



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

**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, May 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 1:00p.m. on the second Friday of every month. Everyone is welcome to both. Please join us!

**The Mirror - May 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**

**Helen Campbell – Skin Cancer Healing**  
**Don & Suzanne Frantz – Cancer Healing**  
**Kerby Frantz – Chemo**  
**Jose Merlos – Therapy Healing**  
**Colette Spencer – Surgery Healing**  
**Isolated People during this strange time**  
**People who have had treatment postponed**  
**Medical and First Responders personnel**  
**Families at home**



### **DO WE NOT KNOW?**

It is unfortunate that for so long the scriptural image of our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit was wielded as a weapon, at least in days gone by, in order to guilt or intimidate people into not behaving badly.

The reality of this teaching is so beautiful and yet so often dismissed with an eye roll.

For a moment, really contemplate the image of the Holy Spirit dwelling inside you, an undeserved gift, quiet but ever present, fierce but waiting for our cooperation. If we fully accept this truth, we would probably not only behave different but live differently. We would listen more and speak less, love more and fear less, give more and take less. But our human minds can't always come to terms with the knowledge Scripture offers us, and so we brush it off or paint the Spirit with a quaint façade that denies the real power within and all around us.

We live our lives, as St. Paul suggests, according to the world's foolish wisdom rather than the wisdom of God. And, sadly, we often don't figure out our miscalculations until we are well into this course called life. The good news is that it's never too late to return to the Spirit. It may feel counterintuitive to surrender our own perceived power to something that can't be seen with our eyes, that can be heard only with the ear of our heart. But that's the only way to find that truth and wisdom we so desperately seek.

*Mary DeTurrisPoust*  
*Director of Communications for the Diocese of Albany*

## POSITIVE INSIGHTS

*“And Moses spake before the Lord, saying, Behold, the children of Israel have not hearkened unto me; how then shall Pharaoh hear me, who am of uncircumcised lips?” Exodus 6:12*

After a speech one evening a young man told me his story: “I was a salesman, but I couldn’t sell,” he said in a booming voice. “I knew the trouble was that I had clamps on me of shyness and self-doubt. These things held me tight and I couldn’t get free. I went to my pastor and he said, ‘Bill, turn to Jesus and ask Him to free you of these things. If you give your life to the Lord, he will give Himself to you.’”

“So,” Bill said, “I did and those clamps fell away and I was able to sell. But I realized that the big thing had happened was that I was free inside. It was as if I had moved out of a little cell into the big wide world.”

The man’s face glowed. People who had stood listening had misty eyes, for they were seeing one of the greatest things in the world: a man who had been set free by the power of Jesus Christ.

**Prayer:** Our Heavenly Father, help us turn from disorganization of mind and emotion into the healing quietness of Your presence and, feeling Your quieting hand on our hot and fevered lives, may hereafter keep our minds on You that we may live in peace, masters of the tensions of life. This we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Norman Vincent Peale*



## IN LOVING MEMORY

Please remember in our prayers those who have passed in the last twelve months, and their families: **Karen Davis, Merle Snyder, Betty Harms, Marjorie Peterson, Beverly Welch, and Shirley Beekly.**

## LEARNING AND DOING

By **Andrea Blackstone** printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, Mar/Apr 2020

There are a lot of veterans in my family. When my son, Tyler, was four, he didn’t understand what that meant. I searched YouTube for videos to help me explain. One about homeless vets came up.

“Let’s build a house for every veteran,” Tyler said. I explained we didn’t have enough money to do that, but he insisted we do something. We wound up making Hero Bags. Tyler applied for a grant, which we used to buy backpacks, toiletries, socks, winter hats, and gloves, and restaurant gift cards. In the past four years, Tyler has handed out more than 3,500 bags.

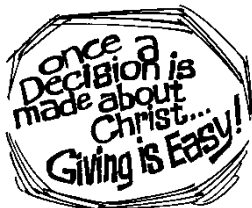
“I want veterans to know they’re important,” Tyler says. He gets it.

## MARCH 2020 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 29

### **Giving:**

Local:	\$7,420.00
Sunday School:	40.00
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	741.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$8,201.00</b>



### OUR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ADDRESSES:

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

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/empire\\_cob](https://twitter.com/empire_cob); and

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>

## THE COLLECTOR

By Kris Ballinger, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, Jan/Feb 2020

My husband and I were in the Edinburgh, Scotland airport headed back to our home in Tennessee when a security officer stopped me at the baggage check. He picked up the backpack that I intended to carry on.

“Whoa, what’s this – a bag of rocks?” he asked

“More than thirty pounds of them,” I said.

He held one up. “It looks just like a heart. It’s beautiful, ma’am, but I can’t allow you to take rocks on the plane.”

My precious rocks made it back home with our checked luggage and joined the others arranged around my garden, on the living room mantle and on shelves and windowsills in every room of the house.

I found my first heart-shaped rock 15 years ago while walking along the beach at Lake Michigan, and I have since gathered them from shorelines and wooded trails all over the U.S., Scotland and Ireland. Ranging in size from a quarter inch to over a foot in diameter, each heart has its own irregular shape and color. My favorite is a fossilized heart-shaped gizzard stone from a dinosaur’s stomach that a friend brought me from a desert in Utah.

Although friends and family bring me – and even mail me – pieces to add to my collection, I also enjoy giving them away as gifts. My heart-shaped rocks never fail to make people smile, especially on Valentine’s Day. They are all beautiful and unique hearts, just like all of ours.

## MUSIC LESSON

By Gay Behrensmeyer, printed in *Mysterious Ways* magazine, Jan/Feb 2020

My organ teacher, John Hildreth, and I always met at an old Episcopalian church in town. I’d taken lessons from him for 30 years, but now I was ready to give up. My playing just wasn’t what it used to be. I sat on the organ bench, wondering how to tell him. He would be so disappointed.

“Take a listen to this recording,” John said, “and I’ll be right back.” He hit play and stepped out of the sanctuary. The melody coming from the speakers was beautiful, rich with notes that seemed to float from all directions. The organist’s coordination between the manual keys and the foot pedals was spot on. I closed my eyes and took it all in. Gosh, Lord, I thought, if I could play like that, I’d never quit.

Before our new choir director arrived, I’d been more confident. Then the criticism began. “You’re playing too fast,” she’d say. “Now it’s too slow . . . can’t you play something more contemporary?” Then last month a member of the congregation said, “You know you missed a note in that last piece.” I could’ve cried.

Clearly I was losing my touch. Much as I’d miss playing, what was the point if the music didn’t sound good anymore? I’d have to find a different way to praise God. But how?

Soon John returned. He turned the tape off. “That was lovely!” I blurted out. “I wish I could play that well.”

John gave me a quizzical look, “That was you playing. It’s a performance from a few weeks ago.”

And with that, I had my answer.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN MAY

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

12<sup>th</sup> – Troy & Joy Slaybaugh

26<sup>th</sup> – Vern & Patty Shafer

29<sup>th</sup> – Josh & Heather Winchester

### **BIRTHDAYS**

04<sup>th</sup> – Jay Irizarry

05<sup>th</sup> – Susan Price

Harley Radcliffe

06<sup>th</sup> – Steven Best

07<sup>th</sup> – Cherith Franklin

08<sup>th</sup> – Jacob Cadruvi

Sue Vacca

12<sup>th</sup> – Troy Slaybaugh

13<sup>th</sup> – Tommie Parrish

Amy Stokes

15<sup>th</sup> – Daniel Snyder

16<sup>th</sup> – Don Wyatt

17<sup>th</sup> – Patricia Guthrie

28<sup>th</sup> – Gayle Stanfill

Catherine Vaughn



*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!*



# MAY 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
5 Mark 1:35-39  Pastor & Teachers 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 2 Corinthians 5:6-9  Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 1 Peter 2:1-10  Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz	9 Colossians 1:1-14  Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie
10 John 14:1-4  Pastor & Teachers Harold Harger Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	11 2 Timothy 2:14-19  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. 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 1 Peter 3:13-17  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  Pastor & Teachers 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 1 Corinthians 12:14-26  Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden	22 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12  Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Vance Shafer Vern & Patty	23 Matthew 6:25-34  Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam.
24/31 1 John 3:1-2 Luke 10:29-37 Pastor & Teachers 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 Romans 5:1-11  Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam. Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	29 Philippians 4:10-19  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt	30 Hebrews 12:4-11



## PRAYER











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**MAY 2020**  
**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
3	4	5  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	6  8:00 am <b>Government Commodities Distribution</b>	7  4:15pmFellowship Singers	8	9 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
10  <b>Mother's Day</b>	11	12  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	13	14  4:15pmFellowship Singers	15	16 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
17	18	19  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon 9:30amWomen's Fellowship Mtg.	20	21  4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	22	23 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
24/31	25 <b>Memorial Day</b>	26  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	27	28  4:15pmFellowship Singers	29	30 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm

**EVERY SUNDAY**

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour