

**Mariners: Potluck at the church at 1:00pm**

**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, March 17, at 8:30am**

**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 - March 2020**

The Mirror is published once a Month. Information deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Management

**Earleen Cadruvi** – Surgery Healing

**Helen Campbell** – Skin Cancer Healing

**Don & Suzanne Frantz** – Cancer Healing

**Eunice Lasater** – Healing from Fall

**Jose Merlos** – Shoulder Surgery Healing



### **SAYING THANKS**

The famed novelist Morris West suggests that when you turn seventy-five years of age there should only be three phrases left in your vocabulary: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! He’s right. At a certain point in our lives nothing else matters other than gratitude. We can be healthy, accomplished, famous, rich, and have left behind a legacy that will make us forever remembered, but if we are not living inside a spirit of gratitude, all of that will mean nothing. We will not be happy, nor will we be much of a source of happiness for others.

Gratitude is the ultimate virtue and the only real route to happiness. It is more important even than love because anything which does not take its root in gratitude will be self-serving and manipulative in some way. Only when we give of ourselves to others because we are grateful for how we have been blessed – only then will our love flow out as pure and as not demanding something in return. When we are not acting out of gratitude, we may be well-intentional and outwardly generous in our actions, but we will not truly be acting in love. We will be carrying other people’s crosses but, in however subtle the fashion, also sending them the bill.

The entire spiritual task of growing into a truly mature and loving person consists in rooting ourselves more and more in gratitude, where love can flow out from a heart and demand nothing in return because it already has its return.

To celebrate thanksgiving – to explicitly express and celebrate gratitude – is the singularly most important and healthiest thing we can do for ourselves, both spiritually and humanly.

*Fr. Ronald Rolheiser*  
*President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas*

## POSITIVE INSIGHTS

*“But the high places were not removed: nevertheless Asa’s heart was perfect with the Lord all his days.” 1 Kings 15:34*

Faith is an acceptance of spiritual truth, a belief in yourself as a child of God. I think everybody, once every day, ought to draw himself up and say, “I am a child of God.” And when you believe that, then you begin to release powers within your mind, your soul, that can lift you above your defeats. If you just stay at your earthly level then when you look up at these great big defeating problems, they will overwhelm you.

But as a child of God you are much taller than you are of yourself. You have an extension in you and with this extension by the power of faith you can overcome any difficulty in this world. The problems of life are infinitesimal in comparison with the extension powers that are in you as a child of God. There are your problems; they seem very big to you. But you yourself are much bigger than you think. I’ve seen it happen again and again: God comes into your mind, into your thought, and the inspiration produces an explosion and you rise above your difficulty.

**Life-Lifter:** If, over a long period of time, a person habitually fears something, there is a tendency for that fear to become a reality. But if you hold the faith thought, the positive thought, you will create about yourself an atmosphere propitious to success, health, and well being.

*Norman Vincent Peale*

## NEW ADDRESS



Kelly Olsson has a new address: 8251 Calder Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C-4B7.  
Jose and Florecita Merlos have a new phone number: (909) 513-3802.

## WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP MEETING

The March Women’s Fellowship Meeting will be a breakfast meeting at the Fruit Yard, 8:30am, Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. We will visit shut-ins afterwards.

## JANUARY 2020 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 37

### **Giving:**

Local:	\$5,313.00
Sunday School:	57.00
Youth:	10.00
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	43.00
Other:	595.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$6,018.00</b>



## OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES:

**Website:** [www.empirecob.org](http://www.empirecob.org); **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB](https://www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB); **Twitter:**

[https://twitter.com/empire\\_cob](https://twitter.com/empire_cob); and **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>

## MR. MITCHAM'S PEACHES

Author Unknown

Mr. Mitcham grows the best peaches around. Almost as much fun as eating the delicious fruit is taking a drive out to the orchard in early spring. You can see acres and acres of gorgeous peach blossoms, each a promise of future fruit. I like to just sit and drink in this beautiful sight.

One particular spring, I walked among the trees to take a closer look at some strange things Mr. Mitcham was doing to his peach trees. The first thing I noticed was that all the topmost branches had been cut off the trees. What a pity, I thought. Those trees were gorgeous and he has ruined them!

He went to all the trouble to plant them, and tend them and now he is ruining them. As I drew closer, I saw that not only had he cut off their top branches, but he had put strong metal bands around some of the branches forcing them lower.

There was one more thing I noticed that was some sort of discipline for the tree. On the outermost part of some of the limbs there were tied small styrofoam cups filled with concrete, the weight of which forced the branches down within reach.

As summer approached, the orchard produced a bumper crop. The most beautiful and tastiest peaches ever! Why do you suppose that happened? Was it a coincidence? No. It was carefully planned and the plan was just as meticulously executed. The result was a great harvest of wonderful fruit! And the bonus was that the pickers did not have to spend hours on ladders reaching the highest limbs for the fruit.

Meanwhile, across the way, a neighbor had a few scraggly-looking peach trees that had never been tended. They had never been pruned or fertilized or sprayed for insects. They had never known the gardener's touch, and their peaches were small, few, and not very tasty.

A knee bowed and a life placed in the hands of the Master Gardener will result in His loving and wise grooming. This grooming and shaping will result in the bearing of much sweet smelling and beautiful fruit, fruit that will be of eternal significance. The trees across the way, who are having it their way and who have chosen to be their own masters will look on enviously and with regret as they observe the Gardener's finished product.

## AN IRISH BLESSING

May God grant you always . . .  
A sunbeam to warm you,  
a moonbeam to charm you,  
a sheltering Angel  
so nothing can harm you.  
Laughter to cheer you.  
Faithful friends near you.  
And whenever you pray,  
Heaven to hear you.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

24<sup>th</sup> – Don & Susan Wyatt

### **BIRTHDAYS**

01<sup>st</sup> – Cheryl Leib

04<sup>th</sup> – Suzanne Frantz

06<sup>th</sup> – Christopher Heiny

15<sup>th</sup> – Susan Wyatt

20<sup>th</sup> – Sarah (Wyatt) Peterson

26<sup>th</sup> – Ben Baker



*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!*



# MARCH 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR




















S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<b>1</b> Psalm 5:1-12  Pastor & Teachers Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	<b>2</b> Matthew 21:12-16  Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo Ben & Jen Baker	<b>3</b> Psalm 51:1-17  Ken Barklow Shirley Beekley Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	<b>4</b> Genesis 41:14-16, 39-43  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	<b>5</b> Luke 10:38-42  Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	<b>6</b> Hebrews 13:1-3  Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Gary & Charlotte DeHart	<b>7</b> Isaiah 40:28-31  Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear
<b>8</b> Revelation 21:1-4  Pastor & Teachers Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz	<b>9</b> Psalm 8:1-9  Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie	<b>10</b> 1 Kings 19:1-18  Harold Harger Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	<b>11</b> John 15:1-8  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry	<b>12</b> Joshua 10:5-15  Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard	<b>13</b> Matthew 28:16-20  Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib	<b>14</b> 1 Corinthians 13:1-8  JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Edna May Miller
<b>15</b> Isaiah 26:1-8  Pastor & Teachers Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	<b>16</b> Genesis 21:8-21  Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish	<b>17</b> Romans 15:1-7  Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Eileene Petros	<b>18</b> Mark 9:14-29  Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell	<b>19</b> Romans 12:1-8  Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Family Joel & Susan Price & Fam.	<b>20</b> Isaiah 41:10-13  John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam. Kay Qualls	<b>21</b> Galatians 5:22-26  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer
<b>22</b> John 14:1-6  Pastor & Teachers Vance Shafer Vern & Patty	<b>23</b> Matthew 22:34-40  Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam.	<b>24</b> Daniel 2:19-23  Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam.	<b>25</b> Lamentations 3:25-33  Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family	<b>26</b> Isaiah 55:6-13  Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	<b>27</b> James 1:19-27  Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam. Bev Welch	<b>28</b> Galatians 6:2-10  Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam. Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.
<b>29</b> Romans 6:1-11  Pastor & Teachers Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt	<b>30</b> 1 Kings 18:41-44	<b>31</b> Psalm 62:5-8				



**PRAYER**  
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**MARCH 2020**  
**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1  All Church Coffee Hour Finger Foods Only	2	3  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	4  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	5  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	6  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Red Lobster Modesto	7 <b>FIRST SATURDAY</b>  9:00am-2:00pm
8	9	10  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	11	12  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	13  Mariners 1:00pm Potluck at the Church	14
15  Coffee Hour	16	17  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 8:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	18	19  4:15pm Easter Choir 6:00pm Board Meeting	20  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Marie Callendars Modesto	21
22	23	24  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	25	26  4:15pm Easter Choir	27  1:00pm Friday Fellowship at LaParilla Riverbank	28
29	30	31  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon				

**EVERY SUNDAY**

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