

# *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 2024

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 51 No. 08

## *A Word From Our Pastor*

### *LOVE TRANSFORMS*

*"We love because He first loved us."*

From the beginning of existence, humans seem oriented to love and to desire love. Think of all the songs sung honoring love, unrequited or not. We've seen movies that shout about the healing effects of love, and we've read stories through the ages about what happens when people search for love.

Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* tells the tale of a "monster" who comes to see that his "creator" does not love him and rejects him. The monster tries to redeem his "badness" by doing good works, but that ends in rejection, too. When the "monster" asks his creator to make him a partner so he will have love, the creator denies him. In a fury, the "monster" becomes a true Monster and destroys those the creator loves. How ugly are the repercussions of failing to love! We have all felt how hard it is to love and to be loved.

Then, there are fairy tales like the Grimms Brothers' *Beauty and the Beast*, in which unconditional love transforms the beast into a prince. But is it just a fairy tale?

I have a tale (tail?) of the transforming effects of love. We live near a ravine that hosts all kinds of wildlife, some being feral cats. There was a particular howling cat that started coming around screaming for food. We put food out for her, but if we got too close, she would hiss and growl. We named her unimaginatively "Hissy."

It became a daily event that Hissy would come to the yard and howl for food. We began to put a bowl of milk out, and she stopped hissing at us. Then, after a while, she let us touch her back ever so slightly. Dennis, aka "the cat whisperer," began to sit on the front porch between his sessions and talk to Hissy. She let him start petting her, and then she began to sleep in our garage and feed there. She began to crawl onto Dennis' lap and fall asleep. Maybe it was because he saved her from being eaten by the bobcat! Then, one day, I came home, and Hissy was inside with a litter box and feeding station! The howling monster had turned into a sweet, domesticated cat!

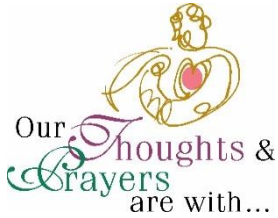
Isn't that what love can do? It can turn us from a howling assortment of complaints and hungers into a creature that can abide with others, accepting and receiving love. Some (most) of us have not received adequate love or have not developed the capacity to receive love. That leaves us with barriers in our lives. We all have them.

But the church is where we can begin to give and receive a portion of the LOVE that Jesus has for us. We are ambassadors of Love. Sometimes we are good at it, sometimes not, but we should never give up!

I work daily to bring people to be *loved on* by you. I hope you are with me in this endeavor. I'm proud to be part of this community!

*They will know we are Christians by our love.*

Yours truly,  
**Pastor Julie**



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, Norma Lovelace**

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION  
Through June 2024**

<b>2024 Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$186,267.00</b>
<b>Total Budget Income thru May</b>	<b>\$108,118.31</b>
Giving '24	\$44,198.00
Interest & Other Income '24	\$63,920.31
Total Budget Expense thru May	\$(92,068.38)
<b>Budget Balance thru May</b>	<b>\$16,049.93</b>
May Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$55.00

**Upcoming Meetings**

- Stewards**, Tuesday August 6 at 3:00pm
- Executive Committee**, Thursday August 8 at 6:30pm
- Service & Outreach**, Tuesday August 13 at 9:30am
- Music & Worship**, Tuesday August 13 at 6:15pm
- Church Board**, Thursday August 15 at 6:30pm

**Preaching Schedule**

- August 4**, Annual Conference Sunday
- August 11**, Pilgrimage
- August 18**, Summer in Rome
- August 25**, Summer in Rome

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

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



“Oh, Mr. Johnny Verbeck how could you be so mean,  
I told you, you'd be sorry for inventin' that machine now all the neighbors cats and dogs will nevermore be seen  
For they'll be ground to sausages in Johnny Verbeck's machine.”



**Birthdays**

- Gary Deal on the 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Marcheta Pletcher on the 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Brittany Herndon on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Twila Pruitt on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Chai Zoe Uranga on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Hannah Munday on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Anniversaries**

Janet & John Short on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

# Service & Outreach News & Updates

## Commission News

### Giving Emphases for August

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphases for **August are beans of all kinds and all things tomato except fresh tomatoes.** Bean soup, bean dip, bean salad, refried beans, and sprouting the dry beans to grow bean sprouts are all delicious ways to use beans. Marinera sauce, sliced tomatoes with cheese, salad, sandwiches, and stuffed tomatoes are ways ways add tomatoes to your meal. For all canned food please provide Pop-Top cans if possible. As always, staple items, including spices, baking items like flour baking soda, yeast, diapers, formula, socks and feminine products are always needed and welcome.



The Giving Emphasis for August is Habitat for Humanity.

### Habitat For Humanity

“Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. We believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities.”

Habitat is currently building strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter in 70 countries by improving the living conditions of those in need. They do this in many different ways including; home construction, improving homes, neighborhood revitalization, disaster response, financial education, to name a few.

Habitat for Humanity bridges the funding gap between of what the family can afford and the actual cost of the home by leveraging funds and subsidies from

private donors, corporate partners, and government institutions. There are many ways to donate including; money, time at events and building projects, materials, and gently used appliances.

Habitat for Humanity is helping to build a better world through action, education and advocacy.

Written by Laura Lovelace using  
Habitat.org

### **“Dress A Girl” Sewing Party**

"Dress a Girl", 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 Dates**

August 3, 9:30am – 12:00pm

September 14, 9:30am – 12:00pm

Please RSVP to the church office.

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

The *Banner* is published by the  
Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren  
Address: 242 E. Alvarado St.  
Pomona, CA 91767  
(909) 629-2548

**Email: [office@mypomonachurch.org](mailto:office@mypomonachurch.org)**  
**[pastorjulie@mypomonachurch.org](mailto:pastorjulie@mypomonachurch.org)**  
**Website: [mypomonachurch.org](http://mypomonachurch.org)**

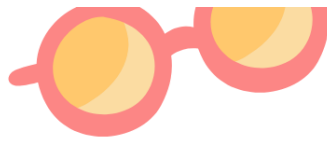
### Services & Activities

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

Bible Study on Google Meet Tuesdays, 7:30 p.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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.



JOIN POMONA FELLOWSHIP

# SUMMER POTLUCKS

**JULY 10: GAME AND RIDDLE NIGHT -  
SUMMER PICNIC STYLE**

BRING YOUR FAVORITE PICNIC FOOD  
AND TEST YOUR INTELLECTUAL METTLE!  
WATERMELON AND FRESH SQUEEZED  
LEMONADE PROVIDED



**JULY 24: SING-A-LONG BBQ WITH  
SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST RANDY MILLER**

BRING A QUICK-GRILLING MEAT FOR  
YOURSELF AND A SIDE/  
APPETIZER/SALAD TO SHARE. BEANS,  
DRINKS, AND ICE CREAM WILL BE  
PROVIDED



**AUGUST 7: POTLUCK WITH PILGRIMS:**

DINE WITH THOSE WHO HAVE GONE ON  
PILGRIMAGES. BRING SOME  
SANDWICHES, SALAD, OR DESSERTS TO  
SHARE. DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED



**Wednesday Nights:  
6:00pm-7:30pm**

**At St. Paul's Episcopal in Pomona  
on the Patio**







**100 years of making dreams!**



**Celebrating the past, looking to the future**

Join us for the Centennial Celebration

Saturday, August 31, 2024 at CLV

with additional preceding events TBA

Visit our "Centennial Celebration" tab at

[www.camplaverne.org](http://www.camplaverne.org) to stay up to date!

**We're creating a book of Camp Stories.**

**To contribute:**

- a.) email to [campmanager@camplaverne.org](mailto:campmanager@camplaverne.org)**
- b.) complete the form on our website**
- c.) leave a message at 909-794-2931**



*To RSVP to the  
Camp La Verne Centennial Celebration*

Visit <https://forms.gle/qCeP5EK3jWLyFWB36>





SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

				1	2	3 Dress a Girl 9:00am
4 Taco Sunday	5	6 Stewards @ 3:00pm  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	7 Breakfast Fellowship @ 8:00am  Summer Potluck @ 6:00pm	8 Executive Committee @ 6:30pm	9	10
11	12	13 Service & Outreach @ 9:30am  Music & Worship @ 6:15pm  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	14	15 Church Board @ 6:30pm	16	17
18	19	20 Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	21	22	23	24 ULV Student work Day 9:00am- 12:00pm  Regional Girl Scout Event
25	26	27 LA Food Bank 7:00am  Google Meet Bible Study @ 7:30pm	28	29	30	31 Camp La Verne Centennial Celebration