



Empire Church of the Brethren

5101 Yosemite Boulevard
(Across from the Empire Post Office)

Pastor John Price

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 215, Empire CA 95319

Phone: 209-522-4302 Website: www.empirecob.org

Email: empirebrethren@gmail.com

Every Sunday

Sunday School: 9:45 am

Informal Worship in Song: 10:45 am

Worship 11:00 am



*Remember
In Prayer*

Those in care facilities:

Glenn Stanford Mary Raridan

Don and Pat Benton

Phyllis Caudle-Ruby

Marilyn Snider

December 2025 Church Calendar

Fellowship Singers meets Thursdays at 4:15pm

Nov. 30	First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 2	Emergency Food Pantry 9am-Noon
Dec. 3	Food Delivery Day 8am
Dec. 5	All Church Friday Fellowship 11:30am
Dec. 6	Heaven's Bounty Open
Dec. 7	Second Sunday of Advent
Dec. 9	Emergency Food Pantry 9am-Noon
Dec. 14	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Coffee Hour
Dec. 16	Women's Fellowship 9:00am Emergency Food Pantry 9am-Noon
Dec. 18	Church Board Meeting
Dec. 19	All Church Christmas Party Luncheon 1pm
Dec. 21	Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec. 23	Emergency Food Pantry 9am-Noon
Dec. 24	Candle Light Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 25	Merry Christmas!
Dec. 29	Shed Work Day 9:00am
Dec. 30	Emergency Food Pantry 9am-Noon
Dec. 31	New Year's Eve Party 3:00pm
Jan. 1	Happy New Year!

Family and Friends of Micheal, who passed away
Seth Lutes—relief from pain & discouragement

Patty Shafer—recovering from cellulitis

Carolyn Trent—homebound

David & Evy Hurlbut



Feed the hungry,
and help those in trouble.
Then your light will shine out
from the darkness,
and the darkness around
you will be as bright as noon.
Isaiah 58:10 NLT

Women's Fellowship is helping to fill the
shelves in our Food Pantry. Everyone can
help by placing food items in the box pro-
vided in the narthex. Talk to Pastor John
for suggestions both of what is needed
most and what is especially appreciated.

December Birthdays

02 Gideon Winchester
06 Marilyn Snider
10 Donny Wyatt
22 Skip Powell
25 Jesus
27 Derek Wyatt



*May your faith in
God grow stronger
with each
passing year.*



December Anniversaries

17 Travis & Candice Sheldon



October 2025 STATISTICS

Average Worship Attendance: 22

Giving Local: \$5,047.00

Messenger: \$ 49.00

Other: \$ 100.00

Total: \$5,196.00

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.



2025 Monthly Prayer Calendar (praying each Sunday morning for Pastor John)	
Remember as you pray for the folks listed to include their families, children & grandchildren	
Day	Pray for:
1	Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano
2	Molly Arellano Elaine Azevedo Ben & Jen Baker
3	Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Pauline Bert
4	Michael Best Wanda Bollinger Earl Boyd
5	Earleen Cadruvi Ron Cadruvi Linda Carter & Ivy
6	Phyllis Caudle Arlene Cupp Deanna Dixon
7	Chuck & Wendla Dyer Jim & Sue Eikenberry John Elness
8	Kenny Fox Pam & Phil Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz
9	Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman
10	Thom & Patricia Guthrie Clark Hartman David & Evelyn Hurlbut
11	Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut Jay Irizarry Sheryle Knott
12	Chery Leib Baji Lutes Norma Lutes
13	Seth Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason
14	Jose & Floriceta Merlos Hillary Merlos Suzanne Neptune
15	Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish
16	Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson Oscar Phan
17	Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price
18	Joel & Susan Price Hannah Price Sam Price
19	John Price Jonah & Morgan Price Nathan & Kim Price
20	Wyatt Price Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe
21	Mary Rariden Lana Royer Keith Shafer
22	Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh
23	Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder Glenn Stanford
24	Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca
25	Jonathan Vacca Matt & Alexis Vacca Linda Vargo
26	Linda Ward Roger & Cynthia Welch Josh & Heather Winchester
27	Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Erica Wyatt
28	Brad Slayter Modesto CoB Waterford CoB
29	Pastors/Churches in Pacific Southwest District Camp Peaceful Pines
30	Church Board Members Food Pantry Recipients
31	Heaven's Bounty Ministry



An Advent Meditation: Hope Fulfilled

By Winfree Brisley

Many of us go to great lengths to pull off a Christmas morning surprise. Even now, you may have gifts hidden away, tucked into nooks and crannies, or delivered to a neighbor's house for safekeeping. Perhaps you've hunted down a gift that's nearly impossible to secure. Maybe you'll be up late on Christmas Eve doing a last-minute assembly.

Surprises can be delightful to give and receive, creating a sense of wonder and excitement around Christmas. But as we enjoy them, it's good to remember that the advent of Christ wasn't meant to be a surprise. God had been promising his people a serpent-crushing offspring from the earliest pages of the Bible ([Gen. 3:15](#)). The real story of Christmas isn't a story of surprise but of fulfillment.

Through the Old Testament prophets, God revealed quite a bit of information about the coming Messiah. Jeremiah said he would be a king from the line of David ([Jer. 23:5-6](#)). Micah foretold he would come from the town of Bethlehem ([Mic. 5:2](#)). Isaiah said he would be born of a virgin ([Isa. 7:14](#)). Years ahead of time, God promised his people a Savior and gave specific details about his coming.

So when Philip went to share the news that Christ had come, notice what he said: "We have found him of whom Moses . . . and also the prophets wrote" ([John 1:45](#)). He didn't say, "Surprise! God sent a Savior." He said, "We have found him." They knew the Messiah was coming. They were expecting him. Finding Jesus, for them, was confirmation of God's faithfulness.

The advent of Christ is a vivid reminder that God does what he says he will do, down to the last detail. Don't skip over the details the Gospel writers record about the birth of Christ. It's not extra fluff to fill out the story. In Matthew's account of Christ's birth, five times he writes something like "This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet" (see [Matt. 1:22; 2:5, 15, 17, 23](#)). Why does Matthew repeatedly point out the fulfillment of prophecy? Because it shows us God's faithfulness.

God's faithfulness in the Christmas story gives us hope in our own stories. Just as God promised to send Jesus, he promises to be with us now through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Just as Jesus came the first time, he promises to come again. We can look forward in hope, confidently anticipating Christ's second coming and the fulfillment of his promises to dwell with us forever ([Rev. 21:3](#)).

God may not give us everything on our wish list, but we can be sure God will fulfill all the promises given to us.

Great is God's faithfulness!

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/advent-meditation-hope-fulfilled/>

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