



Mariners: No meetings until further notice

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, January 19th 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 - January 2021

The Mirror is published once a Month. Information deadline is the 3rd Tuesday of the month.



Empire Church
of the Brethren

P.O. Box 215

Empire, CA 95319

Phone: 209-522-4302

Pastor John Price: (209) 480-2778



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



IN PREPARATION FOR THE COMING YEAR

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, Heavenly King, O God, Almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the
 sins of the world.

Have mercy on us, you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right
 hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ.

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father,

Amen and Amen!



POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“Then Saul fell straightaway all along on the earth, and was sore afraid, because of the words of Samuel; and there was no strength in him; for he had eaten no bread all the day nor all the night.” 1 Samuel 28:20

A famous physician has said that fear is the commonest and subtlest of all human diseases. And an equally famous psychologist has declared that fear is the most deteriorating enemy of human personality. Now these men, being scientists, are referring not to normal fear, but to abnormal fear. Normal fear is both proper and desirable. It is a mechanism designed by the Creator for our protection.

Abnormal fear is another matter. If ever you step over the line that separates it from normal, you find yourself in a region of grotesque shadows and darkness, obsessions, and mental distortions.

But Almighty God never intended that anyone should live like that, and He has provided an approach by which you can have so much faith that you can live unafraid. There is a power by which you rise above the dangers and uncertainties of human existence and have power over them.

Life Lifter: Know that there is no death, that all life is indivisible, that the here and hereafter are one, that time and eternity are inseparable, that this is one unobstructed universe. We are citizens of eternity.

Norman Vincent Peale

GOOD SAMARITAN

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked the class, “If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?” A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, “I think I’d throw up.”



“We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about.” *Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)*

NOVEMBER 2020 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 21

Giving:

Local:	\$6,017.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	10.00
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	1,686.75
Total:	\$7,713.75



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/>



Butterflies Free Me

By Jodi Ralston, printed in *Angels on Earth* magazine, September/October 2020



“Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit quietly, may alight upon you.” I reread the quote in my car, hoping it would give me confidence. So far, it wasn’t working. I still felt unsure. Anxious. Far from still and quiet.

I picked up the envelope from beside me on the car seat. *Am I making a mistake?* Inside was my letter of resignation as library director, giving the required two weeks’ notice. All I had to do was drop off the letter at the county courthouse. Last night it had felt like the right thing to do, but now, sitting in the parking lot, I had doubts. I had no future plans, no job lined up, no idea what I would do next. I just knew I couldn’t keep doing this.

When I first started working at the library, I loved it. Back then I was a library aide. Then I got promoted. My new position gave me many more responsibilities, responsibilities I wasn’t adequately trained for. I did the best I could. I worked extra hours. Took work home. Did independent research to teach myself how to do my job better. But it wasn’t enough. The expectations were impossible, the stress overwhelming. The anxiety was starting to affect my health. Normally I would have gone to my dad for support. He was always ready to listen to any problem I had. But he’d just recently died from an aneurism. I had to make this decision on my own.

I looked at the envelope that held my resignation letter. *Dad would want you to do what’s best for yourself*, I thought. My hand was shaking. *Lord, I could use a butterfly here.*

Butterflies had always had a special meaning for me. As a child I raised them with my mom and a cousin. We grew the kinds of plants that caterpillars laid their eggs and fed on: fennel, parsley and dill. When it was time for the insects to spin their green or brown cocoons, we brought them inside. We watched over the butterflies when they emerged, keeping them safe while their new wings dried and they got ready to fly. Swallowtails were the easiest. I don’t how many generations of those black-and-yellow beauties we released into the wild, waving them off as they flew into their new life.

The kids at the library loved it when I brought in a butterfly kit so they could witness the whole cycle from beginning to end. Their parents were spellbound too. Who could fail to be amazed at the sight of a caterpillar emerging as a butterfly from a cocoon? Who wouldn’t feel inspired watching each one spread its wings for the first time and take to the sky?

I glanced around the parking lot. There wasn’t a butterfly in sight. Since Dad died they’d seemed to show up when I needed them most. The black swallowtail I’d spotted right after he’d died. The brown one that alit on Dad’s lawn chair – the chair he used to sit on beside me and talk in the evenings. The little butterfly that perched on my elbow when I repainted the post with our address in front of the house.

I took a deep breath and got out of the car. *This time you’re the one who has to spread your wings and fly*, I told myself. The workers in the courthouse barely looked up as I dropped off my letter. They couldn’t know how scared I was.

I got back in my car and drove to the library for work. In two weeks, I would no longer be the director here. A new chapter in my life would start. Had I done the right thing? I could only hope.

I crossed the parking lot toward the library’s side door, where I usually entered. On the wall was a big metal button to press to open the door. I reached out my hand and stood still and quiet. Someone had beaten me to the button. A big black and blue swallowtail, its wings spread wide as if to make sure I didn’t overlook its message. Whatever awaited me in my new life, butterflies would be at my side.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

08th – Michael Best
09th – Don Benton
14th – Nicole Knott
15th – Eileene Petros

19th – Abigail Winchester
20th – Ron Cadruvi
Don Frantz
22nd – Kelly Olsson



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!



JANUARY 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 Luke 9:1-6 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Isaiah 40:28-31 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo
3 Habakkuk 3:16-19 Pastor & Teachers Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton	4 Psalm 103:1-8 Wanda Bollinger Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam.	5 1 Corinthians 2:9-16 Ron Cadruvi & Fam. Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy	6 Proverbs 16:1-9 Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart	7 Psalm 4:1-8 Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 Philippians 2:1-7 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz	9 1 Peter 5:1-10 .Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger
10 Galatians 6:1-9 Pastor & Teachers Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam.	11 Exodus 14:15-22 David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family Jay Irizarry	12 Isaiah 65:17-25 Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam. Darlene Kennard	13 Psalm 34:4-19 Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib	14 Jeremiah 18:1-6 JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason	15 John 8:12-14 Edna May Miller Josephine Moore Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	16 Psalm 51:1-7 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish
17 Lamentations 3:19-26 Pastor & Teachers Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson	18 Psalm 145:13-21 Eileene Petros Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	19 Luke 13:6-9 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price	20 Romans 10:1-15 Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Fam.	21 Psalm 16:5-11 John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam.	22 Ecclesiastes 3:1-12 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden	23 Romans 8:18-31 Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer
24/31 Psalm 91:9-16 John 10:22-30 Pastor & Teachers Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	25 Isaiah 43:1-7 Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam. Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	26 Luke 5:1-11 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam. Veronica Suderman & Family	27 Psalm 36:5-9 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe	28 Deuteronomy 10:17-22 Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family	29 Genesis 12:1-9 Linda Ward & Fam Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam.	30 Ephesians 4:11-16 Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam. Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt



PRAYER
The world's greatest wireless connection





JANUARY 2021 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 New Year's Day Church Office Closed	2
3	4	5 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	6 8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	7 4:15pm Fellowship Singers	8	9
10	11	12 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	13	14 4:15pm Fellowship Singers	15	16
17	18	19 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	20	21 4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	22	23
24/31	25	26 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	27	28 4:15pm Fellowship Singers	29	30

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour