



**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm**

**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.
Emergency Food Bank	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.

**The Mirror – April 2023**

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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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**

**Kenny Fox** – Health Issues

**Evelyn Hurlbut** – Heart Issues

**Cheryl Leib** – Shoulder Surgery

**Torrie Slaybaugh** – Digestive Issues

**COVID** – Among Us



### **TODAY IS YOUR BEST DAY** **BECAUSE OF GOD'S CHARACTER**

*"But let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord, exercising loving kindness, judgement, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord. Jeremiah 9:24 NKJV*

There is no one like God. He transcends all that He has made. He is more majestic than the great mountain peaks that rise above the ground: He is more lovely than the beautiful flowers that bloom along the countryside; He is more awesome than the sun as it sets in all its brilliance; He is more diverse than all the trees that fill the forests, that bear fruit in their season, and that shade the landscapes of every country path and village square.

God's character is the foundation that you build your life upon, the rock that your feet stand upon, and the strong tower that your faith leans upon. God is completely dependable, unshakable, unmovable, and totally reliable.

What does your faith in God's character mean to you today? It means that you know the sun still shines even though there are dark clouds overhead; that the anchor of your soul still holds even though the storm rages on; that your next step is certain even though a heavy fog covers your pathway; that comfort will be your portion even though you are facing a dark valley; that a strong hand is holding yours even though there is nothing to hang on to as you walk near the mountain's edge.

Today is in God's hands, and so are you. His hands are strong and they will uphold you; His hands are great and they will enfold you; His hands are gentle and they will embrace you; His hands are protective and they will cover you; His hands are powerful and they will defend you. His hands are compassionate and they will care for you.

Consider these truths for Psalm 46 as you trust in His character today:

*God is our refuge and strength,  
Always ready to help in times of trouble.  
So we will not fear, even if earthquakes come  
And the mountains crumble into the sea . . .  
The LORD Almighty is here among us;  
The God of Israel is our fortress . . .  
"Be silent, and know that I am God!"  
The LORD Almighty is here among us;  
The God of Israel is our fortress.*

*Psalm 46:1-2, 7, 10-11 NLT*

Today is your best day because the One who hold you up will never let you down.

*Roy Lessin in **Because of Jesus** devotional*



## **PRAYER OF THE MONTH**



### **Intercessory Prayer**

Often, the problems we face seem too big for us. No matter how much we try, we cannot solve them on our own. **It's times like these when we need to turn to the Lord in intercessory prayer.** This prayer style *pleads* with God for your needs and the needs of others. Intercession involves taking hold of God's will and *refusing* to let go until His will comes to pass. It is also prayer that doesn't give up. It's the kind of prayer that endures all setbacks and overcomes every obstacle. It is prayer that "presses on" until we "apprehend" God's will in whatever situation we are facing (Phil. 3:12).

Jesus gave a great model for intercession in the story of the persistent friend. Here we see a friend who knocks on his neighbor's door at midnight to ask for three loaves of bread. The neighbor does not want to get up, but Jesus said, "because of his friend's persistence he will get up and give him as much as he needs" (Luke 11:8). Then Jesus said, "Everyone who asks will receive, everyone who searches will find, and the door will be opened for everyone who knocks" (Luke 11:10). Those words mean **keep on asking, keep on seeking, keep on knocking.** In God's time, your persistence in intercessory prayer will reap a spiritual harvest in your life and the lives of those around you! (quoted from an online internet source)

### **WORDS TO LIVE BY**

(Positive Thoughts for positive living . . . wit and wisdom from rural America)

**Faith does not demand that we win; it does demand that we keep trying.**

**God will either lighten our load or strengthen our backs.**



## MISSIONARY MOMENTS



As a church we send donations to **the Modesto Gospel Mission**. They certainly have provided help for people in all walks of life. In the month of February they served **14,494** meals. February is our short month. March has 31 days so the number of meals served will be higher. I am happy to let you know that they also had 10 graduates from the **“New Life Program”**.

Are you aware that they not only serve the people that go to their facility but they go out on the streets regularly to talk to the homeless to invite them to have meals at the Gospel Mission as well as offer them a place to sleep. Transportation is also offered. The love of God is shared.



## A BROKEN CHRYSALIS

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson (found online at [joyfulheart.com](http://joyfulheart.com))




It's truly amazing what a girl will do for love.

My wife, Jean, and I lived next door to each other for ten years before we were married. My sophomore interest in high school biology had sparked a live caterpillar collection. Their home was a shoe box, covered with screen wire. When I went on vacation, Jean fed them faithfully with leaves from her willow tree. She hated it.

Finally the caterpillars stopped their incessant crawling and chewing, attached their tails firmly to a stick and lay still, sheathed with a shiny leather-like case. For weeks they seemed to be dead, unmoving in their tiny gray wrappings. I removed the screen and waited.

One by one, the gray cases began to twist and turn violently, and suddenly split open. A beautiful butterfly emerged. It stood for hours gently moving its wings, pumping fluids into them to extend them fully. Then the butterfly soared gracefully away on the breezes of summer, leaving nothing behind but a broken chrysalis to indicate its former bondage.

The chrysalis and butterfly suggest the empty graveclothes of our risen Lord. When Peter and John heard the news that the Lord's body was gone from the garden tomb, they ran all the way from their lodging. Peter entered the tomb and "he saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen" (John 20:6-7, NIV). The graveclothes once wrapped continuously around the body now lay collapsed, mute testimony that the corpse they had once shrouded had now emerged in life.

The bondage of death is broken. Christ is risen! We can face tomorrow with the assurance that Jesus is in fact alive to help us, to guide us, to give us hope for the future. And since he is living, our problems are not insolvable. The broken chrysalis of His graveclothes proclaims that Christ is Victor even over death. Because He lives, nothing is impossible 



## THE WISDOM OF CHILDREN



You can't fool the kids in Sunday School, they are way too smart . . .

"If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale, and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?" I asked my Sunday School class.

“NO!” all the children answered.

“If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?”

Again, the answer was, “NO!”

“Well,” I continued, “Then how can I get to heaven?”

A five-year-old boy shouted, “You gotta be dead!”

A little boy was kneeling beside his bed with his mother and grandmother and softly saying his prayers, “Dear God, please bless Mommy and Daddy and all the family and please give me a good night’s sleep.” Suddenly he looked up and shouted, “AND DON’T FORGET TO GIVE ME A BICYCLE FOR MY BIRTHDAY!” “There’s no need to shout like that,” said his mother, “God isn’t deaf.” “No,” said the little boy, “But Grandma is!”

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write down a sermon. “How do you know what to say,” he asked. “Why, God tells me,” the father answered. The boy replied, “Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?”



## **PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Brandeis University, Center for Spiritual Life



### **Palm Sunday**

Catholic and Protestant communities celebrate Palm Sunday. (The Orthodox Christian community celebrates later as they follow the Julian calendar.) This marks the beginning of Holy Week, historically the most sacred time of year for Christians.

Palm Sunday recalls an event in the Christian Scripture (The New Testament) of Jesus entering into Jerusalem and being greeted by the people waving palm branches. For Christians, it is a reminder of the welcoming of Jesus into our hearts and of our willingness to follow him.

The service on Palm Sunday also includes a reading of the Passion, that is, the story of the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In today’s church, great care is given to make sure that the story of the death of Jesus is not presented in an anti-Semitic manner. Jesus’ death is seen by Christians as salvation and as a reminder of how prophets are often killed when they stand for justice and peace.

### **Holy Week**

**Holy Thursday** (sometimes referred to as Maundy Thursday after the Latin mandatum or command to love one another) is a day when Christians commemorate the Last Supper of Jesus. In some traditions, there is the washing of the feet of various members of the community to recall a gesture of Christ at the Last Supper when he washed the feet of his disciples. This is a sign of the need to do more to love one another and to serve all people, especially the poor.

**Good Friday** is a solemn day on which Christians recall the death of Jesus and its promise of hope and new life. In some traditions a wood cross is set up and people spend time meditating before it.

Other people make the Stations of the Cross a devotion that recalls the journey of Jesus on the Via Dolorosa (Way of Sorrows) in Jerusalem to Calvary where he was crucified. (In Jerusalem the place of Christ’s death and resurrection is commemorated inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.)

Many Christians keep this devotion but also see in the suffering of Jesus a reminder to be more concerned for the suffering of people in today's world. For many Christians, this day is also a day of fasting and penance.

**Easter**

**Easter Sunday** is the greatest feast in the Christian calendar. While our society puts a major emphasis on Christmas, no other day is traditionally as sacred for the Christian community as Easter. This is the day Christians commemorate the resurrection of Christ.

In some traditions, the services begin the night before with the lighting of a new fire and the blessing of a large Easter candle. Water is blessed and many are baptized. But for all Christians, this is a day to renew one's faith.

In the Catholic Church, there is a sprinkling of all people with the newly blessed Easter water as a sign of renewal of our baptismal commitment. In many Protestant communities, Easter is celebrated at a sunrise service early on Easter morning.

Easter usually ends with festive celebrations with special foods and Easter delicacies.

**FEBRUARY 2023 STATISTICS**

Average Attendance: 23

**Giving:**

Local:	\$3,889.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	150.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,039.00</b>



**DATES TO REMEMBER APRIL**



**BIRTHDAYS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 01 <sup>st</sup> – Shelby Cadruvi                     | 09 <sup>th</sup> – Samuel Price                 |
| 02 <sup>nd</sup> – David Hurlbut                      | 16 <sup>th</sup> – John Price                   |
| 04 <sup>th</sup> – Sarah (Lutes) Cerro<br>Roger Welch | 18 <sup>th</sup> – Linda Carter<br>Andrew Welch |
| 05 <sup>th</sup> – Rachel Price                       | 27 <sup>th</sup> – Vern Shafer                  |

*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](https://www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB);  
**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/empire\\_cob](https://twitter.com/empire_cob); and  
**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>





# APRIL 2023 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Matthew 5:14-16  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano
2 Colossians 1:7-12  Pastor & Teachers Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Romans 10:16-21  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Psalm 116:1-7  Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 John 13:31-35  Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Matthew 26:36-46  Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Matthew 27:38-46  Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer
9 John 20:1-9  Pastor & Teachers Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Matthew 13:44-46  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 Psalm 130:1-8  Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	12 1 Kings 17:8-16  Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes	13 Matthew 11:28-30  Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Ephesians 2:1-10  Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Matthew 9:9-13  Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family
16 Luke 24:13-35  Pastor & Teachers Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Ephesians 4:11-16  Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.	18 1 Kings 19:1-15  Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price Jonah & Morgan Price	19 Psalm 36:5-9  Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 Ephesians 3:14-19  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	21 James 1:19-27  Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	22 Romans 12:1-8  Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford
23/30 Luke 10:38-42 Matthew 5:43-48 Pastor & Teachers J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24 Psalm 147:7-18  Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	25 Matthew 5:13-16  Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	26 John 11:32-36  Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	27 Matthew 6:25-34  Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Romans 16:21-27  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	29 Isaiah 43:1-7

















**PRAYER**  
The world's greatest wireless connection





# APRIL 2023 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
2  <b>Palm Sunday</b>	3	4  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	5  8:00 am <b>Government Commodities Distribution</b>	6  4:15pmFellowship Singers  Love Feast 5:30pm	7 <b>ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP</b> 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church	8
9  <b>Easter Sunday</b>	10	11  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	12	13  4:15pmFellowship Singers	14	15
16	17	18  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon 1:00pmWomen's Fellowship Mtg.	19	20  4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	21 <b>Friday's Fellowship</b> 5:00pm Su Casita Waterford	22
23/30  <b>Sunday Luncheon</b>	24	25  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	26	27  4:15pmFellowship Singers	28  <b>Shed Work Day</b> 9:00am-12:00pm	29

## EVERY SUNDAY

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