



Mariners: Potluck at the church, 2nd Friday, at 5:00pm

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, June 16at 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	5:00 p.m.
Mariners	2nd Friday	5:00 p.m.
Women's Fellowship	3rd Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
Food Bank	1st Sunday	9:30 a.m.

Friday Fellowship gathers at 5:00 p.m. every Friday for dinner. Mariner's meet at 5:00p.m. on the second Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome to both. Please join us!

The Mirror - June 2020

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 91:1-6*

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 – Waiting for Skin Cancer Treatment
Don Frantz – Stuck in Canada
Suzanne Frantz – Cancer Healing
Kerby Frantz – Cancer Healing
Jose Merlos – Shoulder Surgery Healing
Colette Spencer – Surgery Healing
Linda Qualls – Surgery Healing
Jeff Qualls – Cancer Treatment Postponed
Those on the front lines for the Virus
Those who are home due to shelter in place order



WALKING IN THE FAVOR OF GOD – PART ONE

I am going to share ideas from **Dr. Charles Stanley**.

The favor of **God** is expressed by **His** approval acceptance, support, provision, power, and joy. He showed this to people of the **Old Testament** and to everyone who has been saved by **Jesus Christ**. First by salvation then by the indwelling presence of **The Holy Spirit** who seals us as His children. His favor is a fact, but it is also something we can experience on a daily basis as we walk in it. We should see the evidence of God’s favor working in how we live our lives. Part of God’s favor is his willingness to communicate with us. We should be listening and learning so we can be obedient to his will for our lives. We are to talk to God but we are to listen and learn from him also in **Psalm 32:8** God makes three promises. *I will instruct you, I will teach you in the way which you should go and I will counsel you with My eye upon you.* If we are faithful to him He will be faithful to us. Because He loves us and wants us to obey his will, God continually gives us counsel through His Holy Spirit who is our internal guide and director. Listening to God demands our time and attention. We must clear our minds and make time for God to speak to us. God’s voice will be consistent with the scriptures. God’s voice may be in conflict with human reason. God’s voice will clash with fleshly desires. God’s voice will speak clearly. God’s voice will speak personally. God is always speaking but we must listen. God also speaks through situations, others, through a supernatural blessing, in unanswered prayers, disappointments, failure, financial problems, sickness or injury. As you look at your life, are you walking in the favor of God? If so, what is the evidence of His favor in your life? What practices and habits help you listen to the Lord? What hinders you from hearing His voice?

God bless and encourage you as you become his more completely each day.

Dr. Charles Stanley

FINDING JOY

By Christina Jobs, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, May/June 2020

“What are we going to do?” I asked my husband, Shawn, for what felt like the thousandth time. Since moving to Pennsylvania from New Jersey it seemed as if everything had gone wrong. I had lost my job, and there was even worse news: Shawn’s union was going on strike. Until management at his company agreed to a contract the union could approve of, Shawn was no longer a support analyst. “How are we going to live on no income?”

“We still have some savings,” Shawn said.

But not much. We’d used most of it to buy our new house, and now we were paying a mortgage. On top of everything else I was pregnant with our first child.

Shawn received a schedule for picketing every week. With him out of the house, I had a lot of time to worry about what an extended strike would mean for our family. “Our savings won’t cover the mortgage for long,” I told my mother over the phone. “We could lose our house.”

“God will provide,” Mom assured me. “Ellie’s here, and we’ll start praying right away.”

Ellie was one of my mother’s best friends. She was like an aunt to me. “I understand exactly how you’re feeling,” she said, taking the phone from Mom. “Try to remember the blessings in your life. Like that new baby.”

Two weeks after the strike began, we learned that the company was cutting off our health insurance. “I’ll have to cancel my monthly doctor’s visit,” I told Shawn. “Anything medical will be out of pocket. What if there’s an emergency?”

“The strike can’t last forever,” Shawn said, but of course he was nervous too.

I asked friends on Facebook to pray for us, but the truth was I’d never felt so abandoned by God. One afternoon I sat staring at our bank balance. I’d just paid a tax bill that drained almost all that was left of our savings. My job, Shawn’s job, or medical insurance – one by one, they’d all been stolen from us. *Stolen* was the only word I could think of to describe it.

I turned off the computer and shuffled through the mail. I didn’t want to open anything that seemed to be a bill, so I opened the big envelope that looked like a card. “Congratulations on your new baby,” it read. It was from Ellie. Inside it she had written, “Don’t let anyone steal your baby joy.”

She’d used the same word I had to describe what had been taken from me. It was all I thought about. Yet I hadn’t even noticed that my joy had been stolen too. Who had taken that away? Who was responsible for that loss? It was I who had chosen to focus on my worries instead of the wonderful things I had in my life. I couldn’t do much about our circumstances, but I could do something about my attitude.

“I’ve made a vow,” I told Shawn when he finished picketing that evening. “From now on I’m not going to let anything steal my joy – or my faith. There are better things on the horizon. I just don’t know about them yet. God’s going to work a miracle for us, and I want to be ready to receive it.”

Shawn was glad to see my positivity return. Seven weeks after the strike began, it came to an end. I resumed regular visits to the doctor until we became a happy family of three. I even found another job. By the time all these blessings arrived, I was more than ready for them. Before Shawn went back to work, before I found a job, even before my baby arrived I had the joy that God had given me. I would not lose it again.

APRIL 2020 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 0

Giving:

Local:	\$4,011.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	725.00
Total:	\$4,736.00



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/>

HE MAKES WINDS HIS MESSENGERS

By Joe Whalen, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, Jan/Feb 2020

Clear blue skies. Bright June sunshine. It was a perfect Sunday morning for golf, but it wasn't a perfect day for me. My wife, Jan, had died recently, and I missed her terribly. Just last night, I'd been staring at her picture. "Honey, I'm sure you're happy, but it would mean the world to me if you sent me a sign so I knew for sure."

My family had rallied around me. My son had driven my grandson nine hours from their home in Delaware to mine in North Carolina to stay with me for two weeks. On this visit I had suggested we meet halfway in Virginia. It would cut their drive in half, and we could take the weekend to go golfing together. My son had eagerly agreed.

As we were coming off the tenth green toward the golf cart, I saw a beautiful black-and-yellow butterfly sitting on the steering wheel. I slid quietly into the cart, and as soon as we headed for the eleventh tee the butterfly flew onto my shoulder. I thought it would fly off when I got out of the cart, but instead it stayed there.

On the fifteenth hole, I took my stance for my next shot. The butterfly flew off my shoulder, swirled around my club and then my arms as if enveloping me in a hug. It landed on my left cheek, then my right cheek, then whispered by my lips and finally flew straight ahead until it disappeared into the sky.

The boys and I were speechless. Yellow was Jan's favorite color. As the butterfly floated off, I knew for sure she was happy in heaven. The boys had given me a golf day to remember.

HEAVEN'S MUSIC

By Sheletta Brundidge, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, Jan/Feb 2020

My four-year-old son stood by me in the kitchen, playing with a button on my dress. He pushed the button through the hole and back out. Over and over. Daniel had nonverbal autism. He didn't talk, make eye contact or play with his siblings. He lived in his own little world.

I let out a sigh as I wiped down the counter. *God, please help Daniel find his voice.* My three youngest children all had autism, but Brandon and Cameron had both responded well to speech therapy. Daniel had made little progress, only managing to master a couple of words, and only when prompted. He'd never spoken on his own.

Now, with his speech therapist losing faith that Daniel could be reached, I was losing faith that God had my back on this. I leaned against the counter, as angry with him as I'd ever been.

Then I heard something. Humming? I looked down at Daniel. He was still dutifully working my dress button, but he was humming something vaguely familiar. Then I heard him sing three words: *old town road*. He was doing his best to sing the viral hit recorded by Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus. My other kids had been playing it nonstop for months. Who knew God had my back all this time?

Daniel's therapist immediately incorporated music into his treatment, and he progressed quickly. "Old Town Road" remained our family favorite. In time, Daniel learned to say three more words on his own: *I love you*.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN JUNE

ANNIVERSARIES

15th – Tim & Catherine Vaughn
17th – John & Kathy Price
22nd – Thomas & Patricia Guthrie
24th – Lyndall & Lois Frantz
27th – Alex & Cathy Arellano
Joel & Susan Price

BIRTHDAYS

02nd – Linda Ward
08th – Phil Franklin
10th – Alex Arellano
Jennifer (Welch) Wuchner
12th – Wyatt Price

15th – Zachary Baker
Jonah Price
16th – Dennis Peterson
17th – Kathleen Powell
18th – Lyndall Frantz
21st – Kerby Frantz
Kristof Vaughn
22nd – Wanda Bollinger
23rd – Katie Lutes
28th – Helen Campbell
Thomas Guthrie



*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!*



JUNE 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Romans 8:12-17 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Luke 15:11-32 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo Ben & Jen Baker	3 Mark 1:35-39 Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Matthew 25:31-40 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Philippians 4:6-96 Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Philemon vv. 4-7 Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Gary & Charlotte DeHart
7 Mark 1:35-39 Pastor & Teachers Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 1 Peter 2:1-10 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz	9 Colossians 1:1-14 Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger	10 John 14:1-4 Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam.	11 2 Timothy 2:14-19 David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry	12 2 Corinthians 9:10-15 Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard	13 Mark 11:19-24 Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib
14 John 14:1-4 Pastor & Teachers JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason	15 Psalm 143:5-10 Edna May Miller Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	16 Matthew 5:1-12 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish	17 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Eileene Petros	18 John 15:1-10 Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell	19 Luke 10:38-42 Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Family	20 John 5:19-24 Joel & Susan Price & Fam. John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam.
21 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 Pastor & Teachers Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family	22 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Vance Shafer Vern & Patty	23 Matthew 6:25-34 Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam.	24 1 John 3:1-2 Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam.	25 Psalm 139:1-12 Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family	26 2 Samuel 7:18-29 Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent	27 1 Corinthians 9:20-23 John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.
28 1 John 3:1-2 Pastor & Teachers Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam.	29 Philippians 4:10-19 Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam. Derek Wyatt	30 Hebrews 12:4-11 Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt				




















PRAYER
The world's greatest wireless connection





JUNE 2020 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	3  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	4  4:15pmFellowship Singers	5  Friday Fellowship 5:00pm	6 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
7  Communion  Father's Day Lunch	8	9  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	10	11  4:15pmFellowship Singers	12  Mariners 5:00pm	13 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
14	15	16  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30amWomen's Fellowship Mtg.	17	18  4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	19  Friday Fellowship 5:00pm	20 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
21  Father's Day	22	23  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	24	25  4:15pmFellowship Singers	26  Friday Fellowship 5:00pm	27 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
28	29	30  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon				

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour