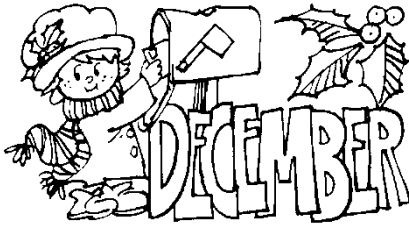


**ANNOUNCING**



**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am**

**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's Fellowship	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Fridays	1:00 p.m.
Women's Fellowship	3rd Tuesday	1:00 p.m.
Food Bank	1st Sunday	9:30 a.m.

**The Mirror – December 2022**

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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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**

**Ron Cadruvi** – Health Issues

**Norma Lutes** – Knee Issues

**Butch Peterson** – Strength

**COVID** – Among Us



## **THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

Some Christian insight on "The Twelve Days of Christmas" for you to ponder. First, who gives the gifts? The song calls this giver "My True Love". The one who loves you and gives you many things each day is God. James 1:17.

**Day 1:** Let the partridge in a pear tree remind you of Jesus, the best Christmas gift of all, who died for us on the cross. John 3:16.

**Day 2:** Let the two turtledoves remind you of the two doves given to God when Baby Jesus was first brought to the temple. Luke 2:22, 24

**Day 3:** Let the three French hens remind you of the three costly gifts given to Jesus by the Wise Men. Matt. 2:10-11

**Day 4:** Let the four calling birds remind you of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and the four special books they wrote. John 19:9-10

**Day 5:** Let the five golden rings remind you of five valuable books of the Bible: Gen., Exodus, Levit., Numbers, Deut. Psalm 19:9-10

**Day 6:** Let six geese laying eggs remind you of the new life God made in the first six days of creation. Gen. 1:31

**Day 7:** Let seven swimming swans remind you of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: 1. Gift of prophecy 2. Gift of serving 3. Gift of teaching 4. Telling others how they should live 5. Giving to those who are in need 6. Gift of leadership 7. Gift of showing mercy. Romans 12:6-8

**Day 8:** Let eight maids a-milking remind you of the eight Beatitudes: 1. Blessed are those who are spiritually needy 2. Blessed are those who are sad 3. Blessed are those who are free of pride 4. Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right 5. Blessed are those who show mercy 6. Blessed are those whose hearts are pure 7. Blessed are those who make peace 8. Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right. Matt. 5:3-10

**Day 9:** Let nine ladies dancing remind you of the nine qualities that God's Holy Spirit produces in your life: love, joy and peace (1-3), being patient, kind and good (4-6), being faithful and gentle (7-8), having control of oneself (9) Gal. 5:22-23

**Day 10:** Let ten leaping lords remind you of the Ten Commandments which we are to obey. Exodus 20:2-17

**Day 11:** Let eleven pipers piping help you to remember to follow Jesus. Mark 3:16-19

**Day 12:** Let twelve drummers drumming remind you of the Apostle's Creed – 12 important beliefs of Christians: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He rose from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father. He shall return to judge both the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

The above was taken from the book *The 12 Days of Christmas* by Helen Haidle (2003)



*Wishing all of you a most blessed Christmas!*



## **DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT**

**By Glenn Stanford**



Have you heard the story of the 3 trees in the forest? Growing close to each other, one wanted eventually to be the most BEAUTIFUL treasure box ever . . . to hold gold, silver, jewels. Tree #2 wanted to some day be a mighty ship, sailing the 7 seas, the STRONGEST ship ever built. Tree #3 wanted to be the TALLEST tree in the forest, so that all would look up to him.

Years went by. They were cut down, put in woodpiles, and forgotten.

Then one year, the first tree was made into a feed trough for farm animals. He was so disappointed, UNTIL a little baby was placed in it on a hillside in Bethlehem, and he came to realize he held the GREATEST TREASURE the world has ever seen, the SON OF GOD. He was so proud and happy.

Time passed and tree #2 was made into a little fishing boat. Not very big, not very steady, he was so disappointed, UNTIL some fisherman were frightened during a major storm on the sea. A man woke up and rebuked the wind and the waves and said, "Quiet, Peace, be still." The wind died down, it became calm, and the boat knew that he carried KING, the master of Heaven and Earth. He was SO proud and happy.

A couple of years passed, and tree #3 found himself being cut up into board. He found himself being carried, or dragged, up a hill by a single man. They nailed this man's hands and feet to the tree, and the man died after a while. The tree was so disappointed at being an instrument of death. THEN, the man arose from the dead on a Sunday morning; GOD'S LOVE overcame the whole world. The tree was so proud. He was the CROSS OF CHRIST, all who look up to him think of GOD and what He has done for us.

What they became was far BETTER than what they had wanted themselves to be . . . and so it can for us.

**“Each of us brings with him an element, more or less important,  
Of the life of humanity to come.” – Giuseppe Mazzini**



**THE 23<sup>rd</sup> PSALM**  
**Author Unknown**



A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe.

So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her.

She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed.

The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week.

“Do you know her?”

Timmy nonchalantly replied, “Yeah, I know who she is.”

The little girl said, “Well, who is she?”

“That's just Shirley Goodnest,” Timmy replied, “and her daughter Marcy.”

“Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?”

“Well,” Timmy explained, “every night my Mum makes me say the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says ‘Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,’ so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!”

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

I know you smiled! I sure did. Pass this on and brighten someone's day!

**➡ FOR YOUR INFORMATION ⬅**

**Empire Church of the Brethren** has a new email address: [empirebrethren@gmail.com](mailto:empirebrethren@gmail.com)  
**Kathleen Powell's** new address is: 5138 W. Cody Ln., Garden City, Idaho 83714



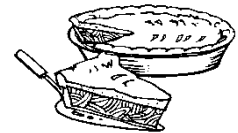
# ADVENT CALENDAR

Source: [Passionatepennypincher.com](http://Passionatepennypincher.com)



**EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A FOOD BANK.**

- December 1 – box of cereal
- December 2 – peanut butter
- December 3 – stuffing mix
- December 4 – boxed potatoes
- December 5 – Macaroni and cheese
- December 6 – canned fruit
- December 7 – canned tomatoes
- December 8 – canned tuna
- December 9 – dessert mix
- December 10 – jar of applesauce
- December 11 – canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 – cranberry sauce
- December 13 – canned beans
- December 14 – box of crackers
- December 15 – package of rice
- December 16 – package of oatmeal
- December 17 – package of pasta
- December 18 – spaghetti sauce
- December 19 – chicken noodle soup
- December 20 – tomato soup
- December 21 – canned corn
- December 22 – canned mixed vegetables
- December 23 – canned carrots
- December 24 – canned green beans



## GOD'S CLINIC

**Author Unknown**

I went to God's Clinic to have my routine check-up, and it confirmed I was ill.

When God took my blood pressure, God saw I was low in tenderness and kindness.

Then when God read my temperature it registered 40 degrees of anxiety.

An electrocardiogram was then run and it found I needed a love bypass as my arteries were blocked with loneliness and frustration.

I was also found to be short-sighted, since I could not see beyond the shortcomings of those I live with.

When I complained about deafness, the diagnosis was that I had stopped listening to God's voice talking to me on a daily basis.

For all that, God gave me a free consultation and gave me some advice.  
 To start with in the morning I'm to take a full glass of gratitude for the day that lies ahead.  
 Later I'm to take a spoonful of peace.  
 Every hour I'm to take a pill of patience, a cup of friendship, and a glass of humility.  
 Somewhere during the day I'm to take a dose of love, and when getting into bed I must take  
 two tablets of clear conscience.  
 When did you last visit God's clinic?

## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NOTICE

The Women's Fellowship December meeting will be held on **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**, at **10:00am**. We will have quiche fruit scones and will be making goody trays for the shut-ins.

### OCTOBER 2022 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 21

#### Giving:

Local:	\$3,684.50
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	43.50
Mariners:	0
Other:	175.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,903.00</b>



### DATES TO REMEMBER IN DECEMBER



#### ANNIVERSARIES

17<sup>th</sup> –Travis & Candice Sheldon  
 30<sup>th</sup> –David & Cheryl Leib

08<sup>th</sup> –Kylie Welch

10<sup>th</sup> –Donny Wyatt

22<sup>nd</sup> –Skip Powell

25<sup>th</sup> –Jesus

27<sup>th</sup> –Derek Wyatt

30<sup>th</sup> –Richard Ward

#### BIRTHDAYS

02<sup>nd</sup> –Gideon Winchester

06<sup>th</sup> –Marilyn Snider

*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](http://www.empirecob.org); **Facebook:**[www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB](http://www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB);

**Twitter:**[https://twitter.com/empire\\_cob](https://twitter.com/empire_cob); and

**Instagram:**<https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>



# DECEMBER 2022 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Jeremiah 29:1-14  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	2 Psalm 8:1-9  Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 1 John 4:7-12  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger
4 Isaiah 9:1-7  Pastor & Teachers Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Genesis 28:10-17  Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey	6 Isaiah 61:1-4  Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 John 6:5-13  Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Mark 10:35-45  Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman	9 Matthew 6:25-34  Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Matthew 54-16  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family
11 John 1:1-14  Pastor & Teachers Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	12 Isaiah 55:1-3  Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes	13 Psalm 103:13-18  Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Matthew 11:25-30  Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Romans 12:9-13  Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	16 1 Thessalonians 5:9-15  Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Matthew 15:21-28  Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.
18 Luke 1:26-38  Pastor & Teachers Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price	19 Ephesians 1:3-10  Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family	20 Luke 10:38-42  Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer	21 Mark 14:32-42  Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider	22 2 Corinthians 9:5-10  Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	23 Genesis 1:1-5  J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24 Matthew 1:18-25  Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson
25 Luke 2:8-14  Pastor & Teachers Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	26 Matthew 25:14-30  Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	27 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8  Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Psalm 104:24-30  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Erica Wyatt	29 Luke 7:1-10	30 Psalm 3:1-8	31 1 Samuel 30:1-6



**PRAYER**

















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# DECEMBER 2022 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	2 ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church	3 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
4	5	6  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	7  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	8  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	9	10
11  Council Meeting Pizza	12 WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP will meet at 10:00am for quiche fruit scones and make goody trays for the shut-ins	13  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	14	15  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	16 Friday's Fellowship 11:30am Round Table Pizza Century Center	17
18  All Church Christmas Coffee Hour	19	20  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	21	22  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	23  Shed Work Day 9:00am-12:00pm	24  Christmas Eve Service 6:00pm
25  Christmas Day	26	27  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	28	29  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	30	31  New Year's Eve Party at the Frantz Residence

## EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour