



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!

September 2026

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 53 No. 09

A word from Our Pastor

As Christians we have a responsibility toward the poor, the oppressed, the downtrodden, and the many innocent people around the world who are caught in wars, natural disasters, and situations beyond their control.

Billy Graham

School's back in session – can you feel the difference in the hustle and bustle?

We have stuffed backpacks to help our community and had a parent/teacher/student blessing. We are in full swing!

I wanted to keep you updated on a new project we are working on. This project is called the Innovations Project. The District has invited all the churches in our area to participate in this project. Each church was to gather together a small team to work on innovating in the church. Our team is Israel, Rudy and me. We were directed to create a very small, definite project with

outcomes we can measure. We were trained in the art of brainstorming and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us instead of “figuring it out.”

Our project focuses on a group within our church, ages 28 – 42 to create a sense of community, belongingness, and responsibility for the church. Our first action was to have a “listening session” with each of them. The questions were focused on church life, and where they feel a sense of belonging and spirituality. We began to see a pattern emerge in the group: they feel connected when they serve! Then we had lunch where we brainstormed how the group would like to serve. We came up with 11 options, then we had them vote for their top two favorites. Here are the winners:

1. Adopt a neighbor/elder
2. (tie) Back-to-school backpacks & International mission trip
3. (tie) Tijuana mission trip & Neighborhood canvas walks to become known in our neighborhood

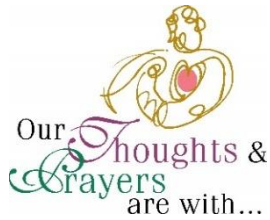
We have accomplished the backpacks project, and we will help a neighbor clean their yard in September (please pray for cooler weather!) and the other items require a bit more planning, but the future looks bright and filled with service!

This Innovations group sees it, I hope you see it even as you read this, (and you may be interested in this miracle) a donor from outside the church sees it, giving \$25,000 to fund it!

We are walking in the footsteps of Jesus who came to serve.

Pastor Julie Wheeler

Pastor



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 & Messiah Brim.**

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through July 2026

2026 Annual Budget	\$288,409.00
Total Budget Income thru July	\$120,517.71
Giving 2026	\$39,751.56
Interest & Other Income	\$80,766.15
Total Budget Expense thru July	-\$144,466.33
Budget Balance thru July	(\$23,948.62)
July Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners - BBETA	\$30.00
Capital Fund	\$500.00
Margaret Nininger Carl Trust - Bibles	317.00
Innovations Fund	\$25,000
Restoration & Resilience Alliance	445.00

Upcoming Meetings

Church Board:

Thursday, September 17, 6:30 pm

Executive Committee:

As Needed

Music & Worship:

Tuesday, September 8, 6:30 pm

Service & Outreach:

Tuesday, September 1, 9:30 am

Stewards:

Tuesday, September 8, 3:00 pm

Bible Study

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

Breakfast Fellowship Group

Every Wednesday at 8:00 am. 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.

Public Witness

Join us for a public prayer vigil held in Pomona.
We meet every Friday on the corner of Garey & Mission at 4:30 pm. For more information, please contact Pastor Julie, 909-720-9832.





HELLO
September

Birthdays

Natashua Uranga on the 7th.

Jessica Decker on the 10th.

Anniversaries

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 Emphasis for September

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphases for September are **peanut butter, jelly, jam, and crackers**. PB&J sandwiches are a wonderful quick sandwich that brings back memories of childhood. It's also a good source of protein and fruit for those who don't have access. 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.



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

The *Banner* is published by the
Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Address: 242 E. Alvarado St.

Pomona, CA 91767

Office: 909-629-2548

Pastor Julie: 909-720-9832

Office email: office@mypomonachurch.org

Pastor Julie email;

pastorjulie@mypomonachurch.org

Rudy Amaya email:

cymc@mypomonachurch.org

Website: mypomonachurch.org

Services & Activities

Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m. in the St. Paul's Parish Hall

Sunday School

Elementary Children 9:15 am

Bible Study on Google Meet

Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Fellowship Breakfast Group

Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.

Healed & Whole Bible Study

2nd & 4th Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Julie Wheeler

Pastor

Rudy Amaya

Children/Youth Ministry Cor.

Terry Benson

Worship Music Leader

Janet Short

Moderator

Laura Lovelace

Admin. Assistant



2026 Church of the Brethren
Annual Conference
Fort Wayne, Ind.

WrapUp



Don Fitzkee, 2026 moderator, washes the feet of Dennis Beckner, 2027 moderator (at left). The dove of peace is brought into worship (at right).
Photos: Glenn Riegel

Elections and appointments

Annual Conference moderator-elect: **Amy Gall Ritchie** of Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind.

Program & Arrangements Committee: **Natasha Beaumont**, Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren, Lebanon, Pa.

Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee: **Chad Whitzel**, Easton (Md.) Church of the Brethren

Mission & Ministry Board, Area 3: **Terri Welch Luzynski**, Montezuma Church of the Brethren, Dayton, Va.; Area 5: **Gretchen Zience**, Seattle (Wash.) Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren; at large (affirmed): **Adelia A. Lucatorio**, Good Samaritan Church of the Brethren, Pa.

Bethany Seminary trustees, affirmed: **Leslie Bolser**, Richmond, Ind.; **Drew Hart**, Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren; **Keri Ladouceur**, Raleigh, N.C.; **Steve Longenecker**, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren; **Dominick Peruso**, Huntingdon, Pa.; **Jeff Sheridan**, Richmond, Ind.; **Ben Walters**, Cincinnati (Ohio) Church of the Brethren

Eder Financial board, affirmed: **Kevin Boyer**, Plymouth (Ind.) Church of the Brethren and Etna Green Church of Christ; **Eunice Culp**, West Goshen, Ind.; **Randy Yoder**, Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.

On Earth Peace board, affirmed: **Susuyu Lassa**, Troy, N.Y.; **Anesu Makufa**, Leeds, the United Kingdom; **Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred**, Spruce Creek, Pa.



Resolutions on weapons transfers, 'Walking Together' with immigrants headline agenda

Two resolutions—"Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting our Neighbors" and "Resolution on Weapons Transfer"—headed up the Conference agenda. Also on the agenda were elections, an Eder Financial report on its transition of services, and adjustments to ministerial leadership polity, among other business.

Weapons transfers: The delegates adopted the "Resolution on Weapons Transfer" with a solid majority vote.

The paper cites Matthew 5:44b-45, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you. . .," calling the church to "examine and respond to the impacts of the arms industry." Reaffirming the Church of the Brethren commitment to peace "as God's will and the call of Christ" it states "opposition to the US manufacturing and sale of weapons and urges the US government to halt the sale

of arms to other countries."

One section addresses the global impact of the US arms trade, noting that "the United States is currently the world's largest exporter of weapons." Another addresses the Church of the Brethren's historic opposition to war and the defense industry, noting stated opposition to particular types of weaponry including nuclear weapons and drones.

A closing section offers recommendations for action ranging from educating about the US arms trade and the biblical call to peacemaking, to divesting from the arms industry, to public advocacy.

The resolution was adopted by the Mission and Ministry Board in March 2025, but because of the heavy business agenda of the 2025 Annual Conference it was held over to 2026.

'Walking Together': The Mission and Ministry Board brought this resolution, which was adopted with a very strong majority.

It reiterates that "care for immigrants and refugees is an essential part of the Christian and Church of the Brethren ethic of service and peacemaking" and cites biblical foundations and Annual Conference statements. Undergirding statements show the denomination's long history of caring for immigrants and refugees and involvement with civil disobedience.

(continued on p.2)

Photos by Donna Parcell & Lauren Flora





2026 Church of the Brethren
Annual Conference
Fort Wayne, Ind.



A keynote presentation (far left) featured Angelo Mante and youth from Alive Community Outreach. The preachers (from left): moderator Don Fitzkee, Beth Jarrett, James Washington, Becky Zapata, Caleb Kragt. Photos: Glenn Riegel & Keith Hollenberg

(continued from page 1)

Noting that “Church of the Brethren history and traditions include radical discipleship, conscientious objection, and participation in civil disobedience,” the resolution indicates that in addition to serving the needs of immigrants and refugees, and doing advocacy on their behalf, more may be needed.

The resolution states, “In cases where government policies are unjust or conflict with biblical teachings, the Church of the Brethren has supported individuals to follow their conscience and in some cases, has encouraged open, nonviolent civil disobedience to such laws.”

A list of calls to action is included for individuals, congregations, districts, and the denomination. In addition, a landing page of resources to help individuals, small groups, and congregations study the resolution and concerns surrounding it is at the webpage www.brethren.org/walking-together.

Eder Financial transition: Eder Financial presented the decision and the process for moving employee retirement and organizational investing services to Everence Financial.

The move will take some months but will leave Eder with only ancillary insurance services and benevolence programs. Most of the Eder staff will lose their jobs. But because Everence is a much larger organization, pensions and investments will be well cared for, the delegates were

assured. When the Eder board and leadership realized that the demographics of the church made long-term operations precarious, they began looking for new partners and Everence was a good fit.

Everence, previously named Mennonite Mutual Aid, has grown to serve more than 84,000 clients from many historic peace church denominations and others, and is no longer an agency of the Mennonite Church. For years, the Church of the Brethren Pastor’s Housing Fund has been administered by Praxis, a part of Everence. Consistent with shared Anabaptist roots, Everence follows similar investing values as Eder.

The transition should be completed by April 2027. The Eder board has stated its intention to bring a plan for Eder to continue as an Annual Conference agency, and the Standing Committee of district delegates has named a subcommittee to help work on a new agency covenant.

The Eder staff were recognized as the Conference acknowledged that this marks the end of an era for Eder and its predecessor organizations, which have served the Church of the Brethren for 83 years.

Adjustments to ministry leadership polity: Two adjustments to a 2014 Ministry Leadership paper were approved with the two-thirds majority required for polity. One pertains to licensed and the other to commissioned ministers.

One adjustment defines licensing as a

“provisional credential.” This is important because many states require ministers to be “credentialed” to be able to perform weddings. The change also grants more flexibility for the length of licensing being extended beyond 10 years.

The second adjustment simplifies the process for a commissioned minister to seek ordination. In Church of the Brethren polity, a commissioned minister is credentialed to serve in a particular congregation or geographical location. An ordained minister may serve any church across the denomination.

Review and Evaluation Committee:

The Church of the Brethren has undertaken a periodic review every decade to evaluate the denomination’s organizational structures and procedures, with a committee assigned to bring recommendations to Annual Conference for possible changes. This decade’s Review and Evaluation Committee, elected in 2025, presented its first interim report.

The committee is seeking feedback from various groups in the church. Districts may contact the committee to set up meetings. Individuals may email reviewandevaluation@brethren.org.

For more: www.brethren.org/news/coverage/ac2026. The Press Team: Jan Fischer Bachman, Lauren Flora, Keith Hollenberg, Daniel Murrell II, Russ Otto, Donna Parcell, Frank Ramirez, Alane Riegel, Glenn Riegel, Frances Townsend, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford editor.

By the numbers

1,675 people registered including 389 delegates and 1,133 nondelegates onsite plus 153 virtual attendees

1 fellowship was welcomed:

- **Iglesia Cristiana Elohim** in Las Vegas, Nev., Pacific Southwest District

1 new church project was welcomed:

- **The Sanctuary** in rural Indiana, Northern Indiana District

\$54,458.29 total offerings:

- **\$13,605.63** for the **Witness to the Host City** to benefit Alive Community Outreach, with an additional **4 pallets** of material goods donated

- **\$24,334.64** for **Annual Conference** including \$14,268.05 in support of Annual Conference operations and \$10,066.59 for children and youth programming

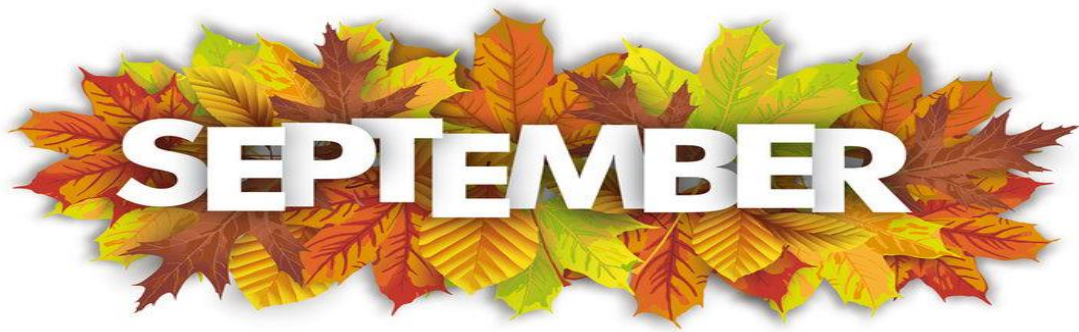
- **\$16,518.02** for the **Core Ministries of the**

Church of the Brethren including \$9,409.70 received in an offering focused on Global Mission and \$7,108.32 in an offering focused on Discipleship and Leadership Formation

\$14,759 raised by the Silent Auction to undergird the operating budget of Annual Conference

110 units collected by the Blood Drive

4.2 percent increase in cost of living adjustment to minimum cash salary table for pastors



SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

		1 Service & Outreach 9:30am Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	2 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	3	4 Public Witness 4:30pm	5
6	7	8 Stewards 3:00pm Music & Worship 6:30pm Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	9 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am Healed & Whole 7:00pm	10	11 Public Witness 4:30pm	12
13	14	15 Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	16 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	17 Church Board 6:30pm	18 Public Witness 4:30pm	19 Church Workday 9:00am
20	21	22 Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	23 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am Healed & Whole 7:00pm	24	25 Public Witness 4:30pm	26
27	28	29 Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	30 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am			