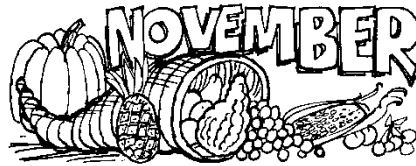


ANNOUNCING



Mariners: Potluck at the church at 1:00pm

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, November 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 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 - November 2019

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



Empire Church
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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: 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

THE LIGHT OF GRATITUDE

I believe it is a discipline to be grateful. Thankfulness for life itself is a good starting point for those of us who more easily see what is wrong with the world than what's right. A peculiar truth of our society, which promises so much, is this: The more we feel we are owed, the less able we are to be grateful for what we have. Our consumer culture cultivates dissatisfaction, always prompting us to hunger for more. Gratitude for faith, family, and friendship often pales in the clutter of possessions and promises that surround us. But only one promise in life is sure: **the salvation of God**. We have been rescued from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of light. For people in many parts of the world, that is sufficient to make them grateful all their days. Thoughts from **Joyce Hollyday, *Then Shall Your Light Rise***.

November is the season of Thankfulness. A group of our early settlers came together to give thanks for survival and having an abundance. Remember, enough is an abundance. Just ask a person who does not have enough to meet their or their children's needs. If you have enough then you need to thank God for his great abundance to you. What are you most thankful for this year? Probably not for our political climate, in the U.S. or world. If the world is not accelerating toward the end time then what is happening? Why do people seem so evil? We need to take advantage of the time we have to **praise God** and help our neighbors. We can help our neighbors have a better life and come to know where the truth lies, as well as, where life is and whom we live for. *Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. And now let the weak say I am strong, let the poor say I am rich, because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!*

*Happy Thanksgiving,
Pastor John*

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.” Jeremiah 33:3

The Christian religion is far greater than anyone realizes. It tells weak people they can become strong. It tells defeated people they can become victorious. It tells unhappy, mixed-up people they can become organized. It teaches that we can become great persons. There is nothing else like it in the whole wide world.

Listen to just one statement from Jeremiah: “Ask me, and I will tell you things that you don’t know and can’t find out.” Call upon God, it says, and He will answer; He will show you tremendous things. And yet we make something small indifferent out of our religion.

There is a very profound law of human nature which says that we become to a very large degree what we think. If you think little and believe little and act little, the results are likely to be little. If, on the other hand, you think big, believe big, act big, the results are very likely to equate with bigness.

Prayer: Our Heavenly Father, we ask You to bless us and give us that insight and that greatness of spirit by which we can stand up to life’s problems. We give You thanks. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Norman Vincent Peale

THANK YOU!

Thank You Church for the October 6 **Pastor Appreciation Sunday** lunch and your generous gift and cards.

Pastor John

CHURCH FAMILY LETTER

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers that have been said for me, the phone calls, the emails, and the cards. God has blessed me more than I can say!

The Heart Cath/Angiogram was successful. The surgeon found two places in the artery blocked at 50%. He said that was not a problem.

Since this procedure was successful I am meeting with a doctor Tuesday to discuss progressing on towards having an Aortic Valve Transcatheter Replacement (TAVR). Simply put that means replacing my Aortic heart valve going in thru the artery in the groin area instead of open heart surgery.

I rejoice that we have our Heavenly Father with us constantly. It is an awesome experience to trust and obey.

Evelyn Hurlbut



READY FOR THE MANE COURSE From *Woman’s World* magazine



Two men are walking through a game park when they come across a lion. The lion starts chasing them. They run as fast as they can, but soon, one of the men starts praying: “Please, God, turn this lion into a Christian!” He turns to see if the lion is still chasing them, and he sees the lion on its knees. Happy to see his prayer answered, he turns around and heads toward the lion. As he gets closer, he hears it saying a prayer: “Thank you, Lord, for the food I am about to receive.”

SEPTEMBER 2019 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 32

Giving:

Local:	\$6,603.17
Sunday School:	85.00
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	540.00
Total:	\$7,228.17



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 THANKSGIVING STORY from “*Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul*”

It was the day before Thanksgiving – the first one my three children and I would be spending without their father, who had left several months before. Now the two older children were very sick with the flu, and the eldest had just been prescribed bed rest for a week.

It was a cool, gray day outside, and a light rain was falling. I grew wearier as I scurried around, trying to care for each child: thermometers, juice, diapers, and I was fast running out of liquids for the children. But when I checked my purse, all I found was about \$2.50 – and this was supposed to last me until the end of the month. That’s when I heard the phone ring.

It was the secretary from our former church, and she told me that they had been thinking about us and had something to give us from the congregation. I told her that I was going out to pick up some more juice and soup for the children, and I would drop by the church on my way to the market.

I arrived at the church just before lunch. The church secretary met me at the door and handed me a special gift envelope. “We think of you and the kids often,” she said, “and you are in our hearts and prayers. We love you.” When I opened the envelope, I found two grocery certificates inside. Each was worth \$20. I was so touched and moved, I broke down and cried.

“Thank you very much,” I said, as we hugged each other. “Please give our love and thanks to the church.” Then I drove to a store near our home and purchased some much-needed items for the children.

At the check-out counter I had a little over \$14.00 worth of groceries, and I handed the cashier one of the gift certificates. She took it, then turned her back for what seemed like a very long time. I thought something might be wrong. Finally I said, “This gift certificate is a real blessing. Our former church gave it to our family, knowing that I’m a single parent trying to make ends meet.”

The cashier then turned around, with tears in her loving eyes, and replied, “Honey, that’s wonderful! Do you have a turkey?”

“No. It’s okay because my children are sick anyway.” She then asked, “Do you have anything else for Thanksgiving dinner?” Again I replied, “No.”

After handing me the change from the certificate, she looked at my face and said, “Honey, I can’t tell you exactly why right now, but I want you to go back into the store and buy a turkey, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie or anything else you need for a Thanksgiving dinner.”

I was shocked, and humbled to tears. “Are you sure?” I asked. “Yes! Get whatever you want. And get some Gatorade for the kids.”

I felt awkward as I went back to do more shopping, but I selected a fresh turkey, a few yams and potatoes, and some juices for the children. Then I wheeled the shopping cart up to the same cashier as before. As I placed my groceries on the counter, she looked at me once more with giant tears in her kind eyes and began to speak.

“Now I can tell you. This morning I prayed that I could help someone today, and you walked through my line.” She reached under the counter for her purse and took out a \$20 bill. She paid for my groceries and then handed me the change. Once more I was moved to tears.

The sweet cashier then said, “I am a Christian. Here is my phone number if you ever need anything.” She then took my head in her hands, kissed my cheek and said, “God bless you, honey.”

As I walked to my car, I was overwhelmed by this stranger’s love and by the realization that God loves my family too, and shows us his love through this stranger’s and my church’s kind deeds.

The children were supposed to have spent Thanksgiving with their father that year, but because of the flu they were home with me, for a very special Thanksgiving Day. They were feeling better, and we all ate the goodness of the Lord’s bounty – and our community’s love. Our hearts were truly filled with thanks.

Andrea Nannette Mejia

DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

14th – Jerry & Amy Stokes

BIRTHDAYS

01st – Heather Winchester

02nd – Ken Barklow

03rd – Wendla Dyer

05th – J.J. Storne

08th – Erica Price

10th – Candice Arellano

18th – Clark Hartman
Tim Vaughn

20th – Jerry Goodman
Harold Harger

22nd – Mary Rariden

25th – Uriah Winchester

26th – Geri Masellis

30th – Laura Snyder



*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!*



NOVEMBER 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Hebrews 11:1-12 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Psalm 46:1-11 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo Ben Baker
3 Matthew 14:13-21 Pastor & Teachers Ken Barklow Shirley Beekley Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 1 Corinthians 12:18-27 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Colossians 4:2-6 Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Gary & Charlotte DeHart	7 Luke 6:32-36 Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zack Fear	8 1 John 3:11-24 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz	9 Romans 8:35-39 Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger
10 Psalm 36:5-7 Pastor & Teachers Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam.	11 Hebrews 13:5-8 David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry Norman Johnson	12 Matthew 11:28-30 Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater	13 Deuteronomy 33:1-12 Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes	14 Luke 9:1-6 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Edna May Miller Josephine Moore	15 Matthew 21:28-32 Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker	16 2 Samuel 22:1-7 Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family
17 Isaiah 43:5-7 Pastor & Teachers Dennis Peterson Marge Peterson Eileene Petros	18 John 13:3-17 Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell	19 James 5:13-16 Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Family Joel & Susan Price & Fam.	20 Isaiah 43:16-21 John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam. Kay Qualls	21 John 15:9-17 Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	22 Psalm 92:12-15 Vance Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	23 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam. Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford Loretta Stein & David
24 Hebrews 12:1-3 Pastor & Teachers Jerry & Amy Stokes & Family Jerry & Judeen Stokes	25 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam. Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson	26 Matthew 6:19-24 Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe	27 Psalm 91:1-13 Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family	28 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Linda Ward & Family Bev Welch	29 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam. Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	30 Galatians 5:13-18 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt



PRAYER
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NOVEMBER 2019 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Strings Oakdale Rd.	2 FIRST SATURDAY 9:00am-2:00pm
3 All Church Potluck, Finger Food Only Daylight Savings Ends 2:00am (Set clock back one hour)	4	5 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	6 7:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	7 4:15pm Christmas Choir	8 POTLUCK 1:00pm Mariners at the Church	9
10	11	12 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	13	14 4:15pm Christmas Choir	15 1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Su Casita Waterford	16
17 Harvest Dinner After Church	18	19 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	20	21 4:15pm Christmas Choir 6:00pm Board Meeting	22 1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Black Bear Turlock	23
24	25	26 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	27	28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Will Be Closed	29 1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Ridgeways Orangeburg Ave.	30

EVERY SUNDAY

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