



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!

June 2020

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 45, No. 6

From our Pastor...

Have you been wishing for something to do, some way to help our community during these challenging times, but also wanting to exercise caution and not expose yourself to unnecessary risk? Join our virtual prayer and letter-writing services!

Starting on May 31, our congregation will be participating in a series of short services to pray for and encourage those on the front lines of this global pandemic. Twice a week for the next few weeks, we will gather over Zoom to pray for local groups (hospital staff, teachers, etc.) and then write letters of encouragement to those groups to let them know that we are grateful for their work in our community. Each week Pastor Lauren or another volunteer from the congregation will pick up the letters that you write and deliver them.

In preparation for these prayer and letter-writing services, please gather the following materials: something to write with (pen, pencil, thin marker), something to write on (notecards, stationery, or plain white paper), and a candle if you wish.

Pastor Lauren will make Zoom links available, and we will meet on the following days to pray for the following groups:

Sunday, May 31 @ 11:30am
Wednesday, June 3 @ 4pm
Sunday, June 7 @ 11:30am
Wednesday, June 10 @ 4pm
Sunday, June 14 @ 11:30am
Wednesday, June 17 @ 4pm

PVHMC & Tri-City Mental Health employees
Police & Fire Department
Grocery store & farmers markets staff
PUSD teachers & Hillcrest staff
IVHP, Sowing Seeds, & other pantries
City employees & garbage collectors

Colossians 1:9-12 says, "And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light."

May these be our prayers for the hard-working heroes of this pandemic.

With you in 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
Rochelle Lovelace



Graham Lovelace
cell: (909) 230-2377
email: grlovelace@gmail.com

District Prayer Calendar – June

- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 7 | Camps La Verne and Peaceful Pines, as they deal with a summer of not being able to open this year |
| June 14 | For the global Church of the Brethren congregations in Nigeria, Spain, Dominican Republic, Haiti, India, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Brazil |
| June 21 | For those who are called to the work of planting new churches |
| June 28 | The COB as we deal with not being able to gather for Annual Conference this year |

Don't forget to send in your tithes and offerings to the church! Pomona Fellowship still needs your regular gifts during this season: to compensate our staff, to pay our bills, and to continue our ministries of outreach and giving. You can mail your checks into the office or use our new online giving option. Visit our website www.mypomonachurch.org and click on "Give" in the top row. You will be directed to a page where you can make a one-time or recurring donation using your credit/debit card or an ACH transaction. There is a small transaction fee with each gift but if you are able, please opt to cover this fee so that the church can receive 100% of your donation. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lauren.



BIRTHDAYS

- 2) Berkley Davis
- 4) Harvey Good
- 7) Sander Eller
- 8) Rick Landrum
- 11) Sharon Overholser
- 13) Rebecca Landrum
- 20) George Spicer

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|------|
| 13) | Virgil & Marcheta Pletcher | 1947 |
| 16) | Harvey & Connie Good | 1961 |
| 17) | Joe & Heather Brasil | 1995 |
| 23) | Rob & Laurie McKellip | 1994 |
| 29) | Rick & Sandy Landrum | 1985 |



It's time for some long distance fun!

It's time for a party—a birthday party on Zoom! The date is June 24, right between Flag Day and the Fourth of July, so we'll include America's birthday, as well as all of ours! There will be games and stories and fellowship.

To make this work, we will need to send you something via email, so we're asking you to email Diane at Lavernedeals@gmail.com to make a reservation, or call her at 909-451-4159.

June 24

4:00

Wear red, white, and/or blue.

Have a slice of cake, a cookie, or a piece of bread (!) and a candle to blow out as we sing Happy Birthday!

Service and Outreach Corner

Bethany Theological Seminary recently wrote to us expressing their profound gratitude for what we and other friends and alumni have done to support Bethany's mission over the years. They reported that, in this time of considerable uncertainty and concern regarding the health and wellbeing of the world, Bethany is not in crisis. This is in thanks to all who have supported Bethany.

Because of all the generous support and the planning and innovation of Bethany's faculty and administrators, they were ready to quickly respond to the pandemic. The coronavirus caused them to take all classes online and work from home, but it did not keep them from attending to the educational, spiritual, emotional, and social needs of their students. From their homes, Bethany employees have created new opportunities for worship and fellowship, and they have provided online opportunities for alumni to share information and provide mutual support.

As ever, Bethany's educational mission remains paramount. Thirteen students received their degrees in May. Faculty and staff are planning for the next courses, and their alumni are adapting their ministries to the evolving circumstances.

How can we help? Bethany asks us to:

- ~Keep Bethany in our prayers
- ~If we know individuals who are considering a call to ministry, tell them about Bethany, and encourage them to contact them.
- ~Consider a gift of financial support for Bethany's educational mission, and help them continue to be nimble, flexible, and responsive to whatever tomorrow brings.

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through April 2020

2020 Annual Budget	\$222,576.00
Giving '20	\$33,984.25
Interest & Other Income '20	\$33,229.29
Total Budget Income thru Apr.	\$67,213.54
Total Budget Expense thru Apr.	\$(59,716.74)
Plus Budget overage from 2019	\$107.55
Budget Balance thru Apr.	\$7,604.35
Apr. Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$700.00
COB One Great Hour of Sharing	\$120.00
Messenger	\$27.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$75.00

The *Banner* is published by the
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Services & Activities

Sunday Worship over ZOOM Sunday, 10:00 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.

May 31, 2020

A Few Thoughts from Connie Good to Pastor Lauren And Now Shared (With Her Permission) With All of You...

I have had many thoughts swirling about and I'm not sure that I can put it all together. So here goes . . .

First of all, what an inspiring message today [May 31], Pastor Lauren. This past week has given us much to think about and pray about. The thoughts that I have had started with one of the two books that some of us reviewed recently (I am not sure which one). ["We Will Feast: Rethinking Dinner, Worship and the Community of God" by Kendall Vanderslice and "Do Something Else: The Road Ahead for the Mainline Church" by Nate Phillips.] The discussion was about reaching out to the marginal and how, even if we think we hold no prejudices, we aren't always aware of how to be open to certain individuals. This leads me to the current issues facing the African American population. I did want to "change the channel" last night as the coverage of the rioting was being covered on channel 7ABC. It was very difficult to watch the looting and fires which would affect innocent shop owners who were already hit hard by the pandemic. But then there were a couple of interviews that gave me something to think about. The first was an interview of a young, African American woman protester who gave her opinions in support of the rioting. Next there was an interview of Psychology Professor, Dr. Cheryl Grills from Loyola Marymount. This interview is currently available (YouTube I think) by going to ABC7. It is worth watching! She made me realize how much bigger the race problem is - so far beyond the recent death of George Floyd. Right now I am left with the quandary as to what I can do to help make change

These are rambling thoughts and I realized that I haven't actually written anything for a long time. I am out of practice plus many thoughts are just running around in my head but I felt I had to try to put something down. Thank you again for the service and message. Do check out the comments from Dr. Grills.

From Pastor Lauren...

Watch the interview with Dr. Cheryl Grills [here](#).

There are plenty of ways that our church can continue the conversation on race and racism, especially as it pertains to the Church and the Christian faith. If there is interest, we could start by reading a book together. There is so much for us to learn.