

# 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!

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December 2021

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 47, No. 12

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## From Our Pastor...

As the calendar inches closer and closer to December, as the sun creeps lower and lower in the sky, as the days grow shorter and shorter... we know that the season of Advent is fast approaching. Advent is the season when we prepare our hearts for the birth of the child Jesus. But the weekly lectionary readings this time of the year are often filled with prophecy and apocalyptic texts, reminding us that there is a second Advent we are also preparing for: the return of Jesus to redeem the world. These biblical readings, paired with the darker and colder days, can make Advent feel less celebratory and more foreboding. And for any of us who have lost loved ones, this season that emphasizes family and friends can also end up feeling painful, if not simply bittersweet. The darkness of Advent approaches, and that darkness might be difficult to travel through.

I recently came across this poem by Jan Richardson, and I share it with you in the hopes that if you are wrestling with shadows this Advent, you might find hope and peace in these words.

With you in the dark,  
Pastor Lauren

### A Blessing for Traveling in the Dark

Go slow  
if you can.  
Slower.  
More slowly still.  
Friendly dark  
or fearsome,  
this is no place  
to break your neck  
by rushing,  
by running,  
by crashing into  
what you cannot see.  
Then again,  
it is true:  
different darks  
have different tasks,  
and if you  
have arrived here unawares,  
if you have come  
in peril  
or in pain,  
this might be no place  
you should dawdle.

I do not know  
what these shadows  
ask of you,  
what they might hold  
that means you good  
or ill.  
It is not for me  
to reckon  
whether you should linger  
or you should leave.  
But this is what  
I can ask for you:  
That in the darkness  
there be a blessing.  
That in the shadows  
there be a welcome.  
That in the night  
you be encompassed  
by the Love that knows  
your name.  
—Jan Richardson



...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**

<u>District Prayer Calendar – December</u>	
Dec. 5	On Earth Peace (a COB Agency) which works for peace and justice
Dec. 12	That your church might be a place of hope, peace, love, and joy
Dec. 19	Those who are without a home as we move into winter
Dec. 26	“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.”

<b>PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION</b> Through October 2021	
<b>2021 Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$220,891.00</b>
Giving '21	\$85,821.71
Interest & Other Income '21	\$23,603.07
<b>Total Budget Income thru Oct.</b>	<b>\$109,424.78</b>
Total Budget Expense thru Oct.	\$(134,576.78)
Plus Budget overage from 2020	\$4,224.32
<b>Budget Balance thru October</b>	<b>\$(20,927.68)</b>
October Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Capital Fund	\$195.00
COB Missions Offering – Haiti	\$525.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$115.00



**BIRTHDAYS**

- 17) Jerry Davis
- 18) Sarah Mundy
- 19) Virgil Pletcher
- 24) JoAnn Mills
- 24) Dana Smith

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 12) Cody & Dana Smith 2009

**December Worship Schedule**

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

**December 5**, in-person at St. Paul’s,  
Second Sunday of Advent followed by  
Joint Fellowship Time with St Paul’s at  
11:15 a.m.

**December 12**, ZOOM worship  
Third Sunday of Advent

**December 19**, in-person at St. Paul’s,  
Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Please note that*

**December 26**, will also be IN PERSON at St. Paul’s.

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 Meetings over Zoom

**Executive Committee**, Thursday, December 2,  
6:30 p.m.

**Stewards**, Tuesday, December 7, 6:30 p.m.

**Service & Outreach**, Wednesday, December 8,  
10:00 a.m.

**Music & Worship**, Thursday, December 9,  
11:00 a.m.

**Church Board**, Thursday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.  
*Banner* articles are due on December 20

The *Banner* is published by the  
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**Website: [MyPomonaChurch.org](http://MyPomonaChurch.org)**

### Services & Activities

Sunday Worship Sunday, 10:00 a.m.  
(1st & 3<sup>rd</sup> in-person  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> over Zoom)

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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## **Adopt a Family**

For Christmas 2021, Pomona Fellowship Church is again participating in the "Adopt a Family" program through the Pilgrim Congregational Church in Pomona. We have been granted the opportunity to purchase gifts for a family of 5, a mom and 5 children. The children range in age from 8 months to 12 years. So we need 5 volunteers to buy gifts for these 5 people. Any of us who don't get a chance to buy clothes or toys can donate money to our Pomona Fellowship church and these money gifts will be used for a family gift card at Walmart. Pilgrim Church is buying food for all the families so we won't be bringing in food for this family, but we can still donate food to be taken to the Beta Food Center of Inland Valley Hope Partners to be distributed to the hungry in Pomona. Merry Christmas everyone in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ.

## **Advent 2021**

### **Worship & Social Events**

## **Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren**

**November 28** - First Sunday of Advent

Zoom Worship

Blessing of the Blankets

**December 5** - Second Sunday of Advent

In-Person Worship: Joint Advent Wreath Lighting with St. Paul's

Cookie Exchange after worship

Hosting Joint Fellowship Time with St. Paul's

**December 12** - Third Sunday of Advent

Zoom Worship

Virtual Caroling after worship with our cookies

**Monday, December 13** - Christmas Caroling at Hillcrest. 3:30-5:00 p.m.

**December 19** - Fourth Sunday of Advent

In-Person Worship: Joint Advent Wreath Lighting with St. Paul's

Chili Cook-Off with St. Paul's after worship

**December 24** - Christmas Eve

You are encouraged to consider attending a service at either La Verne COB or St. Paul's, both at 9:00pm

**December 26** - First Sunday of Christmas

In-Person Worship (not Zoom!)

Also: Consider bringing a small creche from your home to decorate our in-person worship centers! See Linda H. or Peggy for more information.

"If you want to experience the true meaning of Christmas, give something to someone who can offer nothing in return." — Toni Sorenson

## Christmas giving opportunities from Service and Outreach

### Christmas Card Tree Display and Giving

Post your Christmas Card to the church members on the Christmas Card Tree Board for all of us to share and enjoy. Put any money you saved in postage into the container by the board, the money given this way will go to the Newcomers Access Center.

### Heifer

To order any of these items, for more information, or to see their catalog go to the web site at "Heifer.org/Catalog."

To send by mail, send your order, credit card information or check to "Heifer International, PO Box 6021, Albert Lea, MN 56007-6621". Or call TOLL FREE 855-848-6437.

Food basket	\$20.00
A flock of chicks	\$20.00
A hive of bees	\$30.00
Hope Basket(chicks and rabbits)	\$50.00
Trees and garden seeds	\$60.00
A goat	\$120.00
A woolly sheep	\$120.00
An Alpaca	\$150.00
A water buffalo	\$250.00
A Heifer	\$500.00
Send a girl to school	\$275.00

This is a program that gives families with young girls gifts of livestock and training so parents are able to send their daughters to school.

### Inland Valley Hope Partners

IVHP runs our local food pantry, local services for the homeless, and other local services. Your gift can be sent through the church or bring food to church to be delivered to the food bank.

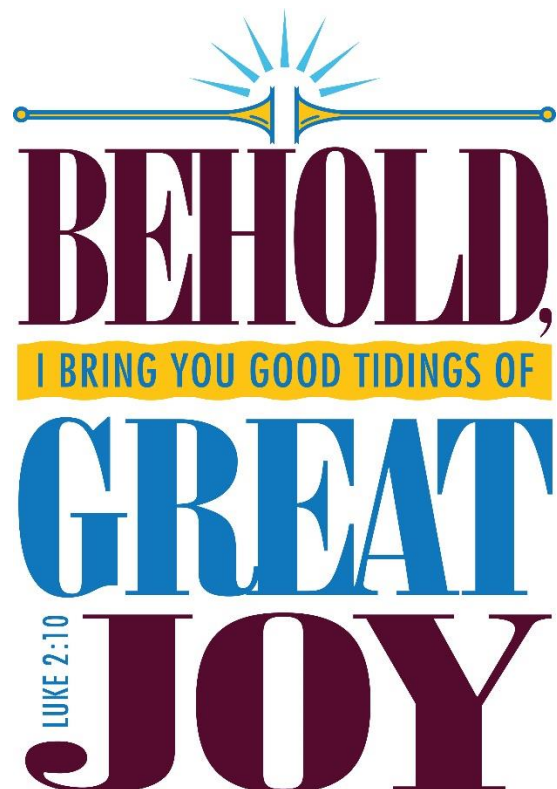
### Newcomers Access Center

This agency helps those refugees who are new to our area. They provide food, housing, clothing, and guidance. Now most of the refugees are from Afghanistan and come with very little. This year our Christmas Card Tree fund will go to this group.



### PSWD Volunteer Weeks in 2022 with Brethren Disaster Ministries

Each year our district sends a team of up to 15 volunteers who work for two weeks in a place of need rebuilding homes and lives following natural disasters. In 2022 the PSWD weeks are April 24 through May 7, and the location of service is as yet unknown. Travel expenses are covered by the District, and lodging and meals on site are provided. If you are interested in volunteering in 2022, contact Lindy & Lois Frantz, PSWD Disaster Coordinators, at [lfrantz667@aol.com](mailto:lfrantz667@aol.com).



# Help Refugees & Immigrants

by Donating to Acts Thrift Store

Donate unwanted items to ACTS with this flyer, and give refugee families get credit to shop.



## Win Win

Did you know that you can help refugees and immigrants in our community just by donating your unwanted items to ACTS?

Simply tape this notice to your donation and ACTS Thrift Store will credit Newcomers Access Center (NAC), a local non-profit that helps refugee and immigrant families in the Inland Valley Area.

The credit you provide will be used by NAC client families to shop at ACTS for household items, clothes, furniture and other things.

It's a win-win for everyone. You clean up clutter, and because NAC is a nonprofit, you keep your tax credit for the donation. They get to shop for exactly what they need.

Thank you for helping newcomer families in our community!

### ACTS Thrift Store

32 E Foothill Blvd Pomona, CA  
actsthrift.org  
909-491-3199

*Tape this notice to your donation bags or boxes.*

Please Credit  
**Newcomers  
Access Center**  
with this donation.

To share or print more copies of this notice,  
visit [newcomersaccesscenter.org](http://newcomersaccesscenter.org).



### Newcomers Access Center (NAC)

Serving Refugees and Immigrants in the Community  
401 North Gibbs Street, Pomona, CA 91767  
909-455-3248 [newcomersaccesscenter.org](http://newcomersaccesscenter.org)