

ANNOUNCING

SEPTEMBER

Mariners: To be announced

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, September 18, at 9:30am

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	5:00 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 5:00 p.m. every Friday for dinner. Mariner's meet at 1:00p.m. on the third Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome to both. Please join us!

The Mirror - September 2018

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



Empire Church
of the Brethren

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Trust in the Lord with all of your strength. And lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6



Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount upon with wings like eagles, they will walk and not become weary. Isaiah 40:31

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous person can accomplish much. James 5:16

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pat Benton – Back Pain

Lindy & Lois Frantz – Moving Into Rebuilt Home

Norma Lutes – Digestive Tract Issues

Josephine Moore – Bedridden With Back Pain

Linda Qualls – Arthritis and Knee Fungus

Larry Ward – Seizures

Beverly Welch – Stability and Safety Blessings



THE FUTILITY OF LIFE

Thoughts from Dr. David Jeremiah based on the book of Ecclesiastes

Students were asked what was most important to them. They answered first to make a lot of money and second to find meaning in life. Most people today lack meaning and purpose for life. The absence of meaning in life is the reason for substance abuse and extreme behavior.

Solomon was searching for meaning in **Ecclesiastes**. He first wrote **Song of Solomon** then **Proverbs** and ended with **Ecclesiastes**. Solomon reigned in a time of peace and prosperity. He had money and time to pursue wisdom and the meaning of life.

He asked for and received wisdom as he started his reign. Then in life he wandered from his beginnings. As he got older he began looking for truth, meaning and the value of life. In **1:1** he states the conclusion of his search: ***all is vanity under the sun***. Where is the profit of life? Without God all is vain under the sun.

He sees no purpose or value to life as lived under the sun. It just goes around and around. Generation after generation. As he looks toward death he searches for what life was all about. Once we die life goes on without us as if we had never existed. ***Life without God is futile with no purpose, meaning or lasting value.***

Nothing is fulfilling (**1:8**) for without God there is restlessness of heart. Hence the need for entertainment and distraction we see today. **Acts 17:21** speaks to this: people are looking for something new, novelty is the latest greatest thing.

Satisfaction comes only with God for we are hungry and unsatisfied without God. **1:9-11**, there is nothing new under the sun, all resources were here in the beginning.

Solomon had lost his closeness with God and as he pursued his life without God he found emptiness and lost the meaning of life (**6:12**). **3:11** is the key to the book, God creates us with a place within us for Himself. We are made for the next world, not for this one. Invite God in and He makes us alive with meaning, purpose, and fulfillment.

Matthew 11:29 tells of God giving rest, meaning, and fulfillment. Without God, life makes no sense, He created us and He fulfills us. Under the sun – futility; with the Son – meaning and purpose.

Go with God literally and continually. It is the only way to live!

SAYING GRACE

A visiting Pastor was attending a men's breakfast in Farm Country. He asked one of the impressive older farmers in attendance to say grace that morning. After all were seated, the older farmer began –

“Lord, I hate buttermilk.” The Pastor opened one eye and wondered to himself where this was going. Then the farmer loudly proclaimed, “Lord, I hate lard.” Now the Pastor was worried.

However, without missing a beat, the farmer prayed on, “And Lord, you know I don't care much for raw white flour.” Just as the Pastor was ready to stand and stop everything, the farmer continued, “But Lord, when you mix 'em all together and bake 'em up, I do love fresh biscuits. So Lord, when things come up we don't like, when life gets hard, when we just don't understand what you are sayin' to us, we just need to relax and wait 'till You are done mixin', and probably it will be somethin' even better than biscuits. Amen.”

UNDIE SUNDAY

Sunday, September 16th, Mariners is sponsoring an “Undie Sunday”. Please bring new packages of socks and underwear for the **Shower Bus Ministry**.

I want to make a recommendation for your evening viewing. If you are tired of what is on the main TV channels and want something much better it is called **Pure Flix**. It comes by computer or device on your TV. It has good wholesome movies and programs and lectures on creation and relationships. Try it, you'll like it. **Wyatt Price** can tell you how to view it on your home TV.

Pastor John

GOOD STUFF CORNER



We are starting a new **Mirror “corner”** for people to suggest movies or books or other items of interest to the church members. If you read a good book or see a good movie, let us know . . . we'll pass it along! This month's suggestion is a very good movie titled “*Mountain Top*”. This movie is on **Net Flix**.

JUNE 2018 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 37

Giving:

Local:	\$5,076.00
Sunday School:	53.00
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	30.00
Other:	8,020.20
Total:	\$13,179.00



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 LETTER TO JESUS

Shared by Lois Frantz

Dear Jesus,

I prostrate myself before you in humble adoration as I proclaim you my blessed Savior who comforts and protects me from all evil.

When life becomes too harsh, you clasp me to your bosom where I find peace and strength. The pathway before me is never dark or frightening, for you light the way with your sacrificing love. Your brilliance lights the whole world so that evil may not hide from you.

Near the close of the day, as I stand before my window, I see your sweet face in the sunset. While I lie in my chamber at night, your very presence fills the room as you share my problems of the day and I pour out my love for you. Then you tenderly watch over me while I sleep. As dawn's first ray envelopes me with inner warmth we exchange greetings, and so another day of our mutual love continues.

I hear your voice in all things: in the cry of a newborn babe, in the sound of the whirling wings of a hummingbird, in the majestic pealing of the church bells on Sunday morn.

Oh God of my delight, I praise your very name, Blessed be the name of the Lord!!

When I put my trust in you and offer my love unconditionally, you lift me up upon the mountains where I can bask in your boundless love – where I dream of your Paradise. I can almost see my mansion awaiting in all its splendor and there is my Redeemer upon the Golden Throne!

The ecstasy is almost more than I can bear. Dear Sweet Jesus, your love for me is so great that it humbles my very soul. My Lord, soon my dream will be a reality. You will take my hand and lead me home, then I will sit at your feet, while feasting my eyes on your adoring face. And I will spend all eternity worshipping and adoring my blessed Savior. Until then . . .

Your Obedient Servant,
Lee Wrigley

DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

29th – John & Sue Vacca

BIRTHDAYS

02nd – Braydon Snyder

03rd – Sarah Adams

06th – Michael Azevedo

Betty Harms

07th – Melanie Hartman

Dakota Radcliffe

09th – Marge Peterson

13th – Gerald Allinson

15th – Eric Arellano
David Leib

16th – Tony Snyder

19th – Elsha Hartman

20th – Amy Best

23rd – Kim Price

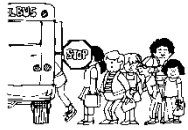
26th – Kirsten Piazza

Keith Shafer

30th – Quiana Becerra



*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!*



SEPTEMBER 2018 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Matthew 15:29-39 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres
2 Isaiah 49:8-10 Pastor & Teachers Elaine Azevedo Ben Baker Ken Barklow Shirley Beekley	3 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam.	4 1 John 4:7-12 Ron Cadruvi & Family Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy	5 Acts 28:1-10 Ashley Cooksey & Family Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Karen Davis & Family	6 2 Samuel 7:23-29 Jean Davisson Gary & Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Daniel 2:19-23 Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zack Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Luke 5:33-38 Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman
9 Nehemiah 12:31-43 Pastor & Teachers Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Betty Harms & Fam.	10 Job 42:1-5 Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	11 Matthew 10:40-42 Marvene Hilkey Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut	12 Psalm 5:1-7 Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Family	13 Exodus 16:1-8 Darlene Kennard Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib	14 Matthew 6:5-13 JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Edna May Miller	15 1 Peter 1:3-9 Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker
16 Jeremiah 29:12-14 Pastor & Teachers Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson	17 Psalm 32:6-11 Marge Peterson Eileene Petros Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	18 James 3:3-13 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Family	19 Luke 12:6-7 Joel & Susan Price & Family John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 Numbers 6:22-27 Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Family Lana Royer	21 Matthew 25:14-30 Vance Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Family Marilyn Snider	22 Galatians 6:7-10 Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford Loretta Stein & David
23/30 1 Kings 19:11-13 Deuteronomy 10:12-22 Pastor & Teachers Jerry & Amy Stokes & Family Jerry & Judeen Stokes	24 Proverbs 3:27-29 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	25 Titus 2:11-14 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family	26 Psalm 100:3-5 Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	27 Acts 2:42-47 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Family Bev Welch	28 Philippians 4:18-20 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	29 Ecclesiastes 3:1-11 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt



















PRAYER
 The world's greatest wireless connection





SEPTEMBER 2018 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 FIRST SATURDAY  9:00am-2:00pm
2  All Church Finger Foods Coffee Hour	3  Church Office Will Be Closed	4  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	5  7:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	6  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	7  5:00pm Friday Fellowship at La Morenita 1667 E. Hatch Ceres	8
9	10	11  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	12	13  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	14  5:00pm Friday Fellowship at Sizzlers Turlock	15
16 MISSION OFFERING SUNDAY UNDIE SUNDAY All Church Finger Foods Coffee Hour	17	18 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg. Mirror Deadline	19	20  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	21  1:00pm Friday Mariners Potluck at the Church	22  First Day of Autumn
23/30	24	25  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	26	27  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	28  5:00pm Friday Fellowship at Marie Callenders	29

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour