



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!

August 2021

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 47, No. 8

From Pastor Ron... From 1918 to 2020-?

While I was attending Elizabethtown College (PA) sometime in the last millennium, I visited the cemetery of nearby West Green Tree Church of the Brethren looking for tombstones of relatives. As I was looking, I discovered many stones with the names of children and young adults in the years 1918-19. I wondered what had happened during that time period. I had studied about the first World War, but U.S. infants were not involved in that.

Doing some research, I ascertained that many of the infants and young adults probably died as a result of the pandemic of 1918-19, called the "Spanish Flu" by some, although the origin of the virus is under dispute. "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states there is no universal consensus as to the origins of the virus, though experts have theorized about origins as disparate as China, France, the United States and United Kingdom." (Matthew Brown in "USA Today": March 23, 2020). Apparently, back then, what an illness is named was influenced by political considerations.

When I was pastor at the Charlottesville (VA) Church of the Brethren, I met the daughter of the lone undertaker in Greene County during the 1918-19 pandemic. She reported that her father collected bodies of the deceased on a horse-drawn wagon. Most families were not able to pay for undertaker services, but her father provided them anyway.

I thought about 1918-19 as I heard of bodies being stored in refrigerated trucks last year. I wondered how much we modern folks had actually advanced in 100 years. The 1918-19 pandemic claimed 675,000 lives in the U.S. COVID-19 has claimed 610,000 in the U.S. so far. The U.S. federal government downplayed the severity of the illness in 1918-19, fearing that telling the truth would lower fervor for World War I. Inconsistent and inaccurate messaging from both governmental sources and social media has plagued the response to COVID-19.

Whether or not we have advanced much in dealing with pandemics, the task of Christ followers is to continue to love God and love our neighbors as ourselves. Sacrificial love serving God and others is always needed no matter the time period or situation. For the sake of your families, you may want to write down some remembrances of this time, so when your grandchildren and great-grandchildren ask, "What was life like for you during the pandemic?," you will have some answers.

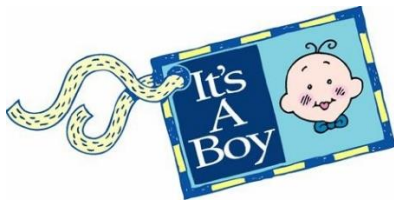
Pastor Ron Faus



...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
Phyllis Eller
Bill Lemon
Rochelle Lovelace**



**We are so happy to announce:
Proud parents, Pastor Lauren and Jason, welcomed Leo Thomas Cohen into their family on Thursday, July 15, early in the morning. He weighed in at 8 pounds, 9 ounces., and was 21 inches long. The whole family is doing very well.**



District Prayer Calendar – August

Aug. 1	Live Oak Church of the Brethren
Aug. 8	Modesto Church of the Brethren
Aug. 15	Nueva Visión la Hermosa (Waterford church plant)
Aug. 22	Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren (Scottsdale, AZ)
Aug. 29	Pasadena Church of the Brethren

August Worship Schedule

As a reminder that we are rotating between in-person and Zoom worship, here is the schedule for upcoming worships: (1st & 3rd in person, 2nd, 4th, & 5th over Zoom)

August 1, in-person at St. Paul's

August 8, ZOOM worship, guest speaker Tom Hostetler

August 15, in-person at St. Paul's

August 22, ZOOM worship

August 29, ZOOM worship

If you have any questions, please call Acia in the office.



August Meetings

Music & Worship, Monday, August 16, 11:00 a.m. over Zoom

Service & Outreach, Tuesday, August 17, 11:00 a.m., in-person at the church office

Church Board, Thursday, August 19, 6:30 p.m. over Zoom

Banner articles are due on August 20



BIRTHDAYS

- 3) Gary Deal
- 12) Marcheta Pletcher
- 15) Brittany Herndon
- 23) Twila Pruitt
- 28) Chai Zoe Uranga
- 30) Hannah Mundy

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5) John & Janet Short 2012

The *Banner* is published by the
 Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren
 Office address: 363 S. Park Avenue, Suite #202
 Pomona, CA 91766
 (909) 629-2548
Email: 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 20th of each month.

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through June 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$220,891.00
Giving '21	\$47,921.71
Interest & Other Income '21	\$22,917.71
Total Budget Income thru June	\$70,839.492
Total Budget Expense thru June	\$(87,496.31)
Plus Budget overage from 2020	\$4,224.32
Budget Balance thru June	\$(12,432.57)
June Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$95.00
COB Pentecost Offering	\$25.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$165.00

Grants, and more grants

Grants have been given recently from three Church of the Brethren funds: Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF), Global Food Initiative (GFI), and Brethren Faith in Action (BFIA).

EDF

- \$5,000 for Eglise des Freres au Congo to respond to the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo.
- \$5,000 for a pandemic-related feeding program of Bittersweet Ministries in Tijuana, Mexico, that aids at-risk and migrant families.
- \$5,000 for Church World Service (CWS) to provide hygiene kits for families affected by Tropical Cyclone Seroja in Indonesia and Timor-Leste.
- \$7,500 for the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela (ASIGLEH) to aid people affected by COVID-19, particularly church members.
- \$15,000 for Eglise des Freres au Congo to support families displaced by violence.
- \$15,000 for the continuing COVID-19 response by Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).
- \$25,000 for the worldwide coronavirus response by CWS in 2021.
- \$27,000 for the Children's Disaster

Services response with migrant families and children at the southern US border.

GFI

- \$1,500 for a community garden associated with Springfield (Ill.) First Church of the Brethren.
- \$3,000 for the garden advocate/casual labor fund of Capstone 118, a community garden in New Orleans, La.
- \$5,000 for a maize mill project of the Church of the Brethren in Uganda that will support widows, orphan-led households, and the elderly.
- \$11,000 for a food crops project of La Fundación Brethren y Unida in Ecuador following losses caused by flooding.
- \$17,000 for EYN's Soybean Value Chain Project in Nigeria.

BFIA

- \$1,250 for Antelope Park Church of the Brethren in Lincoln, Neb., to expand its outreach ministry to the neighborhood.
- \$5,000 for Pleasant Hill (Ohio) Church of the Brethren to purchase video equipment to enhance virtual ministries.
- \$5,000 for Dupont (Ohio) Church of the Brethren to turn a creek on the congregation's wilderness camp into a 1.5-acre pond to enhance outreach ministry.



Mount Nyiragongo erupts near Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Volcano response in Congo takes shape

Brethren Disaster Ministries has begun a disaster relief response to the May 22 volcanic eruption of Mount Nyiragongo affecting the areas of Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Gisenyi, Rwanda.

Members and congregations of the Brethren in the DRC and Rwanda have been affected, with damage to homes and church buildings reported from the eruption and ensuing earthquakes.

Roy Winter, executive director of Service Ministries, is working in collaboration with Congolese Brethren leader Ron Lubungo, Goma pastor Faraja Dieudonné, and Rwandan Brethren leader Etienne Nsanzimana.

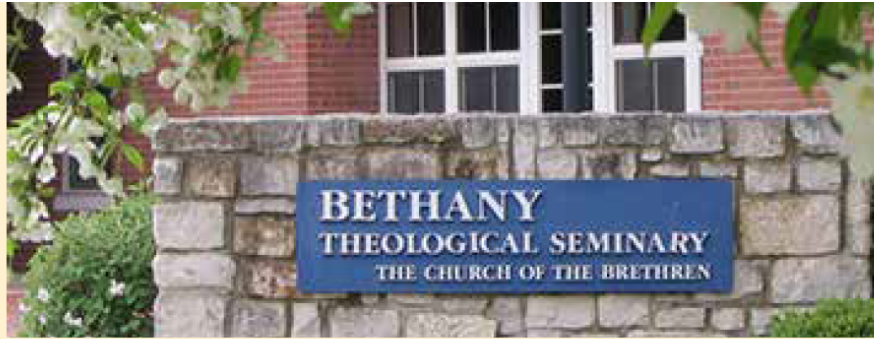
A COVID-19 handwashing station outside the EYN Ministers Conference earlier this year.

Personnel notes

David Shetler retires Dec. 31 as executive of Southern Ohio and Kentucky District. During his 11-year tenure, the district sold Camp Woodland Altars, established several endowment funds, and created new commissions and task teams. He represented the Council of District Executives on the denomination's Mission and Ministry Board 2014-2018 and Leadership Team 2016-2018. He was a member of the Ministry Advisory Council that assisted with the 2014 Ministerial Leadership polity paper of Annual Conference, and he contributed to the 2017 report "Authority of Annual Conference Regarding Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts." An ordained minister of more than 40 years, he also directed Admissions and Student Development for Bethany Seminary from October 1996 to June 2003.

Norman and Carol Spicher Waggy concluded an interim assignment as directors of Global Mission on May 14. They served part-time starting March 2, 2020. Their accomplishments included developing country advisory teams, facilitating Zoom gatherings of the Global Church of the Brethren Communion, and speaking for a Moderator's Town Hall.

Walt Wiltschek begins Sept. 1 as Illinois and Wisconsin District executive, half-time. An ordained minister, he pastors Easton (Md.) Church of the Brethren, is an academic advisor at Chesapeake College, and is at-large editor for MESSENGER. He edited MESSENGER from January 2004 to Feb. 1, 2010. He worked on the denomination's communications staff for more than 10 years, beginning in August 1999. From 2010-2016 he was chaplain and director of church relations for Manchester University in North Manchester, Ind.



Bethany celebrates classes of 2020 and 2021

Bethany Theological Seminary celebrated the classes of 2020 and 2021 during a hybrid in-person and online commencement on May 8. The seminary honored 13 graduates from the class of 2020, who did not have a commencement ceremony because of the pandemic, and 21 graduates in the class of 2021. This year's class included the first students to earn certificates while attending classes at the Technology Center in Jos, Nigeria.

The seminary this fall launches a new Master of Arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation for students pursuing nonprofit leadership, social services, or spiritual direction. The school also has received a \$50,000 planning grant from the Lilly Endowment to provide students with intercultural and antiracist learning opportunities.

Bethany plans face-to-face teaching and learning during the 2021-2022 academic year, at its campus in Richmond, Ind.

Class of 2020

Certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination: Eric William Bader (Columbia, Mo.), Amy Beth Lutes (Nashville, Tenn.), Joanna Davidson Smith (McPherson, Kan.), Rachel Elizabeth Ulrich (Richmond, Ind.)

Master of Arts, concentration in Peace Studies: Duane Edwin Crumrine (Martinsburg, Pa.), Paul Bala Samura (Freetown, Sierra Leone)

Master of Divinity: Raul Gregorio Rivera Arroyo (Vega Baja, P.R., and Kettering, Ohio), John Andrew Fillmore (Caldwell, Idaho), Susan K. Liller (New Carlisle, Ohio), Thomas Michael McMullin (Minburn, Iowa), Katherine Lynn Polzin (Defiance, Ohio), Jack Richard Roegner (Davenport, Neb.), Elizabeth Ullery Swenson (Olympia, Wash.)

Class of 2021

Certificate in Biblical Peacemaking: Sanamo Kpanah (Damsa, Nigeria), Maina Pindar (Jos, Nigeria), Aimu Sunday (Jos, Nigeria), Esther Zira (Kwarhi, Nigeria)

Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation: Vivek Ashokbhai Solanki (New Delhi, India, and Naperville, Ill.)

Certificate in Just Peace and Conflict Transformation: Charles D. Jackson (Champaign, Ill.), Nolan Ryan McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)

Certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination: Timothy Paul Harvey (Roanoke, Va.), Steven Troy Headings (Bay City, Mich.), Charles D. Jackson, Meridith Anne Owensby (Cincinnati, Ohio), Alexandra Elizabeth Thorpe Toms (Chambersburg, Pa.)

Master of Arts, concentration in Peace Studies: Patricia Doka Amos (Jos, Nigeria), Rachel Elizabeth Ulrich

Master of Arts, concentration in Theological Studies: Jack Richard Roegner

Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing: Julia Baker-Swann (Fresno, Calif.), Gene George Bradbury (Sequim, Wash.), Carol Diane Davis (Canton, Ill.), Somer Brady O'Neill Eckert (Alexandria, La.)

Master of Divinity: Amanda Sheree Bennett (Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.), Mary A. Garvey (Huntingdon, Pa.), Steven Troy Headings, Charles D. Jackson, Katherine Ruth Peterson (Middletown, Ohio), Vivek Ashokbhai Solanki, Alexandra Elizabeth Thorpe Toms