



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!

October 2025

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

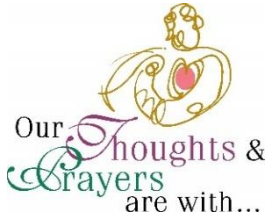
Vol. 52 No. 10

Getting to Know Rudy

Hello Church, I am Rudy, a manifestation of your unwavering love in action. In 2016, Pomona Fellowship opened their doors to me during my undergraduate experience. Your church offered me affordable housing during a pivotal time of transition and personal growth. I am thrilled to be back and now serving as the Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator for your church community. I come into this role with a shared vision of continuing the work of Jesus. My goal is to highlight the profound love that exists within Pomona Fellowship and to extend that out to the surrounding community. My professional background consists of almost a decade of combined work in the fields of secondary

education and nonprofits that focus on youth and family development. With a Bachelor of Arts in Social Justice in Education from the University of La Verne (ULV) and a Master of Arts in Education from Claremont Graduate University, I have gained a solid theoretical foundation. Additionally, my practical experiences have been instrumental in solidifying my approach. My journey includes serving as a student leader in the Office of Civic & Community Engagement at ULV to my most recent role as a high school math educator in South Central Los Angeles. I have learned to lead with a strong commitment to equity, inclusion, and belonging—concepts that I translate into tangible actions in my work to make Christ's love real for those I serve. I'm excited to serve with you to foster an environment where every individual feels valued and empowered to develop a profound connection with Christ. You are welcome to reach out to me at cymc@mypomonachurch.org with suggestions or ideas for collaboration. Let's love the community and nurture connections with Christ.

Rudy Amaya



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.**

PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION Through August 2025

2025 Annual Budget **\$232,522.00**

Total Budget Income thru Aug. **\$105,921.05**

Giving 2025 \$49,407.50

Interest & Other Income \$56,513.84

Total Budget Expense thru Aug. **\$147,883.66**

Budget Balance thru Aug. **\$(41,962.32)**

Aug. Special Non-Budget Offerings

Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta \$55.00

Capital Fund \$500.00

Women's Fellowship Pennies FINCA \$791.00

Upcoming Meetings

Church Board:

Thursday, October 23rd, at 6:30 pm

Executive Committee:

Thursday, October 16th, at 6:30 pm

Music & Worship:

Tuesday, October 14th, at 6:30 pm

Service & Outreach:

Tuesday, October 14th, at 9:30 am

Stewards:

No meeting in October

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

October 5th: World Communion Sunday

October 12th: Angels & Demons: Jacob's Wrestling Match

October 19th: Angels & Demons: Ezekiel's Angelic Vision

October 26th: Angels & Demons: Jesus & Exorcism

Pastor Julie on vacation

October 29- November 8



Birthdays

Rachel Landrum on the 3rd.

Gary Hart on the 11th.

Richard Uranga on the 28th.

Laslie Deal on the 20th.

Laura (Deal) Russi on the 21st.

Bobbi Hamsworth on the 26th.

Rylan Good on the 27th.

Cathy Banks on the 31st.

Service & Outreach

Giving Emphases for October

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphases for October are **baby food and supplies, and canned meat**. Creating and growing a family and caring for a baby is a wonderful gift. It is also an expensive responsibility that is continuing to cost more. Providing baby food, diapers, wipes, bibs, formula, distilled water and all that a baby needs to the food bank helps parents keep their babies fed and healthy. Flour and other basic baking ingredients can help stock 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.



The giving emphasis for October is On Earth Peace

On Earth Peace

On Earth Peace was created in 1974 by M. R. Zigler. He brought together people who wanted to focus on the historic peace witness of the Church of the Brethren.

On Earth Peace's vision, "A world in Beloved Community, liberated from oppression, violence, and war", and mission, "We develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace", statements are rooted in their values and faith.

"Our shared values are what bring us together as the On Earth Peace community. These values guide all our work and direct our 'values-based consensus decision-making' process." These values are Jesus-

centered spirituality, positive peace,
anti-racism/anti-oppression,
intergenerational leadership, and
beloved community

If you would like to learn more
about On Earth Peace please visit
their website, onearthpeace.org. To
donate to On Earth Peace please
write you check to Pomona
Fellowship Church of the Brethren
and note on the memo line On
Earth Peace. If you are giving
electronically, please note On Earth
Peace in the notes of your donation.

Written by Laura Lovelace using
onearthpeace.org

"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

October 4th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

November 1st, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

December 6th, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

“CREATOR GOD, THANK YOU
FOR HARVEST MOON NIGHTS,
THE FALL HARVEST, AND RED
LEAVES ALL AROUND US. YOU
ARE THE GOD OF THE
HARVEST, AND FALL MAKES
US THINK ABOUT BEARING
FRUIT IN OUR LIVES. HELP US
TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU AND
ABIDE IN YOU SO THAT WE
MIGHT GLORIFY YOU
THROUGH THE FRUIT WE
BEAR. AMEN.”



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

The *Banner* is published by the
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pastorjulie@mypomonachurch.org
Rudy Amaya email:
cymc@mypomonachurch.org
Website: mypomonachurch.org

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
Rudy Amaya	Children/Youth Ministry Cor.
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

Statement on US bombing of Iran

Church of the Brethren general secretary David Steele issued a statement in response to the US bombing of three nuclear facilities in Iran on June 22, calling for peaceful resolution of the conflict and citing the more than three centuries of Brethren opposition to war.

“Now, in this moment, the Church of the Brethren again expresses its opposition to military action that risks involving the United States in a larger conflict in the Middle East—a conflict that could invite involvement by other nuclear powers and exact catastrophic human costs,” the statement said, in part. “We call for the immediate de-escalation of this conflict. We encourage Church of the Brethren members to join with denominational staff in contacting congressional representatives to advocate for peace.”

The statement encouraged members and congregations to share the peace witness in their neighborhoods and “offer Christian caring to Iranian Americans and others from Middle Eastern backgrounds, as well as local Jewish and Muslim faith communities.”



A visit to Nigeria by general secretary David Steele and Global Mission executive director Sharon Norton included a worship service in Garkida, historic site of the first Brethren mission work in Nigeria and for many decades the headquarters of the Church of the Brethren Mission in Nigeria. They were hosted by Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The short visit was “impactful” reported EYN, and was effective in “strengthening the historic bond between the American and Nigerian Brethren.”

Ecumenical letter opposes rescissions

The Office of Peacebuilding and Policy was one of dozens of religious and humanitarian nonprofits jointly sending a letter to Congress opposing the White House rescissions proposal that was approved by the House in mid-June and subsequently also approved by the Senate.

“While the White House argues that these rescissions will make the United States safer, stronger and more prosper-

ous, we, the undersigned 78 organizations, lament the proposal will achieve the opposite,” the letter said, in part. “We urge you to oppose the rescission of any foreign assistance funds related to urgent human needs, including food, medical and humanitarian aid, and to global stability and resilience, such as peacebuilding, poverty-focused development assistance, climate resilience and good governance.”

Global communion calls new leadership

The Global Church of the Brethren Communion meeting via Zoom on June 6 elected two new officers to its board: Santos Terrero of Spain as president, and Sharon Brugger Norton of the US as treasurer.

The agenda also included clarification that members of the board are no longer delegates from their national church, and must be replaced as delegates. Delegates do not need to be national church presidents or officers to serve.

Countries represented at the meeting included Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Honduras, India, Rwanda, Spain, Uganda, the United States, and Venezuela. In conversation about new church bodies that may join, the group discussed the church in Burundi.

Santos Terrero of Spain, shown here leading worship in Spain, has been elected president of the board of the Global Church of the Brethren Communion.



Eder Financial publishes 2025 screening lists

Each year as part of Eder Values Investing initiatives, Eder Financial's board adopts two lists of companies that earn significant revenue from US military operations. These firms are screened from Eder's investment portfolios and it avoids being a customer of any of those companies. One list identifies the top 25 publicly traded defense contractors based on the size of contracts awarded by the Department of Defense, and the other includes all publicly traded companies that generate more than 10 percent of their revenue from such contracts. See ederfinancial.org/EVI#DOD-Lists.

Childcare teams serve in Texas

In response to a request from the Red Cross, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) sent two Critical Response Childcare teams to Kerrville, Texas, to care for children affected by the July 4 catastrophic flooding. The Critical Response Childcare team is a group of experienced CDS volunteers who have received additional training for mass casualty events.

At least 135 people, including more than 35 children, died in the flooding along the Guadalupe River. Some 27 children and counselors were killed at an all-girls Christian summer camp named Camp Mystic.

In another recent CDS response, two teams of volunteers served in St. Louis, Mo., following a May 16 tornado.



Personnel

James (Jim) Miner retired on June 26 as *Church of the Brethren Yearbook* specialist. He began in the position in November 2016. In April, his position was shifted out of Brethren Press to Mission Advancement. His work has included maintaining the official list of congregations and compiling denominational statistics. In previous employment, he worked in information technology at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill., for more than 15 years, from 1981 to 1997, and in total has worked for the Church of the Brethren for almost 24 years.

Melissa Fritz on July 8 concluded her work as a packer with the Material Resources program at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., where she has been employed since Oct. 2, 2017.

This layoff is related to the impending closure of Material Resources at year's end. The Mission and Ministry Board in October 2023 decided to wind down the program over a period of up to 30 months at the recommendation of a subcommittee that had reviewed the program, including consideration of best practices in material aid, decreased number of partner organi-

zations, decreasing volume of donations, and financial shortfalls.

Mishaël Nouveau resigned June 27 as office manager for the Ministry Office, in the Discipleship and Leadership Formation department. Her work was based at the General Offices, where she had served since Jan. 29, 2018. It had been announced that due to budget cuts, Nouveau's work hours were to be reduced from fulltime to part-time on June 30.

Jazmin Gongora began June 17 as administrative assistant for Discipleship and Leadership Formation, based at the General Offices. She most recently was administrative assistant at School District 300 in Algonquin, Ill.

Jon Lucas Keller began July 28 as a Mission Advancement advocate for the Church of the Brethren. He most recently was grants manager for the Troy (Ohio) Foundation. He is a founding member of the racial justice team of Southern Ohio and Kentucky District.

Patrick Miller began July 14 as part-time Buildings and Grounds assistant at the General Offices. He was previously a build-

ing maintenance assistant for Children's Home and Aid in Carpentersville, Ill.

Fatima Kurth on July 18 resigned as an accountant at Eder Financial after having worked there for almost eight years, since October 2017.

Mary Parrett began July 14 as coordinator of Bethany BOLD, a service-based program for residential students at Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Ind.

Krista Dickson resigned July 31 as office administrator for Atlantic Northeast District, where she has been part of the team since 2012. **Kelly Bernstein** is transitioning from her role in communications to serve as office administrator.

Jose Rudy Amaya began June 1 as the first associate district executive minister intern for Pacific Southwest District. Born and raised in El Salvador, he became acquainted with the Church of the Brethren during his time at CHET, the training center for Iglesia del Pacto-Covenant Church where he holds a certificate in theology. He has been part of the Church of the Brethren for 20 years and is a member of the Conexión Pasadena congregation.



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SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

			1	2	3	4 Dress-a-Girl 9:00am
5 World Communion Sunday	6	7 Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	8 Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am	9	10	11
12 Angels & Demons: Jacob's Wrestling Match	13	14 Service & Outreach 9:30am Music & Worship 6:30pm Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	15 Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am	16 Executive Committee 6:30pm	17	18 Church Workday 9:00am
19 Angels & Demons: Ezekiel's Angelic Vision	20	21 Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	22 Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am	23 Church Board 6:30pm	24	25
26 Angels & Demons: Jesus & Exorcism	27	28 Google Meets Bible Study 7:30pm	29 Pastor Julie on Vacation Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am	30 Pastor Julie on Vacation	31 Pastor Julie on Vacation Trunk-or- Treat 5:00pm	