



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 2024

Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

Vol. 51 No. 11

A word from our Pastor

Happy fall, Pomona Fellowship! Please enjoy this scientifically-based discussion from the Salt Project on the beautiful foliage we are starting to see:

The brilliant colors of creation are often biologically helpful, sometimes in more ways than one. A coral reef's vibrant palette protects against the sun's ultraviolet rays, and at the same time helps the coral attract mates. The bright hues of flowers lure pollinating insects and birds.

So what about the colors of fall foliage?

Many leaves contain yellow and orange pigments all year round, but in the spring and summer they're masked by the vivid greens of chlorophyll, the pigment responsible for the absorption of light to provide energy for photosynthesis. But as the days shorten and the temperature falls, the chlorophyll breaks down and drains away — and those yellows and oranges begin to shine through. They were there all along, quiet and unnoticed, but now they emerge as the green curtain fades. If God is a painter of autumn trees, what we see is an art not of addition but of subtraction. It's an art of revelation, of revealing the hidden beauty of what was already there.

But what about those stunning reds? Those pigments appear when the leftover sugars in certain leaves are transformed into anthocyanins, red and purple pigments. And that transformation, incidentally, is most intense where there is the most light — which is why the leaves (or even the *parts* of leaves) most bathed in sunlight are the most deeply red of all. Ditto for the sunny sides of apples; that's where the crimsons emerge. Like coral in the ocean, the reds and purples help protect leaves from the Sun's power as the chlorophyll drains away. As it turns out, then, the Divine Artist paints not only by revelation, but also by transformation and protection.

So the next time you take a walk or a bike ride through a landscape alive with changing fall foliage, recall that this grand spectacle — arguably one of the most beautiful annual changes in the world — is a sheer riot of divine glory, a tide of

splendor flooding the world with revelation (the yellows and oranges) and transformative protection (the reds and purples).

A divine sermon in pigment and light, shimmering for all who have eyes to see.

Happy fall, everyone!

Pastor Julie



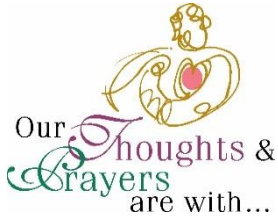
Getting to Know our New Member

Ruth Lindhorst

Dear fellow members of the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren. With heart felt greetings, I wish to give my thanks to all of you for your love and support through my baptism into the membership of your Church. I feel so blessed to be in fellowship with all of you and in service to God and Jesus with you. My Baptism was the most important vows of my life and I am sincerely honored to be in fellowship with God's people. Your love and support meant the world to me. All the care and effort you provided to make the event so sacred and meaningful is very much appreciated and I will never forget this supremely special day and all of you for being such an important part of it. Words cannot convey how much all you did to make me feel an important part of your congregation and so very welcomed. All of you touched my heart so deeply and I can only hope that my gratitude will extend to all members of our church in return in the future.

In deep appreciation and gratitude sincerely, Ruth





those limited or confined for health reasons:
Marcheta Pletcher.

We also uphold these members, friends and family members of our congregation who have prayer concerns: **Bill Lemon, Norma Lovelace**

**PFCOB STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION
 Through September 2024**

2024 Annual Budget	\$186,267.00
Total Budget Income thru Sept.	\$134,688.18
Giving '24	\$67,127.00
Interest & Other Income '24	\$67,561.18
Total Budget Expense thru Sept.	\$(147,660.01)
Budget Balance thru Sept.	(\$12,961.83)
September Special Non-Budget Offerings	
Inland Valley Hope Partners Beta	\$55.00
Messenger	\$72.50

Upcoming Meetings

Stewards:

Tuesday, November 5th at 3:00 pm

Service & Outreach:

Tuesday, November 12th at 9:30 am

Executive Committee:

Thursday, November 14th at 6:30pm

Music & Worship:

Tuesday, November 19th at 6:15 pm

Office Closed

November 28th & 29th.

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

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

Preaching Schedule

- November 3rd:** Envisioning Better Politics
- November 10th:** Jerry Davis Preaching
- November 17th:** Rebuild Your Life
- November 24th:** The Power of Gratitude



Birthdays

- Yvonne Belcher on the 3rd.
- Crystal Cook on the 9th.
- Chuck Lovelace on the 17th.
- 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.
- Bruce & Bobbie Hemsworth on the 5th.
- Gary & Leslie Deal on the 10th.
- Don & Sharon Overholser on the 13th.
- Frank & Shirley Ness on the 25th.

Service & Outreach News & Updates

Giving Emphases for November

Thank you for your continued response in our effort to support the local food bank. Our food emphasis for **November is Thanksgiving Foods**. The joy of the holidays and family and friend time is always precious and creates new memories. Helping put food on someone's table is a wonderful gift that creates new traditions and keeps family traditions alive.

Turkey, stuffing, yams, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and so many other foods bring comfort and joy to so many. 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.



**The Giving Emphasis for November is
Inland Valley Hope Partners**

Commission News

Our food emphasis for the Beta Food Center of IVHP for November is Thanksgiving type foods. This month we especially encourage financial gifts for Inland Valley Hope Partners. They are doing a great job of helping the needy in Pomona and surrounding communities.

We know and support regularly their food distribution program. We financially support them through our annual budget giving in the amount of \$100.

They also have a program to help the homeless with hygiene kits, snack kits and blankets.

They maintain an "Our House" Family Shelter with case workers, a safe and secure place, and a Rapid Rehousing program.

They also sponsor the weekly Farmers Market. They have been feeding the hungry and sheltering the homeless since 1968. We continue to gratefully support their and our ministry.

Written by Jerry Davis

“Dress A Girl” Sewing Party

"Dress a Girl," 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

November 2, 9:00am – 12:00pm

December 7, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Please RSVP to the church office.

***Banner* articles are due by November 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.



Newsline

The Church of the Brethren email news service

'For all the gods of the peoples
are idols,
but the Lord
made the heavens.
Honor and majesty
are before him;
strength and
beauty
are in
his sanctuary.'

- Psalm 96:5-6 (NRSVue)

Photo by Joel Brumbagh-Cayford / Church of the Brethren

Oct. 25, 2024

NEWS

- 1) Mission and Ministry Board approves new Global Mission Development Fund at its Fall 2024 meeting
- 2) Standing Committee meets by Zoom to adopt agency covenants
- 3) Coalition sends letter calling on senators to support joint resolutions of disapproval on arms sales to Israel
- 4) For all you do in Jesus' name: Pastor Appreciation Month, October 2024
- 5) Pastors' Housing Equity Fund is coming
- 6) WCC advocates for creation care and justice at start of triple COP journey

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 7) FaithX 2025 locations and dates are announced
- 8) Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Action Team invites congregations to plan gun violence vigils in December

JESUS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- 9) Chicago First Church of the Brethren joins Apartheid Free Communities network
 - 10) Brethren bits: Remembering Gerald Pence, dates and location for next National Youth Conference, prayer for the Community of Faith and Haitians in the DR, leadership opening in W. Marva District, closing date for L.E.A.D. Conference registration, and more
-



Board chair Colin Scott (at center) leads the Mission and Ministry Board's Fall 2024 meeting. At right is chair-elect Kathy Mack. At left is general secretary David Steele.

Photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

1) Mission and Ministry Board approves new Global Mission Development Fund at its Fall 2024 meeting

The Church of the Brethren's Mission and Ministry Board held its Fall 2024 meeting Oct. 17-20 at the denomination's General Offices in Elgin, Ill. Colin Scott presided as chair, assisted by chair-elect Kathy Mack and general secretary David Steele.

Actions were taken on a proposal for a new Global Mission Development Fund, a proposal for revision of the Health Education and Research Fund, the naming

of new board leadership, and Germantown Trust appointments. Also on the agenda, among other items, were a year-to-date financial update for 2024, a board growth session focused on the Strategic Plan's goal of "Seeking God's Racial Justice," an envisioning time to discuss "The Church of Tomorrow," and reports.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/mission-and-ministry-board-fall-2024

2) Standing Committee meets by Zoom to adopt agency covenants

The Standing Committee of district delegates to the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference met via Zoom on the evening of Sept. 30 to consider and act on covenants with the three agencies of Annual Conference—Bethany Theological Seminary, Eder Financial, and On Earth Peace. Also acted on was a recommendation to Annual Conference to renew their agency status.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/sc-adopts-agency-covenants

3) Coalition sends letter calling on senators to support joint resolutions of disapproval on arms sales to Israel

The Church of the Brethren's Office of Peacebuilding and Policy is one of more than 100 faith-based and humanitarian organizations signing a letter to the senators in the US Congress urging them to cosponsor and vote in favor of four joint resolutions of disapproval introduced by Senators Sanders, Welch, and Merkley regarding several specific major arms sales to Israel.

In August, the Biden administration approved a series of arms sales to Israel totaling more than \$20 billion. The joint resolutions of disapproval would block

the sale of many offensive weapons that have been used in strikes that have killed thousands of civilians in Gaza over the last year

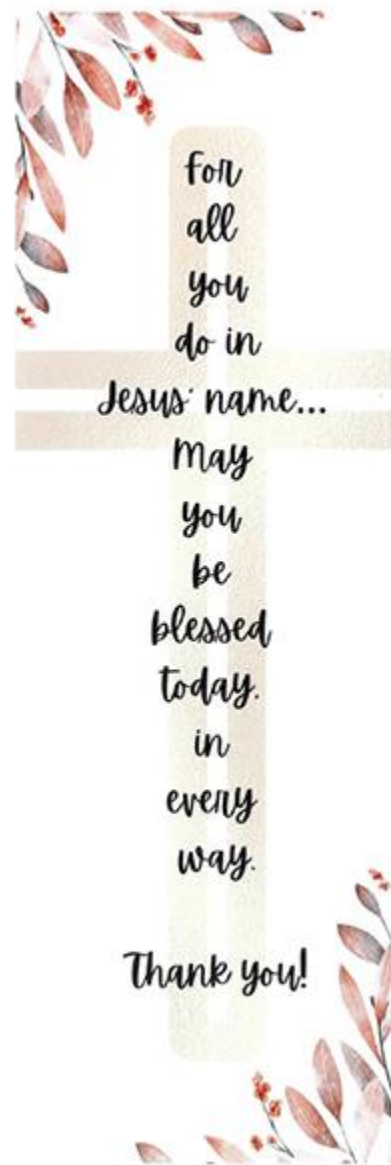
Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/coalition-supports-joint-resolutions

4) For all you do in Jesus' name: Pastor Appreciation Month, October 2024

A message of appreciation from the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference went out to all the pastors and ministers in the denomination this week. In addition, the committee reached out to Andy Murray, who graciously agreed to prepare a video presentation of a song he wrote decades ago titled “Vocational Trauma Blues.” The link to the video is included in the message.

Illustrating the message is the bookmark at right, designed by Ava Stemmer.

Find the message in full at <https://mailchi.mp/brethren/pastor-appreciation-2024>



5) Pastors' Housing Equity Fund is coming

The newly revised pastors' Housing Equity Fund now offers a tax-friendly option for those ministers living in parsonages who wish to build equity toward a future home purchase. Significant revisions to the fund's structure were approved by the 2024 Annual Conference and have resulted in the creation of this new investment fund option.

Whereas the former fund had unfavorable tax consequences for those invested monies donated by congregations, the soon-to-be-arriving fund offers more desirable options that are now managed by Eder Financial.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/pastors-housing-equity-fund

6) WCC advocates for creation care and justice at start of triple COP journey

A release from the World Council of Churches

The World Council of Churches (WCC) begins its journey at the triple COPs—starting with the biodiversity COP16 in Colombia—by promoting a holistic approach to environmental stewardship. COP stands for Conference of the Parties and often refers to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) international meetings focusing on climate.

Biodiversity COP16, from Oct. 21 to Nov. 1, marks the first of three major international environmental conferences. The WCC will also participate in the climate COP29 in Azerbaijan on Nov. 11-22, and the desertification COP16 in Saudi Arabia on Dec. 2-13.

“We are advocating for solutions that honor the interconnectedness of creation and recognize biodiversity as a cornerstone of ecological and human resilience,” said Jerry Pillay, WCC general secretary. “Environmental justice is not just a matter of policy but a spiritual and moral responsibility. We are called to address these interconnected crises with urgency, rooted in faith, to ensure a

future where all of creation can thrive.”

Read the full WCC release at <https://oikoumene.org/news/wcc-advocates-for-creation-care-and-justice-at-start-of-triple-cop-journey>



Photo from a 2024 FaithX experience courtesy of the FaithX Office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

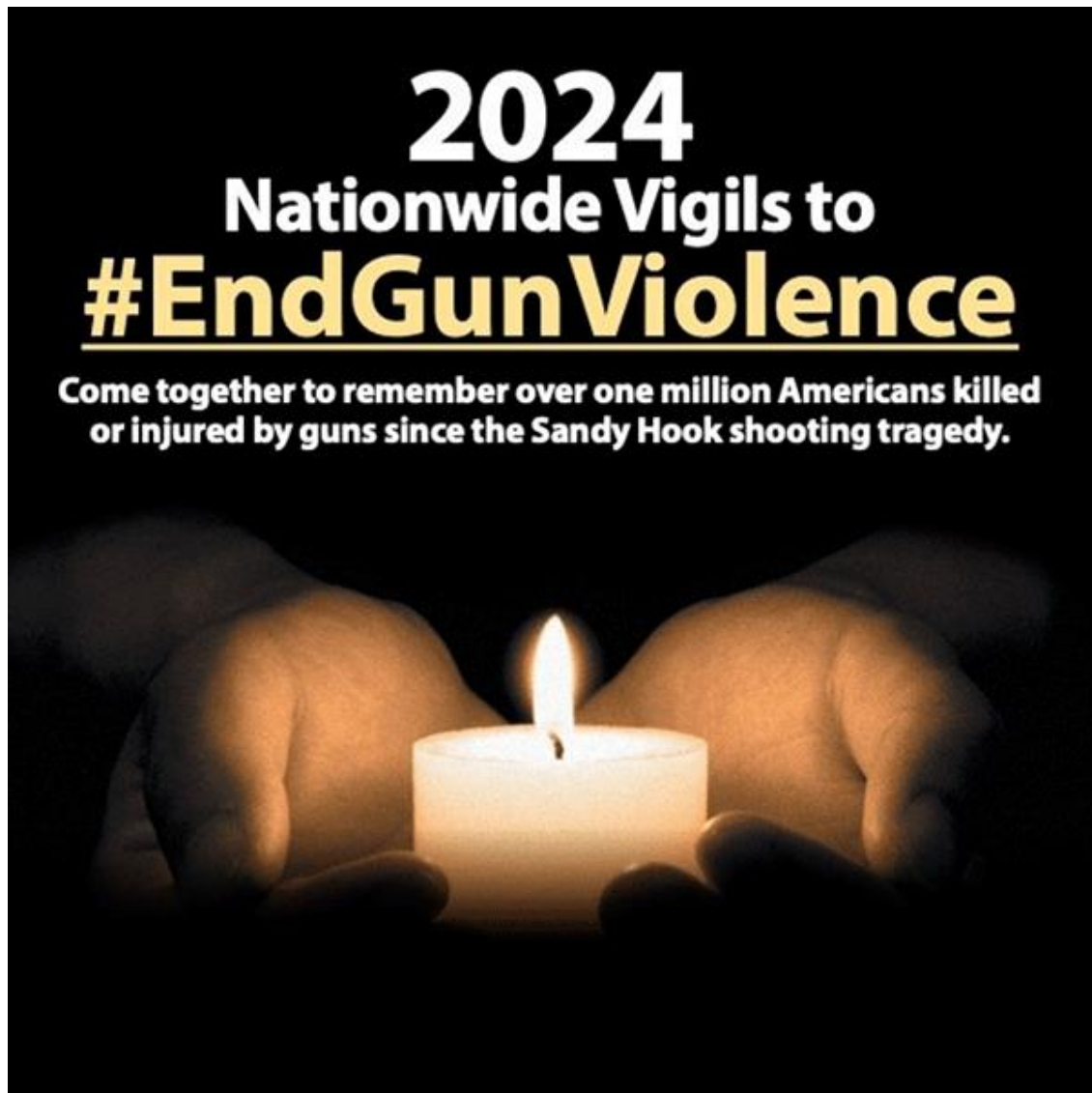
7) FaithX 2025 locations and dates are announced

By Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred

FaithX is excited to announce service trip opportunities for all ages in 2025! A total of 12 service trips are planned. Opportunities include individual or combined trips for junior and senior high youth, a family service weekend with childcare provided, the older adult trip in March, and international or domestic trips for adults.

Details, including locations and dates, can be found at www.brethren.org/faithx. Registration is now open for the older adult trip. Registration for the summer trips will open on Jan. 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. (Eastern time).

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/faithx-2025-locations-and-dates



8) Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Action Team invites congregations to plan gun violence vigils in December

A release from the Gun Violence Prevention Action Team

The Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Action Team would like to invite your congregation to remember gun violence victims who have passed away in 2024 by hosting a vigil or service in December as part of the Newtown Action Alliance's 2024 Nationwide Vigils to #EndGunViolence initiative (www.newtownactionalliancefoundation.org/nationwide-vigils).

This initiative is anchored by the 12th Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence being held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 11.

We are offering a resource with two liturgy options to aid in preparation for such a service.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/gun-violence-vigils-in-december

JESUS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

9) Chicago First Church of the Brethren joins Apartheid Free Communities network

By Joyce M. Cassel

Chicago (Ill.) First Church of the Brethren prayerfully took the pledge to join the Apartheid Free Communities network. Chicago First Church is the 400th organization to join under the sponsorship of American Friends Service Committee and the first Church of the Brethren congregation to join.

Palestinians are reaching out to the global community asking us to join in their struggle for liberation. In response, an ecumenical Apartheid Free Coalition formed.

Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2024/chicago-1st-joins-apartheid-free



NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

JULY 18 - 23, 2026

YMCA of the Rockies * Estes Park, Colorado

10) Brethren bits

In this issue: Remembering Gerald Pence, dates and location for next National Youth Conference, prayer concern for the Community of Faith and Haitians in the Dominican Republic, leadership opening in West Marva District, closing date for L.E.A.D. Conference registration, and more news by, for, and about Brethren.

Read the Brethren bits at www.brethren.org/news/2024/brethren-bits-56

Below: Registration for the L.E.A.D. Conference closes Nov. 2 at 11:59 p.m. (central time). The event takes place at Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren on Nov. 15-17. Register at www.brethren.org/df/lead-conference.

Featured Brethren Presenters: Join us Nov. 15-17, 2024
Ephrata Church of the Brethren - Ephrata, Pennsylvania

 Brian Messler	 Cesla Salcedo	 Etienne Nsanzimana	 Founa Badet	 Ilxene Alphonse
 James Washington	 Jeff Carter	 Jennifer Kreighbaum	 Joel Pena	 Laura Stone
 Lupita Cruz-Ortiz	 Manuel Cruz	 Nate Polzin	 Nevin Dulabaum	 Noel Naff
 Richard Wehrle	 Ryan Braught	 Shawn Flory Replogle	 Stan Dueck	 Yildor Archange

November

SUN MON TUES WED THUR FRI SAT

		1			1	2 Dress-a-Girl 9:00am
3 CBM Envisioning Better Politics	4	5 Stewards 3:00pm Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm	6 Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am	7	8 District Conference	9 District Conference
10 Jerry Davis Preaching	11	12 Service & Outreach 9:30am Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm	13 Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am	14 Executive Committee 6:30pm	15	16 Church Work Day 9:00am
17 Rebuild Your Life	18	19 Music & Worship 6:15pm Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm	20 Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am	21	22	23
24 The Power of Gratitude	25 Pastor Julie Off	26 LA Food Bank 7:00am Google Meet Bible Study 7:30pm Pastor Julie Off	27 Breakfast Fellowship Group 8:00am Pastor Julie Off	28 Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed Pastor Julie Off	29 Office Closed Pastor Julie Off	30 Pastor Julie Off