

Mariners: Potluck at the church at 1:00pm

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, April 21, 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 - April 2020

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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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

Helen Campbell – Skin Cancer Healing
Don & Suzanne Frantz – Cancer Healing
Kerby Frantz – Chemo
Jose Merlos – Therapy Healing
Colette Spencer – Surgery Healing
Beverly Welch – End of Life Issues



OBEDIENT TO LOVE

Our first response to the term “**obedience**” may not be delight! We want to do things **our own way** and in **our own time**. We want to choose what we do and who we are. We want to be “**free**”. But is that really true? Is there not, paradoxically, a delight in cooperating with others and even in sometimes surrendering our will to theirs? Have you ever been in love, been loved by someone who truly desires your happiness and flourishing? Didn’t you **want to do and be** what your beloved desired? Our most startling example of obedience, even to death, is **Jesus**. He emptied himself, humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. *Phil. 2:6-8*. The whole Jesus story is a lived example of obedience. Imagine the **Word of God**, the second person of the Trinity, willing to become a human infant, helpless and needy, toothless and smelly. Think of him growing up and the stress of adolescence. What was that disappearance in the temple when his parents could not find him? Consider the young adult, afire with his life-giving message, yet exhausted and needing a break. Is that not why he sometimes needed to be alone?

The obedience of Jesus was lifelong. His final days, in suffering and death, were the climax of a whole life lived in obedience to the **Father**. The **Psalms** captures his willingness to accept whatever the Father willed: Sacrifice and offering you wished not, but obedience you gave me. *Ps 40:7*. **God** delights in obedience. In *1 Samuel* we find that the Lord delights more in obedience than burnt offerings or sacrifices. Obedience is much better than sacrifice and submission than the fat of rams. *1 Sam. 15*; and *Psalm 50*. The point is not suffering; it is obedience. In every human life there are times when choosing obedience to God will inevitably bring suffering in this wake. The only thing that strengthens us to accept the pain is to remember that we are not alone. God in Jesus accepted suffering for our sake and continues to suffer with us. It is his presence that enables us to be obedient, even in terrible circumstances.

Most days, however, the challenge to obedience is not so dramatic. It may be ever more difficult to persevere in ordinary times. How long must I be kind to my pesky neighbor? How many days must I care for a sick relative? How often am I called to be patient with a coworker who is always late? Each of us can make our own list of daily annoyances that sometimes become a burden hard to bear. But obedience is better than sacrifice, and its reward is unending joy. May that knowledge give us strength.

Sister Irene Nowel
 who is a member of Mount St. Scholastica Monastery in Atchison, Kansas

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“And before he took and sent messes unto them from before him: but Benjamin’s mess was five times so much as any of theirs. And they drank, and were merry with him.” Genesis 43:34

Do you know the meaning of the word abundance? I didn’t until I looked it up one time. And I was thrilled. The derivation of the word abundance goes back to the Latin verb *undare*, which means “to rise up in waves.” Isn’t that great? Life rises up in waves. Have you got any waves of life? Or are you living on little dribbles? Almighty God is a generous God. He never meant that we should dribble through life. He intended us to live in abundance.

Of all the handicaps that hold people back from being successful in their living from overcoming weakness and having strength, the worst is a lack of love. There is no wisdom like that of the Bible, which tells us not to be angry with people and not to hate them, but love them, not to be irritable with people, but love and serve them. If you so live, life will flow back to you in great waves.

Life-Lifter: Our spirits rise when we learn how to receive the abundance of good things God wants to give us. Practice receiving. Believe that you have been given. Then feel your spirits lift as you realize God’s blessings are actually showered upon you.

Norman Vincent Peale

HEAVEN’S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP



Heaven’s Bounty is the name of our new shops (Buildings A and B). Our original building is still called “**the shed**”. Coming up in April or May, we’re going to have a flea market on our tennis court. We’re going to be cleaning out the shed and both containers, so we can use them for more profitable use. **Keep watch. Exciting things are taking place!**

The total sales for February was **\$1,090.00!** A **BIG** thank you to all the helping hands, donations and prayers.

God Bless You,
Kathleen

FEBRUARY 2020 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 33

Giving:

Local:	\$4,393.00
Sunday School:	73.00
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	220.00
Total:	\$4,686.00



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/>

MODERN LOVE

By Patricia Gallagher, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, Jan/Feb 2020

“Mom, we need to come up with a hobby to do together on Skype,” my youngest daughter, Kristen, told me last spring. Two years ago Kristen had moved from Philadelphia, where we lived, to San Francisco. We Skyped religiously for an hour every Sunday, and her father was actually giving her guitar lessons that way.

I wracked my brain. “You know that I’m terrible at crafts, but what if we try making pot holders? The ones you weave with loops of cotton over a small loom.” When I was 10, I’d made many and sold them for a nickel each in our neighborhood. They were simple to master, but I hoped I still had the skills.

“That sounds really cool,” Kristen said, and she immediately ordered each of us a loom and several bags of loops. “We’ll call our sessions Patti’s Pot Holders, after you.”

My happiest moments had been those spent as a family. I tried to include my children in every aspect of my life. How I missed our Sunday dinners with all of us gathered around the big dining table, but I also wanted the kids to feel unfettered, especially as young adults. “You have wings,” I told them, and Kristen had used hers to go 3,000 miles away. Every day seemed to bring a new adventure: “Mom, I’m kayaking!” “Mom, I’m hiking!” “Mom, I’m salsa dancing!” I could hardly keep up with her spontaneous text messages.

We spent the first pot holder get-together figuring out the instructions, as I refreshed my memory. First, you attach the loops horizontally to the sides of the seven-inch frame. Then, working horizontally, you weave the other loops over and under the attached loops, using a crochet hook. To complete the pot holder, you create a crocheted edge. The whole process takes about an hour. By the third session, we’d gotten the hang of it well enough to have long conversations while we worked. “Can I ask you anything, and you’ll tell me the truth?” Kristen said, and soon the question cut both ways. I learned more about my daughter than when she was living nearby and I’d see her every week.

The 15 colorful pot holders I’ve made so far hang on my kitchen wall, positioned to look like an art installation. The real art – of listening and sharing quality time with my daughter – hung like angels in the airwaves between Philly and San Francisco.

EASTER CHOIR CANCELLED

Due to social isolation because of the corona virus, we will not be having Easter Choir this year. Thank you to all who faithfully praise the Lord in song each choir season!

CASA DE MODESTO EVENING SERVICE CANCELLED

In an effort to fully cooperate with the Casa de Modesto Management Team to limit exposure of our residents to the coronavirus, the weekly Sunday Evening 7:00pm Service has been cancelled until further notice. Our senior residents are especially at risk, and it is necessary to limit outside visitors as much as possible.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

01st – Shelby Cadruvi

02nd – David Hurlbut

Darlene Kennard

04th – Sarah Lutes

Roger Welch

05th – Rachel Price

09th – Samuel Price

16th – John Price

18th – Linda Carter

Andrew Welch

27th – Vern Shafer



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!



APRIL 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Judges 6:11-16 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Isaiah 43:1-3 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo Ben & Jen Baker	3 Psalm 105:1-6 Ken Barklow Shirley Beekley Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.
5 John 17:13-26 Pastor & Teachers Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Psalm 34:1-8 Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Gary & Charlotte DeHart	7 Revelation 22:1-5 Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 1 Peter 2:18-24 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz	9 2 Peter 3:1-9 Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie	10 Luke 18:15-17 Harold Harger Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	11 Matthew 28:1-10 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry
12 Philippians 3:7-11 Pastor & Teachers Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard	13 Psalm 16:5-11 Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib	14 Colossians 3:12-17 JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Geri Masellis Ric Mason	15 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Edna May Miller Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	16 Matthew 8:23-27 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish	17 Genesis 15:5-15 Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Eileene Petros	18 1 John 3:1-3 Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell
19 John 20:11-22 Pastor & Teachers Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Family	20 Psalm 23:1-6 Joel & Susan Price & Fam. John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam.	21 Luke 22:39-43 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden	22 Numbers 11:21-30 Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Vance Shafer Vern & Patty	23 2 Kings 5:1-15 Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam.	24 2 Corinthians 4:11-5:4 Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam.	25 Psalm 119:105-112 Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family
26 John 14:15-31 Pastor & Teachers Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent	27 2 Timothy 4:1-8 John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam. Bev Welch	28 Psalm 118:5-9 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam. Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	29 Matthew 20:29-34 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt	30 Micah 6:6-8		














PRAYER
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APRIL 2020 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	2	3	4
5 	6	7  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	8	9  MAUNDY THURSDAY	10  Good Friday	11
12 	13	14  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	15	16  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	17	18
19	20	21  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	22	23  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	24	25
26	27	28  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	29	30  4:15pm Fellowship Singers		

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour