



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 2025

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 52 No. 05

From the Pastor

I sit down to write this Banner with a heavy heart.

With Easter's good news billowing in my sails, with Spring and Mother's Day filling me with hope and joy, I still feel low.

Yesterday, the immigration coalition was faced with a raid on day laborers in the Pomona Home Depot. Many of my friends and colleagues were activated into all-day motion.

Questions arise:

Where were they taken? How many? What to do with their cars left in the parking lot? What to do with their families, sad and broken?

While they convened and provided a press conference, another group of us presented a call for support from our Pomona Mayor, City Manager and a council member.

My despondent heart says, "Nothing we do can keep them safe."

But the Kingdom says, "Do not fear."

Can I trust that?

I will see my friends tonight where we will comfort one another, plan for another day, and be beloved community together.

I yearn for our fellowship.

Meanwhile, I seek solace in ancient, mystic words.

I leave you with the gorgeous, hopeful words of Hildegard of Bingen:

I am the one who's praise

Echoes on high.

I adorn all the earth.

I am the breeze
That nurtures all things green.
I encourage blossoms to flourish with ripening fruits.

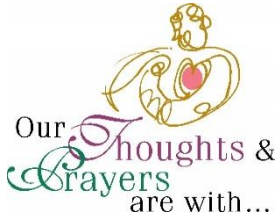
I am led by the spirit to feed
The purist streams.

I am the rain
Coming from the dew
That causes the grasses to laugh
With the joy of life.

I call forth tears,
The aroma of holy work.

I am the yearning for good.

-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, Norma Lovelace, Messiah Brim, Virgil Pletcher and family.

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION
Through March 2025**

2025 Annual Budget	\$232,522.00
Total Budget Income thru March	\$41,940.63
Giving 2025	\$20,360.00
Interest & Other Income	\$21,580.63
Total Budget Expense thru March	\$(54,353.38)
Budget Balance thru March	\$(12,412.75)
January Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$55.00
Capital Fund	\$1,200

Upcoming Meetings

Church Board:

Thursday, May 15th, at 6:30 pm

Executive Committee:

Scheduled as needed

Music & Worship:

Tuesday, May 13th, at 6:30 pm

Service & Outreach:

Tuesday, May 13th, at 9:30 am

Stewards:

Tuesday, May 20th, at 3:00 pm

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

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

Preaching Schedule

May 4th: Dr. Zane Yi Preaching

May 11th: Women of the 1st & 2nd Testaments

May 18th: Women of the 1st & 2nd Testaments

May 25th: Jerry Davis Preaching



Birthdays

Jakeh Landrum on the 6th.

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.

Kathy Gilbert on the 21st.

Cody Smith on the 22nd.

Winter Dellenback on the 22nd.

Samuel McKellip on the 28th.

Shirley Ness on the 28th.

Anniversaries

Paul & Linda Lovelace on the 22nd.

Giving Emphases 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**. Canned

Vegetables are great for making a bean salad or creating a wrap. They're also a wonderful addition to pasta, rice, or beans. Rice with butter or coconut

or anything is a filling simple meal that can be

catered to your taste 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.



"Dress A Girl" Sewing Party

"Dress-a-Girl," is a program where folks come together to cut & sew dresses for orphaned girls in other countries. The dress may be the only new item of clothing they have ever owned. This would be a good time to invite people who would like to learn to sew as well. All levels of skill are encouraged to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to create community and friendship with the folks from St. Paul's.

Upcoming Sewing Dates

May 3rd, 9:00am – 12:00pm

June 7th, 9:00am – 12:00pm

July 5th, 9:00am – 12:00pm

August 2nd, 9:00am – 12:00pm



**“MOST OF MY STRUGGLES
IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
CIRCLE AROUND THE SAME
TWO THEMES: WHY GOD
DOESN'T ACT THE WAY WE
WANT GOD TO, AND WHY I
DON'T ACT THE WAY GOD
WANTS ME TO. PRAYER IS
THE PRECISE POINT WHERE
THOSE THEMES
CONVERGE.”**

PHILIP YANCEY

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

The *Banner* is published by the
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Services & Activities

Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Bible Study on Google Meet Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.

Breakfast Group Wednesdays, 8:00 a.m.

Julie Wheeler

Pastor

Janet Short

Moderator

Laura Lovelace

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

Church of the Brethren joins lawsuit to protect religious freedoms

The Church of the Brethren was one of two dozen Christian and Jewish religious groups who are plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed in early February by the Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection (ICAP) at Georgetown Law.

The case “Mennonite Church USA et al. v. United States Department of Homeland Security et al” responds to the federal government’s rescinding of the Department of Homeland Security “sensitive locations” policy that had restricted Immigration and Customs Enforcement from conducting immigration raids, arrests, and other enforcement at churches and other houses of worship.

“We feel grave concern for those who are of migrant, immigrant, or refugee status within our congregations and in our communities who are threatened with deportation,” said Church of the Brethren general secretary David A. Steele. “The prospect that raids may bring that violent threat into our very church sanctuaries is already affecting the lives of many people in our denomination. God’s love is our greatest command, and we believe this divine love is not delineated by political borders nor limited by national origin, ethnic identity, race, skin color, or other characteristics that often divide us.”



More than 70 clergywomen from 16 districts— including ordained, licensed, and commissioned clergy—attended a Clergywomen’s Retreat offered every five years by the Ministry Office. The event held Feb. 10-13 at the San Pedro Spiritual Development Center in Winter Park, Fla., was led by Meghan Larissa Good, lead pastor of Trinity Mennonite Church in Phoenix, Ariz. Clergywomen also enjoyed small group and worship experiences with the opportunity for intercultural fellowship. Translation into English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole was available with equipment provided by Atlantic Southeast District.

Church of the Brethren signs declaration defending refuge

The Church of the Brethren signed an ecumenical declaration defending refuge as one of the Covenant Members of Church World Service. Additional organizations that signed the declaration released on Ash Wednesday, March 5, included the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, Mennonite Central Committee US, and Friends United Meeting, among many others.

With 45 initial signers, the declaration followed presidential executive orders that opposed longstanding US traditions of welcome and create

uncertainty for the US Refugee Admissions Program.

“This is a critical moment in the history of our nation and our world,” the declaration said, in part. “Guided by our faith, we stand together against the sweeping measures that are devastating vulnerable families and jeopardizing their futures.”

The declaration cited “misinformation, cruelty, fearmongering and criminalization” targeting refugee and immigrants communities as well as government policies that “seek to decimate our nation’s long-standing commitment to welcoming and protecting

those seeking safety” including efforts to “ban refugees from entering our country, revoke temporary protected status for immigrants unable to safely return home, undermine the 14th Amendment’s right to birthright citizenship, suspend foreign assistance to at-risk families around the world, erode the sanctity of places of worship, and dismantle our national capacity to assist refugees, asylum seekers and immigrants both at home and abroad.”

The declaration is open for additional signatures by individuals, congregations, and other groups at <https://cwscconnect.org/ecumenical-declaration>.

Beckner and Bollinger head 2025 ballot

Moderator-elect nominees **Dennis Beckner**, pastor of Columbia City (Ind.) Church of the Brethren in Northern Indiana District, and **Glenn E. Bollinger**, pastor of Mill Creek Church of the Brethren in Port Republic, Va., in Shenandoah District, head the ballot for the 2025 Annual Conference.

Also on the ballot:

Program and Arrangements Committee: **Amber T. Harris**, Peace Covenant Church of the Brethren, Durham, N.C.; **Marty Keeney**, Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 1: **Donna Parcell**, Indian Creek Church of the Brethren, Harleysville, Pa., Atlantic Northeast District; **Eric Ramirez**, Ebenezer Church of the Brethren, Lancaster, Pa., Atlantic Northeast District;

Area 4: **Sarah Mason**, Monitor Church of the Brethren, McPherson, Kan., Western Plains District; **Samuel Gahm**, Messiah Church of the Brethren, Raytown, Mo., Missouri and Arkansas District.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee: **Harry Biddle**, Oakton Church of the Brethren, Vienna, Va.; **John R. Hipps**, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren.

Review and Evaluation Committee (five people will be elected): **Ilexene Alphonse**, Miami (Fla.) Haitian Church of the Brethren; **Lupita Ortiz Cruz**, Mount Hermon Church of the Brethren, Bassett, Va.; **Chris Douglas**, Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, Elgin, Ill.; **Anna Lisa Gross**, Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren, Fort Wayne, Ind.; **Gene Hollenberg**, Union Center Church of the Brethren, Nappanee, Ind.; **Del Keeney**, Mechanicsburg (Pa.)

Church of the Brethren; **Deb Oskin**, Living Peace Church of the Brethren, Powell, Ohio; **Daniel L. Rudy**, Monte Vista Church of the Brethren, Callaway, Va.; **Carol Scheppard**, Lebanon Church of the Brethren, Mt. Sidney, Va.; **Paul Schrock**, Northview Church of the Brethren, Indianapolis, Ind.

Complete biographical information is at www.brethren.org/ac2025.



Dennis Beckner



Glenn E. Bollinger

Personnel

Tim Button-Harrison retires as Northern Plains District executive minister at the end of 2025. He has served the district for more than 19 years, since he began as an interim in November 2006. During his tenure he has served multiple roles in the Council of District Executives, including vice chair and secretary, and has been a CODE representative on the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee and the On Earth Peace board. He has been active regionally with the West-of-the-Mississippi

District Executives, and ecumenically with Iowa's middle judicatory leaders and on the board of the Minnesota Council of Churches. Along with his spouse, Mary Jane, he also has been a minister at Ames (Iowa) First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Claire Flowers on Jan. 27 concluded her work as director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives. She had been in the position since July 15, 2024.

Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey begins May 1 as director of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC). She

has served two years as coordinator of English-Language Ministry Training Programs at the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. She previously taught for SVMC's ACTS program. In 2023, she completed a doctor of ministry through Wesley Theological Seminary, and in 2014, she completed a master of divinity at Bethany Seminary. She has spent 10 years in pastoral ministry in Mid-Atlantic District, and has served on the board of Bethany Seminary

John D. Miller is joining the board of Bethany

Seminary. He previously served two terms on the board beginning in 2004 and concluding in 2014. He is an attorney/partner with MPL Law firm, LLP in York, Pa.

Randi Rowan retires June 20 as program assistant for the Church of the Brethren's Discipleship and Leadership Formation department, where she has worked since January 2012. She has held responsibilities for day-to-day administrative tasks, managing various aspects of conferences, responding to inquiries, and helping to publicize programs.



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SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

				1 Marcheta Pletcher's Memorial Service	2 Diane Deal's Memorial Service	3 Dress-a-Girl 9:00am
4 Dr. Zane Yi Preaching	5	6 Service & Outreach 9:30am Music & Worship 6:30pm GoogleMeet Bible Study 7:30pm	7 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	8	9	10
11 Women of the 1st & 2nd Testament	12	13 GoogleMeet Bible Study 7:30pm	14 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	15 Church Board 6:30pm	16	17 Church Workday 9:00am
18 Women of the 1st & 2nd Testament	19	20 Stewards 3:00pm GoogleMeet Bible Study 7:30pm	21 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	22	23	24
25 Jerry Davis Preaching	26	27 GoogleMeet Bible Study 7:30pm	28 Fellowship Breakfast 8:00am	29	30	31