ... We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy ... and suffer with the sufferers.

—Philip Yancey, *Where Is God When It Hurts?*



We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message Bible* reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

[from NewsletterNewsletter.com]

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through December 2019

2019 Annual Budget	\$217,946.00
Giving '19	\$102,965.00
Interest & Other Income '19	\$87,602.28
Total Budget Income thru Sept.	\$190,567.28
Total Budget Expense thru Dec.	\$(219,764.57)
Plus Budget overage from 2018	\$29,304.84
Budget Balance thru Dec.	\$107.55
Dec. Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$85.00
Leila Brown Memorial	\$660.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners	\$20.00
Adopt-a-Family	\$40.00
Women's Fellowship	\$600.00
Women's Fellowship Pennies	\$135.00

The *Banner* is published by the
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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 20th of each month.

FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
		7:30 pm Bible Study	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 7:30 pm Choir	6:45 pm Exec Comm		
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:30 am Congregational Business Mtg		6:30 pm Stewards 7:30 pm Bible Study	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 9:00 am Knit Wits 4:30 pm S & O 7:30 pm Choir	11:00 am M & W		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 pm Bible Study	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 7:30 pm Choir	BANNER ARTICLES DUE 6:45 pm Church Board		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		7:30 pm Bible Study	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 7:00 pm Praise Team			

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



POMONA FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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