

ANNOUNCING

February

Mariners: To be announced

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, February 19, 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	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 lunch. Mariner's meet at 1:00p.m. on the second Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome to both. Please join us!

The Mirror - February 2019

The Mirror is published once a Month. Information deadline is the 3rd 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, 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 – Migrains & Back Pain

Ron Cadruvi – Heart Surgery

Don & Suzanne Frantz – Cancer Treatment

Kirby Frantz – Tumor Treatment

Cheryl Leib – Healing from Knee Replacement Surgery

Dennis Peterson – Eye Surgery Pending

Jeff Qualls – Cancer Treatment

Beverly Welch – Stability and Safety Blessings



ANNUAL CONFERENCE MODERATOR

Sunday February 3, 2019 we will have Annual Conference Moderator **Donita Keister** with us for our morning worship. She will be leading the Northern California Churches in a conversation on our "**Compelling Vision**" at the Modesto Church of the Brethren at 1:30 that Sunday afternoon. Please come and share in Donita's hope and vision for the Church of the Brethren as she shares with us during worship then leads us in the afternoon.

Donita has a passion for the church as the **body of Christ**. Her calling is steeped in a desire to see the church strengthened so it can carry forth the work of the **Kingdom of God**. Her response to her calling in 2005 leads her to see the church become a place where all can grow in their faith through a sense of belonging and through the challenge of discipleship. The focus of the church is the ministry of Christ. The church is to stand for Christ against war and, promoting love and the light of peace.

It is her prayer that the Church of the Brethren be strengthened in its proclamation of Christ and all that He is, and that together and individually we will reclaim a passion for Christ's call for us. His bride, His body, His church. Come and participate in her love for the church and her passion for Christ. Then join with other Northern California Brethren for the conversation on our "**Compelling Vision**" for the future of our denomination.

Then on February 20th at 6 PM plan on joining with other Northern California Churches for an evening of Mission. On that evening, the Modesto Church of the Brethren will host a District Missionary evening with the Dali's. **Samuel** is the former president of Ekklesiyar Yamuna in Nigeria. **Rebecca** is the founder and director of CCEPI which works with Nigerian women, widows, and orphans. They are able to share about the current situation for EYN as well as the work they have and continue to be a part of.

Please consider being a part of these two opportunities in our area.

Pastor John

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

*“My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.”
Psalm 84:2*

I once spoke with a gentleman who seemed to be on top of the world. His attitude astonished me somewhat, because I knew how much trouble he had been through. You’ve heard it said, “It never rains, but it pours.” Well, it really poured on him. But he endured it all, and more than that, he came through victoriously. “You are a remarkable, indefatigable human being,” I told him. “You really are something special. How come?” He grinned and said, “The answer is: Years ago, I discovered a philosophy that will stand up under anything. Nothing can break it – and I mean nothing. And it can be stated in five words: Keep believing – never lose faith.”

The writer of Psalm 84:2 knew the same truth: “Deep in my heart I long for Your temple, and with all that I am, I sing joyful songs to You.” What a picture! Here is a man who was really up against it and would have folded had he not been able to see that, despite how bad everything was, the goodness of the Lord prevails!

Norman Vincent Peale

FUN

Mother: “How did your history test go today?”

Little Lucy: “Oh, I don’t know . . . the questions were easy.”

Mother: “Then what was the problem?”

Little Lucy: “The answers were hard.”

GOOD STUFF CORNER



Search for the following (youtube has videos): *The Bible Project*, by Ravi Zacharias and Dennis Prager; and *The Death of Truth*, also by Ravi Zacharias and Dennis Prager, with Jeff Foxworthy. A must watch (please): *Painting the Impossible* by Akiane Kramarik.

DECEMBER 2018 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 29

Giving:

Local:	\$14,885.00
Sunday School:	82.00
Youth:	202.00
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	65.00
Total:	\$15,234.00



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/>

THE CAB RIDE

Author Unknown

Twenty years ago, I drove a cab for a living. It was a cowboy's life, a life for someone who wanted no boss. What I didn't realize was that it was also a ministry. Because I drove the night shift, my cab became a moving confessional. Passengers climbed in, sat behind me in total anonymity, and told me about their lives. I encountered people whose lives amazed me, ennobled me, made me laugh and weep. But none touched me more than a woman I picked up late one August night. I was responding to a call from a small brick fourplex in a quiet part of town. I assumed I was being sent to pick up some partiers, or someone who had just had a fight with a lover, or a worker heading to an early shift at some factory for the industrial part of town.

When I arrived at 2:30a.m., the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself. So I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80s stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware. "Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated." "Oh, you're such a good boy", she said.

When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice." I looked in the rearview mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long." I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now." We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her. I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair. "How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said. "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you." I squeezed her hand, then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly, lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk.

What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, . . . but they will always remember how you made them feel.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY

ANNIVERSARIES

15th – Phil & Pam Franklin
24th – Don & Pat Benton

BIRTHDAYS

01st – Lloyd Fullmer
17th – Pat Benton
19th – Natalie Hartman
20th – Johnathan Snyder
11th – John Vacca
02nd – Phyllis Caudle
08th – Norma Lutes

11th – John Vacca
15th – Seth Lutes
23rd – Evelyn Hurlbut
24th – Ivy Carter
26th – Tanner Radcliffe
Loretta Stein
Zachary Snyder
27th – Joy Slaybaugh
Lori Ward



*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!*



FEBRUARY 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Proverbs 3:5-6 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres	2 Psalm 36:5-9 Elaine Azevedo Ben Baker Ken Barklow Shirley Beekley Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger
3 Matthew 5:13-16 Pastor & Teachers Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam.	4 1 John 4:7-12 Ron Cadruvi & Fam. Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy	5 Luke 2:36-388 Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Karen Davis & Family	6 John 1:35-42 Gary & Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry	7 Psalm 96:1-9 Zack Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz	8 John 1:1-18 Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie	9 Ephesians 2:1-10 Betty Harms & Fam. Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey
10 Isaiah 40:28-31 Pastor & Teachers Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut	11 1 Corinthians 13:11-13 Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry Norman Johnson	12 Matthew 6:19-21 Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater	13 Luke 16:10-15 Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes	14 Mark 2:1-12 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Edna May Miller Josephine Moore	15 Ephesians 4:7-16 Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker	16 John 14:15-21 Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family
17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12 Pastor & Teachers Dennis Peterson Marge Peterson Eileene Petros Oscar Phan	18 Psalm 46:1-5 Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price	19 Romans 12:9-17 Jeremy & Erica Price & Family Joel & Susan Price & Fam. John & Kathy Price	20 Revelation 21:1-7 Nathan & Kim Price & Fam. Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family	21 Philippians 4:4-7 Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Vance Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer	22 Matthew 25:31-40 Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Family Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family	23 James 5:7-12 Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford Loretta Stein & David Jerry & Amy Stokes & Family
24 John 11:30-45 Pastor & Teachers Jerry & Judeen Stokes JJ. & Soleena Stome & Fam. Veronica Sudeman & Fam. Arthur Syverson	25 Galatians 3:26-29 Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent	26 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Family Bev Welch	27 Matthew 23:1-12 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam. Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Judges 7:4-15 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt		






















PRAYER
The world's greatest wireless connection





FEBRUARY 2019 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Sizzlers in Turlock	2 FIRST SATURDAY  9:00am-2:00pm
3  ANNUAL CONFERENCE MODERATOR		5  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	6 7:00 am Government Commodities Distribution  7:00 pm Bible Study 	7  CHOR 4:15pm Fellowship Singers	8  POTLUCK 1:00pm Mariners Potluck at the Church	
10	11	12  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	13  BIBLE STUDY 7:00 pm Bible Study	14  CHOR 4:15pm Fellowship Singers	15  5:00pm All Church Valentine's Dinner Golden Bowl Hughson	16
17  Coffee Hour	18	19 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg. Mirror Deadline	20  6:00pm MISSIONARY EVENING AT MODESTO COB	21  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	22  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Red Lobster Modesto	23
24	25	26  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	27  7:00 pm Bible Study	28  CHOIR PRACTICE 4:15pm Fellowship Singers		

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour