

**ANNOUNCING**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Mariners: No meetings until further notice**

**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> 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 - September 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 & Leg Circulation  
**Helen Campbell** – Gout  
**Suzanne Frantz** – Tumors  
**David Hurlbut** – Heart & Strength Concerns  
**Jeff Qualls** – Cancer Treatment  
**Larry Ward** – Bowel Blockage



## THE PRIORITY OF PRAYER

Prayer is one of the most important activities in our lives because we are actually talking to the sovereign **God** of the universe who has all power and knowledge. He understands how we feel, knows what we think, and has the power to intervene in every area of life. Yet despite the Lord’s willingness to listen and answer our requests, we are not always faithful in prayer. When times are good, we may forget to pray. Or maybe we doubt that God will answer. But the biggest hindrance to prayer is sin. If we are unwilling to acknowledge our sins and ask for the Lord’s forgiveness, we will have no desire to talk to a holy God.

Paul says to “*Pray without ceasing.*” *1 Thess. 5:17*. Paul was encouraging people who were being persecuted. The enemy was obvious. He is just as active in our lives though often not so obvious. Prayer is not an option for a victorious life. It is a necessity. Paul was speaking of a continual recurrence. Prayer should recur frequently throughout the day. It is to focus our attention on God consistently. Starting the day in prayer helps this to happen. Throughout the day we should be in contact with God about what we are facing. At the end of the day we will be ready to thank him for being with us throughout the day. Father God wants to listen and answer our prayers. God knows our needs but he wants us to know them and acknowledge them. One way God shows us his love for us is in answering our prayers. We may not deserve his mercy, grace, and love, but he freely gives it because of our relationship with him through **Jesus Christ**. To have such a prayer life requires a relationship with God. To have a relationship with God requires **belief in Jesus Christ his Son**. No one can bypass Christ and expect that the Lord will grant their requests. When we humble ourselves, confess our sins, and claim Jesus as our personal savior God will forgive us and respond to our needs. False prayers are about self and are based on what we think we deserve. True prayer comes from a sense of humility, realizing that we are accepted on the basis of the Lord’s mercy not by our conduct. It is a dialogue with God because we are not just interested in giving Him our list of requests, but we want to hear from him and live in the middle of his will for our lives.

True prayer is a way to grow in our relationship with God. It requires two-way communication. We must also listen to God. Since his **Word** is the primary way he speaks to us, our prayer time should include **Bible**

**reading.** We are called to devote ourselves to prayer. Devotion requires that we not only set aside uninterrupted time for prayer, but that we also think seriously about what we are asking. We must give God the time and attention he deserves in order to have a growing relationship with him.

The time we spend with God directly affects our lives. It is how God comforts us, strengthens us, forgives us, guides us, shields us, encourages us, and heals us. Prayer can impact people anywhere in the world because it creates a holy triangle between us, God and whomever we pray for. Ask yourself how often do you pray? Is it a part of your daily life? Are you confident that God will answer your prayer? Do you take everything to God in prayer?

Like everything else in this life, it is up to you!

*Thoughts by Dr. Charles Stanley*

## POSITIVE INSIGHTS

*“And the Lord said unto him, ‘Who hath made man’s mouth? Or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? Have I not the Lord?’” Exodus 4:11*

God will help you if you let Him. Even God, with all His power, cannot help you unless you will allow Him to do so, for He has made man a free agent, with power of choice. But one of the greatest of all facts is that God is ever ready to help you with whatever difficulty you may have, however great it may be. With His help you will either solve your problem, overcome your difficulty, or learn to live with it and get along with it.

Take any sizable group of people and you can find the whole range of human problems represented to one degree or another among them. There will be people who are very sad, laboring under a weight of grief; there will be people who are very discouraged, for whom things haven’t gone well, who have encountered much resistance and to whom life seems very hard. But God will help them all if they will let Him.

**Prayer:** Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for the problems and difficulties of this life. We mean this prayer, Lord. It is sometimes a hard prayer to pray. But we know it is a proper prayer, for at the heart of problems and difficulties lies the bright and glorious good You have prepared for those whom You love. For this we give You thanks in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Norman Vincent Peale*

## LOT’S WIFE

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot’s wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, “My mommy looked back once while she was driving,” he announced triumphantly, “And she turned into a telephone pole!”



## JULY 2020 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 21

### Giving:

Local:	\$5,216.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	11,446.14
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$16,662.14</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/>

## ON A WING AND A PRAYER

By Cheryl Pietromonaco, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, May/June 2020

Gene Coulon Memorial Beach Park was a beautiful spot for a stroll. But on this summer evening, as I walked up a grassy knoll overlooking Lake Washinton, screams rang out. At the top of a 20-foot tree was a bird of prey. With chocolate brown wings, a white breast and a brown-and-white head, I knew it was an osprey. It was crying out in distress. A couple was sitting on a bench near the tree. The man was on his cell phone.

"It's so badly hurt," the woman said. "My husband and I have been trying to call the Audubon Society, with no luck."

*It obviously can't fly*, I thought. The bird's left wing was hanging too low. The feathers at the tip were all twisted up. I ran to my car and came back with a list of animal rescue organizations I keep handy. I tried the first number – no answer. I tried another number. The phone rang uselessly.

A sentence ran through my head like a ticker tape: *No human will be able to help this bird*. But there is one who can, no matter the circumstances. I hung up and prayed. "Jesus, you said we can do greater things than you with the faith of a mustard seed," I said. "So with that faith, I am asking for a healing miracle."

The moment I finished, the osprey stopped screaming. It began to shake. The movement started in its good right wing, then passed through its body. Finally its injured wing began to vibrate.

Then the bird's dangling left wing moved back up into place. The mangled feathers at the end came together. It stretched out both wings to their full six-foot span and glided gently from the tree. The three of us watched the osprey soar off over the water, a prayer answered right in front of our eyes.

## NATURE NEVER DISAPPOINTS

By Quentin Furrow, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, May/June 2020

Troubling stories on the news were stressing me out, so I put on my boots and drove to a nature trail by the river. It was a relaxing place to unwind, and I was familiar with the local wildlife. I started down the trail, hoping the walk would help clear my head, but my anxiety followed me. *So much for getting a new perspective*, I thought.

I heard a noise to my left and saw a scrub jay perched on a branch at eye level. The jay looked at me and squawked, as if it were anxious as well. "Hey, buddy," I said. "What's wrong?"

The bird made a soft coo. I looked at it twice. It was a scrub jay, all right, native to the area. But I'd never heard one make such a pleasant sound. It kept going on, looking at me as it began to whistle and tweet. Was it trying to comfort me? I whistled to comfort the bird back.

My friend focused on me as we had our "conversation." At the end of it, the scrub jay hopped up one branch higher, fluffed its feathers and flew away. I continued on the trail, my worries less burdensome, thanks to the world's most unique scrub jay.

## DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

29<sup>th</sup> – John & Sue Vacca

### **BIRTHDAYS**

02<sup>nd</sup> – Braydon Snyder

03<sup>rd</sup> – Sarah Adams

06<sup>th</sup> – Michael Azevedo

07<sup>th</sup> – Melanie Hartman

Dakota Radcliffe

13<sup>th</sup> – Gerald Allinson

15<sup>th</sup> – Eric Arellano

David Leib

16<sup>th</sup> – Tony Snyder

19<sup>th</sup> – Elsha Hartman

20<sup>th</sup> – Amy Best

23<sup>rd</sup> – Kim Price

26<sup>th</sup> – Kirsten Piazza

Keith Shafer

30<sup>th</sup> – Quiana Becerra



*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!*



# SEPTEMBER 2020 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 2 Corinthians 12:1-10  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Luke 6:27-36  Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Psalm 91:1-13  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Matthew 25:31-40  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Genesis 39:20-23  Helen Campbell Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.
6 Joshua 1:1-9  Pastor & Teachers Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Gary & Charlotte DeHart	7 John 13:12-17  Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 Proverbs 4:10-18  Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz	9 Mark 3:13-19  Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger	10 Psalm 104:10-28  Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam.	11 John 13:1-15  David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry	12 Psalm 4:1-8  Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard
13 Deuteronomy 6:1-9  Pastor & Teachers Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib	14 John 14:12-14  JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason	15 Psalm 139:1-10  Edna May Miller Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	16 2 Corinthians 4:7-18  Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish	17 1 Samuel 3:1-10  Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Eileene Petros	18 Psalm 28:6-9  Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell	19 Genesis 1:1-25  Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Family Joel & Susan Price & Fam.
20 Mathew 8:23-27  Pastor & Teachers John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam.	21 Exodus 4:10-12  Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam.	22 Matthew 17:14-20  Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer	23 John 4:7-15  Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	24 Acts 2:17-21  Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam. Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	25 Isaiah 40:28-31  J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam. Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson	26 Mark 7:31-37  Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent
27 1 Corinthians 12:12-31  Pastor & Teachers John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam	28 1 John 5:1-5  Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam. Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	29 Luke 5:12-16  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt	30 Matthew 4:18-22			














**PRAYER**  
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# SEPTEMBER 2020 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



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

## EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour