

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!

November 2023

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 49, No. 9

What a world!

War in Palestine. War in Ukraine. And these are just the two that get the most press.

Violence rages in many parts of our world.

Climate change is driving extreme weather like the category 5 hurricane that just hit the west coast of Mexico. It is also slowly, or not so slowly, changing the ice caps and the sea level. Many animals are suffering because of these environmental changes.

Extinctions are likely. People are suffering as drought and animal losses are causing famine while, at the same time, low lying lands are inundated by the rising sea level.

We finally have a new speaker of the house in congress. Will that end the disfunction or is the difficulty of the process only an indicator of the difficulty to come. The current political environment seems to be driven by the most extreme ends of the system rather than the more moderate majority. Can the system pull together or will the apparent polarization deepen.

I could go on with economic and medical issues but isn't this enough? What are we supposed to do with all these pressures that weigh on our minds and hearts? What are we supposed to do, as Christians, in this time and place?

Job one is to see each other as Jesus sees us. We are each on a journey that starts from a different place and we each see the world through different eyes. We each react to the pressures above in our own way. As the church we are called to be here for each other. Compassion demands that we truly hear each other and try to understand each other. As we comfort and strengthen each other it is important to not only hear but to share our own fears and our own beliefs. This sharing is not an argument designed to change the other person's beliefs but a sharing of our own vulnerability and need for comfort and strength.

I encourage you to be able to include Biblical references for how you feel but to remember not to use the Bible as a weapon to pound someone else into the shape of your understanding and belief. It is our work to share how scripture shapes us, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit to use scripture to change someone else. It is our work to show each other the compassion and grace Jesus has shown us. It is our work to love each other as Jesus has loved us.

Paul Lovelace



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
John Nelson

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through September 2023	
2023 Annual Budget	\$193,255.00
Total Budget Income thru September	\$120,145.46
Giving '23	\$73,461.00
Interest & Other Income '23	\$46,684.46
Total Budget Expense thru September	\$(104,173.31)
Budget Balance thru August	\$30,228.68
August Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$155.00
Newcomers Access Center	\$200.00

September Worship Schedule

November 5, Paul Lovelace is preaching
November 12, Julie Wheeler is preaching
November 19, Jerry Davis is preaching (Love Feast)
November 26, Peggy Redman is preaching

Upcoming Meetings

CBM, Sunday Nov. 5th after worship
Stewards, Tuesday Nov. 7th at 3:30pm
Music & Worship, Wednesday Nov. 8th at 11:00am
Service & Outreach, Tuesday Nov. 14th at 9:30am
Church Board, Thursday Nov. 16th at 6:30pm

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY!



Thanksgiving is November 23. May you have a beautiful Thanksgiving full of warmth and Joy



Birthdays

Yvonne Belcher on the 3rd
 Crystal Cook on the 9th
 Richard Hart on the 17th
 John Short on the 20th
 Bruce Hemsworth on the 21st
 Heather Brasil on the 28th
 Judy Lotton on the 28th

Anniversaries

George & Jan Spicer on the 2nd
 Bobbie & Bruce Hemsworth on the 5th
 Gary & Leslie Deal on the 10th
 Don & Sharon Overholser on the 19th
 Frank & Shirley Ness on the 25th

Service and Outreach News



Giving Emphases for the Month

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphasis for **November is Thanksgiving Foods**. For all canned food please provide Pop-Top cans. As always, staple items are always needed and welcome.



Our giving emphasis for IVHP, Inland Valley Hope Partners, with money for Thanksgiving Foods.

Inland Valley Hope Partners, IVHP, has been serving San Bernardino and East Los Angeles Counties since 1968 with the mission of bringing together faith communities, businesses, individuals, and community groups, and ensuring the empowerment of people in need by providing food, shelter, and supportive services. They are currently serving about 70,000 families who have no income, very low income, or low income with the programs they run. Their current programs are Food Security, Housing, and Healthy Living. IVHP believes; in the worth and dignity of every person, that God calls us to serve one another, In empowering people, In the value of working together, and that We are all connected in the human family. If you would like to learn more about Inland Valley Hope Partners or volunteer, or get in contact with them please visit their website inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

Getting to know the non-profits we support

New Community Project

New Community Project (NCP), a non-profit group led by David Radcliff is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. For an organization that is dedicated to making this a better world by their stated goal of “changing the world” it might be interesting to see some of the things that this little group has accomplished. Their approach has taken three directions.

1. Education. David has made over 1900 presentations in schools and colleges, some 350 in camps and other gatherings. Two sites teach regenerative agriculture and everything related to that. Since 2015 the location in VT has given their community over 20 tons of food plus 4300 meals and many other services.
2. Learning tours. 78 groups, averaging 10 or more have had the opportunity to visit new places, actually meet people and hear their stories and concerns.
3. Give a Girl a Chance program that educates girls and empowers women Working with other organizations 7700 scholarships have

been given, plus many thousand more hygienic materials, 200 bicycles and some school supplies. 795 women have been given micro loans and over 19,500 have received vocational training. Special campaigns for large items. like building a girl’s school totaled \$219,250. Their newsletter is available for a more detailed report. May they continue to to make the world a better place.

Written by Phyllis Eller

Banner articles are due by November 21st

The *Banner* is published by the
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Services & Activities

Sunday Worship at St. Paul’s Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study over Google Meet Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.

Paul Lovelace
Laura Lovelace

Moderator
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.

November

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Paul Lovelace Preaching CBM After Worship	6	7 Stewards 3:30pm	8 Music & Worship 11:00am	9	10	11
12 Julie Wheeler Preaching	13	14 Service & Outreach 9:30am	15	16 Church Board 6:30pm	17	18
19 Jerry Davis Preaching Love Feast	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving (office c	24	25
26 Peggy Redman Preaching	27	28	29	30		