



Mariners: No meetings until further notice

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, March 16th 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	Postponed until further notice	
General Board	Postponed until further notice	
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 – March 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



A PRIESTHOOD WITHOUT END: TO BE HOLY AS GOD IS HOLY

In both the Old and New Testaments a **priest is a servant ordained by God** to lead the community in its worship (*Exodus 29*). The chosen people regarding worship as vital to their well-being. They knew they **needed God’s ongoing presence** in their midst in order to thrive (*Numbers 28-29*). The challenge of staying in right relationship with God is expressed in the Lord’s exhortation: “**Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy**” (*Leviticus 19:2*). The priest has a special responsibility to distinguish between what is holy and what is profane, or “ordinary” (*Leviticus 10:10-11*). The priest’s primary role is to lead the community in giving thanks to God by offering sacrifice. The people bring the first fruits of their harvest to the priest at the sanctuary, and the priest then offers them to God (*Deuteronomy 26:1-10*). As we know well, giving someone a gift is an important way of strengthening a relationship. The material gift points beyond itself to the relationship between the receiver and the gift-giver. The ordained priest is authorized to lead the community’s symbolic rituals in which the divine life is shared with the community. Such participation in the divine life transforms the community and makes it holy. When a community sins deliberately or inadvertently and then repents, the priest is there to offer purification offerings or sin offerings to plead for reconciliation with God (*Leviticus 4-5; 16*).

The destruction of the **Temple of Solomon in 586 BC and the Second Temple in AD 70** eliminated the place in which sacrifices could be offered. The priests taught that the destruction in 586 came about because the chosen people had compromised the centrality of their relationship with the Lord. With the rebuilding of the Temple in 515 BC and the restoration of its sacrificial system, the Judeans increased their purification sacrifices or sin offerings to appeal to the Lord for forgiveness for any and all collective and individual sins. They wanted to address any defilement or sin that might lead to the Lord’s withdrawal from the community. But with the destruction of the Second Temple, this priestly sacrificial system and its way of sustaining the divine-human relationship was thrust into crisis. The **Letter to the Hebrews**, probably written in the 80’s (not long after the destruction of the Second Temple), teaches how **Jesus is the new high priest**. He replaces the former sacrificial system based on animal sacrifice and grain offerings with a new, more interiorized spiritual form of sacrificial worship (*7:23-27; 9:1-14*). When Jesus was raised from the dead and seated at the Father’s right hand, he was identified as a priest according to the order of Mechizedek (*5:5-6; Ps 110:4*). This priestly line has no beginning and will

have no end. The interceding and reconciling by Jesus as he entered the heavenly sanctuary will go on day after day. Through his passion and death Jesus accepts fully the human condition of suffering as a form of training or discipline to give an example to his followers of how to become exclusively faithful to the Father (2:10, 18; 5:7-10). Jesus' sacrificial gift of his own body and blood on our behalf strengthens us and instructs us on how to be holy as God is holy (10:10, 19-25).

Dale Launderville, professor of theology at Saint John's University School of Theology, Collegeville, Minnesota.

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.” Deuteronomy 10:12

I remember a sign I saw back at the time when I lived in Syracuse, New York. The winters in upstate New York are rugged, and the spring thaws break up the roads very badly. One spring, near Watertown, I actually saw a sign some farmer had put up that said, “Choose your rut well. You will be in it for the next twenty-five miles.” When people get into ruts in living it's for longer than twenty-five miles. But you don't have to stay in a rut. You can get out of it.

Each of us, I believe, should at intervals restudy his activities and redefine his goals. At times, a person ought to appraise carefully what he is doing and ask himself the question. “Why am I doing this?” We do our work each day, and maybe we do it the best we can. But why are you doing that particular work? What are your objectives, your goals? Could you tell me what your goal is? Or is it fuzzy, hazy? We need to sharpen our thinking and bring our goals into focus.

Life Lifter: You can reach your goal, your best dream can come true, you can get where you want to go – only if you know what your goal is. Be somebody. Practice the principle of the possible (*Matthew 17:20*).

Norman Vincent Peale



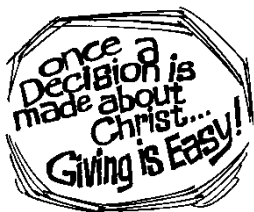
Come celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** at a **Baked Potato Lunch** on **March 14th** following church. Potatoes, toppings, salads and drinks will be provided. Bring fruit or a dessert if desired. *Cheryl Leib*

JANUARY 2021 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 19

Giving:

Local:	\$4,539.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	1,841.22
Total:	\$6,380.22



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 IS PALM SUNDAY? – BIBLE STORY AND MEANING TODAY

Christianity.com Editorial Staff

Palm Sunday: Jesus' Triumphal Entry to Jerusalem

Palm Sunday is the Christian holiday that occurs on the Sunday before Easter. This celebration commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, mentioned in each of the four Gospels. Jesus entered the city knowing He would be tried and crucified and welcomed His fate to rise from the grave and save us from sin! Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week, the remembrance of Jesus' last days to the cross.

In many churches, Palm Sunday is observed by the blessing and sharing of palm branches symbolizing the palm branches the crowd placed in front of Christ as he entered into Jerusalem.

Let us praise God for sending His Son to earth, the sacrifice Jesus made for our sins, and our eternal life in Christ through faith.



Palm Sunday in the Bible

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King – The Triumphal Entry

*Now when they drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will send them at once." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet saying, "Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden.'" The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread the cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying "Who is this?" And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee." **Matthew 21:1-11***

DID NOAH FISH?

A Sunday School teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?" "No," replied Johnny. "How could he, with just two worms?"



DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH

ANNIVERSARIES

24th – Don & Susan Wyatt

BIRTHDAYS

01st – Cheryl Leib

04th – Suzanne Frantz

06th – Christopher Heiny

09th – Jeffrey Price

15th – Susan Wyatt

20th – Sarah (Wyatt) Peterson

26th – Ben Baker



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!



MARCH 2021 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Jeremiah 29:10-14 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano	2 Psalm 46:1-7 Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 John 15:9-17 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton	4 Revelation 21:1-4 Wanda Bollinger Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Proverbs 13:16-21 Ron Cadruvi & Fam. Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy	6 Psalm 25:4-15 Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart
7 Micah 6:6-8 Pastor & Teachers Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear	8 Isaiah 40:26-31 Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz	9 2 Timothy 1:3-7 Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger	10 Mark 1:40-45 Clark & Melanie Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	11 Psalm 139:1-18 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	12 Romans 8:35-39 Jay Irizarry Norman Johnson Randy & Teri Johnson & Fam.	13 Luke 13:18-21 Darlene Kennard Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee
14 Psalm 27:1-14 Pastor & Teachers David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes	15 John 18:33-38 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	16 Psalm 61:1-3 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish	17 Matthew 4:1-11 Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson	18 Exodus 13:17-22 Eileene Petros Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	19 Matthew 6:19-21 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price	20 Ephesians 4:29-32 Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Fam.
21 Psalm 119:89-104 Pastor & Teachers John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Fam.	22 Matthew 7:24-27 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden	23 2 Corinthians 4:7-12 Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer	24 Acts 3:1-10 Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	25 Galatians 6:7-10 Tony & Laura Snyder & Fam. Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	26 Psalm 119:105-112 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Fam. Veronica Suderman & Family	27 Luke 10:38-42 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe
28 Psalm 119:73-80 Pastor & Teachers Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family	29 Mark 1:29-39 Linda Ward & Fam Roger & Cynthia Welch & Fam.	30 Matthew 5:1-12 Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam. Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny Wyatt	31 Philippians 4:4-9			

















PRAYER
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MARCH 2021 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	3  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	4  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	5	6 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
7	8	9  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	10	11  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	12	13
14  Baked Potato Lunch After Church  Daylight Savings Begins 2:00am Set clock forward one hour)	15	16  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	17  St. Patrick's Day	18  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	19	20
21	22	23  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	24	25  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	26	27
28  Palm Sunday	29	30  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	31			

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour