



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!

May 2026

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 53 No. 05

From Pastor Julie

Author and civil rights activist Grace Lee Boggs (1915–2015) wrote about the power of collective commitment:

When people come together voluntarily to create their own vision, they begin wishing it to come into being with such passion that they begin creating an active path leading to it from the present. The spirit and the way to make the spirit live coalesce. Instead of seeing ourselves only as victims, we begin to see ourselves as

part of the continuing struggle of human beings, not only to survive but to evolve into more *human*, human beings.

I just drove up to Modesto, taking the 99 fwy. for miles and miles. Driving up, one can see the importance of this area for our food supply. I saw signs asking for help with water for crops. Farmers are coming together to advocate for affordable water. We want them to get that water, so our produce stays reasonably priced! I said a little prayer for them as I passed.

I saw signs for new leaders trying to get into political leadership. I pray that these leaders have the Spirit of the living God in them. I hope these leaders, as Boggs said, want to see their community evolve into something of beauty and service that furthers the endeavors of good people.

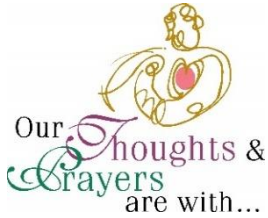
I said a little prayer for them as I passed.

Then my thoughts moved to our little church. We, too, are hoping to become more passionate and visionary as we grow into what we are supposed to be for our community.

I said a little prayer for us and hope you will join me in praying that God's hand blesses us and guides us in our steps forward.

What more could we ask for?

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 & Messiah Brim.**

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION
Through March 2026**

2026 Annual Budget	\$288,409.00
Total Budget Income thru Feb.	\$20,555.88
Giving 2026	\$14,829.56
Interest & Other Income	\$5,726.32
Total Budget Expense thru Feb.	-\$58,398.96
Budget Balance thru Jan.	(\$37,843.08)
March Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners - BBETA	\$60.00
Women's Fellowship – FINCA	\$24.00
Messenger	\$29.00

Upcoming Meetings

Church Board:
Thursday, May 21, 6:30 pm

Executive Committee:
As Needed

Music & Worship:
Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 pm

Service & Outreach:
Tuesday, May 5, 10:30 am

Stewards:
Tuesday, May 19, 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

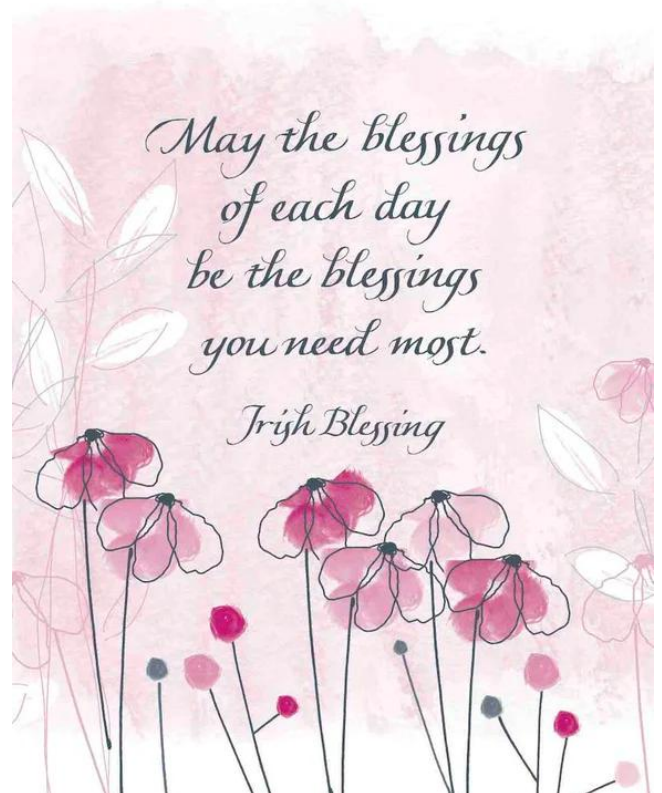
Every Wednesday at 8:00 am. in the Hillcrest Dining Room. Contact Mary Hines, 909-418-4654 for details.

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.

Prayers 4 Pomona

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





Birthdays

Peggy Redman on the 6th.

Bill Lemon on the 7th.

Rochelle Lovelace on the 10th.

Casey Deal on the 10th.

Avery Decker on the 20th.

Ben Sankey on the 20th.

Kathy Gilbert on the 21st.

Ruth Lindhorst on the 21st.

Cody Smith on the 22nd.

Samuel McKellip on the 28th.

Shirley Ness on the 28th.

Anniversaries

Paul & Linda Lovelace on the 22nd.

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 May

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphases for May are **canned vegetables and rice**. Rice, egg and seaweed is a go-to breakfast that's inexpensive, filling and delish. Rice is an important food in many cultures as a side or base of a meal. Using canned vegetables and leftover rice to make fried rice is one way to make a filling, inexpensive meal. Flour and other basic baking ingredients can help stack 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 June 20th**

The *Banner* is published by the
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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.
Janet Short	Moderator
Laura Lovelace	Admin. Assistant

IAF statement calls on ‘Spirit of Power and Love’

The Inter-Agency Forum meeting in Florida on Jan. 27 issued the statement “A Spirit of Power and Love” on immigration enforcement and political violence and their effects on church members. The IAF includes the Annual Conference officers and other denominational leaders.

The statement cited scripture and Brethren heritage to address concern about “the terror and disorientation that many of our churches and communities are experiencing” and “the health of our common life together.”

“At this writing, 21 members of the Church of the Brethren have been detained or deported,” it said, in part. “People in the United States are losing their lives in detention and in public, at the hands of the authorities. We write now to members of the Church to remind all of us: In the face of brutal immigration enforcement, misinformation, and political violence, ‘God did not give us a spirit of timidity but one of power, love, and self-discipline’ (2 Timothy 1:7, ISV)... When the military is asked to serve as a police force, when trusted institutions become politicized, when the integrity of elec-

tions is questioned or attacked, and when misinformation flows from official voices, we sense patterns that trouble the spirit and strain the fabric of our lives together as a country.”

Find the full text at www.brethren.org/news/2026/spirit-of-power-and-love-statement.



Founa Badet (at microphone), director of Intercultural Ministries was among leaders of a press conference and prayer service calling for the extension of TPS for Haitians.

District executives make intercultural connections

The Council of District Executives held winter meetings on Jan. 28-Feb. 1 in Miami, Fla., combining business sessions with intercultural continuing education that connected with local congregations.

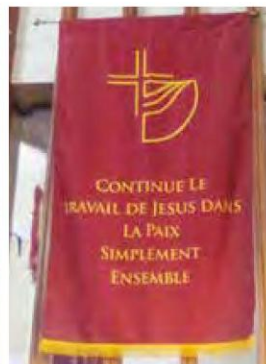
CODE and several agency representatives spent time at Miami Haitian Church of the Brethren and other area congregations (Miami First, Tabernacle of the Restoration, and Unify Christian). The time included a conversation with

Intercultural Ministries director Founa Badet and Deportation Defense Response staff Vildor Archange, Bible studies on Acts 2 shared through the lenses of different cultures and languages, and attendance at the Atlantic Southeast Multicultural Festival.

In their business sessions, CODE received various reports from Annual Conference and its agencies, the Deportation Defense Response Team, and the Annual Conference Review

and Evaluation Committee, among others. The group held conversations with the Ministry Advisory Council on possible updates to the 2014 Ministerial Leadership paper and with the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee on potential revisions to denominational sabbath renewal guidelines. Bethany Seminary president Jeff Carter led a combined session with the Inter-Agency Forum on “Creating a Culture of Calling.” Another combined session with IAF explored the “New Table” process being developed by CODE and the Annual Conference agencies.

Prayers were raised for the impending end of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian immigrants, a move that was later stayed by a federal judge.



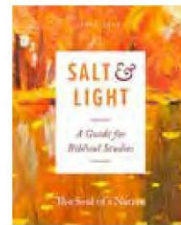
While in Florida, district executives and other denominational leaders joined in Atlantic Southeast District’s first Multicultural Festival.

Church joins amici curiae brief in Supreme Court

On Feb. 17, the Church of the Brethren joined 30 other faith organizations in an amici curiae brief in the Supreme Court in support of the plaintiffs in *Noem v. Al Otro Lado*, No. 25-5. The case challenges the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) authority to prevent individuals from filing for asylum at ports of entry into the US.

Plaintiffs challenged a DHS interpretation of 8 U.S.C 1158(a)(1) that states that “[a]ny alien who is physically present in the United States or who arrives in the United States... may apply for asylum.” DHS has interpreted the language “arrives in the United States” to mean that the individual must step across the border. Under that interpretation, an individual stopped right at the border is not eligible to apply for asylum.

Brethren Press, MennoMedia curriculum partnership



Salt & Light: A Guide for Biblical Studies is a new quarterly Bible study curriculum for adults produced jointly by Brethren Press and MennoMedia. It blends *A Guide for Biblical Studies* published by Brethren Press and *Salt & Light* published by MennoMedia.

Building on decades of partnership between the two publishing houses, the curriculum will be written by Church of the Brethren and Mennonite biblical scholars, pastors, and educators. A Spanish-language edition will be available in digital form. To be released quarterly beginning this fall, the curriculum will be available at www.brethrenpress.com.

Discussions begin between Eder Financial and Everence®

Eder Financial has entered into discussions with Everence® (formerly known as Mennonite Mutual Aid) to explore how the two agencies can build on a shared commitment to better serve individuals, organizations, and congregations. “Eder and Everence have come to these discussions grounded in a shared foundation of faith, values, mission, and heritage,” Eder announced.

Personnel

Wendy McFadden has announced her retirement as publisher of Brethren Press and executive director of Communications for the Church of the Brethren, after almost 45 years of work for the denomination. She started in October 1981 as managing editor of *MESSENGER* and director of News Services. Her many accomplishments have included guiding Brethren Press through the struggles that have faced all small faith-based publishers; supporting *MESSENGER* and its several editors, culminating in 2016 in her creation of an editorial team on which she is an active member; creating the Church of the Brethren annual report in its various forms including written, pictorial, video, and display; serving on committees that developed the Church of the Brethren logo and denominational tag-lines; representing the Church of the Brethren at national and international ecumenical bodies and events, most recently Christian Churches Together; leading collaborations with the Mennonite publishing house including the major children’s Sunday

school curricula Jubilee, Gather ‘Round, and Shine. She led Brethren Press’s publication of the 300th anniversary devotional *Fresh from the Word* as well as new iterations of the *Inglenook Cookbook*. She will retire on July 31.

Nancy Sollenberger Heishman retires July 17 as director of the Ministry Office, a position she has held since Nov. 6, 2017. During her tenure, she facilitated search processes for district executives for most of the 23 districts; worked with the Council of District Executives in reviewing policy and polity; worked with the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee on pastoral compensation practices; oversaw the ethics training for credentialed ministers that takes place every five years; sponsored and helped plan the Clergywomen’s Retreats; and more. The Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church program supporting multi-vocational pastors was made possible by her work to acquire and oversee grants from Lilly Foundation Inc. She is a previous coordinator of the Spanish-

Language Ministry Training Programs of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership and a past mission co-coordinator in the Dominican Republic. In 2014, she was moderator of Annual Conference.

Gene Hollenberg retires at the end of 2026 as executive director of Camp Mack in Milford, Ind. He has served in the position for almost 10 years, since September 2016. His tenure included accomplishments such as facility improvements, new programs and staff, successful completion of a capital campaign, and successful pursuit of multiple grants.

Kelly Rumpf has been hired as director of camps and the Global Village at Shepherd’s Spring in Mid-Atlantic District. She and her husband, Danny, are ministry fellows at Grossnickle Church of the Brethren.

Preston Killough started Feb. 4 as an intern in the Brethren Historical Library and Archives at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. He also is an intern at the Lombard (Ill.) Historical Society.



Post this page

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31 Familiar Stranger						

