

A banner graphic featuring a background of autumn trees with orange and yellow leaves. The text is overlaid on this background. The word "Banner" is at the top in a large, white, cursive font. Below it is a paragraph of white text. At the bottom of the banner are three items: the date "November 2025", the church name "Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren", and the volume/issue "Vol. 52 No. 11".

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!

November 2025

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 52 No. 11

From the Pastor

Recently, I had a dream come true. Last week, Pomona's Promise hosted a "Conference for Collaboratives", which had been a dream of mine for over 3 years. Saying "my dream" is a little selfish because I co-chair a team of folks who call themselves Pomona Reimagining. This group comes out of a faith-based group that seeks positive societal change through secular activities. This is our collective dream.

Pomona Reimagining hatched this idea at the very end of the pandemic. An idea that was born in the promise of community togetherness, a thing that we all were thirsting for at the end of the worldwide crisis.

Our small team has been working on the dream for years. We knew we couldn't do it by ourselves, and we were seeking an organization that could carry the dream for a large community gathering. We found them, and the goodness happened for 175 people. City officials, non-profits, grass-roots organizations, faith-based communities, and police are all coming around to grapple with the issues that are top of mind to us.

We asked the group what issues they wanted to collaborate on, and we formed groups around the needs of the people present. We worked for an hour pulling apart the issues - from symptoms to paradigms. Then the group took a tour around the room, holding our issue in mind and seeing the other issues and the various displays of solutions. The diversity of discussions and points of view was truly inspiring!

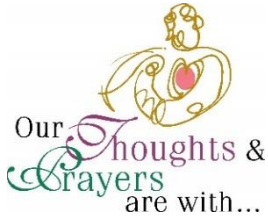
In Acts 6, the early church was seeing the issues of the world and decided to create a body of helpers to serve those needs; Deacons. We live in a very different society. We have agencies and non-profits that help serve the

community, but the issues are the same: food, housing, family, addiction, and illness!

The conference was a resounding success, promoting interconnection and connectivity within the community. The dream we had nurtured for years came true, inspiring us to continue our journey towards positive societal change.

I hope to share more with you as time goes on.

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 September 2025

2025 Annual Budget	\$232,522.00
Total Budget Income thru Sept.	\$125,038.34
Giving 2025	\$61,924.50
Interest & Other Income	\$63,113.84
Total Budget Expense thru Sept.	\$167,319.15
Budget Balance thru Sept.	\$(41,280.81)
Sept. Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$80.00
Capital Fund	\$500.00

Upcoming Meetings

Church Board:

Thursday, November 20th, at 6:30 pm

Executive Committee:

Thursday, November 13th, at 6:30 pm

Music & Worship:

Monday, November 10th, at 6:30 pm

Service & Outreach:

Tuesday, November 11th, at 9:30 am

Stewards:

To be Scheduled

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.

Healed and Whole

On the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month **Healed & Whole** meets for Dinner & Bible Study at Julie and Dennis' house, 845 Hillcrest Dr. Pomona, at 7:00 pm.

Preaching Schedule

November 2nd: Musical Sunday

November 9th: Modern-Day Prophets

November 16th: The Messy Middle

November 23rd: John the Baptist, Dennis Wallstrom Preaching

November 30th: Advent, What Do You Fear?

Pastor Julie's on vacation & at District Conference

October 29- November 8

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Oh, God, when I have food
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work, help me
to remember the jobless;

When I have a warm home,
help me to remember the homeless;

When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer;

And remembering, help me
to destroy my complacency
and bestir my compassion.

Make me concerned enough
to help, by word and deed,
those who cry out
for what we take for granted.

-Samuel. F. Pugh

Service & Outreach



Birthdays

Yvonne Belcher on the 3rd.

Israel Macario on the 7th.

Crystal Cook on the 9th.

Freddie Brim on the 10th.

Angel Brim on the 13th.

Chuck Lovelace on the 17th.

Richard Hart on the 17th.

John Short on the 20th.

Bruce Hemsworth on the 21st.

Anniversaries

George & Jan Spicer on the 2nd.

Bruce & Bobbi Hemsworth on the 5th.

Gary & Leslie Deal on the 10th.

Don & Sharon Overholser on the 13th.

Frank & Shirley Ness on the 25th.

If you would like to be included in the Birthdays & Anniversaries, please send an email to office@mypomonachurch.org with the information you wish to include.

Giving Emphases for November

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphases for November are **Thanksgiving Foods**. Family time and holidays can be very difficult for those who don't have enough.

Providing stuffing, dry potatoes, canned cranberry sauce, canned green beans and any other Thanksgiving food will help those struggling in our community have a Thanksgiving meal with their family. Flour and other basic baking ingredients can help stock a pantry and create many food options. 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 November is Inland Valley Hope Partners

Inland Valley Hope Partners
(IVHP)

Inland Valley Hope Partners, IVHP,
helping those in need since 1968.
Their vision is to have a community
healed of homelessness and
hunger. They are continuing to
work towards this vision by
providing services to the community
while keeping the dignity and
humanity of those they help intact.

IVHP serves 75,000 no, very low
and low-income residents yearly
with the core programs they
provide: Food Security, Housing
Programs and Healthy Living.

IVHP provides emergency food
supplies (groceries) for over 900,000
meals and some 16,000 nights of

shelter and housing assistance
annually. They also offer thousands
of pounds of fresh fruit and produce
every year. Due to the many
government assistance programs
shutting down, they are expecting
the needs of the community to
increase greatly.

Pomona Fellowship has been
partnering and assisting IVHP since
its inception in 1968. If you would
like to donate to them, please write
your check or electronically donate
to Pomona Fellowship Church of
the Brethren and write IVHP on the
memo line or in the notes. For more
information about IVHP please visit
their website:

www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org.

Written by Laura Lovelace

"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

November 1st, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

December 6th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

January 3rd, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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

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.

Breakfast Group Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.

Julie Wheeler	Pastor
Rudy Amaya	Children/Youth Ministry Cor.
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

Deportation Defense Response provides update

The **Deportation Defense Response Team** in mid-August provided an update on the number of Church of the Brethren immigrant members and attenders affected by detention or deportation. The team is a project of five districts in partnership with On Earth Peace and Intercultural Ministries.

Some 37 Church of the Brethren congregations are affected by various concerns around immigration in 5 districts, representing the churches with the most immigrants in their congregations. In those 5 districts combined, 6 churches are dealing with 11 deportations, with 10 people detained as of Aug. 12. Some of the families of detained or deported people are homeless and in need of legal and financial support.

The team hopes to raise \$100,000 for legal support for church members facing immigration enforcement. To donate, contact atlanticsoutheastcob@gmail.com. Lawyers willing to help are asked to contact migrantjustice@onearthpeace.org.

Remembering Katrina

On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall on the Gulf Coast. Twenty years later, Brethren Disaster Ministries marked



the anniversary by remembering the response that included Children's Disaster Services (CDS) and Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding.

CDS had a total of 4,846 child contacts related to Hurricane Katrina. From Sept. 7 through Oct. 27, 2005, under the leadership of coordinator Helen Stonesifer, 113 CDS volunteers served more than 1,122 workdays at 14 different sites. The volunteers cared for 2,749 children in that

period of time. A year and a half later, CDS served in the "Welcome Home" center in New Orleans. From Jan. 3 to Sept. 11, 2007, 61 volunteers cared for 2,097 children, putting in 933 working days.

The rebuilding response covered nearly six years, from September 2005 through June 2011. Some 5,737 volunteers repaired and rebuilt homes for 531 families, working on homes in six communities affected by Katrina: Citronelle, Ala.; Lucedale and McComb, Miss.; and Pearl River, East New Orleans, and Chalmette (St. Bernard Parish), La. Project leaders John and Mary Mueller oversaw this project for more than four years. The program also contributed to a New Orleans Ecumenical Build in cooperation with Church World Service and several other Christian organizations.

A photo album of the Katrina response is at www.yogile.com/bdmkatrina20.



Personnel

Stan Dueck began Oct. 1 as director of Discipleship Ministries for Atlantic Northeast District. He had retired as director of Formation Leadership for the Church of the Brethren denomination in July.

Marianne Fitzkee of Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren began Aug. 18 as

Communications and Event specialist for Atlantic Northeast District. After graduating from Messiah University in 2023 she completed a year and a half of Brethren Volunteer Service including placements at an organic farm near Quito, Ecuador, and a nonprofit in Austin, Texas, that provides immigration legal services.

Donita Janney of Nineveh Church of the Brethren in Hardy, Va., began Aug. 18 as office manager for Virilina District.

Patrick Miller on Aug. 15 concluded his work as Buildings and Grounds assistant at the Church of the Brethren General Offices after a month in the position.

Latest grants from denominational funds

Emergency Disaster Fund

■ \$258,600 and an additional \$50,000 supports l'Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo) to aid people affected by war in the eastern part of the country. More than 71,000 Congolese refugees have crossed into Burundi, including dozens of church families. Brethren are living in the Musenyi Refugee Camp near the border with Tanzania. The World Food Program ran out of funding for the camp at the end of June because the Trump administration canceled USAID funding. The church designed a plan to support 4,990 households living as refugees in Burundi and 1,000 households with vulnerable family members.

■ \$125,000 and an additional \$35,000 supports development of a program by the Church of the Brethren Mission in South Sudan. The country's escalating violence and natural disasters have been exacerbated by climate change and the Trump administration ending most US humanitarian aid to the country. Nearly 80 percent of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance with nearly 70 percent (7.7 million people) facing acute food insecurity, 2.2 million internally displaced, and

another 2.3 million in surrounding countries as refugees. The program will focus on communities with a Church of the Brethren congregation, internally displaced families, and refugees who have fled to Uganda. Additional South Sudanese staff have been recruited.

■ \$20,000 supports Shepherd Society of Bethlehem Bible College to purchase medicines and equipment for Al Ahli Baptist Hospital and the medical clinic in St. Porphyrios Orthodox Church in Gaza City.

■ \$14,400 supports Brethren Disaster Ministries' continuing response to Hurricane Helene. The town of Spruce Pine was selected for a short-term rebuilding project in May.

■ \$10,000 supports a relief program of ASIGLEH (the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela) for families affected by severe flooding. Ten congregations were directly affected.

■ \$10,000 supports training initiatives of Child Life Disaster Relief.

Global Food Initiative

■ \$15,000 supports the Beyond Abundance Program of Phahama Grain Phakama in South Africa. A project in Driefontein is introducing equipment to optimize

threshing, milling, storage, and trading of maize.

■ \$9,200 supports food ministries at Champaign (Ill.) Church of the Brethren including the Randolph Street Community Garden, food distribution, and job training.

■ \$7,000 supports the church garden and food pantry of East Dayton (Ohio) Fellowship.

■ \$6,600 supports the purchase of electric mills for indigenous Amazon communities to grind cassava, via ASIGLEH.

■ \$2,968 supports food programs of Happy Corner Church of the Brethren, Clayton, Ohio, including the free Monday Night Meal and two Blessing Boxes.

■ \$2,500 supports the free community meal and food pantry at Freeport (Ill.) Church of the Brethren.



Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 337 completed orientation at Camp Colorado on Aug. 4. *From left:* **Wesley Nance** of Monte Vista, Colo., is assigned to Project PLASE in Baltimore, Md.; **Benjamin Ajeti** of Düsseldorf, Germany, to SnowCap Food Pantry, Portland, Ore.; **Jackson Barbour** of Decatur, Ga., to Camp Stevens, Julian, Calif.; **Mia Dauser** of Baden-Württemberg, Germany, to Camp Stevens; **Jonathan Schwarte** of Münster, Germany, to the Center on Conscience and War, Washington, D.C.; **Vera Logose** of Crowley, Texas, to the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics, and Ritual, Silver Spring, Md.; **Ella Hedges** of Dayton, Ohio, to Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock, Ark.; **Marilyn Megala** of Neuwied, Germany, to Lydia's House, Cincinnati Ohio; and **Jessika Kreuzer** of Witten, Germany, to Abode Shelter, Fremont, Calif.

Brethren Faith in Action Fund

■ \$5,000 supports Roanoke (Va.) Central Church of the Brethren to sponsor training on racial justice and reparations. Author and professor Drew Hart of First Harrisburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren presented at a community forum at Roanoke College and a workshop for church representatives.

■ \$5,000 supports the Blessing Bag Ministry of Williamson Road Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va.

■ \$4,825.13 supports a community meal ministry and outreach events of Amaranth Church of the Brethren, Warfordsburg, Pa.

■ \$3,291.67 supports Lynchburg (Va.) Church of the Brethren's Gun Lock Ministry focused on safe storage to prevent suicide, homicide, and accidents.



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