



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!

April 2022

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 48, No. 4

From Our Pastor...

This April, Pomona Fellowship will host our first in-person Maundy Thursday Love Feast since 2019. Yes, we had a modified Love Feast this past fall on a Sunday morning, but isn't there something especially meaningful about the Love Feasts we hold during Holy Week? Our Deacons are helping me plan for this service, which will take place in the beautiful courtyard of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. The Spanish mission-style architecture of the courtyard, with its archways and terra-cotta tiles, will provide a "Mediterranean-adjacent" atmosphere, with echoes of the ancient days of Jesus and his disciples. (A bit of a stretch perhaps, but I'm just looking forward to it!)

In the Church of the Brethren, the Love Feast is one of the practices that sets us apart from other Christian denominations. Historically, the earliest Christians would only celebrate the Eucharist, or communion, in the context of a meal with others, the agape meal. Taking their lead from these Christians, Brethren take communion as part of a communal meal that also involves the acts of personal repentance and washing one another's feet.

According to Brethren historian Dale Brown, "it has been said that the Love Feast portrays the inseparable relationship of the two greatest commandments." By including personal reflection, washing our neighbor's feet, sharing a meal together, and partaking of communion, the Love Feast combines Jesus' commands to experience a loving response to God's love and to love one another. 1 John 4:12 says, "No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us." And a few verses later, "those who say, 'I love God,' and hate their brothers and sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen" (4:20).

The acts of seeking God's forgiveness, bending to wash the feet (or hands) of our fellow Christians, sharing a life-giving meal together, and remembering Jesus' death through communion, are all ways that we experience and share the love of God with one another. I hope you will plan to attend our Maundy Thursday Love Feast this year.

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**
- Bill Lemon**
- Rochelle Lovelace**

District Prayer Calendar – April

- Apr. 3 Brethren Benefit Trust which provides pension, insurance, and investment services as a ministry to our churches
- Apr. 10 For Love Feast gatherings that renew in us Christ’s love and humility
- Apr. 17 Celebrate the joy of Easter and the promise of Christ’s Resurrection
- Apr. 24 Empire Church of the Brethren

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION
Through February 2022**

2022 Annual Budget	\$196,085.00
Giving '22	\$9,625.00
Interest & Other Income '22	\$18,412.19
Total Budget Income thru Feb.	\$28,037.19
Total Budget Expense thru Feb.	\$(29,356.53)
Budget Balance thru February	\$(1,319.34)
January Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$25.00



BIRTHDAYS

- 11) Janet Short
Bethany Uranga
- 25) Faith Eikenberry (**her 101th!**)
- 26) Gabriel Uranga

ANNIVERSARIES

- 16) James & Karin Herndon 1994

April Worship Schedule

As a reminder that we are rotating between in-person and Zoom worship, here is the schedule for upcoming worships:

- April 3**, in-person at St. Paul’s
- April 10**, ZOOM worship
- April 14**, Love Feast in person at St Paul’s
- April 17**, EASTER, in-person at St. Paul’s
- April 24**, ZOOM worship

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

Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., **Bible Study** over Google Meet. Contact Sander Eller for details.

Upcoming Zoom Meetings

- Service & Outreach**, Tuesday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.
- Music & Worship**, Wednesday, April 13, 11:00 a.m.
- Church Board**, Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.
- Congregational Business Meeting**, Sunday, May 8, following Zoom worship
- Executive Committee**, Thursday, May 12, 6:30 p.m.

Banner articles are due on April 20

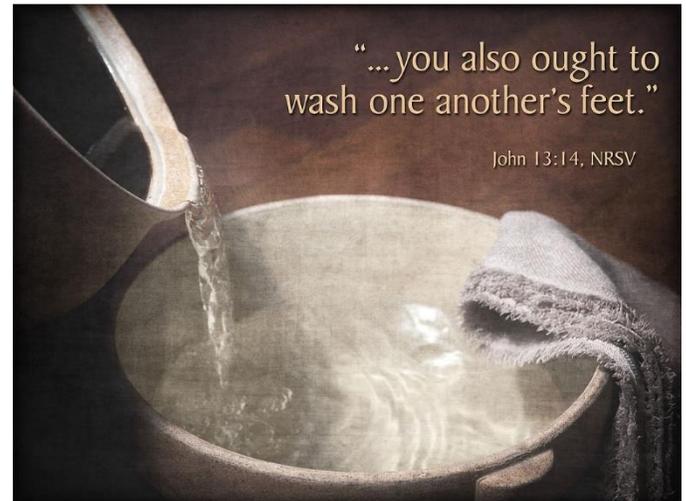
Pastor Lauren's schedule

Pastor Lauren will be taking vacation days on April 25-28 to care for Leo while his daycare is closed.

On May 3-6, Pastor Lauren will be traveling to Chicago to participate in a clergy retreat through Bethany Fellows. Funded by the Disciples of Christ denomination, Bethany Fellows is a mentoring and spiritual leadership ministry for young clergy in their first four years of congregational service. Bethany Fellows serves congregations by assisting newly ordained pastors in their transition from seminary to sustained congregational ministry with a strengthened, healthy pastoral identity.

Through a series of retreats, strategically scheduled every 6 months, a total of 8 retreats over 4 years (40 days!), Fellows build upon their seminary experience and theological education in prayer practices and spiritual disciplines, which sustain the soul for a life-time of parish life. Each retreat experience contains worship, solitude, and multiple learning components tailored to the emerging needs of their congregations. The retreat includes a site visit to cutting-edge congregations that stimulates fresh creativity for at-home ministry. Regular coaching sessions and webinars throughout the year hone their ability to read congregational systems, make appropriate interventions, sustain inner vision, and inspire those around them while discovering effective networking skills.

Pomona Fellowship financially supports Pastor Lauren's participation in this program, and for this she is grateful.



Maundy Thursday Love Feast

For the first time since 2019, Pastor Lauren and our Deacons are excited to announce we will host an in-person Love Feast during Holy Week. Please join us on Maundy Thursday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. in the courtyard of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The outdoor setting will allow us to gather unmasked and share a meal of beef and barley soup, bread, and fruit. We will participate in feet- or hand-washing as well as partake in bread and cup communion, as we remember the last supper of Jesus and his disciples before his death and resurrection. Join us for this special Church the Brethren tradition!

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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.

Annual Conference announces ballot

The 2022 Annual Conference ballot is headed by candidates for moderator-elect and Conference secretary.

Moderator-elect:

Marla Bieber Abe of Lynchburg (Va.) Church of the Brethren, a retired pastor, has served on the Program and Arrangements Committee and has been a messenger at Conference. She has served on the boards of Bethany Seminary and the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and on the New Church Development Committee.



Madalyn Metzger of

Goshen City (Ind.) Church of the Brethren is vice president of marketing for Everence Financial. A trustee of Manchester University, she has served on the Intercultural Ministries advisory committee and chaired the board of On Earth Peace. She has provided leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion for church-related institutions.



Conference secretary:

Connie R. Burkholder of Monitor Church of the Brethren in McPherson, Kan., is a former district executive and pastor. She has been secretary of the Council of District Executives, repre-

sentative to the National Council of Churches, a writer for Brethren Press, and on the planning committee for the Clergy Women's Retreat. She has worked with Central American refugees in the Sanctuary Movement.

David K. Shumate of Daleville (Va.) Church of the Brethren is Virginia District executive minister. He is a former moderator and has served on the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, Review and Evaluation Committee, Ministry Advisory Council, New Church Development advisory committee, and Council of District Executives, where he served terms as chair and treasurer.



Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee: **Jacob Crouse** of Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren; **Rachel Bucher Swank** of Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren, Lebanon, Pa.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee: **Angela Finet** of Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; **Diane Mason** of Fairview Church of the Brethren, Unionville, Iowa

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 1: **Joel Gibbel** of York (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren; **Regina Holmes** of Midland (Va.) Church of the Brethren. **Area 2:** **Linda Fry** of Mansfield (Ohio) Church of the Brethren; **Rosanna Eller McFadden** of Creekside Church of the Brethren, Elkhart, Ind.

Bethany Seminary Board of Trustees, representing the colleges: **Katharine Gray Brown** of Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester, Ind.; **Jonathan Paul Frye** of Monitor. **Representing clergy:** **Susan Stern Boyer** of La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren; **Laura Stone** of Manchester

Brethren Benefit Trust Board: **Kevin R. Boyer** of Plymouth (Ind.) Church of the Brethren; **Carl Eubank** of Happy Corner Church of the Brethren, Clayton, Ohio

On Earth Peace Board: **Matt Boyer** of La Verne; **Doug Richard** of Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, Mifflinburg, Pa.

The 2022 Conference will have an online option for nondelegates giving access to livestreaming of business meetings, the Ted & Co performance of *We Own This Now*, concerts by the Bittersweet Gospel Band and Mike Stern & Friends, and selected equipping sessions. Register and find out more at www.brethren.org/ac2022.



A pig-raising project in Rwanda is among the recipients of final grants for 2021.

Final grants for 2021

From the Emergency Disaster Fund: \$15,000 to Church World Service following December tornadoes; \$3,000 to Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services in Burundi for roof repairs following a storm.

From the Global Food Initiative: \$15,270 to the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda for a pig project.

From the Brethren Faith in Action Fund, grants of \$5,000 each to Camp Colorado in Sedalia, Colo., Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, Wash., Camp Peaceful Pines in Dardanelle, Calif., University Park (Md.) Church of the Brethren, Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren, and Whitestone Church of the Brethren in Tonasket, Wash.

Prayer for Ukraine

General secretary **David Steele** called for prayer as Russia began its invasion of Ukraine. Brethren raised up prayers for peace in concert with other Christians around the world, including the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Brethren Disaster Ministries began planning a Ukraine crisis response with ecumenical partners. Donations are received at www.brethren.org/give-ukraine-crisis or via check to the Emergency Disaster Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120, marked for "Ukraine Crisis."



Pastor Alexander Zazhytko and his wife, Tonia, in their church house.

Among those calling for prayer was Quinter (Kan.) Church of the Brethren pastor Keith Funk, who has maintained a close relationship with pastor Alexander Zazhytko and a congregation in Chernigov (Chernihiv), Ukraine, that identifies as Church of the Brethren.

Funk visited Ukraine in 2015, and in 2016 welcomed Zazhytko on a visit to Western Plains District. As the invasion began, the two pastors were in daily communication.

Zazhytko reported on the status of the 30 to 35 church members who were sheltering in their homes. As of March 10, they were unharmed despite daily bombing, the loss of power, water, and heat, and difficulty finding food.

Funk said, "I am assuring Alex that his brothers and sisters are praying here in the US. This is giving them encouragement and assurance. May we pray for safety and deliverance. May we pray for an end to this carnage."



Brethren Volunteer Service Winter Unit 330, from left: **Johannes Stitz** of Westphalia, Germany, serving at SnowCap Food Pantry in Fairview, Ore.; **Marvin Blenkle** of Berlin, Germany, serving with Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren and bcmPEACE; **Tate Johnson** of McPherson, Kan., and McPherson Church of the Brethren, serving at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Ark.; and **Florian Wesseler** of Westphalia Germany, also serving at SnowCap. The next orientations are July 31-Aug. 19 at Camp Wilbur Stover in Idaho and Sept. 18-Oct. 7 at Camp Brethren Heights in Michigan. Apply at www.brethren.org/bvs.

Personnel notes

Emily Tyler resigned as director of Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Feb. 18, after three years in the position starting Feb. 4, 2019. She was employed by the Church of the Brethren for almost 10 years, since June 27, 2012, when she began as coordinator for BVS recruitment and the former Workcamp Ministry. As director of BVS, she oversaw this long-term program to train and support units of volunteers each year to serve full-time at projects in the US and internationally. During her

tenure, the Workcamp Ministry transitioned to FaithX and BVS adapted to pandemic challenges. Tyler has begun as membership and communications specialist for the Association of Professional Chaplains in Hoffman Estates, Ill.

Dan McFadden began Feb. 21 as part-time interim director of BVS. He was BVS director for more than 20 years, from Dec. 1, 1995, to Nov. 2, 2018. He will continue part time as a therapist in Elgin, Ill.

Atlantic Southeast

District has announced that the interim district executive position has been changed to a team of directors: **Vicki Ehret** is director of administration and representative to the Council of District Executives, **Founa Augustin-Badet** is director of Haitian ministries, **Fausto Carrasco** is director of Hispanic ministries, **Ray Hileman** is director of English ministries, **Aida Lymaris Sanchez** is director of program, and **Eva Shoemaker** is director of finance.

Michigan District has

made changes to its executive team. **Beth Sollenberger** has been hired as part-time interim district executive minister. Also appointed to the team on a volunteer basis are **Frances Townsend**, **Dan Rossman**, **Wendy Russell**, and **Frank Polzin**, with **Jennifer Betts Pendragon** as administrative assistant.

Western Pennsylvania District is being represented by retired pastor **Pete C. Kaltenbaugh Jr.** during a time of transition in the district executive role.