



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!

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September 2020

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 45, No. 9

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### **From our Pastor...**

September is going to be an exciting time for Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren! Soon after this newsletter is released, members of PFCOB will be receiving a proposal, written by our Mission Team (Peggy Redman, Laura Lovelace, Janet Short, and Pastor Lauren). The proposal is a product of the Mission Team's work over the last few months, matching our congregation's desires, dreams, and skills with the hopes and needs of community organizations with whom we could see ourselves partnering to seek the peace of our city, in line with Jeremiah 29:7. Together with the Holy Spirit, we believe we have been led to an exciting possibility. The proposal includes relocating to a part of Pomona that would allow us to come alongside and partner with two faith-based nonprofits making a difference in the city.

If you are a member of Pomona Fellowship COB, you are asked to read (and re-read) the proposal and spend time in prayer, asking God if this is indeed where we as a congregation are being called. If there are parts that excite you, bring that excitement to God! If there are parts that make you uncomfortable or uncertain, bring that to God too. If you have questions, we ask you to bring those questions to our virtual Congregational Business Meeting on September 13 after worship, so that we can be in conversation together, before we take an official vote.

If you receive this newsletter and you are not a current member of Pomona Fellowship COB, can we trust that you will still hold our congregation in prayer during this time, and especially on September 13th? It's been over two years since our church voted to pursue selling our property, and in those two years we have negotiated an offer from a developer, signed a purchase and sale agreement, entered into feasibility period that lasted nine months, entered into escrow (during a pandemic!), and are now waiting as our buyer, Crestwood Communities, goes through the processing and entitlement process with the city of Pomona. In the meantime we have engaged in multiple worship series, listening conversations, book studies, prayer time, and church retreats all designed to aid in our own spiritual discernment. But we are now at a crossroads, and your prayers will strengthen and equip us to be bold and fearless in our continued journey as a church.

Towards the end of the Babylonian exile, the prophet Isaiah wrote to the Israelites to not lose hope. Through the prophet, God spoke to the covenantal people: "I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19). The time has come for another new thing to spring forth, and God will make the way.

With you in constant hope of God's promises,  
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**

In Memoriam - On July 31, 2020, former member **Florence Crago** passed away. Her son, Tom, said her passing was very peaceful and quiet. Florence had been living in a care facility in Colorado Springs at the time of her death.

#### **District Prayer Calendar – September**

Sept. 6 Imperial Heights Church of the Brethren  
(Los Angeles)  
Sept. 13 Pasadena Church of the Brethren  
Sept. 20 Restoration Los Angeles  
(East Los Angeles)  
Sept. 27 South Bay Church of the Brethren  
(Redondo Beach)



Birthdays &  
Anniversaries  
This Month!

#### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 1) Sheri Gordon
- 6) David Flores

#### **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

(NONE)

#### **\*Virtual\* Annual Walk for the Hungry and Homeless**

It's almost time for the annual Walk for the Hungry and Homeless! But how do we do it when we need to practice social distancing? We have a Virtual walk instead! So what is a virtual walk? I'm glad you asked. All you need to do is walk/run/skip/hop/bike for 5 km anywhere. How far is 5 km? Just a little more than 3 miles. What is the date for the walk? Any time from September 12 to September 20. That's 19 days! All you have to do is walk/run/skip/hop/bike for a total of 3.1 miles over 19 days! You don't even have to do it all on the same day. Just as long as your total over the 19 days is at least 3.1 miles.

Sponsoring people is a little different. If you know someone who is walking /running /skipping /hopping/biking, you could give them checks made out to "Inland Valley Hope Partners," and they will send them to the Inland Valley Hope Partners. If you want a sponsor sheet, just email me at [sandereller@gmail.com](mailto:sandereller@gmail.com), and I'll email you one.

But if you're going to write a check to the IVHP, instead of giving it to the walker, you could also just send it to IVHP, at 1753 N. Park Ave., Pomona CA 91773. As long as IVHP gets the money, it's all good. See you (virtually) on the walk!

Fundraise online at  
[www.InlandValleyHopePartners.org](http://www.InlandValleyHopePartners.org)

There is also a GoFundMe page you can use for donations at:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/walkforthehungry>



## Mission offering

### Service & Outreach News...

The special offering for Church of the Brethren ministries in September is the Mission Offering. This offering highlights our passion in the Church of the Brethren for service, international missions, and living unto the Lord together with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can make your gift to these important ministries online at

<https://churchofthebrethren.givingfuel.com/offerings>

or by mailing your designated gift to our church office, and we will make sure your gift is sent to the Church of the Brethren.



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.

### September Zoom Meetings

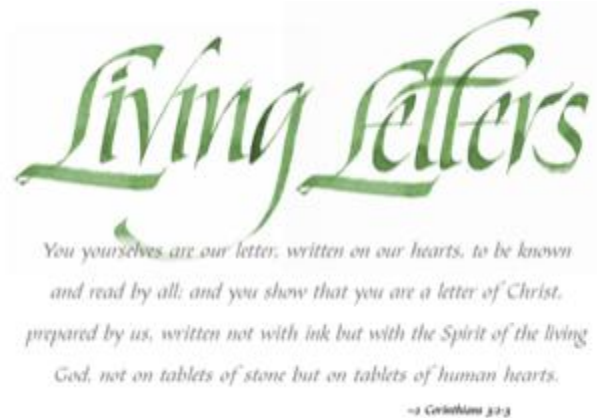
**Service & Outreach:** Wednesday, September 9, 4:00 p.m.

**Stewards:** Wednesday, September 9, 6:00 p.m.

**Church Board:** Thursday, September 10, 4:00 p.m.

**Congregational Business Meeting:** Sunday, September 13, after worship

**Music & Worship:** Thursday, September 17, 1:00 p.m.



In lieu of a formal presented report at Annual Conference this year, the Church of the Brethren’s Annual Report is available online. The theme is “Living Letters,” because during the COVID-10 pandemic, people of faith are living letters who reach out to each other and minister together, even when the church may be unable to meet in person. You may review the report at this link:

<http://www.brethren.org/about/annualreport.html>

**From the COB....  
Moderator's Town Hall  
Thursday, September 17th**

We are excited to announce the next Moderator's Town Hall on September 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. EDT. The featured speaker will be veteran civil rights leader and former UN Ambassador Andrew Young.

The focus of the Town Hall will be: **"Racism: Deeper Awareness, Bolder Action."**

Andrew J. Young has earned worldwide recognition as a pioneer in and champion of civil and human rights. Ambassador Young's lifelong dedication to service is illustrated by his extensive leadership experience of over sixty-five years, serving as a member of Congress, African American U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mayor of Atlanta, and ordained minister, among other positions.

To register for the town hall, please visit:  
[tinyurl.com/modtownhallsep2020](https://tinyurl.com/modtownhallsep2020)

You are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.



A message from Richard and Natashua Uranga and family:

I had wanted to message you to thank you, the Deacons, and the PFCOB for helping us so much. We received the check to help us in covering the cost of our electric bill. Thank you so much. There aren't enough words nor the exact words to say how much it means. Though I truly know and believe that The Lord God and Jesus is great and has been with you in blessing so many like us. I know and I hope to give back as much as I can, whenever possible to the church as well as other in need as you have; as it is said i.e. "pay it forward" and as God leads to do so

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION  
Through July 2020**

<b>2020 Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$222,576.00</b>
Giving '20	\$56,341.70
Interest & Other Income '20	\$48,237.19
Total Budget Income thru July	<b>\$104,578.89</b>
Total Budget Expense thru July	(\$107,809.83)
Plus Budget overage from 2019	\$107.55
Budget Balance thru July	<b>(\$3,123.39)</b>
July Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$75.00
COB Pentecost Offering	\$75.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$50.00

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](http://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.