



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 2019

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 43, No. 2

From our Pastor...

When you think of February, what normally comes to mind? For many people, it might be Valentine's Day, a day when many people set time aside to honor and appreciate their spouse, lover, or partner. Date nights, gifts, and romantic gestures are often used to mark this holiday. This also tends to be a popular time of the year to get engaged.

However not everyone looks forward to February 14. For some folks, it can be a painful reminder of their single-ness or a day that feels lonely after the death of a spouse or partner. Still others dismiss Valentine's Day as another "Hallmark holiday" engineered by corporations to encourage consumerism and unnecessary spending on cards, gifts, etc.

In recent years, a new "holiday" of sorts has spring up among many women. Thanks in part to a quirky recurring plot on the NBC show Parks & Recreation, "Gal-entine's Day," which takes place on February 13, is a day that ladies are encouraged to celebrate and show their love to their female friends, regardless of whether you are in a romantic relationship or not.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth: "If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

Regardless of whether you celebrate Valentine's Day, Gal-entine's Day, neither, or both, this time of year (but really any time of year) can be a great opportunity to voice your gratitude and appreciation for the people in your life that you love. Whether those relationships are romantic, friendships, or family, taking the time to intentionally tell these folks how much you love them can be an amazing gift that surpasses any superficial or obligatory Valentine's celebration. Because even if you have all the gifts and faith and generosity one can possess, without love you have nothing. Let us acknowledge and give thanks for love, love of all kinds, this month.

Yours in grace and peace,
Pastor Lauren



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

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

**Harvey Good
Rochelle Lovelace**

District Prayer Calendar – February

- Feb. 3 - Restoration LA Church of the Brethren (Los Angeles)
- Feb. 10 - Live Oak Church of the Brethren
- Feb. 17 - For Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) as it serves in the midst of persecution, and for EYN leaders Rebecca & Samuel Dali as they visit PSWD churches this week
- Feb. 24 - Laton Church of the Brethren

February Host, Ushers, etc.



- Host: Wanda Lacy
- Ushers: Richard & Linda Hart
- Offering: Bill Lemon
- Hymn Leader: Peggy Redman

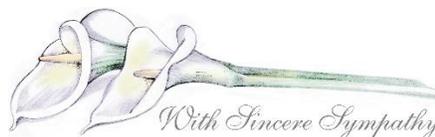


FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

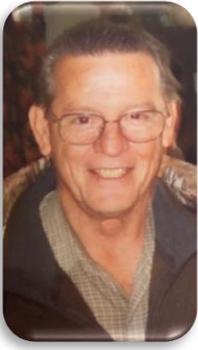
FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

(NONE)



We are sad to report that Ray Yinger went home to be with the Lord on December 18. His service was Thursday, January 31

Please keep Peggy and her family in your prayers.



Ray Yinger
A Life Well Lived
April 1, 1938 –
December 18, 2018

Ray Yinger, the oldest of three children, was born at Park Avenue Hospital in Pomona, California on April 1, 1938 to Don and Marjorie (Wildman) Yinger. Later he was joined by brother, Tony, and sister, Karen. Ray attended the Pomona Public Schools, including Lincoln Elementary School, Emerson Junior High School, and graduating from Pomona High School in 1956. Pomona High School burned down one month before graduation, closing the school for the rest of the year and exempting students from final exams and projects.

In high school Ray was a gymnast, pole-vaulter and sprinter. He had a pole vault pit in his backyard at Westwood Place where he taught neighborhood kids the rudimentary skills of pole-vaulting. He must have done well for two of those neighborhood kids went on to win significant titles in pole-vaulting, Bob Richardson won the California state title and Bob Seagren won the Olympics.

Ray's plan was to be a motorcycle mechanic, but, he fell in love with physics his senior year at PHS sending his life in another direction. He went to MSAC Community College for part of a year then transferred to UC Riverside, as a member of the third graduating class of UCR. Here he majored in math, but with a passion for music he took enough classes for close to a second major in music. He was part of the Madrigal group, helped start an intermural track team, and completed his degree in math in 1960. The summer after graduation he toured Europe for three months with the All American Singers.

His first job was as a Mathematician at Convair, later known as General Dynamics. He worked there for a

year, and then decided the only people that could get out of their windowless cubicles were the lawyers, so he took the LSAT and applied to UCLA Law School. He received a call from the Dean of the Law School at his desk at Convair inviting him to attend UCLA. He felt at risk his first year as everyone else seemed to have a lawyer in the family, but he fell in love with the law, a passion he carried throughout his lifetime.

After graduation from Law School in 1964 he set up his practice in Bakersfield, California, the home of his mother's family. His skills as a lawyer were noticed quickly and he was soon assigned to represent those who didn't have counsel by one of the key judges in Bakersfield, there were no public defenders in 1965. He was living in Arvin, and, when he was in City Hall getting a permit for remodeling, they saw he was an attorney, and asked if he would like to be their City Attorney, as the past person had just retired after 25 years. Ray took the job, and was their City Attorney in Arvin for 23 years, plus he served as interim City Attorney for at least five other cities. Ray had a reputation as a fair, ethical, and smart lawyer.

Ray was always learning. He completed a degree in psychology in the 1970s and a third degree in Botany in the 1980s. He was in love with plants and could give each plant's Latin name without looking it up. He took many trips into the mountains with groups of children, youth, and family identifying plants, as they would walk in the wilderness.

Ray finished his career with a 20+ year term as a Hearing Officer in the Mental Health Facilities in Bakersfield. In this venue he shined, for his ability to see the person and the ethics and care he applied to his position made him top in the field.

Ray had many talents. He was a gifted pianist, playing classical works and boogie blues with the same gusto. He was an outstanding guitar player, always working to perfect his playing of the blues. He was a motorcycle enthusiast, beginning with his cross-country trip to New York in 1960. He participated in too many desert races to count, owning over a 100 motorcycles in his lifetime. He

raced cars for a while, and then turned to tennis. Ray played tennis for over 40 years, was ranked at the A level, and won several tennis titles during this time. The Bakersfield Racquet Club was his second home.

Ray was the ultimate wilderness person. He was trained in survival techniques, and was an expert at hunting with a bow and arrow. His love for archery began in his early years, and he developed the skill to a mastery level in typical Ray fashion.

When Ray was 8 years old he fell in love with a third grade classmate, Peggy Deal, and went home and told his family he intended to marry her one-day. They would be classmates through 1956, when they parted to separate lives. (He never did ask her out.) They reconnected in 2006 at their 50th high school reunion, were married in 2008, and shared 10½ years of wonderful married life.

Ray's slide into Alzheimer's took its toll on him and all those who loved him. But, in the midst of it all he had some of that indomitable spirit that was Ray Yinger.

He leaves his wife, Peggy, his brother, Tony, his sister, Karen, and three nieces and a nephew, and numerous cousins, as well as six step grandchildren, and three stepchildren who thought Grandpa Ray was the best.



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.**

Pacific Southwest District to North Carolina for Disaster Response

There is still time to join the team from PSWD headed to North Carolina for two weeks of Brethren Disaster Ministry response! We can take 15 people and there is still room. The work weeks are February 24 through March 9, and if someone can only come for a week they should still talk with our District Coordinators Lois and Lindy Frantz (email or 209-604-8027 or 209-605-6559). Travel cost is covered by the PSWD and lodging and meals are provided on site.

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION
Through December 2018**

2018 Annual Budget	\$215,314.00
Giving '18	\$97,861.01
Interest & Other Income '18	\$73,472.34
Total Budget Income thru Dec.	\$171,333.35
Total Budget Expense thru Dec.	\$(161,885.14)
Plus Budget overage from 2017	\$19,856.63
Budget Balance thru November	\$29,304.84
December Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$815.00
IVHP Hunger	\$25.00
Adopt-a-Family	\$100.00
Christmas Card Tree-Paradise COB	\$609.00
Women's Fellowship	\$200.00

Fire destroys Paradise church

The Camp Fire in northern California's Butte County overran the town of Paradise and other smaller communities on Nov. 8, 2018. Lost in the fire were all of the buildings on the property of Paradise Community Church of the Brethren, including the main church facility and sanctuary, the parsonage, a youth building, and two rental cottages.

All of the people who are a part of the congregation evacuated safely and are living with relatives in other parts of northern California. The membership was very small, as was that of the Rock Fellowship, which had been renting space from the church and sharing

in worship and ministry for some years.

In the face of this devastation, the congregation has let the district know that it will not continue in ministry.

The Pacific Southwest District conference held in La Verne, Calif., shortly after the fire swept through Paradise—a town of about 26,000 people located 15 miles east of Chico—opened with a time of prayer for the congregation and those fighting the fires. Rains over the Thanksgiving weekend helped firefighters reach 100 percent containment and extinguish the fire. Joel Price, district stewards chair, and district executive Russ Matteson visited pastor Melvin Campbell and his wife, Jane, on Nov. 28.



Several Children's Disaster Services (CDS) teams have traveled to California to provide care in two locations beginning Nov. 16. Volunteers at the Chico site reported serving as many as 70 children per day.

The district is receiving donations to provide direct support to the pastor and members of the Paradise congregation as they seek to recover. Checks can be sent to Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren, P.O. Box 219, La Verne, CA 91750 (note "Paradise Fire" in the memo line). Donations for the CDS response and the planning for a Brethren Disaster Ministries long-term response may be sent to the Emergency Disaster Fund, Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 (note "Camp Fire Response").

Workcamp office announces 2019 schedule

The Church of the Brethren Workcamp Ministry has released dates and locations for the 2019 summer workcamps. A total of 18 workcamps will be offered for junior high, senior high, young adult, and "We Are Able" participants.

The six junior high sites are in Indiana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Senior high workcamps will take place in 10 locations from coast to coast, including Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Tennessee, and Massachusetts. Young adults may choose to travel to China, or to assist in Elgin, Ill., with the "We Are Able" workcamp for youth

and young adults with intellectual disabilities.

To view the schedule, which includes dates, locations, costs, and descriptions, visit www.brethren.org/workcamps/schedule. Registration will open on Jan. 17 at 8 p.m. (Eastern time). All youth and young adults in the denomination are encouraged to attend. For questions or to request a brochure, contact cobworkcamps@brethren.org.

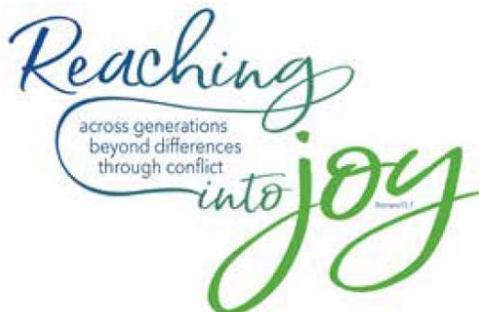


NOAC committee unveils 2019 logo

Planners of the 2019 National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) have unveiled the logo for the event, highlighting the theme, “Reaching . . . across generations, beyond differences, through conflict . . . into joy” (Romans 15:7). The flowing blue and green logo was designed by Brethren graphic artist Debbie Noffsinger.

The conference will take place Sept. 2-6 at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center near Waynesville, N.C. The NOAC web page, www.brethren.org/NOAC, will go live with 2019 information in January. Registration opens in April.

Christy Waltersdorff, pastor of York Center Church of the Brethren in Lombard, Ill., is serving as NOAC coordinator this year. Serving with her on the planning team are Rex Miller, Pat Roberts, Karen Dillon, Glenn Bollinger, Paula Ziegler Ulrich, and Church of the Brethren staff members Stan Dueck and Josh Brockway.



Representatives of SVMC's various partners share in a "ritual of blessing," combining small containers of soil into a pot that will hold a peace lily at SVMC's office, located at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College.

SVMC celebrates its silver anniversary

With a festive banquet meal and worship, the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) celebrated its 25th anniversary Nov. 3, 2018, at Chambersburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren.

About 85 people attended the event, spanning the 5 districts served by SVMC—Atlantic Northeast, Southern Pennsylvania, Middle Pennsylvania, Western Pennsylvania, and Mid-Atlantic—along with denominational staff.

SVMC, which began as the Susquehanna Valley Satellite with two district partners in 1993, was created to provide quality Brethren ministry education in the area of the country with the denomination's highest population. To date, it has served more than 2,900 students in continuing education, TRIM and ACTS ministry training programs, and graduate courses.

Many changes and additions have occurred over the past quarter-century, but SVMC director Donna Rhodes said the organization's mission "is as strong today as it was 25 years ago." That strength, she said, is due in large part to the healthy partnerships that SVMC has nurtured with its partners, especially the cooperating districts, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.

Bethany dean Steven Schweitzer served as featured speaker for the evening's worship, drawing from the anniversary theme, "Growing in Knowledge, Rooted in Christ."

Yearbook changes process for collecting congregational information

A November letter from the Yearbook Office informed Church of the Brethren congregations that changes are forthcoming in the way directory and statistical data will be collected. No Form B was mailed this past fall, but instead will be combined into a later mailing. This is the first step, and further changes will be made over the course of a couple of years. More details and instructions will be

sent to congregations and districts in early 2019.

The end goal is to reduce the collection of information from multiple forms and mailings to a single mailing to be sent out early each year. There will be an online option for congregations to submit their information—something many have asked for—but a paper option will still be offered.

"We appreciate the time and effort

you put into completing these forms each year—a vital way for the church to stay connected," said *Yearbook* specialist Jim Miner. "Form B and other forms are used to collect directory and statistical information from congregations. Much of it is published in the annual *Church of the Brethren Yearbook*."

For questions and more information contact yearbook@brethren.org or 800-323-8039 ext. 320.

FEBRUARY 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10:30 am Congregational Business Meeting		7:30 pm LTG	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 9:00 am Knit Wits/Women's Fellowship 6:30 pm Stewards 7:30 pm Choir			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		7:30 pm LTG	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 6:00 pm S&O 6:30 pm M&W 7:00 pm Choir			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	OFFICE CLOSED	7:30 pm LTG	BANNER ARTICLES DUE 8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 7:30 p.m. Praise Team (no Choir)	6:45 pm Church Board		12:00 Dali's visit and lunch
24	25	26	27	28		
		7:30 pm LTG	8:00 am Breakfast @ Roberta's 7:30 p.m. Choir			

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



POMONA FELLOWSHIP
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