

Mariners: No meetings until further notice

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, December 21st 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	1 st and 3 rd Fridays	1:00 p.m.
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, Mariners is temporarily postponed until further notice.

The Mirror – December 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

Suzanne Frantz – Cancer, Eye
Norma Lutes – Knee Replacement & Recovery
COVID – Among Us



GOD'S SEVENTH PRIORITY: **THE RETURN OF JESUS**

God is telling us to prepare ourselves for that great day! For those whose name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, it will be glory! For those whose names are not there, it will be doom forever. The choice is ours today, and that choice is simply to choose to serve Jesus or to follow Satan into his eternal damnation. See *Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:10-11* and *21:22-27*.

For those who choose him, the return of Jesus is the priority God is looking forward to with such excitement that the angels of heaven are rejoicing with Him about it. When Gabriel had finished telling me this message of God's top priorities, he said that they are so much a part of God's plan that He had them all spelled out even before He made the world.

He directed me to the twenty-third chapter of *Leviticus*, where God gave Moses plans for the tabernacle, a miniature model of his total plan. Then to my amazement, he related every one of these priorities for us today, to the seven festivals God had given to Israel long ago!

I marveled at God's recorded plans in the *Old Testament* which direct us to his plans for this day in which we live.

They are, in order: *The Passover, The Festival of Unleavened Bread, The Festival of First Fruits, The Festival of Pentecost, The Festival of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement* and the *Festival of Tabernacles*. Praise God for He has provided for our every need in Christ Jesus and His Holy Spirit!

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.” Proverbs 22:4

A popular local television host invited me to his studio for an interview. When I met him, I was rather startled. He was abnormally short, his hands were disproportionately large with stubby fingers. He had an unimaginative face, but when he began to talk, his countenance became animated; his eyes flashed with depths of understanding. There was a tremendous charm about the man.

Before we went on the air he told me, “I was a defeated person. I was self-conscious and resentful. I think you can understand why: you have only to look at me. However, some instinct kept telling me that being bitter would only make things worse.

“In my unhappiness I began to read the Bible. Gradually a big idea dawned upon me: change thinking changes everything. So I resolved that I would learn to think spiritually about my handicap. And as I did so, everything changed for me.”

Then I knew why his television program was so popular. Even when he talked about ordinary things, he gave people something special.

Life Lifter: *God’s promises mean that no matter what happens, nothing can separate you from His love and protection. Dwell on this mentally until it becomes an unshakable fact.*

Norman Vincent Peale

DECEMBER EVENTS



December 12: Christmas Coffee Hour, soup and salad will be offered

December 17: All Church Christmas party, 3:30pm. Women’s Fellowship will host: pizza, salad and games will be offered.

December 19: Cookies, candies, and treats after church

December 31: New Year’s Party/Potluck, 3:00pm at the Frantz residence



‘T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE JESUS CAME

Author Unknown

‘Twas the night before Jesus came and all thru the house,
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.

The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap,
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.

When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray,
I know in a moment this must be THE DAY!
The light of His face made me cover my head.
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth,
I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the Book of Life which He held in His hand,
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said, "It's not here," my head hung in shame.

The people whose names had been written with love,
He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound.
While all the rest were left standing around.

I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been ready tonight!

In the words of this poem the meaning is clear,
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call,
We'll find that the Bible was true after all!



WHERE DID CHRISTMAS GO?

By Erma Bombeck, 1971



There is nothing sadder in this world than to awake Christmas morning and not be a child.
Not to feel the cold on your bare feet as you rush to the Christmas tree in the living room.
Not to have your eyes sparkle at the wonderment of discovery. Not to rip the ribbons off the
shiny boxes with such abandon.

What happened?

When did the cold, bare feet give way to reason and a pair of sensible bedroom slippers?
When did the sparkle and the wonderment give way to depression of a long day? When did a
box with a shiny ribbon mean an item on the "charge"?

A child of Christmas doesn't have to be a toddler or a teen. A child of Christmas is anyone
who believes that Kings have birthdays.

The Christmases you loved so well are gone. What happened?

Maybe they diminished the year you decided to have your Christmas cards printed to send to 1,500 of your “closest friends and dearest obligations.” You got too busy to sign your own name.

Maybe it was the year you discovered the traditional Christmas tree was a fire hazard and the needles had to be vacuumed every three hours and you traded its holiday aroma for a silver one that revolved, changed colors, played “Silent Night” and snowed on itself

Or the year it got to be too much trouble to sit around the table and put popcorn and cranberries on a string. Possibly you lost your childhood the year you solved your gift problems neatly and coldly with a checkbook.

Think about it. It might have been the year you were too rushed to bake and resorted to slice-and-bake with no nonsense. Who needs a bowl to clean – or lick?

Most likely it was the year you were so efficient in paying back all your party obligations. A wonderful little caterer did it for you for \$3 per person.

Children of Christmas are givers. That’s what the day is for. They give thanks, love, gratitude, joy and themselves to one another.

It doesn’t necessarily mean you have to have children around a tree. It’s rather like lighting a candle you’ve been saving, caroling when your feet are cold, building a fire in a clean grate, grinding tinsel deep into the rug, licking frosting off a beater, giving something you made yourself.

It’s laughter, being with people you like, and at some time falling to your knees and saying, “Thank You for coming to my birthday party.”

How sad indeed to awake on Christmas and not be a child.

Time, self-pity, apathy, bitterness and exhaustion can take the Christmas out of the child, but you cannot take the child out of Christmas.



“Adults can take a simple holiday for Children and screw it up. What began as a presentation of simple gifts to delight and surprise children around the Christmas tree has culminated in a woman unwrapping six shrimp forks from her dog, who drew her name.”

Erma Bombeck

OCTOBER 2021 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 22

Giving:

Local:	\$5,062.46
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	10.45
Total:	\$5,072.91





DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER



ANNIVERSARIES

17th – Travis & Candice Sheldon
30th – David & Cheryl Leib

BIRTHDAYS

02nd – Gideon Winchester
06th – Marilyn Snider
08th – Kylie Welch

Today
is Your
Day!

10th – Donny Wyatt
19th – Marvin Hilkey
22nd – Skip Powell
25th – Jesus
27th – Derek Wyatt
30th – Richard Ward
Rochelle Slaybaugh



*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!*

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/>

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!





DECEMBER 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Deuteronomy 31:1-6 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Psalm 62:1-12 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Isaiah 40:28-31 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton	4 Genesis 33:1-10 Wanda Bollinger Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam.
5 John 1:10-18 Pastor & Teachers Ron Cadruvi & Fam. Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy	6 Matthew 25:31-46 Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart	7 Luke 5:17-26 Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 John 1:1-9 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Suzanne Frantz	9 1 John 4:19-21 Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie	10 Psalm 23:1-6 Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	11 Joshua 2:8-15, 21 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family
12 Matthew 1:18-23 Pastor & Teachers Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family	13 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee	14 Romans 8:35-39 David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis	15 Romans 12:9-16 Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker	16 John 14:15-26 Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	17 Revelation 5:1-8 Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	18 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price
19 Matthew 5:14-16 Pastor & Teachers Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Family	20 Psalm 139:7-18 John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family	21 Ephesians 3:14-21 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden	22 Isaiah 41:1-10 Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer	23 Ephesians 4:25-32 Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	24 Luke 1:26-37 Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	25 Luke 2:4-7 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family
26 Proverbs 23:22-25 Pastor & Teachers Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	27 John 2:1-12 Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	28 Matthew 11:28-30 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	29 Luke 6:37-49 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	30 Psalm 30:1-12 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	31 Mark 4:35-41	



















PRAYER
The world's greatest wireless connection





DECEMBER 2021 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1		1  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	2  4:15pm Christmas Choir	3 1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Perko's 3500 Oakdale Rd. Modesto	4 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
5	6	7  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	8	9  4:15pm Christmas Choir	10	11 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
12  Christmas Coffee Hour	13	14  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	15	16  4:15pm Christmas Choir 6:00pm Board Meeting	17  All Church Christmas Party 3:30pm	18 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
19  Christmas Choir	20	21  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	22	23  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	24  Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm	25  <i>Christmas Day</i>
26	27	28  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	29	30  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	31  New Year's Eve Party at the Frantz Residence 3:00pm	

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour