



Mariners: To be announced

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, December 18, at 8:30am

EVERY MONTH SCHEDULE

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|
| Sunday School | Sunday | 9:45 a.m. |
| Informal Worship | Sunday | 10:45 a.m. |
| Worship Hour | Sunday | 11:00 a.m. |
| Commissions | 3rd Thursday | 6:00 p.m. |
| General Board | 3rd Thursday | 7:00 p.m. |
| Fellowship Singers | Thursday | 4:15 p.m. |
| Friday Fellowship | Friday | 1:00 p.m. |
| Mariners | 3rd Friday | 1:00 p.m. |
| Women's Fellowship | 3rd Tuesday | 9:30 a.m. |
| Food Bank | 1st Sunday | 9:30 a.m. |

Friday Fellowship gathers at 1:00 p.m. every Friday for lunch. Mariner's meet at 1:00p.m. on the third Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome to both. Please join us!

The Mirror - December 2018

The Mirror is published once a Month. Information deadline is the 3rd Tuesday of the month.



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He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, who abides in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."
For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.



You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. **Psalm 91, vs. 1-6**

IN CHRIST ALONE

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;
this Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pat Benton – Back Pain

Lindy Frantz – Healing from Surgery

Suzanne Frantz – Healing from Surgery

Josephine Moore – Rehab for Back Surgery

Beverly Welch – Stability and Safety Blessings



KNOWING A CHANGELESS GOD

Thoughts inspired by David Jeremiah

Things are changing at a pace never known before.

Both in regards to the planet and in regards to technology.

Societal morals are changing also.

The best change in life is to come to Jesus Christ.

For He redeems from the inside out.

A Christian's change is ongoing as we mature in Christ. **2 Corinthians 3:18**

We are constantly being changed to conform to the image of Christ.

Change can be good, if it improves life.

1 Corinthians 15:52 speaks of the biggest change of all.

God is unchanging, unchangeable, immutable, forever the same.

He is unaltered, steadfast, our God never changes.

His power can never diminish, His glory cannot fade, He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

James 1:17 states how God does not change.

We need such stability in our lives today.

Here are five things about God that can affect our lives.

His promises are unchangeable as found in **Numbers 23:19**

They are as sure as his character

There are 7,487 promises of God in the Bible

Such as: **Joshua 1:9, Ps 50:15, Is 4:15** and **James 1:5**

Focus on the promises of God **2 Peter 1:4**

God's purposes are unchangeable

Find your purpose **Isaiah 46:9-11**

God will accomplish His purpose in your life

God is always consistent **1 Sam 15:29**

God's provisions are unchangeable

James 1:17 His grace never diminishes

God is faithful when we trust him.

The God who provided for the heroes of the Bible is providing for you.

His personality is unchangeable

He is never in a bad mood, always the same.

Hebrews 13:8 Your life can change but your relationship with God will never change.

His prophecies cannot change

With God there is life forever **John 8:24** and **Romans 6:23**

Without God there is death **James 1:15** and **Revelation 20:15**

God's Word is sure and good, or bad. Blessing or Judgment

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creature here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“Seek the Lord and His strength, seek His face continually.” 1 Chronicles 16:11

A woman wrote to me saying, “My husband awoke one morning, drank several cups of coffee, and sat at the table looking so depressed that I couldn’t help thinking to myself how very old and dejected he looked. Occasionally he emitted a giant sigh, followed by, “I’m afraid I can’t make a go of it. I’m afraid I’m licked.”

She persuaded her husband to repeat affirmations after her. “He turned to me,” she continues, “and said, ‘I feel better already.’ So off he went to work, repeating to himself, ‘I go forth in the name of the Lord.’ After a few days of this his shoulders were thrown back and he was breathing deeply of the fresh morning air as he walked to his car. I thought, as I turned from the window, ‘How alive he is now!’”

Certainly, God is life. This husband had put God out of his life. He was taking only shadows and fear into his life. But when he began to walk with God new faith cleared the quirks and shadows from his mind and cancelled out his fear.

Life Lifter: No one has a problem for which there is not an answer through the wisdom and the guidance of God. Keep your mental and spiritual “contact points” cleaned so that God can operate through your mind.

Norman Vincent Peal

SHED SALE

Thank you friends for all the help at our **Shed Sale**, to make it a success! **Total Sales: \$201.00.**

Kathleen

CHRISTMAS PARTY



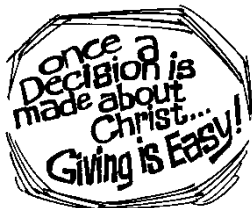
There will be an **All Church and Mariners Christmas Party** on **Friday, December 14th**, at **5:00pm.**

OCTOBER 2018 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 34

Giving:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Local: | \$5,957.00 |
| Sunday School: | 86.00 |
| Youth: | 0 |
| Messenger: | 0 |
| Mariners: | 57.00 |
| Other: | 205.00 |
| Total: | \$6,305.00 |



OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES:

Website: www.empirecob.org; **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB; **Twitter:**

https://twitter.com/empire_cob; and **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>



A TABLECLOTH Author Unknown



The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in urban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church, it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time to have their first service on Christmas Eve. They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting, etc. And on December 18 were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19 a terrible tempest – a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted for two days. On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sunk when he saw that the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 6 feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head high. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home.

On the way to the car he noticed that a local business was having a flea market type sale for charity, so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory colored, crochet table cloth with exquisite work, fine colors and a cross embroidered right in the center. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc., to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area.

Then he noticed the woman walking down the center aisle. Her face was like a sheet. “Pastor,” she asked, “where did you get that tablecloth?” The pastor explained. The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the table cloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. She was captured, sent to prison and never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted on driving her home, that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten Island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the door and many said that they would return. One older man, whom the pastor recognized from the neighborhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving. The man asked him where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike?

He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety, and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a concentration camp. He never saw his wife or his home again for all the 35 years in between. The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride.

They drive to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier. He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and he saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

- 17th – Travis & Candice Sheldon
- 30th – David & Cheryl Leib

BIRTHDAYS

- 06th – Marilyn Snider
- 08th – Kylie Welch
- 19th – Marvin Hilkey
Milton Young
- 22nd – Skip Powell

- 10th – Donnie Wyatt
- 17th – Bev Welch
- 25th – Jesus
- 27th – Derek Wyatt
- 28th – Thomas Guthrie
- 30th – Richard Ward
Rochelle Slaybaugh



If we have missed wishing you a happy birthday or a happy anniversary, we may not have your dates.

Please turn in your name and dates to the church secretary. You are important to us!



DECEMBER 2018 PRAYER CALENDAR



| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 Philippians 1:3-11 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres |
| 2 Isaiah 9:1-7 Pastor & Teachers Elaine Azevedo Ben Baker Ken Barklow Shirley Beekley | 3 Exodus 15:1-6 Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. | 4 Psalm 19:1-6 Ron Cadruvi & Fam. Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy | 5 1 Chronicles 29:14-18 Ashley Cooksey & Family Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Karen Davis & Family | 6 John 16:15-33 Gary & Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family | 7 Habakkuk 3:17-19 Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zack Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin | 8 Romans 12:9-13 Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman |
| 9 Luke 2:8-20 Pastor & Teachers Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Betty Harms & Fam. Clark & Melanie Hartman | 10 Matthew 25:34-40 Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. | 11 Psalm 13_1-6 David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family | 12 Exodus 39:32-43 Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Darlene Kennard Sheryle Knott & Fam. | 13 Matthew 4:18-22 Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes | 14 Luke 6:43-45 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Edna May Miller Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson | 15 Jeremiah 29:10-14 Suzanne Neptun Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish |
| 16 Isaiah 40:1-5 Pastor & Teachers Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Marge Peterson | 17 Matthew 6:25-34 Eileene Petros Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family | 18 1 Samuel 17:32-50 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Family | 19 Luke 5:12-16 Joel & Susan Price & Family John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family | 20 James 1:1-5 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. | 21 1 Peter 4:12-19 Lana Royer Vance Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Family | 22 Psalm 125:1-4 Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford |
| 23/30 Deuteronomy 4:27-31 Psalm 16:1-11 Pastor & Teachers Loretta Stein & David Jerry & Amy Stokes & Family | 24/31 Luke 1:26-35 Acts 2:41-47 Jerry & Judeen Stokes J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family | 25 Luke 2:1-7 Veronica Sudeman & Fam. Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family | 26 Matthew 7:1-5 Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca | 27 Psalm 20:1-9 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Family Bev Welch | 28 Ephesians 3:14-21 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam. | 29 Colossians 3:12-17 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt |
















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DECEMBER 2018 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 FIRST SATURDAY  9:00am-2:00pm |
| 2 Annual Council Meeting All Church Potluck (Finger Foods Only) | | 4  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon | 5 7:00 am Government Commodities Distribution | 6  4:15pm Christmas Choir | 7  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Alfonso's 2375 Lawrence Ceres | |
| | | 11  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon | | 13  4:15pm Christmas Choir | 14  All Church and Mariners Christmas Party 5:00pm | |
| 16  Christmas Choir | | 18 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 8:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg. Mirror Deadline | | 20  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting | 21  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Sizzler's 3101 Hotel Dr. Turlock | |
| 23/30 | 24/31 Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm New Year's Eve Party 3:00pm | 25  Christmas Day Church Office Closed | | 27  4:15pm Fellowship Singers | 28  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Velvet Creamery 2204 McHenry Modesto | |

EVERY SUNDAY

- 9:45am Sunday School
- 10:45am Informal Worship
- 11:00am Worship Hour