

# *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!*

January 2024

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 51 No. 01

## *Dear Congregation,*

Thank you for granting me both the honor and the challenge of serving as your Moderator/Board chair during 2023. Thank you for being gracious, both as a congregation and as a church board, when I stumbled and didn't successfully follow through in a timely manner or be properly prepared for what came next.

One of my primary beliefs about leadership is that the group, given time and encouragement, will always come up with a better plan than a leader can come up with on their own. Therefore, the strongest way to lead is to always have a plan in reserve but engage the creativity and spiritual strength of the group to develop a better plan, a plan they will have faith in. Our church board has done an excellent job this year of lovingly working together to plan

and problem solve. I don't recall a single time I had to resort to bringing up my original plan. What a joy.

Even without a pastor, we have accomplished much this year. We are settling into our new surroundings and learning to work with the St. Paul's congregation. We have developed a better routine for worship setup. We survived the sudden loss of our Administrative Assistant and with Laura as the new Admin. we are streamlining a number of processes and creating better ways of records keeping and storage. We also moved the office to St. Paul's and eliminated our offsite storage. This required a lot of work from a lot of people. I am proud of the way so many of you stepped up to make all of this possible.

There is still much to do. We are working towards being able to put our Sunday services online as well as looking at other ways of being present online. Many of us feel we need an ongoing mission project in our new community, ideas are being considered. It would be very nice to find a pastor and I hope that can be a high priority after the church retreat in January or February.

When I consider all that has been accomplished and the willingness to move forward, I know that God is with us. The Holy Spirit continues to sustain us and to call us. We are still ambassadors for Christ, servants seeking to serve.

May God continue to bless us in this new year.

Paul Lovelace  
Outgoing Moderator



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

We also uphold these members, friends and family members of our congregation who have prayer concerns:

**Bill Lemon  
John Nelson**

**Chuck Snyder  
Darren Reader**



### *An Irish New Year's Blessing*

“Here’s to the bright New Year  
And a fond farewell to the old  
Here’s to the things that are yet to come  
And to the memories that we hold  
May God be with you and bless you  
May the best of this year be the worst of  
the next  
May you be poor in misfortune, rich in  
blessings  
May you know nothing but happiness  
From this day forward”

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through October 2023	
<b>2023 Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$193,255.00</b>
<b>Total Budget Income thru November</b>	<b>\$131,285.81</b>
Giving '23	\$83,101.35
Interest & Other Income '23	\$48,184.46
Total Budget Expense thru November	\$(119,299.76)
<b>Budget Balance thru November</b>	<b>\$11,986.05</b>
August Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$55.00

### December Worship Schedule

**January 7**, Janet Short is Preaching  
**January 14**, Enten Eller is Preaching  
**January 21**, Paul Lovelace is Preaching  
**January 28**, Julie Wheeler is Preaching

### Upcoming Meetings

**Stewards**, Tuesday January 2 at 3:30pm  
**Service & Outreach**, Wednesday Jan 10 at 10:30am  
**Music & Worship**, Wednesday Jan. 10 at 11am  
**Church Board**, Thursday January 18 at 6:30pm

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

### *Birthdays*

Phyllis Eller on the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Carl Cook on the 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Jennette (Jenny) Lovelace on the 7<sup>th</sup>  
 Kathy Flores on the 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Pandra Cook on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
 Robert Herndon on the 16<sup>th</sup>  
 Graham Lovelace on the 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Nacomi Hemsworth on the 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Linda Lovelace on the 29<sup>th</sup>  
 Randy Good on the 30<sup>th</sup>

# Service & Outreach News



## Giving Emphases for the Month

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphasis for **January is Soup for the Souper Bowl**. The tortillas, bread, or crackers you dip into your favorite soup are a great addition. Dry Milk and spices for the soup you add to would also be a good idea. For all canned food please provide Pop-Top cans. As always, staple items are always needed and welcome.



Our food emphasis for the Beta Food Center in January is our traditional fun emphasis of “Food for the Souper Bowl.” Yes, we deliberately misspell Souper. Partnering with IVHP makes it possible for us to help serve many. IVHP serves 70,000 low-income families every year. They provide emergency food supplies (groceries) for over 900,000 meals per year. They also offer thousands of pounds of fresh fruit and produce annually. In addition to their Adopt A Family program to which we supplied 16 gifts they also have a housing program and healthy living programs that include Hope Partners @ Amy’s Farm, Gleaning Hope, and the Pomona Valley Farmers’ Market. Keep up the good work and keep the food coming for the IVHP Beta Food Center in Pomona.

Written by Gerald (Jerry) Davis

## **The Christmas Card Tree**

The Christmas Card Tree looked beautiful and full this year. God's Pantry is a wonderful organization and a blessing to the community with the many ways they help the community. We are very grateful for the many donations we received that will help them continue their service within the community.



Merry Christmas from:

Wanda,  
The Cohens,  
Connie & Harvey Good,  
Yvonne Belcher, Twila, Jerry,  
The Deal Family, Diane, Sander,  
Phyllis Eller, Bethany, Sandi Brooks,  
PSWD Staff, Laura Lovelace, The Shorts,  
Traci Rabenstein, Dan & Mary Hines, Peggy,  
Julie & Dennis, Jan & George Spicer, Kathy Gilbert,  
Frank & Shirley,  
Richard & Linda,  
Yvonne Belcher

## **Just Us 4 Youth**

20 chock-full stockings!

Pomona Fellowship strikes again as bearers of  
Christmas cheer!

I'd like to thank all those who donated items or cash to provide stockings for girls who live in the Transitional Aged Youth house run by Just Us 4 Youth.

Here's what each stocking held:

Nail polish, Lip balm  
Fuzzy socks, Shampoo  
Lotion, Beauty masks  
\$10 pin money, Hair ties  
Candy, candy, candy!

Thanks again for providing girls without families a fun, exciting Christmas morning!

Written by Julie Wheeler



*Banner* articles are due by January 20<sup>th</sup>

The *Banner* is published by the  
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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.

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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Stewards@ 3:30pm  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  Janet Short Preaching	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	<b>10</b> Service & Outreach @ 10:30am  Music & Worship @ 11:00am	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  Enten Eller Preaching	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  Church Board @ 6:30pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> St. Paul's Work Day at the Church 8:00am- 12:00pm
<b>21</b>  Paul Lovelace Preaching	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> La Food Bank in St. Paul's Parking lot 9:00-11:00am  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  Julie Wheeler Preaching	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	<b>31</b>			