



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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January 2022

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 48, No. 1

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## From Our Pastor...

It feels like we say this every January, but can you believe another year has gone by? Here we are at the start of 2022, wondering what this year has in store for us, personally and as a congregation.

We know for a fact that 2022 will be a challenging year for Pomona Fellowship. We will need to take a good hard look at our financial situation, since even after selling our property we are still operating a deficit budget. We have some praying and listening to do, to discern the kind of church God is calling us to be next. Will we be a community focusing on deep care and compassion for our current members? Or will we seek to be a congregation with a new vision for investing and partnering in our community?

At the December 16 church board meeting, Pastor Lauren asked our board members to reflect on two questions: 1) What is the most challenging piece of resuming or returning to our discernment about our church future? and 2) What is the most compelling reason to resume our discernment?

How would you respond to these questions? What challenges or intimidates you about our church's discernment? And what compels you to stick around, through this season of wondering, questioning, and praying?

In her book, *How To Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*, Susan Beaumont describes the first collective discernment process, found in Acts 15. "The early church is engaged in debate about the need for Gentile followers to observe the circumcision and food rituals of the Jews. Paul and Barnabas bring this quandary to the council of apostles and elders in Jerusalem. The council deliberates together until they can say with one voice, 'It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us' (Acts 15:28) to eliminate the burden of Jewish law on the Gentile converts, except for a few basic provisions" (pp 69-70).

In 2022, we too can choose to seek what is "good to the Holy Spirit and to us" for the future of our church. The mission team is using the December 16th conversation with the board to prepare for an in-person congregational business meeting that will help us re-engage our discernment after a time of rest and Sabbath from decision-making. We hope you will hold the mission team and our entire congregation in prayer during this time.

With you, in hope,  
Pastor Lauren



...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**



**The Spicers** have a telephone change. They no longer have a landline, so to reach them here are their cell phone numbers:  
**George – 909-296-2367  
Jan – 909-296-2399**

<b>PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Through November 2021</b>	
<b>2021 Annual Budget</b>	<b>\$220,891.00</b>
Giving '21	\$92,391.71
Interest & Other Income '21	\$23,603.07
<b>Total Budget Income thru Nov.</b>	<b>\$115,994.78</b>
Total Budget Expense thru Nov.	\$(146,223.00)
Plus Budget overage from 2020	\$4,224.32
<b>Budget Balance thru November</b>	<b>\$(26,003.90)</b>
<b>November Special Non-Budget Offerings</b>	
Capital Fund	\$105.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$175.00
Inland Valley Hope Partners Walk	\$150.00
Newcomers' Access Center	\$150.00
Messenger Fund	\$205.00

<b><u>District Prayer Calendar – January</u></b>	
Jan. 2	For those who have lost loved ones to COVID, and for health care workers and other caregivers as the pandemic continues
Jan. 9	PSWD Policy Board which meets January 15 and their work this year
Jan. 16	That our churches will live into God's vision shared in Rev. 7:9
Jan. 23	Bakersfield Church of the Brethren
Jan. 30	South Bay COB (Redondo Beach), their partner Journey Covenant and their shared ministry



**BIRTHDAYS**

- 2) Acia Jernigan  
Phyllis Eller
- 6) Carl Cook
- 7) Jenny Lovelace
- 11) Kathy Flores
- 13) Sandy Landrum
- 15) Pandra Cook
- 16) Robert Herndon
- 24) Graham Lovelace
- 27) Nacomi Hemsworth
- 29) Linda Lovelace
- 30) Randy Good

**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 9) Jason & Lauren Cohen    2016

## December Worship Schedule

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

**January 2**, in-person at St. Paul's, guest speaker, Julie Wheeler

**January 9**, ZOOM worship, guest speaker, Paul Lovelace

**January 16**, in-person at St. Paul's

**January 23**, ZOOM worship

**January 30**, ZOOM worship

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.

## **PFCOB and COVID-19 Update**

A few weeks ago in worship we held an informal poll of our worshippers: would you prefer to stay seated close together during worship and not sing (our current arrangement), or would you prefer to be seated at a further distance from one another so that we might sing safely? Not surprisingly, the responses were about split down the middle. Executive Committee has been our church's decision-making body in terms of worship and COVID-19 safety. Their next meeting is in January. Until Executive Committee decides otherwise, and in light of rising COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, we will continue to require masks and not sing during our indoor worship services. Thank you for helping to keep our worship services as safe as possible.

~~Pastor Lauren

## Upcoming Meetings over Zoom

**Service & Outreach**, Tuesday, January 11, 10:00 a.m.

**Stewards**, Tuesday, January 11, 6:30 p.m.

**Music & Worship**, Wednesday, January 12, 11:00, *in-person at the church office*

**Executive Committee**, Thursday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.

**Church Board**, Thursday, January 20, 6:30 p.m.

**Congregational Business Meeting**, Sunday, February 13, after Zoom worship

*Banner* articles are due on January 20

## **Snow is back at Camp La Verne!!!**

And...so is the annual Camp La Verne Banquet at the La Verne Church Of The Brethren!!! ❄️❄️❄️

Join us Saturday, February 5, 2022 at 5 PM for a fabulous dinner, our famous Silent Auction, Camp Songs, Open Mic Camp Memories and of course a reunion with your CLV friends that you've been missing so much!

Come thumb through our historic photo albums...catch up with your old counselors or cabin mates...bring us your best treasures for the silent auction!

We are soooo looking forward to seeing you! Stay tuned to our Facebook page for more information!

❄️❄️❄️ PS... Don't forget Winter Camp is coming up soon too! February 19~21 ❄️❄️❄️

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### 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.

## Organ for Sale

After selling our church property in May 2021, Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren is looking for a new home for our organ. This Britson Organ is a wonderful electronic organ with 3 manuals (Choir, Great, Swell), a curved pedal board, multiple stops for each manual and the ability to tie manuals together. Its features include: Lightened Rockertabs, Reversible Tutti, Programmable Midi, Programmable Stop Selector Switches, & Foot Stop Selector Switches. It comes with a Plexiglass Music Rack with Light, Bench with music storage space, & External speakers.

The instrument has been in storage since May 2021. We are not asking much for this expensive instrument because we know that it will serve someone else better than us now. \$100 and buyer must coordinate/pay for transport.

If you know a person, congregation, or organization that may be interested, please have them contact our church office at 909-629-2548.



## **DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2021 – TOGETHER / JUNTOS (Delegate Connie Good)**

Moderator: Al Clark

### **FELLOWSHIP**

Even though the conference was on zoom, there was a time socializing in breakout sessions. Still not the same as in person!

### **INSIGHT SESSIONS (My thoughts and outstanding statements)**

**Brethren Identity:** facilitated by Annali Topf with panelists Julie Wheeler and Jon Chubb

Sometimes we are so obsessed with our history but what are we doing now!

Love feast and peace stand are important to Brethren

If we say we are a peace church, we need to learn how to practice and teach peace now.

**Brethren in the PSWD 1887-2021: An Oral History:** Moderator Al Clark

Oral history (or recorded interviews) often give a more complete human history than written reports.

The University of La Verne Archives, houses much information about the PSWD.

**Will & Skill Of Nonviolence:** Pastor Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Barbara Bezdek

This nonviolence technique is Kingian Nonviolence

Non-violence (with a hyphen) inaction, non active adjective

Nonviolence (without a hyphen) action word, active verb.

Conflict is neither good or bad, it's how one reacts that is good or bad.

Hate the evil not the evil doer.

To me it sounded like a useful technique, but need to learn a lot more about it.

### **BUSINESS SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **News of the District**

Los Banos – Centro Agape in Acción: In conjunction with the District, purchased an office complex for their church facility. How exciting to have another new and growing congregation in the district!

#### **Election of Leadership For 2022**

Moderator-Elect: Judy Minnich Stout (San Diego)

Clerk: Laura Miller (Papago Butes)

Nominating Committee: Marye Martinez (Modesto)

#### **Financial Reports**

Budget for 2022 was approved with a deficit of \$299,120. The deficit will be covered by the growth of the investments held by the District. (This is exactly the same as our budget plan for 2022)

Funds are available for camps and churches for repairs, outreach ministry, etc.

#### **Bylaw Revisions**

Updates were made to allow for virtual meetings and to meet current practice.

#### **Story Circles: A listening exercise lead by Darla Deardorff**

Listen to others for understanding, not thinking about a response or to judge.

Sympathize with a disagree

Acceptance is easier on a one to one basis

I have a conference Business Book if anyone wants to look at the various reports.

## **WORSHIP SESSIONS**

It is always a blessing to worship in other settings. Unfortunately, there were technical difficulties so the experience was not as wonderful as could have been.

## **UNITY STATEMENT FOR PSWD**

This item was not on the planned agenda. It came up incidentally. The was drawn up at PSWD District Conference on October 13, 2007. I don't think that I have seen it before and perhaps you haven't either. I would like to use it to sum up my thoughts of District Conference 2021.

On this 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Brethren, we remember the words of Jesus: *“Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples – when they see the love you have for each other.”* (John 13: 34,35; The Message)

Recognizing we are a living peace church, and that God is constantly revealing, we commit to humble ourselves, and to engage in the tension of community necessary for new birth.

Not focusing on our differences, but in the spirit of love and acceptance, we choose to focus on Christ.

We purpose to remain open, as we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit, working in love to mutually support and encourage our various ministries.