



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!

October 2020

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 45, No. 10

From our Pastor...

On September 13, in a two-and-a-half hour virtual congregational business meeting after worship, our congregation made a big decision! After praying on the proposal prepared by our church's Mission Team, this body of Christ affirmed that God was calling us to pursue partnering with two community organizations, Community Partners 4 Innovation (CP4I) and Inland Valley Hope Partners (IVHP), by looking for our new church home within an approximate one mile radius of Lopez Elementary School in Pomona. Our call to partner with these two organizations is in line with our congregation's expressed desire to come alongside Spirit-led ministries and programs in the city, and to use our own gifts and talents in ways that bring Good News to those around us.

The partners: Community Partners 4 Innovation is a relatively new nonprofit that seeks community wellness and justice through two main approaches: urban agriculture and restorative practices. CP4I has developed deep relationships in the neighborhood of Lopez Elementary School, including their new urban farm, and they are seeking a partnership with us that will draw on our gifts of education, nourishment, and peacemaking. Inland Valley Hope Partners is a longstanding pillar in our community. They have acknowledged their need for an increased presence in south and central Pomona, and they view our relocation to this area as a possibility for a new food distribution center and/or additional office space for their staff, to name a few ideas.

The area: The approximate one-mile radius of Lopez Elementary School would bring us closer to the work of Community Partners 4 Innovation and also provide a space for Inland Valley Hope Partners to have an increased presence in that community.

While we are excited by this road that God has shown us, we know that there is still much work ahead of us. Our Mission Team is forming 3 teams to tackle the next steps for the future of our church: a logistics team (which will consider available properties, financial questions, and what we and our partners will need in a future space), an education team (to begin learning about our new neighborhood and the ministries of our partners), and a transitions/celebrations team (to plan for the spiritual processes and practices of saying goodbye to our time on Orange Grove Avenue and to enter into our new church life together with joy).

To the members of Pomona Fellowship who spent much time in prayer and discernment about our future: thank you for your deep love for Jesus and your love for this particular body of Christ! To our friends near and far: thank you for your encouragement and your prayers for us during this season. We look forward to the ways that God will continue to reveal his plan and guidance for us.

With gratitude,
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 – October

Oct 4 The global church on this World Wide Communion Sunday
Oct 11 For your pastor and her family
Oct 18 Bethany Theological Seminary (our Seminary), its students and faculty
Oct 25 For Christ's healing and wholeness in places of injury and division

A Thank You Note...

Many, many, many thanks to my wonderful church family for all the many forms of support I have received this last month. From prayers, phone calls, waves through the window, food and lots of practical help you have supported me, cheered me on, and helped my recuperation in so many ways. You are truly angels in disguise. I love you all.

Phyllis Eller

Service and Outreach News

The special offering for Brethren Ministries for October is On Earth Peace. OEP helps individuals, churches, and community groups learn and use active nonviolence to respond to conflict, injustice, and violence. You can donate to On Earth Peace at onearthpeace.org/donate or by giving to the church and writing in the memo line On Earth Peace.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2) Janice Young
- 3) Rachel Landrum
- 11) Gary Hart
- 21) Laura (Deal) Russi
- 22) Leslie Deal
- 26) Bobbi Hemsworth
- 27) Rylan Good
- 31) Cathy Banks

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

(none)

A good reminder submitted by Phyllis Eller

Because it rains when we wish it wouldn't
Because men do what they often shouldn't
Because crops fail and plans go wrong
Some of us grumble the whole day long
But somehow, in spite of the care and doubt
I seems at last that things work out.
Because we lose where we hoped to gain,
Because we suffer a little pain,
Because we must work when we'd like to play
Some of us whimper along life's way.
But somehow as day will follow the night,
Most of our troubles work out right.
So tend to your troubles and meet your care,
For the clouds must break and the sky grow fair.
Let the rain come down as it must and will,
But keep on working and hoping still
For in spite of the grumblers who stand about,
Somehow, it seems, God works things out.



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.

October Zoom Meetings

Stewards: Wednesday, October 7, 6:00 p.m.

Service & Outreach: Wednesday, October 14, 4:00 p.m.

Music & Worship: Thursday, October 15, 11:00 a.m.

Church Board: Thursday, October 15, 4:00 p.m.

Executive Committee: Thursday, November 19, 4:00



IN LOVING MEMORY

Life Reflections

A recent Banner note mentioned the passing of Florence Crago this past July. Florence was an important part of the leadership of the Fellowship Church of the Brethren, an active member of the Pacific Southwest District and a faculty member at the University of La Verne. Although she and husband Glen left La Verne in the late 1970s for greener pastures at the Heifer Ranch in Little Rock, AK, she left a legacy of service, mentoring and leadership that I would like to mention.

Florence was part of a growing wave of women who, after raising their three children, earned her bachelor’s, master’s, PhD and ministry degrees. She taught sociology at ULV, and practiced what she taught, fostering over ten children and helping other local young people.

She and Glen became interested in building a medical clinic and water system for Testerazo, a small town in Mexico. It became a PSWD project as well as a center for service for some of their college classes. Undoubtedly some of you reading this were part of one of those weekend work trips with meals with the people there.

Florence was a dedicated, hard-working, no-nonsense person who could make seemingly impossible dreams come true with faith and hard work, just the person we need in our corner as we move into our new vision. Thank you, Florence, for your living example and inspiration.

~~~Phyllis Eller

## PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

## Through August 2020

|                           |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2020 Annual Budget</b> | <b>\$222,576.00</b> |
|---------------------------|---------------------|

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| Giving '20 | \$64,079.70 |
|------------|-------------|

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Interest & Other Income '20 | \$53,846.02 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|

**Total Budget Income thru August                    \$117,922.72**

Total Budget Expense thru August      \$(120,096.49)

|                               |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Plus Budget overage from 2019 | \$107.55 |
|-------------------------------|----------|

Budget Balance thru August (\$2,066.22)

## August Special Non-Budget Offerings

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Capital Fund | \$145.00 |
|--------------|----------|

|              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Deacons Fund | \$2,000.00 |
|--------------|------------|

|                            |         |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Women's Fellowship Pennies | \$55.23 |
|----------------------------|---------|

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta | \$590.00 |
|----------------------------------|----------|

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**

## Services & Activities

## Sunday Worship over ZOOM

Sunday, 10:00 a.m

## Bible Study over Google Meet

Tuesday, 7:30 p.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.