



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!

---

July 2020

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 45, No. 7

---

### From our Pastor...

Over the last few months, our church Mission Team (Peggy Redman, Laura Lovelace, Janet Short, and myself) have met to discuss our fall 2019 Listening Conversations and our spring All-Church Retreat. The Mission Team also planned and led Zoom discussions of two books that many of our church members read. The books were *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. Many of our recent discernment activities have focused on the fact that we as a church are not called to simply try a new program or worship style, but that what is required of us is something bigger: reimagining church altogether.

There is a real desire amongst our members to not try the same things we've tried before, while at the same time also not to try to come up with some brand-new idea and build it from the ground up. Many of you have expressed a desire to **partner with** a group or groups in the community, in line with the prophet Jeremiah's call to "seek the peace and welfare of the city" (Jeremiah 29:7), and to demonstrate the love of Jesus not just in our words but in our actions. With these insights in mind, the Mission Team has developed a plan for the summer of 2020.

Through our conversations over the last year and a half, the four community organizations that our members have expressed the most interest in are: Crossroads (for formerly incarcerated women), House of Ruth (for domestic violence survivors), IVHP (for housing and food insecurity), and Hope for Home (for homelessness). Our Mission Team has been tasked with forming small teams of 2 or 3 to having exploratory conversations with each of these organizations, expressing our desire to think differently about church and community partnerships in the future.

The Mission Team's goal is to have 1 or 2 proposals for community partnerships by the end of the summer, to discuss and vote on a direction to pursue. There may be possibilities for partnering that must wait until the pandemic is passed, but there also may be potential for new ministries even in the midst of COVID-19.

As your pastor, I am grateful for your love of our congregation and your commitment to exploring new ways of being the church, even in the midst of an unexpected pandemic. Thank you.

Yours in grace and peace,  
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**

#### District Prayer Calendar – July

- July 5 Glendora Church of the Brethren
- July 12 Cristiana Elohim Iglesia de los Hermanos (Las Vegas, NV)
- July 19 Cristo Sion Iglesia de los Hermanos (Pomona)
- July 26 La Verne Church of the Brethren

#### **Upcoming Book Discussion**

Over the last few weeks, I have spoken with several of our members about the desire to engage in conversations and work around anti-racism, in light of recent protests and calls for racial justice. There is much that we can do in this regard, and a place I'd love to begin is with a book discussion. The book is *Trouble I've Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism* by Drew G. I. Hart. Drew Hart is a professor at Messiah College in Pennsylvania and he is also a member of the Harrisburg (PA) First Church of the Brethren. He is a frequent speaker in Brethren circles about issues of racism and the Church. I believe this book will provide fodder for rich conversation and will be a good place for us to start. We have ordered 6 copies of the book and we will meet over Zoom to discuss a chapter each week, starting Monday, July 6, at 4 p.m. You may purchase your own copy of the book, or you may request one of the church's copies. If we need to order more, we will do so. Please contact me with any questions! —Pastor Lauren

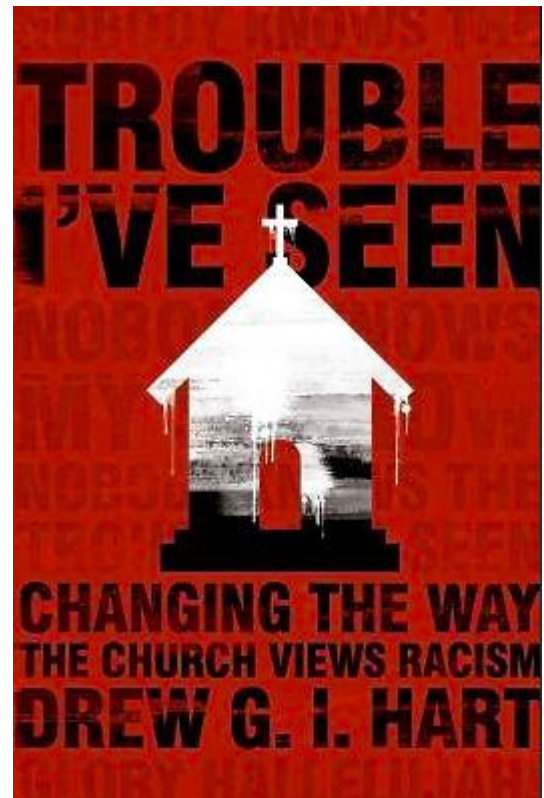


#### JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2) Guila Ladwig
- 3) Jamie Herndon
- 4) Candace Cook
- 5) Gary Shappard
- 7) Ryan Deal
- 9) Rob McKellip
- 22) Kelley Ladwig
- 23) Linda Hart

#### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 21) Jerry & Berkley Davis 1951



## COVID-19 Response

As most of you know, the Executive Committee made the decision to close the church **building** in March and we have been holding worship and meetings over Zoom ever since. We are getting creative about planning other events using this platform as well.

The Executive Committee continues to monitor the situation and health guidelines provided by the county, state, and CDC. Although churches have been allowed to open with some strict guidelines, and some have, it is our decision that we will continue to exercise caution and operate over Zoom for the foreseeable future. There are many factors to consider including the age and vulnerability of many in our congregation as well as the rising number of cases of COVID-19 that are being reported as our states opens up.

As many of our members are Hillcrest residents, we have decided that we will, at this time, follow Hillcrest's recommendations regarding in-person gatherings. Pastor Lauren is exploring with Hillcrest what guidelines they are following so that we can make the best decisions possible regarding protecting the health and safety of our congregation.

All in-person gatherings, even socially distanced ones, continue to be suspended until further notice. Any change in this will be announced in advance by the Executive Committee. If you have questions or concerns, please speak with Janet Short, Pastor Lauren, or any member of the Executive Committee.

We miss you and stay safe.

Blessings,  
Janet Short and  
The Executive Committee

## Future Zoom Meetings

**Stewards:** Thursday, July 2, 6:00 p.m.

**Service & Outreach:** Wednesday, July 8, 4:00 p.m.

**Music & Worship:** Thursday, July 9, 11:00 a.m.

**Church Board:** Thursday, July 9, 4:00 p.m.

## Property Sale Update

Here at Pomona Fellowship we do not see much happening regarding the sale. However the process is moving along as fast as Crestwood Communities can move it under the current pandemic lockdown conditions.

There has been a slowdown from Crestwood's original estimates as to how long it would take to get city approval to begin construction. Crestwood has had to learn how to do business with many of the essential city contact people working from home and having online meetings. They have formalized their submittal to the City of Pomona for a 33-unit project of single family homes. Their original plan had 34 homes with several of them having driveways opening directly onto Orange Grove Avenue. City planners did not like that plan. The most recent plan has only one home opening onto Orange Grove. The others all have access from a looping entry drive.. You can see this entry drive on the attached site plan, They feel that they have given the city a project that they can easily support and one that the neighborhood will welcome.

Their updated schedule expects City reviews in August and October and a planning commission approval in December and a City Council approval in mid-January, 2021. The Escrow will close no later than 30 days after final approval by the City. We will have 90 days after that to move.

Jerry Davis

EXISTING ALLEY TO REMAIN  
PROTECT IN PLACE

MIN. 6" TALL TAN MASONRY BLOCK  
PERIMETER WALLS

3' WIDE CONCRETE SIDEWALK

GUEST PARKING TYPICAL

COVERED BBQ and  
TRELLIS AREA

MIN. 18' LONG CONCRETE  
DRIVEWAY FOR EACH  
RESIDENCE TYPICAL

MIN. 6" TALL TAN MASONRY BLOCK  
PERIMETER WALL

MIN. 6" TALL TAN VINYL RETURN and INTERIOR  
PROPERTY LINE FENCING TYPICAL

NATURAL GRAY CONCRETE SIDEWALK

CASA HERMOSA DRIVE

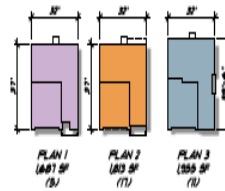
EXISTING CONCRETE CURB, GUTTER and  
SIDEWALK TO REMAIN PROTECT IN PLACE

MIN. 6" TALL TAN MASONRY BLOCK  
PERIMETER WALL

EXISTING CELL PHONE TOWER and EQUIPMENT  
ENCLOSURES TO REMAIN PROTECT IN PLACE

OPEN SPACE and  
TOT-LOT AREA

3' WIDE CONCRETE  
SIDEWALK TYPICAL



AVERAGE LOT SIZE = 3,997 SF

#### PROJECT INFORMATION

##### OWNER

GERALD A. DAVIS  
POMONA FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
875 W. ORANGE GROVE AVENUE  
POMONA, CA 91768  
909-479-3348  
gddavis@att.net

##### APPLICANT

PATRICK J. DIAZ  
CRESTWOOD COMMUNITIES  
510 W. CITRUS EDGE STREET  
GLENDALE, CA 91204  
626-914-1943 ex. 250  
pdiaz@crestwoodcommunities.com



SCALE 1" = 30'



REVISION NO. 4

REVISED ON	DATE	COMMENTS
Δ	04/21/20	per Public Works comments





### **Happenings in place of Annual Conference 2020**

The 2020 Annual Conference has been canceled, but that doesn't mean that there won't be opportunities for Brethren to gather online for worship and a concert during the week that we would have been in Grand Rapids. Mark your calendar and consider joining in on these opportunities:

**Children's Worship** - Wednesday, July 1, 4:30 pm Pacific

**COB Worship Gathering** - Wednesday, July 1, 5:00 p.m. Pacific

**COB Online Concert** - Thursday, July 2, 5:00 p.m. Pacific

[Read more by clicking this link](#), or visit the [Annual Conference website](#).

### **Reaching out in this time of pandemic**

In June, many from our congregation participated in a series of prayer and letter-writing services, to pray for and encourage our local essential workers. We prayed for hospital staff, mental health staff, teachers, food pantry workers, grocery store & farmers market workers, Hillcrest staff, police, and City of Pomona employees and wrote these essential workers letters of support and encouragement. We have since received a few "thank you" notes from some of the recipients who have been grateful for our show of support.

*Good Evening Pastor Lauren,*

*Before the day's end, I wanted to thank you and the very kind congregation at the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren for holding me and my fellow Pomona colleagues in your prayers. I count myself as truly lucky especially during these very hard economic and stressful times. Nonetheless, I cannot help but feel my heart warmed and almost like warm blanket around me when I peeked at the letters. I passed most of them personally to either the Directors or their assistants (we are not all here at the same times) and they were so delighted and truly grateful to be held in such esteem by the community we serve.*

*Your thoughtfulness has meant the world to me and I want to acknowledge you for being a leader who stands for people's well-being and who believes in taking action.*

*All the best to you and to yours during these times. I too hope that you can find the time and peace for self-care and that you also feel supported in your missions every day. Thank you once more for making my day J.*

*Respectfully,  
Jocelyn Rios-Ewing*

*Sr. Assistant & Social Media*  
*City of Pomona*



June 18, 2020

Pomona Fellowship  
Church of the Brethren

Dear Friends:

Over the past few days, I've received several letters from members of the congregation of the Pomona Fellowship, some from Hillcrest residents and some not. As one who has and appreciates faith in God, I was strengthened by the knowledge that you have kept Hillcrest in your thoughts and prayers.

The ambiguity of keeping a virus 1/1000 the size of a grain of sand from infecting one of 400 residents and 200 associates is greater than any person or team has power to do on their own. Like you, I have also been praying for God to keep Hillcrest and its people safe.

Though the opportunities of infiltration of the infection into a community of our size are innumerable, I believe our past prayers have been answered in a marvelous way. It's a miracle really due to the faith and prayers of those who care.

We still do not know how long the coronavirus will be with us. We do not know how or when it will be disbursed. I'm confident the Lord has power to do all things according to his will and that he has the power to stay the virus indefinitely. But if not, (as Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego said to King Nebuchadnezzar) our faith in him is not dependent upon specific outcomes. Signs follow those who believe.

So thank you for your continued prayers. I'm confident they are helping. May each of you be blessed also with health and safety as you confront the ambiguities of life with faith immovable in our loving God.

Kind Regards,

Matthew Neeley  
President & CEO

## Annual Conference will not be held this summer

**A**nnual Conference will not be held this summer, as decided by the Standing Committee of district delegates, acting on a recommendation from the Leadership Team and Program and Arrangements Committee. The Conference was scheduled for July 1-5 in Grand Rapids, Mich.

It had become apparent that COVID-19 would prevent the denomination from safely holding a large gathering in July. This will be the first time in 233 years of recorded annual meetings that the Brethren do not meet in person.

The decision deferred the 2020 theme, program, leadership, business agenda, and bal-

lot to next year's Conference scheduled for Greensboro, N.C., on June 30-July 4, 2021. The host facilities in Grand Rapids waived more than a half million dollars in cancellation penalties in return for Annual Conference agreeing to return to Grand Rapids in 2024.

The Nominating Committee is contacting those on the ballot to request their permission to be considered in 2021. People in elected positions with terms expiring in 2020 are asked to extend an additional year until the 2021 election.

The Conference Office is offering full refunds to registrants, with an option to donate fees back to the Conference fund.



## EDF announces COVID-19 pandemic grants

**C**hurch of the Brethren congregations and districts may apply for grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to respond to humanitarian needs in their communities caused by the COVID-19 crisis. The program was created by Brethren Disaster Ministries with an initial EDF grant of \$60,000.

Congregations may apply for up to \$5,000. Districts may apply for up to \$25,000. Grants may be used to provide food, shelter, emotional and spiritual care, care of church leaders, support for children, and more. Grants are available only to Church of the Brethren congregations and districts in the US and Puerto Rico. See [www.brethren.org/covid19](http://www.brethren.org/covid19).

### Additional EDF grants

- \$35,000 supports **Eglise des Freres d' Haiti** (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) to provide 800 of the most vulnerable families in its congregations and communities with three months of food, face masks, soap, and cleaning supplies.
- \$20,000 supports the **Shalom Ministries' flood relief efforts** in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where heavy rainfall on April 16-17 caused significant flooding that affected many Church of the Brethren members including pastor Ron Lubungo. Shalom Ministries is providing supplies to 500 households including mattresses, cooking pot, plates, cups, silverware, and a tarp provided by the United Nations refugee agency.
- \$14,000 supports **Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria** (EYN—the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) for two months of pandemic response. EYN requested \$7,000 per month to help widows and students stranded at Kulp Theological Seminary by travel restrictions and lock-down orders.
- \$14,000 is helping **Iglesia de los Hermanos—Una Luz En Las Naciones** (the Church of the Brethren in Spain) care for members who are single parents, in single-income homes, or unable to work. Being recent immigrants or temporary workers, some are not eligible for unemployment or COVID-19 relief.
- \$6,000 supports a program of **Fundacion Brethren y Unida (FBU)** in Ecuador to increase production of organic fruits, vegetables, and grains to address food needs; provide emergency food assistance for four months to 40 families; and provide a training program for proper cleaning and disinfection of foods.

*A COVID-19 poster in Nigeria features EYN staff liaison Markus Gamache*

## Workcamps and NYAC go virtual

**The Workcamp Ministry has canceled** all workcamps this summer, and instead will offer weekly times of online connection and fellowship from the end of June to the beginning of August. Participants have the choice of a refund or making a donation back to the Workcamp Ministry.

Similarly, the National Young Adult Conference (NYAC) took place online this year, with an in-person conference planned for May 28-31, 2021. The Young Adult Steering Committee offered several free, virtual connecting points for young adults in late May.





## Brethren homes receive large grant for COVID-19

**A** half-million dollars has been distributed from the Health Education and Research Fund to church-related retirement communities through the Fellowship of Brethren Homes, a network of 21 retirement and assisted-living communities with connections to the denomination. The \$500,000 grant will be shared among the 21 communities in amounts relative to the dues they contribute to the fellowship.

Retirement communities have been especially vulnerable to COVID-19. Fellowship leaders reported that costs have risen significantly, for example to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff, and for increases in wages.

The Church of the Brethren has managed the Health Education and Research Fund since 2009. Total fund value as of the beginning of April was \$2.3 million.

In related news, **Brethren Village in Lititz, Pa., suffered an outbreak of COVID-19** in April and early May. On May 7, the community reported the final death in an outbreak that claimed seven lives among residents in skilled nursing memory support. A total of 13 residents and 11 staff contracted the disease. As of May 7, the community had “zero COVID-19 positive residents on our campus and all team members who have tested positive have recovered from the virus and returned to work,” according to an online statement that also expressed sympathy to families who lost loved ones.



**Children's Disaster Services (CDS)** in a shift from hands-on to distant support has developed an individual Kit of Comfort for children affected by disasters. It is a “mini version” of the Kit of Comfort that teams of CDS volunteers take to disaster sites. The individual kit will provide activities and resources to children when no communal play spaces are allowed and families are housed in hotel rooms, not shelters.

## Brethren Faith in Action changes help churches and camps

**COVID-19 has created financial stress** for camps as well as congregations. In response, the Mission and Ministry Board has made amendments to the Brethren Faith in Action Fund guidelines.

Through Dec. 31, camps are now eligible for a one-time grant up to \$5,000. The matching requirement of 50 percent remains in place. A camp may apply for a waiver of the matching fund requirement.

Congregations continue to be eligible for grants of up to \$5,000. Now they also may apply for a waiver of the matching fund requirements. See [www.brethren.org/faith-in-action](http://www.brethren.org/faith-in-action).

## Personnel notes

**Shawn Flory Replogle** started April 13 as interim director of organizational resources for the Church of the Brethren, working collaboratively with the treasurer in the Finance Department. He is working remotely from his home in Kansas. He is a graduate of Bridgewater (Va.) College and Bethany Seminary and holds a master of science in organizational development from Friends University. His leadership positions with the denomination include a term as Annual

Conference moderator in 2010.

Michigan District has appointed a district executive team as of May 15: **Dan Rossman** of New Haven Church of the Brethren is part-time volunteer director of pastoral and congregational support. **Beth Sollenberger**, district executive minister for South/Central Indiana District, is interim district executive consultant for pastoral placement and credentialing. **Wanda Joseph**, chair of the district leadership team, represents the district on the

Council of District Executives.

**Matt and Betsy Kuecker** have begun as directors of Camp Pine Lake in Northern Plains District. Matt Kuecker has served as property manager for more than 10 years. The couple were camp managers 2009-2013.

Camp Eder in Fairfield, Pa., has announced new leaders: **Dennis Turner** as co-director and maintenance manager, **Mike Kovacs** as co-director and program director, and **Thaddeus Smith** as hospitality supervisor.

## Through May 2020

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

Giving '20	\$41,434.25
------------	-------------

Interest & Other Income '20	\$35,917.42
-----------------------------	-------------

Total Budget Income thru May **\$77,351.64**

Total Budget Expense thru May	\$(81,708.57)
-------------------------------	---------------

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

Budget Balance thru May (\$4,249.35)

## May Special Non-Budget Offerings

Capital Fund	\$60.00
--------------	---------

Women's Fellowship Pennies	\$110.00
----------------------------	----------

Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$150.00
----------------------------------	----------

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.