



**Mariners: Potluck at the church at 1:00pm**

**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, December 17, 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	2nd 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 dinner. Mariner's meet at 1:00 p.m. on the second Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome to both. Please join us!

**The Mirror - December 2019**

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



Empire Church  
of the Brethren  
P.O. Box 215

Empire, CA 95319  
Phone: 209-522-4302  
Pastor John Price: (209) 480-2778



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: 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** – Healing from Surgery  
**Don & Suzanne Frantz** – Cancer Healing  
**Josephine Moore** – Strength  
**Kathy Price** – Left Leg Stump Healing  
**Mike Syverson** – Strength and Healing



**All the girls still being held captive in Nigeria and their families**

## **COME, LORD JESUS**

The day is almost here. Anticipation has been building, and soon we will celebrate with joy, thanksgiving, and hope in the **birth of Jesus**. Why is this birth so important to us? All births are special, especially to the parents. What are **Mary** and **Joseph** looking forward to with the birth of this innocent child? My ancestors sang: “*The Virgin Mary had a baby boy . . . And they gave him the name of Jesus.*” Enslaved, my forebearers knew the joy and the fear behind the birth of a child, joy at this new life but fear at what it would bring. What hardships and suffering would their child have to endure in order to survive? With hope, they sang of the **Christ Child**: “*He come from the glorious kingdom.*” They waited and longed for that kingdom. Today we continue to wait. Children are born in places of exile. Families are seeking refuge, just as Mary and Joseph did with their son. But this child is different; his coming has been foretold. For he is the **Son of the living God, God himself**. This little child, born of the house of David, has been put in our midst for our salvation. He is our rock in a weary land, our shelter in a time of storm. Yet he comes as a child so that we may welcome him, nurture him, raise him, proclaim him as we must do for all children. We wait, not for the sound of reindeer hooves on the roof or the sight of sugarplum fairies. We wait for the sound of angels singing and the sight of a star appearing. We wait for the coming of the Savior, Jesus the Christ. Come, Lord Jesus, come!

**Diana Hayes**, Professor Emerita of Systematic Theology at Georgetown University and author of numerous books.

*Pastor John*

## POSITIVE INSIGHTS

*“And he said, ‘Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son, from me.’” Genesis 22:12*

What we need today is a greater emphasis upon big, strong people. When I was a boy they used to teach us in school that there is something a human being can use, which is known as willpower. Later on, a generation of more laid-back educators decided this was corny. But they sure produced a corny situation when they abandoned it! The mental health situation in this country worsened when they abandoned stressing willpower.

There is a power in an individual whereby he can decide, “I will. I will it to be. This is my decision. This is it – with the help of God.” Naturally, willpower is so much whistling in the dark unless you combine it with God’s help. But there are rugged people who with God’s help take a failure or difficulty or disappointment in their stride, extract from the experience whatever know-how it can give them, then relegate it to oblivion. And these people are inspiring.

**Life-Lifter:** *Take the best into your mind and only that. Nurture it, concentrate on it, visualize it, pray over it, and surround it with faith. Spiritually creative mind power, aided by God power, will produce the best.*

*Norman Vincent Peale*

## THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

‘Twas the night before Jesus came and all thru the house,  
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.  
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care  
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,  
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.  
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,  
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.  
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,  
I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head.  
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.

And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,  
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,  
Was written the name of every saved man.  
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;  
When He said, “It’s not here,” my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love,  
He gathered to take to His Father above.  
With those who were ready He rose without a sound.  
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;  
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.  
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;  
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight!

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,  
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.  
There’s only one life and when comes the last call,  
We’ll find that the Bible was true after all!

## OCTOBER 2019 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 37

### **Giving:**

Local:	\$5,154.00
Sunday School:	66.00
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	49.00
Other:	42.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,311.00</b>



### OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES:

**Website:** [www.empirecob.org](http://www.empirecob.org); **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB](https://www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB); **Twitter:**

[https://twitter.com/empire\\_cob](https://twitter.com/empire_cob); and **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>

# THE NIGHT THE ANIMALS TALKED

## Inspirational and Christian Stories

In the frosty mountains and on the snowy fields of Norway, there is a legend that draws children to all kinds of stables and stalls throughout the country on each Christmas Eve night. They are hoping to hear a miracle. They are waiting to hear the animals talk.

Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. This was no abandoned place, but was a working stable, filled with animals of all kinds. Into these humble surroundings, encircled by the innocent creatures of God, the Savior of man came into the world.

Now according to legend, at least, Christ's birth occurred at exactly midnight. Inside the stable, the animals watched in wonder as the new-born babe was lovingly wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. Suddenly, God gave voice to the animals and immediately they began to praise God for the miracle they had just seen. This went on for several minutes and, just before the entrance of the shepherds – who had hurried to the stable because angels had told them the Christ has been born there – the animals again fell silent. The only humans who had heard them were Mary, Joseph and, of course, the Christ child.

The legend of the talking animals persists to this day in Scandinavia. And every Christmas Eve, wide-eyed children creep into stables just before midnight to hear the animals praise God for the wondrous birth of His Son. Of course, adults scoff at this. "Old wives tales," they grump. "Those children should be home in bed, not out in the cold waiting for the family cow to preach a sermon."

But the children know – or at least believe – that animals really do praise God at midnight every Christmas Eve. And who of us – those who believe in an all-powerful God – can say that it really doesn't happen?

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."  
(Matthew 19:26 NIV)*

## UNDIE SUNDAY

**NEEDED ITEMS:** Dial Professional Body and Hair Wash; Tan Bath Towels (Vallejo Tan, 100% Cotton), Walmart Mainstays Brand; Men's Boxers or Boxer-Briefs (please no white briefs) sizes Small, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2XL; Women's Underwear (Please no thong-type underwear) sizes 6, 8, and 10; Men's and Women's socks.

**HYGIENE PACK ITEMS:** Kleenex, toothpaste, toothbrushes, 2-blade razors, combs.

If there are some who would rather not or are unable to shop, WalMart gift cards can be used to purchase items that we need for our guests. And cash is always welcome for gas and repairs.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

### ANNIVERSARIES

17<sup>th</sup> – Travis & Candice Sheldon

30<sup>th</sup> – David & Cheryl Leib

### BIRTHDAYS

02<sup>nd</sup> – Gideon Winchester

06<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Snider

08<sup>th</sup> – Kylie Welch

10<sup>th</sup> – Donny Wyatt

17<sup>th</sup> – Bev Welch

19<sup>th</sup> – Marvene Hilkey

22<sup>nd</sup> – Skip Powell

25<sup>th</sup> – Jesus

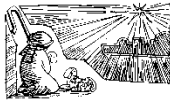
27<sup>th</sup> – Derek Wyatt

30<sup>th</sup> – 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 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>1</b> Psalm 130:5-8  Pastor & Teachers Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	<b>2</b> Genesis 45:1-15  Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo Ben Baker	<b>3</b> John 8:1-11  Ken Barklow Shirley Beekley Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	<b>4</b> 2 Samuel 15:13-26  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	<b>5</b> 1 Peter 4:8-11  Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	<b>6</b> Ephesians 1:15-23  Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Gary & Charlotte DeHart	<b>7</b> Galatians 3:23-29  Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zack Fear
<b>8</b> 2 Timothy 1:6-14  Pastor & Teachers Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz	<b>9</b> Psalm 103:1-5  Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie	<b>10</b> Philippians 4:4-9  Harold Harger Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	<b>11</b> Matthew 22:1-10  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry	<b>12</b> Psalm 63:1-8  Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard Sheryle Knott & Fam.	<b>13</b> Matthew 6:25-34  Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk	<b>14</b> John 15:1-8  Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Edna May Miller Josephine Moore
<b>15</b> Psalm 118:1-14  Pastor & Teachers Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker	<b>16</b> Galatians 5:22-26  Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	<b>17</b> Luke 1:26-38  Dennis Peterson Marge Peterson Eileene Petros Oscar Phan	<b>18</b> John 1:1-14  Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price	<b>19</b> Psalm 1:1-6  Jeremy & Erica Price & Family Joel & Susan Price & Fam.	<b>20</b> Luke 1:46-55  John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam. Kay Qualls	<b>21</b> Psalm 86:1-13  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer
<b>22</b> Mark 10:13-16  Pastor & Teachers Vance Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	<b>23</b> Psalm 56:3-11  Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam. Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	<b>24</b> 2 Corinthians 8:1-5  Loretta Stein & David Jerry & Amy Stokes & Family Jerry & Judeen Stokes	<b>25</b> Luke 2:1-14  J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam. Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson	<b>26</b> Matthew 1:1-17  Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe	<b>27</b> Psalm 119:65-72  Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family	<b>28</b> Mark 16:1-8  Linda Ward & Family Bev Welch Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam.
<b>29</b> Psalm 30:8-12  Pastor & Teachers Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	<b>30</b> Ephesians 2:4-9  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt	<b>31</b> Psalm 29:1-11				














**PRAYER**  
The world's greatest wireless connection





# DECEMBER 2019 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1  Council Meeting	2	3  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	4 7:00 am Government Commodities Distribution 	5  4:15pm Christmas Choir	6  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Sizzlers 3101 Hotel Drive Turlock	7 <b>FIRST SATURDAY</b>  9:00am-2:00pm
8  Love Feast After Church	9	10  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	11	12  4:15pm Christmas Choir	13  <b>All Church Christmas Party 1:00pm</b> Hosted by Mariners 	14
15  All Church Christmas Coffee Hour	16	17  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon 8:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	18	19  4:15pm Christmas Choir 6:00pm Board Meeting	20  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Dynasty Coffee & Sylvan (behind Walgreens)	21
22	23	24 <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm	25  <i>Christmas Day</i> Church Office Closed	26  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	27  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at La Parilla 2251 Claribel Rd. Riverbank	28
29	30	31 <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon New Year's Eve Party 3:00pm				

## EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour