

A banner graphic featuring a sunset over a large, curling ocean wave. The sun is a bright yellow-orange circle in the center of the wave's tunnel. The water is a deep blue with white foam from the wave. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The word "Banner" is written in a white, cursive font across the top of the wave.

Banner

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 2025

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 52 No. 06

From the Pastor

In my work in the city, I participate with the “Coalition for Peace” (CAP). This coalition is formed through the work of the Office of Violence Prevention at the City level. Over 100 organizations and non-profits come together to work toward a kinder Pomona. One of the people I met was Lucy Ramos, a remarkable Christian woman who, having left street life, has given much of her career life to working with kids on the street. This skill is rare and so needed in our city. She hosts an annual event to help people process the loss of a loved one, especially those due to violence. We said yes to helping her

serve the community in this heart-felt way. Three people from our congregation were present and supportive of the Saturday event. Big thanks to Jerry, Ruth and Israel. Below is Jerry's narrative about the event – please enjoy!

Pomona Fellowship support for grieving parents

Pomona Fellowship through our Service and Outreach Commission assisted Lucy Ramos of the Pomona organization, “Foundations of Change Through Youth” to sponsor an event for grieving parents that have experienced the death of a child through street violence or excess drugs. The event was held on Saturday, April 26th from 11 a.m. to p.m.

There were special guest speakers, time for parents to share their grief, and special events including canvas painting, journaling, letters to loved ones, a place to post a picture of their loved one on a memorial canvass, and assistance from participating organizations with counseling or assistance abilities. Food, water and hot coffee were provided.

Pomona Fellowship rented the space from St. Paul's so that we could host this event. We also provided tablecloths, 30 sandwiches, coffee, and the presence of 3 of our members to help set up, meet any needs during the day, brew coffee, and help clean up at the end of the day.

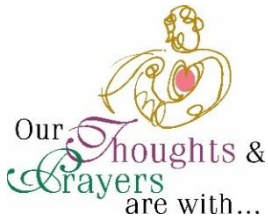
Other participating organizations included Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center, Southern California Crossroads, A Brighter Day Resource Center, God's Pantry, Sam's Club, Healed Women Heal, Latino & Latina Roundtable, and Kennedy-Austen Foundation.

All these groups expressed their appreciation of our provision of a space to work together to accomplish this caring outreach to grieving parents.

-Jerry Davis_

-Pastor Julie Wheeler





those limited or confined for health reasons: **Cathy Banks.**

We also uphold these members, friends and family members of our congregation who have prayer concerns: **Bill Lemon, Norma Lovelace, Messiah Brim.**

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through April 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$232,522.00
Total Budget Income thru April	\$54,420.63
Giving 2025	\$26,240.00
Interest & Other Income	\$28,180.63
Total Budget Expense thru April	\$-74,184.73
Budget Balance thru April	\$ (19,764.10)
April Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$105.00
Newcomers Access Center	\$50

Upcoming Meetings

Church Board:

Thursday, June 26th, at 6:30 pm

Executive Committee:

Scheduled as needed

Music & Worship:

Tuesday, June 10th, at 6:30 pm

Service & Outreach:

Tuesday, June 10th, at 9:30 am

Stewards:

Tuesday, June 3rd, at 3:00 pm

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

Every Wednesday at 8:00 am. **Breakfast Fellowship Group** in the Hillcrest Dining Room. Contact Mary Hines, 909-418-4654 for details.

Pastor Julie at PSWD Pastor/Spouse Retreat
June 16th – June 20th

Preaching Schedule

June 1st: Daughters on Zelophehad

June 8th: Lady of Wisdom & Eve

June 15th: Father's Day

June 22nd: Dennis Wallstrom Preaching

June 29th: Paul Lovelace Preaching



Birthdays

Harvey Good on the 4th

Sander Eller on the 7th

Rick Landrum on the 8th

Sharon Overholser on the 11th

Rebecca Landrum on the 13th

Pastor Julie Wheeler on the 16th

George Spicer on the 20th

Joseph Hemsworth on the 30th

Anniversaries

Harvey & Connie Good on the 16th

Rob & Laurie McKellip on the 23rd

Rick & Sandy Landrum on the 29th

Service & Outreach

Giving Emphases for June

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphases for June are **Cereal and Powdered or Canned Milk**. Cereal is a food that is easy and fun. Cereal with milk or dry is a great snack or simple meal to be enjoyed by all ages. A bag of cheerios or grape nuts with a banana bring joy to all. For all canned food please provide pop-top cans if possible. As always, staple items, including spices, baking items like flour baking soda, yeast, socks and feminine products are always needed and welcome. Thank you for your continued support.



The giving emphasis for June is **Bethany Theological Seminary**

Bethany Theological Seminary

The Seminary class of 2025 graduated at the commencement ceremony on May 10. Eleven Masters Degrees and fourteen Graduate Certificates and Post Graduate Diplomas were awarded.

Gifts to Bethany sustain the important continuing work of educating for ministry leadership that is challenged by and nurtured by the testimonies of the Church of the Brethren. Pomona Fellowship donates \$400 to Bethany through this year's budget and additional funds from individual gifts to Bethany.

Bethany is currently involved in a 5-year fund raising campaign

entitled “Flourish: A Campaign for Bethany Theological Seminary.” The goal of this campaign is \$12 million to enhance the student experience, encourage faculty creativity and innovation, finance support for Nigerian Ministry training, bolster annual fund raising, and enable students to complete their seminary education without increasing any indebtedness.

Enrollment at Bethany has been growing over the past several years both in residential and on-line student enrollment. The scholarship program that enables students to not need to borrow more money and a community outreach program into the City of Richmond, Indiana, have encouraged students to enroll.

“Dress A Girl” Sewing Party

"Dress-a-Girl,' is a program where folks come together to cut & sew dresses for orphaned girls in other countries. The dress may be the only new item of clothing they have ever owned. This would be a good time to invite people who would like to learn to sew as well. All levels of skill are encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to create community and friendship with the folks from St. Paul's.

Upcoming Sewing Dates

June 7th, 9:00am – 12:00pm

July 5th, 9:00am – 12:00pm

August 2nd, 9:00am – 12:00pm

September 6th, 9:00am – 12:00pm

What is a Dad?

A Dad is a person
Who is loving and kind,
And often he knows
What you have on your mind.
He's someone who listens,
suggests, and defends
A dad can be one
of your very best friends;
He's proud of your triumphs,
but when things go wrong,
A dad can be patient
and helpful and strong.
In all that you do,
a dad's love plays a part
There's always a place for him
deep in your heart
And each year that passes,
you're even more glad,
More grateful and proud
just to call him your dad!
Thank you Dad...
for listening and caring,
for giving and sharing,
but, especially, for just being you.

Author Unknown

***Banner* articles are due by June 20th**

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Services & Activities

Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Bible Study on Google Meet Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Breakfast Group Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.

Julie Wheeler

Pastor

Janet Short

Moderator

Laura Lovelace

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

Mission and Ministry Board adopts resolution on weapons transfers

A resolution on weapons transfers was top of the agenda for the Mission and Ministry Board's spring meeting March 7-9. The resolution was presented by staff of the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy. It was adopted as a resolution of the board and recommended to the 2026 Annual Conference.

The document focuses on the international arms trade, the arms industry, and the part played by the United States as currently the world's largest exporter of weapons. It reviews the church's long history of opposition to war and militarization and reaffirms commitment to peace as God's will and the call of Christ. It includes a section of recommendations for the individual, congregational, district, and denominational levels. A concern was expressed to also address gun violence in the US, and conversation ensued about how to accommodate that concern.

Among other business, the board restructured its committees to, in part, continue the work of the Seeking God's Racial Justice task team; received reports including the general secretary's review of his trip to the Dominican Republic with Annual Conference moderator Dava Hensley; and received updates from staff on the situation of immigrants and refugees.



National Youth Cabinet meets

The National Youth Cabinet met March 21-23 to plan for National Youth Sunday 2025 and National Youth Conference 2026.

Youth members are Daniel Bowen from McPherson, Kan. (Western Plains District), Nissie Cadette from Coral Springs, Fla. (Atlantic Southeast District), Kayleigh Chapman from Hagerstown, Md. (Mid-Atlantic District), Zach Diamond from Eden, N.C. (Virlina District), Tyson Hall from Mount Sidney, Va. (Shenandoah District), and Katie Phipps from Bremen, Ind. (Northern Indiana District).

Adult advisors are Rod Matz of Asheville, Ohio (Northern Ohio District) and Emily Van Pelt of Rocky Mount, Va. (Virlina District).

NYC coordinators Anna Schweitzer and Rachel Johnson and Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, also met with the cabinet.

Bethany board hears about initiative with colleges

The Bethany Seminary board in its March 21-22 meeting heard about plans for an initiative with the Church of the Brethren-related colleges and universities.

President Jeff Carter shared about the new program, in which the seminary will formalize its partnership with the six Church of the Brethren-related colleges and universities. Bethany will soon

offer students at those institutions the opportunity to take graduate courses while remaining as undergraduates at their home institutions.

All the undergraduate schools have expressed strong interest in this initiative, according to a Bethany release. The initiative will allow students to earn both a bachelor's degree from a church-related college or university and a grad-

uate certificate or master's degree from Bethany during a four- to five-year timeframe. Manchester University in North Manchester, Ind., will pilot the new initiative this fall.

Among other business, the board took time to remember and celebrate former vice chair Michele Firebaugh, who died last year, and honored departing board members Chris Bowman and John Flora.



Post this page

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Grants given

Emergency Disaster Fund

Two grants continue work with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria):

- \$185,000 supports the Nigeria Crisis Response program for 2025, focusing on home repairs and water projects to allow displaced families to return home.
- \$25,000 goes to EYN's response to extreme flooding in Maiduguri.

Four grants aid those affected by the invasion of the city of Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC):

- \$30,000 supports l'Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the DRC) in its Rapid Response to the invasion of Goma, providing food and water to church members and others.
- \$20,000 went to l'Eglise des Freres au Congo to provide food and water to church members and others trapped in South Kivu Province by the fighting.
- \$15,000 went to the Church of the Brethren in Burundi for an aid program for refugees fleeing the violence.
- \$8,600 assisted the Rwanda Church of the Brethren to rebuild or repair 11 homes damaged in fighting between M23 rebels and the Congolese military.

Two grants were given to the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC):

- \$30,000 for a humanitarian response to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, specifically a program for children with disabilities living in the Al-Maghazi Refugee Camp.
- \$70,000 to a Russia-Ukraine war response focused on women's programming in the Zakarpattia region.



South Sudan was the destination for the first international trip made by Sharon Norton in her role as executive director of Global Mission. She joined a delegation in early February led by former mission staff Carolyn and Roger Schrock and hosted by South Sudan mission staff Athanasus Ungang. Shown here, the delegation worships with Khor English Church.

- \$5,000 covered the Children's Disaster Services response to the Los Angeles wildfires early this year.

Global Food Initiative

- \$5,000 helped the Haiti Medical Project drill a well in an underserved community among congregations of l'Eglise des Frères d'Haïti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti).
- \$4,999.50 went to the Great Lakes Bible School in Rwanda for students' theological and biblical education to be combined with practical knowledge in sustainable farming.
- \$4,906 went to the Church of the Brethren in Burundi for training on Farming God's Way techniques that use fewer resources, conserve water, and improve soils without chemical inputs.

Brethren Faith in Action Fund

- Grants of \$5,000 each went to
- Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren for an open house and mailer outreach.
 - GraceWay International Community Church of the Brethren for community outreach to nearby housing complexes.

- Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren for its support to newcomers in need in the local community.
- Sebring Church of the Brethren to upgrade the sound system in support of outreach ministries.
- Shepherd's Heart Fellowship to support people in need in the area.
- Spirit of Peace Church of the Brethren for a Gun Buy Back Program.
- San Diego Church of the Brethren for its Welcoming Heart Ministry.

Grants of less than \$5,000 went to

- Eden Church of the Brethren for a community meal called Brethren Bistro.
- Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren for the Shalom Summit held on Feb. 22.
- Ivester Church of the Brethren for a meal ministry combined with worship called "First Sundays," held at Camp Pine Lake.
- Onekama Church of the Brethren for a ministry to support homeless people in partnership with ECHO His Love.
- Roaring Spring Church of the Brethren for a Wednesday night Recharge Program.
- The Veritas congregation for five missional outreach opportunities.

Personnel

Darlene Johnson retires from the staff of On Earth Peace on May 2. She has served the agency for nearly 25 years as director of administration and interim co-executive director.

Lee Marsh retires May

30 as buildings and grounds assistant for the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill. He has worked in the position since 2021.

Peg Moylan resigned March 7 as administrative assistant for Illinois and

Wisconsin District.

Mary St. John on Feb. 28 concluded her role with Virlina District after six years as director of district conference, nurture and witness, and a total of more than 21 years with the district.

Shenandoah District has called an interim district executive team, as of April 1: **Paul Roth, Jan Orndorff,** and **Steve Spire** as the core interim team with **Wayne Pence** and **Glenn Bollinger** as consultants.



SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

1 Daughters of Zelophehad	2	3 Stewards 3:00pm Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm	4 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	5	6	7 Dress-a- Girl 9:00am
8 Lady of Wisdom & Eve Chili Cook Off	9	10 Service & Outreach 9:30am Music & Worship 6:30pm Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm	11 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	12	13	14
15 Happy Father's Day	16 Pastor Julie on retreat	17 Pastor Julie on retreat Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm	18 Pastor Julie on retreat Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	19 Pastor Julie on retreat	20 Pastor Julie on retreat	21 Church Workday 9:00am
22 Dennis Wallstrom	23	24 LA Foodbank 7:00am Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm	25 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	26	27	28
29 Paul Lovelace	30					