



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!

July 2022

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 48, No. 7

From Our Pastor...

For the first time since 2019, this July the Church of the Brethren is gathering for our Annual Conference.

For over 250 years, the faith community that have called themselves “Brethren” have gathered regularly together to worship together, to discern questions of faith, and to be reacquainted with believers from across the country. The first official meeting of this type was in 1742 when Brethren met to reaffirm their unique identity. It was called, at the time, the “Big Meeting.”

At Annual Conferences, Brethren have dealt with many practical questions of what it means to live out our faith. We have worked through many public issues such as war, death penalty, abortion, and environmental issues. And Annual Conferences have helped foster and develop the unique perspective of the Church of the Brethren.

Today, the Annual Conference is the highest and final legislative authority in the Church of the Brethren, including all matters of procedure, program, polity, and discipline. It is held annually in different geographical locations, chosen to bring the annual meeting into every area of the United States where Brethren have congregations. The authority of Conference has its source in the delegates elected by local congregations and districts, who come together as a deliberative body under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The voting body consists of two sets of delegates – those representing local congregations, and those from church districts, who also serve as the Standing Committee.

Annual Conference is not simply about business though: daily worship, concerts, equipping workshops, educational exhibits, meals, and time for fellowship are all valuable parts of this gathering as well.

After Annual Conference was cancelled in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and then held completely virtually in 2021, this year the Church of the Brethren is excited to gather in person once more, this time in Omaha, Nebraska on July 10-14. Paul Lovelace is serving as Pomona Fellowship COB’s delegate, and he has already done a great job educating himself and the congregation on the major items of business this year. Thank you Paul for prayerfully preparing for your time in Omaha and we look forward to your report when you return!

With you in gratitude,
Pastor Lauren

*Information about Annual Conference, past and present, can be found at <https://www.brethren.org/ac> *



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

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 – July

- July 3 Iglesia Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)
- July 10 The COB as it gathers for Annual Conference in Omaha this week
- July 17 Iglesia Cristiana Elohim (Las Vegas church project)
- July 24 Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren (Scottsdale, AZ)
- July 31 Iglesia Cristo Sion (Glendora)

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION
Through May 2022**

2022 Annual Budget	\$196,085.00
Giving '22	\$42,820.00
Interest & Other Income '22	\$53,415.33
Total Budget Income thru May	\$96,235.33
Total Budget Expense thru May	\$(78,855.60)
Budget Balance thru May	\$17,379.73
May Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$185.00
COB Pentecost Offering	\$25.00
Pennies – Women’s Fellowship	\$99.00
Capital Fund	\$60.00



BIRTHDAYS

- 2) Guila Ladwig
- 3) Jamie Herndon
- 4) Candace Cook
- 7) Ryan Deal
- 9) Rob McKellip
- 15) Ezekiel Uranga
 Leo Cohen
- 22) Kelley Ladwig
- 23) Linda Hart

ANNIVERSARIES

- 11) Richard & Natashua Uranga 2010

July Worship Schedule

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

- July 3**, in-person at St. Paul’s, guest speaker Julie Wheeler
- July 10**, ZOOM worship, Jerry Davis preaching
- July 17**, in-person at St. Paul’s
- July 24**, ZOOM worship
- July 31**, ZOOM worship

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

No meetings until August

Banner articles are due on June 20

FROM SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphasis for **July is Beans and Tomato products**. As always, staple items are always needed and welcome.



Our giving emphasis for July is
Camp La Verne.

From PFCOB Service and Outreach Commission ...

Each month the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren Service and Outreach Commission recommends money and food giving opportunities in addition to our regular pledges to our church. For July, 2022, the recommended money opportunity is Camp La Verne, and the recommended food opportunity is placing beans of any kind and tomato products in the Inland Valley Hope Partners food wagon at St. Paul's church when we meet for Sunday service there.

Camp La Verne was started by the Church of the Brethren in 1924. Six generations of Church of the Brethren campers have nostalgic memories of rustic, mountain-top good times there. Camp La Verne continues to be relevant to our Pomona Fellowship because our children and grandchildren go to camp there. Its lodge, cabins, amphitheater, lake, stream and trails a wonderful mix of bible study, physical and social activities and interaction with people from other churches.

Inland Valley Hope Partners brings together faith communities, businesses, individual and community groups, and ensures the empowerment of people in need by providing food, shelter and supportive services.

Pastor Lauren's Schedule:

Pastor Lauren, Jason, and Leo will be traveling for a vacation to the East Coast. She will be out of the office June 27-July 6. Please pray for safety during this much anticipated trip to see family and friends in Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Please contact Richard Hart, chair of the Deacons, for any pastoral care needs during this time.



Pastor Lauren, Jason, and Leo want to say Thank You to the congregation for encouraging their participation in the Pacific Southwest District's Pastor, Spouse, & Family retreat. The retreat took place at Asilomar

Conference Center near Monterey. This was the first year that this annual retreat for pastors was family-friendly, and there were 11 children present between the ages of 11 months and 17 years! It was also Leo's first time seeing the ocean. Thank you again.



Join us for our summer worship series, **Summer Road Trip: A Spiritual Journey Through Scripture and Our National Parks**. Beginning July 17, the series will be inspired by the devotional book, America's Holy Ground by Brad Lyons and Bruce Barkhauer. You are also welcome to purchase the book and read along if you'd like! If purchasing poses a financial hardship, contact the office and we can make one available to you.



God's hands

Exactly a century ago, Irish physician Alexander Irvine published *My Lady of the Chimney Corner*, a book dedicated to his saintly mother. The protagonist, Anna, lives and ministers to others as Irvine's own mother had done.

In the story, Anna visits a neighbor who has just lost a son at sea. After talking for a while, Anna suggests they pray together. With heads bowed, she reaches to place a loving hand on the grieving mother's forehead. Afterward, the woman says, "I think I felt his touch upon my brow," referring to God.

Anna says, "God is everywhere looking for hands to use. Sometimes he takes the hand of a doctor and uses it in healing. Sometimes he takes the hand of a mother to soothe the brow of a fevered child. And sometimes he takes the hand of an old critter like me to bring a bit of help and comfort to a neighbor. But they are all God's hands, and God is everywhere looking for hands to use."

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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.

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.)