



Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, February 15th 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.
Women's Fellowship	3rd Tuesday	9:30 a.m.
Food Bank	1st Sunday	9:30 a.m.

The Mirror – February 2022

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



Pastor John and Kathy Price – Breathing and Strength in Recovery

Butch Peterson – Healing from COVID Pneumonia

Skip Powell – Strength in Recovery

David and Cheryl Leib – Energy and Strength in Recovery

COVID – Among Us



SEEKING GODLY COUNSEL

1 Kings 12:1-15, Psalm 32:8 and Proverbs 3:5-6

Life is a series of decisions and we, as Christians, have God to give us direction. The problem is: do we listen to him? We also have other Christians to consult with regarding our decisions. Our goal should always be to seek godly counsel that will aid us in discovering God's will for our lives. Listening to the wrong counselors can lead to paying a high price. King Rehoboam listened to the wrong counsel and Israel paid a high price for it. We can learn from his folly.

How can you know bad counsel? Unwise counsel makes little reference to God or His Word. It will not contain prayer. Also Scripture will not be a part of that counsel. It can be very critical of Christian leaders or godly people. God's Word will be ignored. Often they give us what we want to hear. They can also try to control the one counseled. The counselor might try to create a sense of dependency on them.

We are called to trust in the Lord, heed his Word and follow his leadership. If we trust him for our salvation, surely we can trust him for guidance. The wisest counsel we could possibly find is in God's word. We should invest our time in learning Scripture and seeking help from those who know it well and can guide us to the right passages. Avoid counselors with an ungodly lifestyle. Some advisors may want to give you an out so you can escape your problem. God promises to walk through the problem with you and you will be stronger for the journey. Do not seek counsel from one who is seeking your approval. When we walk in the Spirit, He

gives us inner warnings, (checks), if we are heading in the wrong direction, thinking the wrong way, or making a wrong decision. Do not go to unbelievers for Godly counsel.

Ungodly counsel can lead to: the wrong decision; being deceived; being controlled; it may cost us financially; it can separate friends; it can injure your marriage; it can turn us away from trusting God and turn us to trusting a person; we might violate God's Word; and we might be lead astray and lead someone else astray as well.

When you talk to someone about your problems, what are you seeking? Support? Sympathy? Agreement? Direction? Or God's viewpoint? What criteria do you use for choosing a counselor? How important is it to you that the advice is shaped by the Word of God? When trouble strikes, do you know where to find God's answer in His Word? What can you do now to ensure that you will be familiar enough with Scripture to know what He desires?

From Dr. Charles Stanley and In Touch Ministries

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

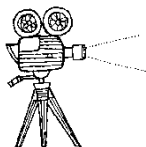
“Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.” 1 Kings 18:38

Christianity has often been made out to be a soft kind of thing, something pleasant and nice. But Christianity is the toughest religion ever formulated in the history of the world. What is its symbol? Its symbol is a cross. Not one of those chaste gold crosses that hangs around a lady's neck, but a tough crossbeam of wood – splintery and hard. That is the symbol of Christianity.

This may sound oratorical and poetic, but it isn't. It is practical through and through. It is what we must do now as a nation, for this country will have to get back to a strong belief in the authority of government under God and have an enormous spiritual buildup if it is going to survive the confusions of our time. It is also what we need as individuals. Christianity is a tremendous religion, for it makes tremendous people who, when the going is not-so-good, know what to do. They just draw nearer to God and keep on keeping on – and victory comes.

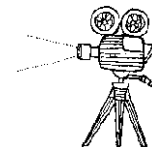
Prayer: *Our Heavenly Father, help us to know there is value in the difficulties of life and that by the power of Christ working upon the inner person we may have the vitality and strength to rise from darkness into light. Though Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.*

Norman Vincent Peale



LIVE STREAMING REPORT

By Jeremiah “Jay” C. Irizarry



A couple of years ago, I had a vision of making sure the Empire Church of the Brethren worship services would go online. I thought about it constantly and even asked other members of the congregation if they thought this was a good idea. I received good feedback. The only question was when we were going to do it.

In May 2021, the PSWD Policy Board had a meeting and on the agenda was a proposal for a Live Stream fund for each congregation. The district wanted to help each congregation who

wasn't setup to go live online have the ability to do so while going through the pandemic. The proposal was to provide equipment up to \$2,000 to get this setup. As a member of the policy board, I saw this proposal being presented at the meeting and I had to jump on this right away because I felt the district and I had the same goal. The policy board passed the proposal. From there, I presented to the local Empire COB Board, and they approved the decision to move forward with the Live Streaming project.

During the summer 2021, Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister and I went to work on this project. Russ ordered the tech equipment which includes Lenovo laptop, ATEM Mini switcher, a 4-channel sound mixer, a Canon Camcorder with a tripod, and bunch of different cables to go along with everything. I did some research on what software I wanted to use, and I found a program called OBS (Open Broadcaster Software). It is free program to help stream live to the internet. Also, I planned on uploading the videos to the church YouTube channel. And then down the road taking those YouTube videos and posting them to our website once everything looks good and everything is working correctly.

Not everything worked correctly at first. Russ and I spent a lot time at the church trying to fix any issues that occurred during set up. The first issue we ran into was problems with the video. We weren't getting the laptop to recognize the camcorder via HDMI cable. I tried to plug an HDMI cable from the laptop to the camcorder. No go. I tried to plug an HDMI cable to the ATEM mini, then plug another HDMI cable from the ATEM mini to the laptop. Still no go. What it took to get this to work after some time of troubleshooting was getting a USB-C to USB-C cable and we link that from the laptop to the ATEM mini. Getting the video to work with OBS and other video editing programs was success.

The second issue that we had to tackle was the sound. On October 10th, we decided to go live for the first time. After the video was posted on YouTube, I went to look to see how it turned out, and there was absolutely no sound coming from the video clip. I spent weeks trying to find out what the issue was. The sound wasn't coming through OBS. And that meant the sound wasn't going through YouTube during the live stream. The camcorder did record sound and I was able to take that sound with the video, compress the file to a smaller size, upload the video to YouTube a few hours or even a day later. I was able to upload a few Sunday Worship Services by going about this method for a few weeks. Then in December, Russ and I went back to the church to try a few different ideas. We got assistance from a guy Russ knew named Joseph. His church live stream setup is similar to how we are trying to get ours setup. He was able to give us a couple ideas in which one of those ideas helped to get this closer to where we want to be. We started to work with the AFV function on the ATEM mini. Once this was turned on, the sound from the church sound system started to go through the OBS software. And when that happens, it will go to YouTube. Russ came by and assisted me on a Sunday Service as he ran the camcorder and I watched over the live stream on the laptop, making sure everything looked good. One of our church members was a big help, watching our service live on YouTube during that Sunday and let us know in the chat whether she was able to hear the sound and what the sound quality was like. There were some adjustments that needed to be made, but Russ was able to figure out we can do that on the sound mixer. The audio cable from the sound system is directly plugged into the ATEM Mini with AFV function turned on is how we were able to pull sound to the live stream. That part was a success.

These were the two main issues, but there are some other issues that may occur. One issue is getting the Wi-Fi extender to work on a weekly basis. We needed to get a Wi-Fi extender connected in the sanctuary to get enough Wi-Fi signal, so we won't be running into issues regarding connect ability and buffering. We also need a Wi-Fi extender to connect to the basement so the church Sunday School class can use Zoom during their meetings. Using two Wi-Fi extenders seems to be another challenge. Currently I am working on that issue.

Overall, I think things are looking good. We are getting our services online and I am happy that this project has come to fruition. There are going to be some tweaks from time to time because technology is never perfect by any means, but it's been a blessing along the way. I would like to personally give a big Thank You to District for making this possible financially to get us up and going. Also, to Russ for all the hours and hours of working with me to get this up and going. And to the Empire Church and Board, for believing in me to run this and make this happen for our congregation. There is still a lot more work to be done but right now this project has been a success at this point, but more importantly, it has been a LEARNING one (and I stressed that).



I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU BEST BECAUSE . . .

By Erma Bombeck



It is normal for children to want assurance that they are loved. Having all the warmth of the Berlin Wall, I have always admired women who can reach out to pat their children and not have them flinch.

Feeling more comfortable on paper, I wrote the following for each of my children.

To the First-born: I've always loved you best because you were our first miracle. You were the genesis of a marriage, the fulfillment of young love, the promise of our infinity.

You sustained us through the hamburger years. The first apartment furnished in Early Poverty . . . our first mode of transportation (1955 feet) . . . the 7-inch television set we paid on for 36 months.

You were new, had unused grandparents and more clothes than a Barbie doll. You were the "original model" for unsure parents trying to work the bugs out. You got the strained lamb and three-hour naps.

You were the beginning.

To the Middle Child: I've always loved you the best because you drew a dumb spot in the family and it made you stronger. You cried less, had more patience, wore faded clothes, and never in your life did anything "first," but it only made you more special. You are the one we relaxed with and realized a dog could kiss you and you wouldn't get sick. You could cross a street by yourself long before you were old enough to get married, and the world wouldn't come to a end if you went to bed with dirty feet.

You were the continuance.

To the Baby: I've always loved you the best because endings generally are sad and you are such a joy. You readily accepted the mild-stained bibs. The lower bunk. The cracked baseball bat. The baby book, barren but for a recipe for graham cracker pie crust that someone jammed between the pages.

You are the one we held onto so tightly. For you see, you are the link with the past that gives a reason for tomorrow. You darken our hair, quicken our steps, square our shoulders, restore our vision, and give us humor that security and maturity can't give us.

When your hairline takes on the shape of Lake Erie and your children tower over you, you will still be "the Baby."

You were the culmination.

DECEMBER 2021 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 25

Giving:

Local:	\$7,340.46
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	57.22
Total:	\$7,397.68



DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY



ANNIVERSARIES

- 15th –Phil & Pam Franklin
- 24th –Don & Pat Benton

BIRTHDAYS

- 01st –Lloyd Fullmer
- 02nd –Phyllis Caudle
- 08th –Norma Lutes
- 11th –John Vacca
- 15th –Seth Lutes



- 17th –Pat Benton
- 19th –Natalie Hartman
- 20th –Johnathan Snyder
- 23rd –Evelyn Hurlbut
- 24th –Ivy Carter
- 26th –Tanner Radcliffe
Loretta Stein
Zachary Snyder
- 27th –Joy Slaybaugh
Lori Ward

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/>



FEBRUARY 2022 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		<p style="text-align: center;">1 1 Samuel 3:2-11</p> <p>Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">2 Psalm 100:1-5</p> <p>Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">3 Luke 10:25-37</p> <p>Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">4 Proverbs 3:5-6</p> <p>Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">5 Psalm 14:1-11</p> <p>Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey</p>
<p>6 Matthew 6:25-34</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family</p>	<p>7 Isaiah 55:6-9</p> <p>Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz</p>	<p>8 Proverbs 2:1-8</p> <p>Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie</p>	<p>9 1 Corinthians 9:19-23</p> <p>Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey</p>	<p>10 John 1:1-14</p> <p>Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family</p>	<p>11 Isaiah 6:1-8</p> <p>Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.</p>	<p>12 John 11:38-44</p> <p>Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk</p>
<p>13 Psalm 23:1-6</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson</p>	<p>14 1 John 4:16-19</p> <p>Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family</p>	<p>15 Matthew 11:28-30</p> <p>Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan</p>	<p>16 Matthew 22:34-40</p> <p>Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family Skip & Kathleen Powell</p>	<p>17 John 8:2-11</p> <p>Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Family</p>	<p>18 Psalm 63:1-8</p> <p>John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls</p>	<p>19 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13</p> <p>Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam.</p>
<p>20 Luke 1:46-55</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer</p>	<p>21 Philippians 4:4-14</p> <p>Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider</p>	<p>22 Isaiah 40:27-31</p> <p>Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford</p>	<p>23 1 John 4:7-15</p> <p>J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family</p>	<p>24 Matthew 14:22-33</p> <p>Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson</p>	<p>25 Colossians 1:9-14</p> <p>Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca</p>	<p>26 Matthew 25:35-40</p> <p>Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.</p>
<p>27 1 Corinthians 12:12-20</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.</p>	<p>28 Luke 19:1-10</p> <p>Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt</p>					






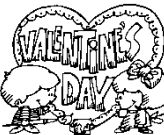


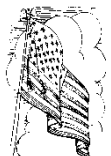





PRAYER

The world's greatest wireless connection




FEBRUARY 2022
ACTIVITIES CALENDAR


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

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School
 10:45am Informal Worship
 11:00am Worship Hour