

The 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!

August 2022

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 48, No. 8

From Our Pastor...

Every year, millions of mental health or suicidal crisis calls are made to 911 and local crisis lines. But unfortunately, when in-person help is needed, law enforcement — not a mental health professional — is often the only response available. Not only are law enforcement officers not usually trained to address mental health crises, responding to these calls can take them away from other calls where police intervention is more appropriate.

People experiencing a mental health crisis or thoughts of suicide deserve a compassionate and effective response from trained professionals. Thankfully, there is a solution! On July 16, 2022 the first nationwide suicide and crisis hotline became available: 9-8-8.

This new three-digit number will be an easy-to-remember way for people to connect with help and support during a mental health, substance use, or suicide crisis.

Anyone in a mental health crisis can call, text, or chat with 9-8-8 and be connected to trained crisis counselors that can provide de-escalation and mental health intervention services by phone, safely and confidentially, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Historically the Church (capital C) has not done a great job of encouraging folks to seek out mental health services. Pastors or other church leaders have been known to tell those suffering to “just pray” or “lean on Jesus” during a mental health emergency. The fact is that prayer, scripture, and worship are just a few of the tools to provide compassionate mental health services. Thankfully, other interventions like counseling, medications, and the new 9-8-8 number are more vital tools we can add to the toolbox.

If you are struggling and in need of compassionate mental health care, please consider reaching out to me as your pastor. And also remember this new and much-needed resource: 9-8-8.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lauren

Need Help? These Resources Are Just a Call or Text Away.



If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health, substance use or suicide crisis:

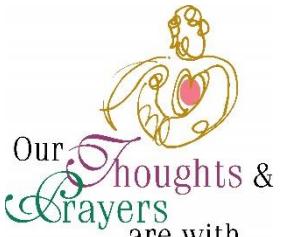
988 is now available 24/7 nationwide and staffed by trained crisis counselors who are just a text or call away.



If you are not experiencing a crisis, but seeking information, resource referrals and support:

NAMI HelpLine at 1-800-950-6264 is a free, peer-support service. Available M-F from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET.





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

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with... 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 – August

- Aug. 7 For the pastors who serve our churches with faith and devotion
Aug. 14 Imperial Heights Church of the Brethren
Aug. 21 Nueva Visión la Hermosa
(Waterford church project)
Aug. 28 La Verne Church of the Brethren

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through June 2022

2022 Annual Budget	\$196,085.00
Giving '22	\$49,841.00
Interest & Other Income '22	\$53,415.33
Total Budget Income thru June	\$103,256.33
Total Budget Expense thru June	\$(94,013.17)
Budget Balance thru June	\$9,243.16
June Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta Capital Fund	\$155.00 \$20.00

Temporary address for **Richard Uranga** during his 6 month training. The rest of the family is still currently in Chino Hills.

SN Uranga, Richard B

8545 6th Armored Cavalry Rd.

Fort George G. Meade, MD

20755



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

August Worship Schedule

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

August 7, in-person at St. Paul's,
(National Parks series: Glacier National Park)

August 14, ZOOM worship, (National Parks series:
Yellowstone National Park)

August 21, in-person at St. Paul's, (National Parks series: Death Valley), followed by a Congregational Meeting*.

August 28, ZOOM worship, Guest Speaker Joe Vecchio

***Save the date – On Sunday, August 21, we will have a meeting following our in-person worship to discuss our future property needs.**

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

Music & Worship, Wednesday, August 10,

11:00 a.m.

Executive Committee, Thursday, August 11,

6:30 p.m.

Church Board, Thursday, August 18, 6:30 p.m.

Service & Outreach, Tuesday, September 6,

10:00 a.m.

Banner articles are due on August 20

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Services & Activities

Sunday Worship over Zoom Sunday, 10:00 a.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays in person at St. Paul's

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.

FROM SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Thank you for your continued response in our
effort to support the local food bank. Our food
emphasis for **August is Lunch Box Foods
and School Supplies**. As always, staple items
are always needed and welcome.



Our giving emphasis for August is
Habitat for Humanity.

From PFCOB Service and Outreach Commission ...

For years, Pomona Fellowship's Service & Outreach Commission has included in our outreach budget the important work of Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity helps families build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter. The beloved and world-renowned organization is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

The Pomona Valley chapter of Habitat was formed in 1989, and the first house was built in 1991. Since then the Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity has built or renovated over 45 homes. While founded on Christian principles, all Habitat chapters welcome volunteers and supporters of any creed, worldview, political opinion or background, and serve people in need regardless of any of the distinctions that typically divide people.

Our Service & Outreach commission is proud to financially support the mission of the Pomona Valley Habitat for Humanity. If you feel led to contribute to this worthwhile organization, make a donation to our church earmarked "Habitat for Humanity."

--Pastor Lauren, on behalf of Service & Outreach Commission



BBT is now Eder Financial

Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT), which has been serving Church of the Brethren employees

and organizations for up to eight decades, is now known as Eder Financial. The name Eder is taken from the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany, where the Brethren movement began in 1708.

On May 4, the State of Illinois officially changed the corporate name to Eder Financial Inc. This was a transition “to accommodate one of BBT’s strategic goals—to adopt new names to better serve its members and clients,” said a release from Eder Financial.

At the same time, the following names also were changed: the Brethren Foundation Inc. became Eder Deferred Gifts

Inc., and Brethren Foundation Funds became Eder Organizational Investing Inc.

“These new identities reflect BBT’s heritage and will resonate with Church of the Brethren members while being attractive to others outside the denomination who are of like mind and who want to use Eder’s services,” the release said.

The organization’s established services and programs are not changing, including retirement services, insurance services, deferred gifts management, organizational investing opportunities, an online investment platform, benevolent grants for pastors and other church employees in financial difficulties, and educational workshops.

“The difference is that Eder Financial will now begin serving members and clients of like mind that are outside the Church of the Brethren,” the release said, quoting president Nevin Dulabaum: “With changing demographics and affinity within the Church of the Brethren, a move to serve Anabaptist organizations and others of like mind will allow Eder Financial to fulfill its commitments to its members for decades to come.”

The name change is the last of five strategic goals to be launched in recent months, including first to change operations to be in a growth rather than maintenance mode, second to open up marketing and promotional efforts in a new way, third to create the right staff positions and hire the right people for those positions, and fourth to become a work-from-home organization allowing the hiring of staff from across the country. Eder Financial continues to have a small suite of offices at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill.



EDF grants aid Ukraine refugees

Brethren Disaster Ministries directed grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to relief for displaced Ukrainians and to a National Youth Conference (NYC) service project making school kits.

A grant of \$50,000 was given to the International Orthodox Christian

Charities, a US-based NGO, for its work to support Ukrainians displaced in neighboring countries, host families and institutions providing humanitarian assistance for refugees, and protection for women and children.

A grant of \$37,500 helps fund a project to collect Church World

Service school kits at NYC. Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction in Pennsylvania are partnering in the project to assemble at least 3,000 kits. The auction has contributed \$20,000. NYC participants will bring additional donations.

Conference announces preacher change

A change in the preacher schedule for the 2022 Annual Conference taking place July 10-14, in Omaha, Neb., has been announced. Previously announced preacher Eric Bishop had to cancel. The Program and Arrangements Committee invited Anna Lisa Gross to preach on Tuesday evening, July 12.

Gross will preach on "The Joy of Little Deaths," with the scripture texts from Psalm 147:1 and Luke 15:11-32. She is an ordained minister who is co-interim district executive for South/Central Indiana District and has been serving as a part-time pastor at Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren in Northern Indiana District.

Find the full schedule of preachers for the Conference at www.brethren.org/ac2022/worship.



Shipment sends relief for Ukraine

This shipment has been in the works for quite a while but *finally* is on its way," reported Loretta Wolf, director of Material Resources. She and her staff work out of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., to collect, warehouse, and ship relief goods for a number of ecumenical and humanitarian partner organizations.

In May, Material Resources worked on a Lutheran World Relief shipment to respond to the Ukraine situation. Wolf said, "We loaded five trailers with donated items to fly from Dulles Airport to Poland and to Ukraine."

The shipment consisted of approximately 9,600 quilts, 4,160 school kits, 18,500 personal care kits, 4,080 baby care kits, and 21,330 pounds of soap.

Bethany graduates the class of 2022

Bethany Theological Seminary honored the graduates from the class of 2022 during commencement on May 7. This year's class included 7 master of divinity graduates, 8 graduating with master of arts degrees, and 17 earning graduate certificates.

Master of divinity:

Amos Dan Doka (Wazo, Nigeria)
Sharon Ruth Flaten (Bridgewater, Va.)
Eric M. Kauffman (Mifflinburg, Pa.)
Jennifer Kay Jensen (McPherson, Kan.)
Scott Patrick Linton (Frederick, Md.)
Matthew Paul Rittle (Arlington, Va.)
Julia Anne Wheeler (Pomona, Calif.)

Master of arts:

Angela Lynn Adams (Malden, Ill.)
Kayla Rae Collins (Richmond, Ind.)
Lark Lundberg (Rockford, Ill.)

Zachary Thomas Mays
(Saint Petersburg, Fla.)

Nolan Ryan McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)

Master of arts in theopoetics and writing:

Alexander Randy McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)
Audriana Nicole Svay
(North Manchester, Ind.)

Master of arts in spiritual and social transformation:

Susuyu Ayuba Lassa (Jos, Nigeria)

Certificate in theopoetics and theological imagination:

Kayla Rae Collins (Richmond, Ind.)
Tina Marie Fisher (Gainesville, Va.)
Lark Lundberg (Rockford, Ill.)
Zachary Thomas Mays
(Saint Petersburg, Fla.)
Matthew Paul Rittle (Arlington, Va.)

Ingrid Rogers (Menlo Park, Calif.)

Certificate in just peace and conflict transformation:

Alexander Randy McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)
Jamie Elaine McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)

Certificate in intercultural biblical interpretation:

Scott Patrick Linton (Frederick, Md.)

Certificate in biblical peacemaking:

Sunday Aimu (Jos, Nigeria)
Musa Anto Dauda (Jos, Nigeria)
Titus Zira Fate (Jos, Nigeria)
Rosa John (Jos, Nigeria)
Katherine Usen (Jos, Nigeria)
Eugenia Lazarus Zoakah (Jos, Nigeria)

Certificate in theology and science:

Jamie Elaine McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)
Jonathan David Zinnel (Middleton, Wis.)