



Mariners: No meetings until further notice

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, April 20th 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 | Postponed until further notice | |
| Mariners | 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 – April 2021

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
Don & Suzanne Frantz – Cancer
Jeff Qualls – Cancer Treatment



CANTICLE OF ZECHARIAH (BENEDICTUS)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel;
 he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior,
 born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old
 that he would save us from our enemies,
 from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers
 and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham:
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
 free to worship him without fear,
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet
 of the Most High;
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
 to give his people knowledge of salvation
 by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
 to shine on those who dwell in darkness
 and the shadow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,
 and to the Holy Spirit,
 as it was in the beginning, is now,
 and will be for ever. Amen.



POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.” Psalm 40:3

Little did the thousands who heard Jesus’ words on the hillside that day realize that what they were listening to would be honored by multitudes twenty centuries later. Nor that scholars through the ages would say that these simple statements represented the greatest wisdom mankind would ever hear. As Jesus finished His sermon, He said that a person who had heard and lived by these teachings could be compared to a man who built his house upon a rock. Though all the elements conspired to knock that house down, they could not prevail – it stood, for it was built upon a rock.

Friends, you really listen to something when you listen to that passage of Scripture! Why don’t you, this very day, read again the Sermon on the Mount in the Gospel of Matthew? If you read this passage and if you live by it, you will have what it takes, and nothing in this world – and I mean nothing – will be able to beat you down.

Life Lifter: The Creator built energy into you and me when we were babies. He implanted in us the life force, and true faith can keep this life force alive. Faith is the most powerful of all forces operating in humanity, and when you have it in depth, nothing can get you down. Nothing.

Norman Vincent Peale

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP/HEAVEN’S BOUNTY THRIFT STORE

Women’s Fellowship is still opening the **Heaven’s Bounty Thrift Store** each week. Although the shoppers (masked and social distancing) are few, we continue to bring in the funds. We are donating to one or more charities each month, including the following monetary donations: Redwood Family Center, Salvation Army, Cleansing Hope Shower Bus, Brethren Disaster Ministry, Empire Pool, Camp Peaceful Pines, Modesto Gospel Mission, World Relief/Modesto Refugees, Inter-Faith Ministries, Navajo Blankets, and Children’s Crises Center, with a total of **\$1,950** for 2020. We also made (even with the pandemic) 21 blankets to donate to Children’s Crises Center.

A REDWOOD FAMILY CENTER SUCCESS STORY

Kayla and her family stayed at **Redwood Family Center** several times during her life, first as a child and later as an adult. The Redwood family kept welcoming her back with open arms and ministered to her pain and suffering due to her parents’ addiction and later her own. Kayla is now an employee of Redwood Family Center Thrift Store and is getting ready to graduate from Modesto Junior College with an AA degree and is transferring to CSU Stanislaus.

A quote from their **Thank You letter to Women’s Fellowship** for their continued support:

“At Redwood Family Center we have a mission to help women and children like Kayla and Justin find the support, services and community necessary for generational life transformation. It is because of donors like you that we are able to ‘Bask in the Glory’ of God’s work.”

FEBRUARY 2021 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 19

Giving:

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Local: | \$5,194.00 |
| Sunday School: | 0 |
| Youth: | 0 |
| Messenger: | 0 |
| Mariners: | 0 |
| Other: | 40.77 |
| Total: | \$5,234.77 |



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/>

WHAT'S SO GOOD ABOUT GOOD FRIDAY?

By Justin Holcomb

Why do we call Good Friday “good,” when it is such a dark and bleak event commemorating a day of suffering and death for Jesus?

What is Good Friday?

For Christians, Good Friday is a crucial day of the year because it celebrates what we believe to be the most momentous weekend in the history of the world. Ever since Jesus died and was raised, Christians have proclaimed the cross and resurrection of Jesus to be the decisive turning point for all creation. Paul considered it to be “of first importance” that Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and was raised to life on the third day, all in accordance with what God had promised all along in the Scriptures (**1 Corinthians 15:3**).

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins (**1 John 1:10**). It is followed by Easter, the glorious celebration of the day Jesus was raised from the dead, heralding his victory over sin and death and pointing ahead to a future resurrection for all who are united to him by faith (**Romans 6:5**).

Why “Good” Friday?

Still, why call the day of Jesus’ death “Good Friday” instead of “Bad Friday” or something similar? Some Christian traditions do take this approach: in German, for example, the day is called Karfreitag, or “Sorrowful Friday.” In English, in fact, the origin of the term “Good” is debated: some believe it developed from an older name, “God’s Friday.” Regardless of the origin, the name Good Friday is entirely appropriate because the suffering and death of Jesus, as terrible as it was, marked the dramatic culmination of God’s plan to save his people from their sins.

In order for the good news of the gospel to have meaning for us, we first have to understand the bad news of our condition as sinful people under condemnation. The good news of deliverance only makes sense once we see how we are enslaved. Another way of saying this is that it is important to understand and distinguish between law and gospel in Scripture. We need the law first to show us how hopeless our condition is; then the gospel of Jesus’ grace comes and brings us relief and salvation.

In the same way, Good Friday is “good” because as terrible as that day was, it had to happen for us to receive the joy of Easter. The wrath of God against sin had to be poured out on Jesus, the perfect sacrificial substitute, in order for forgiveness and salvation to be poured out to the nations. Without that awful day of suffering, sorrow, and shed blood at the cross, God could not be both “just and the justifier” of those who trust in Jesus (**Romans 3:26**). Paradoxically, the day that seemed to be the greatest triumph of evil was actually the deathblow in God’s gloriously good plan to redeem the world from bondage.

The cross is where we see the convergence of great suffering and God’s forgiveness. **Psalms 85:10** sings of a day when “righteousness and peace” will “kiss each other.” The cross of Jesus is where that occurred, where God’s demands, his righteousness, coincided with his mercy. We receive divine forgiveness, mercy, and peace because Jesus willingly took our divine punishment, the result of God’s righteousness against sin. “For the joy set before him” (**Hebrews 12:2**) Jesus endured the cross on Good Friday, knowing it led to his resurrection, our salvation, and the beginning of God’s reign of righteousness and peace.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

01st –Shelby Cadruvi

02nd –David Hurlbut

Darlene Kennard

04th – Sarah Lutes

Roger Welch

05th – Rachel Price

09th – Samuel Price

16th – John Price

18th – Linda Carter

Andrew Welch

27th – Vern Shafer



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!



APRIL 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR



| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
|---|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | 1 John 14:25-27 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano | 2 Luke 23:39-43 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo | 3 Ecclesiastes 3:1-14 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton |
| 4 1 Peter 1:3-9 Pastor & Teachers Wanda Bollinger Pauline Bert Michael Best | 5 1 Kings 19:9-12 Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam. Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy | 6 Psalm 51:13-17 Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart | 7 Matthew 22:34-39 Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear | 8 1 Peter 5:1-11 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz | 9 Psalm 1:1-3 Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger | 10 Matthew 8:18-22 Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey |
| 11 1 Samuel 18:6-16 Pastor & Teachers Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family | 12 Mark 3:31-35 Jay Irizarry Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. | 13 Romans 12:9-13 Darlene Kennard Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater | 14 Psalm 4:4-8 Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes | 15 Matthew 9:18-26 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune | 16 Genesis 4:7-22 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish | 17 Matthew 6:25-34 Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Eileene Petros |
| 18 Acts 16:6-15 Pastor & Teachers Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family | 19 Deuteronomy 31:1-8 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price | 20 Colossians 3:23-25 Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Fam. | 21 Romans 8:26-28 John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam. | 22 Psalm 16:5-11 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden | 23 Colossians 3:12-17 Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer | 24 Philippians 4:10-20 Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider |
| 25 Isaiah 49:14-16 Pastor & Teachers Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam. Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford | 26 Psalm 126:1-6 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam. Veronica Suderman & Family | 27 Isaiah 48:17-19 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe | 28 2 Timothy 2:3-5, 22-23 Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family | 29 John 3:14-21 Linda Ward & Fam Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam. | 30 Mark 11:22-25 Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam. Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt | |















PRAYER
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APRIL 2021 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



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

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour