



Mariners: No meetings until further notice

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, December 15th 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	Temporarily postponed until further notice	
Mariners	Temporarily postponed until further notice	
Women's Fellowship	3rd Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
Food Bank	1st Sunday	9:30 a.m.

Due to COVID-19, Friday Fellowship and Mariners have been temporarily postponed until further notice.

The Mirror - December 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

Pat Benton – Pain & Leg Circulation
Ron Cadruvi – Blood Clots
Helen Campbell – In Convalescent Care
Don & Suzanne Frantz – Cancer
Jeff Qualls – Cancer Treatment



SCRIPTURE: LUKE 13:10-17

“Jesus was teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath. And a woman was there who for eighteen years had been crippled by a spirit; she was bent over, completely incapable of standing erect. When Jesus saw her, he called to her and said, ‘Woman, you are set free of your infirmity.’ He laid his hands on her, and she at once stood up straight and glorified God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant that Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, said to the crowd in reply, ‘There are six days when work should be done. Come on those days to be cured, not on the Sabbath day.’ The Lord said to him in reply, ‘Hypocrites! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger and lead it out for watering? This daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound for eighteen years now, ought she not to have been set free on the Sabbath day from this bondage?’ When he said this, all his adversaries were humiliated; and the whole crowd rejoiced at all the splendid deeds done by him.”

Stretch into It

The woman was completely bent. Completely. Not just a little bit, but totally unable to stand up straight. Each of us can spend our lives looking at mud puddles, mourning the tragedies and sins of human life, wanting what we have not been given, resenting what we have been given, afraid of what we will be given.

Creating a whole world of negativity. God knows there is enough to be negative about, but faith means that we can see through the darkness into the core of light within. And faith says, “Believe in it, See it. Bathe in it. Spend prayer time knowing it is there. Find it. Stretch yourself into it.”

These things: these transient, small and insignificant things. Compared to the weight of glory, they are the several doors. Doors to the joys, the serene and heart-stopping happiness that will steal in and saturate body, soul and spirit, the world without end.

Amen

From Miriam Pollard, a Sister of Santa Rita Abbey in Sonoita, Arizona



POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.” Psalm 40:3

I stopped for lunch with a friend whom I’ve known for many years. This man is really one of the most inspirational men I have ever known. I greeted him by saying, “I just met a man who told me it was impossible to be happy anymore.”

“No happiness?” he asked. Then he reached in his pocket and pulled out a card. This is what it said:

TAKE TIME TO LAUGH: It is the music of the soul

TAKE TIME TO PLAY: It is the source of perpetual youth.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY: It is the greatest power on earth.

TAKE TIME TO LOVE AND BE LOVED: It is a God-given privilege.

TAKE TIME TO BE FRIENDLY: It is the road to happiness.

TAKE TIME TO GIVE: It is too short a day to be selfish.



I was impressed by this but said to my friend: “There is one thing left out. I would like to add it if you don’t mind.” **TAKE TIME FOR GOD:** It is the way to life.

And it is, too.

Life Lifter: The chief struggle in gaining mental peace is revamping your thinking to the relaxed attitude of acceptance of God’s gift of peace. In every circumstance, always look for the good that’s surely present there.

Norman Vincent Peale



WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP DECEMBER MEETING



Women’s Fellowship will meet on **December 15th**, at 9:30am, at the church. We will be making goodie trays and taking them to the rest homes and our church staff.

“Why is it that our memory is good enough to retain the least triviality that happens to us, and yet not good enough to recollect how often we have told it to the same person?” *Francois de La Rochefoucauld (1613-80)*

OCTOBER 2020 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 27

Giving:

Local:	\$4,288.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	1,000.00
Total:	\$5,288.00



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/>



Mrs. Claus's Message

By Joan McGeorge, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, November/December 2020

I closed my eyes, as I always did, so I could concentrate on my morning devotions before I got ready for work. Concentrating on anything could be extra hard during the busy holiday season, but it always calmed me to start my day by praying for others or simply giving thanks for my blessings. Today was unusual in that I had a specific request: *God, is Mom looking down on me from heaven this Christmas?*

It had been more than 20 years since my mother had passed, but the question suddenly seemed important to me. The day before, a coworker had come by my office to tell me about a close call she'd just had. She'd stopped to fill her tank on the way in to work, and just as she was about to pull out of the station, she heard a woman scream. She slammed on her brakes. It was a good thing she did; barely a second later an 18-wheeler going way too fast flew right in front of her. The woman who had screamed must have seen it coming somehow and had probably saved my coworker's life. But there was no one, not man or woman, anywhere in sight. "That's when I realized it had to be my mom, looking down from heaven, still keeping me safe," she said. I felt a little jealous.

Of course God knew all that, and I asked, *Please give me a sign that my mom still looks out for me too.* That would be the best Christmas gift of all.

I got ready for work and gathered my things to leave, passing through the kitchen on my way out. I stopped when I noticed something out of the corner of my eye. There was a smudge on my Mrs. Claus cookie jar. The lid needed a quick wipe down, so I picked it up – only to nearly drop it when music began to play. I'd had this cookie jar for years and brought it out every Christmas, but it had never played music before. After some investigating I saw that, in fact, it was a musical cookie jar. So why did it choose to play for me this morning, after all this time? Surely it was an answer to my Christmas prayer, and I couldn't wait to tell my coworker that I had proof that our moms watched over us from heaven, Mrs. Claus had told me so.

THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

By Ashli Cartwright-Peak, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, November/December 2020



I stood on my back porch, staring up at the stars and hoping to feel something other than loneliness. It was the day after Thanksgiving, and the two-year anniversary of my husband's death. I thought maybe looking up at the heavens would help me feel closer to him, but all I felt was cold. Sighing, I turned to go back inside.

Walking into the house, I was surprised to see a light on in the dining room. *Weird, I don't remember doing that.* Stranger still, it wasn't even the overhead light. Instead, it was the light in the hutch, and it was shining down on my angel statue. Shaking my head, I turned the light off and left the room.

The same thing happened on the first day of December. I woke up excited because I love the whole month of Christmas. As I came downstairs for breakfast, I could see that the light in the hutch was on again. This time I knew I hadn't left it on. What was going on? Feeling slightly uneasy, I turned the light off once more. I'd almost forgotten about it a few days later when it happened. Again!

I looked at the angel standing in the halo of light, and finally I understood. When my husband had become too weak to go upstairs, we turned this dining room into a bedroom for him. He'd left the earth from this very room. But in the light shining over the angel, he kept me company from heaven. Whenever I felt lonely, all I had to do was turn it on. If my husband didn't beat me to it.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

17th – Travis & Candice Sheldon
30th – David & Cheryl Leib

BIRTHDAYS

02nd – Gideon Winchester
06th – Marilyn Snider
08th – Kylie Welch

10th – Donny Wyatt
19th – Marvine Hilkey
22nd – Skip Powell
25th – Jesus
27th – Derek Wyatt
30th – 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 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 1 Thessalonian 5:12-21 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Matthew 7:21-28 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 John 14:15-27 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Mark 6:30-46 Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.
6 Isaiah 35:1-10 Pastor & Teachers Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart	7 Luke 6:46-49 Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 Psalm 130:1-6 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz	9 Romans 5:1-5 Lloyd Fuller Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger	10 Luke 2:8-14 Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam.	11 Joshua 1:1-11 David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry	12 Luke 6:27-36 Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard
13 Psalm 146:5-10 Pastor & Teachers Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib	14 2 Timothy 2:20-25 JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason	15 Revelation 3:18-24 Edna May Miller Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	16 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish	17 Isaiah 7:10-14 Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Eileene Petros Oscar Phan	18 1 Corinthians 15:50-58 Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell	19 Matthew 6:25-34 Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Fam.
20 Deuteronomy 7:7-9 Pastor & Teachers John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam.	21 Romans 12:1-8 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden	22 Psalm 62:1-12 Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer	23 Isaiah 43:14-21 Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	24 John 1:15-18 Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam. Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	25 Luke 2:1-7 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam. Veronica Suderman & Family	26 Matthew 14:28-33 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe
27 Colossians 4:2-6 Pastor & Teachers Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	28 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam	29 Ephesians 2:1-10 Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam. Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt	30 Psalm 134:1-3	31 Joshua 4:1-7		



PRAYER
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DECEMBER 2020 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	2  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	3  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	4	5 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
6  Yearly Council Meeting Following Worship	7	8  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	9	10  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	11	12
13	14	15  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	16	17  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	18	19
20	21  Winter Begins	22  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	23	24  Christmas Eve Service 7:00pm	25  Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26
27	28	29  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	30	31  New Year's Eve		

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour