

Mariners: No meetings until further notice

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, January 18th 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 – January 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

Wanda Bollinger – Healing From Fall
Norma Lutes – Waiting For Knee Surgery
Vern Shafer – Skin Spots
COVID – Among Us



LIVING A SURRENDERED LIFE

Since the world does its best to make us surrender to it, how about we surrender to God first and have a blessed 2022? In that vein, let me share some thoughts by Dr. Charles Stanley.

To the best of your knowledge, are you fully surrendered to Jesus Christ?

He is our savior and Lord and surrendering is our reasonable act of worship.

A surrendered life begins at salvation.

When Jesus is our savior we acknowledge Him as Lord God and we realize that He is the Lord of all we have and do. Surrendering to God includes every area of our lives. But this absolute surrender is what God expects because Christ died for us and we belong to Him.

Full surrender is God's perfect will for our lives.

God will take care of what ever is holding you back from complete surrendering if you but ask him to do so.

Jesus Christ is the perfect example of full surrender.

He always did the will of his father who sent him no matter how difficult it was. The distress that Jesus experienced when going to the cross, demonstrates that surrender is not always easy and can be excruciating, yet He never wavered from complete obedience to His Father's will.

This same kind of attitude we should have, not my will, but Yours be done.

Surrender is not defeat but victory over whatever is hindering our Christian life. Allow God to search us and reveal any areas we have kept for ourselves. Once we have trusted Jesus as our

savior we must recognize that we now belong to Him. Full surrender is like opening the closets of our lives and inviting Him to clean out whatever he wants.

What does it mean to yield ourselves to God? It requires that we open our hearts and lives to the Lord, asking Him to take out whatever does not please Him. We must be willing to confess, repent, walk away, give it up, and lay it down. Until we do, we will never become the person He wants us to be or enjoy His blessings.

What would happen if we gave ourselves fully to God? He delights to work in our lives when we recognize Him as Lord. Such surrender affects our prayers, generosity, conversations, attitudes, families, workplace, and interactions with those who don't know Christ.

How would God respond if we yielded ourselves to Him? We fear surrendering because we think we will lose something, but we gain much more than we might lose. In surrendering we begin a closer walk with Him. The Christian life is living under the leadership of the Lord Jesus, who always does what is best.

What is hindering total surrender? Look into yourself and find what is holding you back. We never lose by yielding to the Lord, in fact, that is when life at its best begins.

What changes do we need to make? Stop rationalizing and excusing our lack of submission to God. Trust God. He only does what is best and always keeps His word. Remember that the safest place to be is in subjection to Him. Surrender today and every day because it is a lifelong practice that will continue until we meet the Lord in heaven.

POSITIVE INSIGHTS

“But I must die in this land, I must not go over Jordan: but ye shall go over, and possess that good land. Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the Lord your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or likeness of any thing, which the Lord thy God hath forbidden thee. For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God.” Deuteronomy 4:22-24

Now just what does the process of praying do to you that relieves you of worry? One thing it does is release and activate your built-in strength. Every one of us has more strength by far than he ever dreamed of. Have you ever used all your strength? ALL of it? No, you have never used one-half your strength, nor have I. I'll go further and say that I doubt that any of us has ever used one-tenth of his strength. We have tremendous reservoirs of power that we could call into action if we wanted to. I don't know but that the greatest achievement in life is to know how to continually break out from yourself the strength that is there. You pray the strength out, you believe it out, you practice it out. And then the worry fades away. It is amazing the strength people have – that you have – that I have.

Life Lifter: *If power isn't coming through, find the block and remove it. Always poke around a problem, looking for its soft spot, for nearly every problem has one. Then break the problem open and find the solution.*

Norman Vincent Peale

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



January 2: Special Board Meeting following worship
January 9: Yearly Council Meeting in the Fellowship Hall following worship.



LIGHTEN LOAD FOR THE NEW YEAR

By Erma Bombeck



For years, I've studied the symbol of New Year's . . . a smiling baby wearing a diaper and a top hat. What does it mean? A beginning of life? A time of innocence? A scenario for change?

Then it hit me. For years, I've been over dressed for the new year.

I enter it with shoulders bent, swathed in all the ills of the previous year, and when I can't wear them all on my body, I lug them along in heavy boxes and suitcases, kicking them along with my foot to make sure all of them make it into the next year of my life.

Wrapped around my neck is a mantle of guilt, some of it going back as far as 1940. (Guilt for the time my parents gave me a savings bond for my high school graduation when I wanted a silver charm bracelet, and I threw the savings bond on the floor. An oldie, but a goodie.)

The hair shirt of self-pity is uncomfortable, but for years has provided me with enough ammunition to bring tears to the eyes of my husband and children. To discard it would be unthinkable. After all, self-pity, if you do it right, takes a long time to amass.

The belt of prejudice is an old one and encompasses anyone who does not agree with every single word I have ever said. I'd feel naked without it.

The large footlocker contains anger. True, a lot of it doesn't fit anymore, but I hang onto it just in case I'm caught short.

Adorning all of this are the jewels of frustration over things that I can never do anything about, but which I wear like medals to torture myself.

And of course, the biggest piece of baggage contains old grudges that I shift through each year like old photographs and pressed flowers . . . the critic who was unkind . . . the one mistake from a friend I want to forgive . . . the trust I gave as a child that was abused . . . the harsh words from a family member that I refuse to forget. Grudges, many of them antiques, that I plan on handing down to my children.

Each year of my life, the load gets heavier and heavier to carry into a new year. Once around March, I almost sank, but stubbornly I hung onto every bit of New Years past.

Frankly, I don't know if I can face a new year without my clothes on. I don't know if I can check in without luggage. Can I look at old friends and see them for the first time? Can I keep my eyes forward and not look back? Do I have the guts to emerge with nothing on but a smile and a top hat?

I am going to try.



RECIPE FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Anonymous

Take twelve fine, full-grown months; see that these are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite, pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past – have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time. Cut these months into thirty or thirty-one equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing – don't do it), prayer, meditation, and one well-selected resolution. Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

TO START A NEW YEAR

Anonymous

“A new year is unfolding – like a blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within.

Lord, let this year be filled with the things that are truly good – with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others.

As we make our resolutions for the year ahead, let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible – with Your help and guidance.”

EVERYONE HAS A STORY IN LIFE

Anonymous

A 24 year old boy seeing out from the train's window shouted . . .

“Dad, look the trees are going behind!”

Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24 year old's childish behavior with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed . . .

“Dad, look the clouds are running with us!”

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man . . .

“Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?” The old man smiled and said, “I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today.”

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you.

NOVEMBER 2021 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 24

Giving:

Local:	\$4,744.46
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	10,728.68
Total:	\$15,473.14



DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY



BIRTHDAYS

08th –Michael Best
09th –Don Benton
14th –Nicole Knott



19th –Abigail Winchester
20th –Ron Cadruvi
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!*

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/>





JANUARY 2022 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Psalm 90:1-12 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano Candice Arellano
2 John 13:31-35 Pastor & Teachers Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Ephesians 3:14-21 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Job 1:13-22 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Psalm 33:1-9 Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam. Naomi Covey	6 Matthew 2:1-12 Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 1 Kings 19:9-18 Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin Kerby & Heather Frantz	8 John 6:5-13 Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie
9 Ephesians 4:25-32 Pastor & Teachers Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield Marvene Hilkey	10 Psalm 139:13-18 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 Matthew 7:7-12 Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family	12 Isaiah 62:1-5 Sheryle Knott & Fam. Eunice Lasater Mary Lou Lee	13 Deuteronomy 6:1-9 David & Cheryl Leib JoAnn Lusk Norma Lutes Gerri Masellis	14 Luke 22:54-62 Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker	15 John 20:24-29 Brad Parrish & Fam. Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family
16 Haggai 12:2-5, 12-13 Pastor & Teachers Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Genesis 1:14-28 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price	18 Psalm 111:1-10 Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam. Joel & Susan Price & Family	19 Luke 6:37-42 John & Kathy Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family	20 Psalm 91:9-16 Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden	21 John 4:4-26 Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer	22 2 Corinthians 12:1-10 Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider
23/30 Matthew 18:1-5 Psalm 25:1-7 Pastor & Teachers Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	24/31 Ephesians 2:14-22 Hebrews 12:1-3 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	25 Psalm 139:1-12 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	26 Acts 12:6-17 Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	27 Psalm 94:16-19 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	28 James 3:9-18 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	29 Ecclesiastes 3:9-13 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt











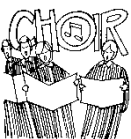





PRAYER
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JANUARY 2022 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1					1 
2  Special Board Meeting	3	4  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	5  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	6  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	7 1:00pm Friday Fellowship at La Morenita 226 S. Golden State Turlock	8 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
9  Yearly Council Meeting  Coffee Hour	10	11  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	12	13  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	14	15 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
16	17	18  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 9:30am Women's Fellowship Mtg.	19	20  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	21 1:00pm Friday Fellowship at Olive Garden 2200 Plaza Parkway Modesto	22 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
23/30  Coffee Hour	24/31	25  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	26	27  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	28	29 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour