



**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</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.
Food Bank	1st Sunday	9:30 a.m.

**The Mirror – February 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 PROMISES**

*They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's special children. God revealed His glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave His law to them. They have the privilege of worshiping Him and receiving His wonderful promises. Romans 9:4 NLT*

You have so much for you today, because so much has been given to you by God. You have the fullness of His grace, the bounty of His mercies, the greatness of His power, the beauty of His presence and the wonders of His love. You have been blessed with the fellowship of other believers, the revelation of the sacred scriptures, the daily intercession of Jesus Christ, the watchful ministry of heavenly angels, and you have been given the precious promises spoken from the heart of God.

God's promises are like golden apples given to you in baskets of silver, providing a treasure of priceless worth. They are like an oasis that you've found in the desert, bordered with lush, date-bearing palm trees, and surrounded by pools of pristine water. They are like a feast offered to you on the banqueting table of the King, loaded with fresh bread, the finest wine, food fixed to perfection, and desserts that are a delight to taste.

Any promise that is made to you is only as reliable as the character of the one who made it. People can promise many things that they are unable or unwilling to do. God is not like that. Every promise that He has made is sure and certain. God's promises are completely reliable

because God is completely dependable. The God who created all there is, stands behind all He has promised.

God's promises are true because God cannot lie. Truth is part of God's nature and character. God doesn't only *know* truth or *have* truth, He *is* Truth. God never wavers between "yes" and "no" when it comes to fulfilling His promises. In Jesus Christ, God has already said yes to every promise He has made.

God has given you His promises because He wants you to know what is in His heart for you today.

- If you have tears today, there are promises of comfort;
- If you have heaviness today, there are promises of joy;
- If you are in need of direction, there are promises of guidance;
- If you need to make an important decision, there are promises of wisdom;
- If you have doubts, there are promises of assurance;
- If you are facing trials, there are promises of victory;
- If you are in sin, there are promises of cleansing and forgiveness;
- If you are in sickness, there are promises of healing;
- If you are in conflict, there are promises of peace.

God's promises not only assure you that He will give you all that is best today, and throughout this month, but that His best will also be a glorious part of your future.

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



## **PRAYER OF THE MONTH**



### **Scripture Prayer**

At times, prayer may not come easy. At these times it is helpful to take a passage of scripture and use it as your prayer. Praying the scripture helps give us an accurate lens through which to see Christ and enriches our conversations with God. As we gaze at the glory of Christ we become more like Him. Likewise, as we pray God's Word, we can have confidence God is hearing and answering us. This month we will be focusing on praying scripture.

1. Each day choose a scripture to pray and as you do, take a moment to read it. (Psalms is a good place to go if you are unsure where to head first.)
2. Next, reread it aloud as if you are praying it.
3. Then, see if there is a way you can personalize it by adding your name when there are pronouns, or names of other people from the scripture, as you read it one more time.
4. Then take a moment to reflect on what you read, what God was speaking to you from the scripture, what you are to glean from His Word.
5. Lastly, close with a prayer of Thanksgiving for whatever He may have revealed to you, and anything else you would like to tell Him.

**“If one is the master of one thing and understands one thing well, one has at the same time insight into and understanding of many things.” – Vincent van Gogh (1853-90)**

## **BRETHREN BITS**

These prayer requests were in our December 2022 Church of the Brethren Newslines Brethren Bits section of our national newsletter and we thought we could join in praying for them too! Here is the article.

**“Sharing these prayer concerns from Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria):**

Pray for EYN leadership as it conducts the annual staff transfer, which is considered the most tasking work.

Pray for the acting director of finance, Ayuba U. Balami, and the agriculture director of education, Daniel I. Yumuna.

Pray for EYN’s centenary preparation.

Pray for evangelist Inuwa Hikama, who was abducted on Dec. 3 from his station at Kwaple in Chibok Local Government Area, Borno State.

Pray for the EYN Comprehensive Secondary School, which as a matter of emergency closed the school after the sad deaths of three students within two weeks. One of the parents is pastor Jonathan Milila, who lost two sons in one day.

Pray for the nation of Nigeria’s 2023 general elections for the positions of president and the federal and state house of assembly.

Pray for some Nigerian communities that are impacted by the insurgency, flood, disaster, and inflation. Thank God for his grace and relative peace experienced in other parts of the country.”

## **WORDS TO LIVE BY**

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

**Personality has the power to open doors, but it takes character to keep them open.**

**If God is the captain of our fate, our boat may rock, but it will never sink.**

*Thought for the Day*

God calls us into a future filled with life.

*Jill Lamkin (California)*

## ★ COUNT THE STARS ★

### *Read Genesis 15:1-6*

*[The Lord] took [Abram] outside and said, “Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”*

Genesis 15:5 (NIV)

Tonight I decided to count the stars. I counted only twelve (and I suspect one was not a star but a satellite). The air pollution we have created on this planet hides many of the stars from us, and the lights we have made create the illusion that the stars have dimmed or are not out there.

I try to imagine what Abraham saw the night he looked into the sky – many points of purest light set against deepest dark. It must have been an overwhelming view with an amazing promise: descendants as hard to number as the stars. Abraham looked into that twinkling sky and wondered how he and Sara, old as they were, could have even one child. The sight of the night sky must have become for Abraham a reminder of God’s promise.

Those same stars are still up there, though sometimes it requires a journey beyond the smog and the glare of city lights to see them. God’s promise of abundant life also continues, even when we lose sight of it in the dust of our living. Like Sarah and Abraham, we can follow God into the future on the basis of that assurance.

**Prayer:** Lord, clear our lives of all that obscures you, so that we can clearly see reminders of your faithfulness. Amen.



## VALENTINE’S DAY



By The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica Article History

Valentine’s Day, also called St. Valentine’s Day, holiday (February 14) when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off of women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine’s Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine’s Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter “from your Valentine” to his jailer’s daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor’s orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

**Why Do We Give Valentine Cards?** Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial

valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

The day is popular in the United States as well as in Britain, Canada, and Australia, and it is also celebrated in other countries, including Argentina, France, Mexico, and South Korea. In the Philippines it is the most common wedding anniversary, and mass wedding of hundreds of couples are not uncommon on that date. The holiday has expanded to expressions of affection among relatives and friends. Many schoolchildren exchange valentines with one another on this day.

## DECEMBER 2022 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 22

### Giving:

Local:	\$4,353.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	400.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,753.00</b>



## DATES TO REMEMBER IN FEBRUARY



### ANNIVERSARIES

15<sup>th</sup> –Phil & Pam Franklin  
24<sup>th</sup> –Don & Pat Benton

### BIRTHDAYS

01<sup>st</sup> –Lloyd Fullmer  
02<sup>nd</sup> –Phyllis Caudle  
08<sup>th</sup> –Norma Lutes  
11<sup>th</sup> –John Vacca  
15<sup>th</sup> –Seth Lutes

17<sup>th</sup> –Pat Benton  
19<sup>th</sup> –Natalie Hartman  
20<sup>th</sup> –Johnathan Snyder  
23<sup>rd</sup> –Evelyn Hurlbut  
24<sup>th</sup> –Ivy Carter  
26<sup>th</sup> –Tanner Radcliffe  
Loretta Stein  
Zachary Snyder  
27<sup>th</sup> –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](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/>



## FEBRUARY 2023 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Hosea 6:1-3  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	2 Job 9:1-10  Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Psalm 23:1-6  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Colossians 3:12-17  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.
5 Jeremiah 18:1-10  Pastor & Teachers Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Revelation 21:1-5  Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Proverbs 3:5-8  Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Colossians 3:1-4  Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer	9 John 8:12-19  Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Ephesians 2:1-1-  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 Psalm 3:1-8  Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.
12 Colossians 1:9-14  Pastor & Teachers Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes	13 2 Corinthians 1:3-7  Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Psalm 103:1-5  Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Matthew 6:25-34  Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	16 Romans 8:38-39  Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Exodus 14:19-31  Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.	18 Psalm 139:1-6  Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price Jonah & Morgan Price
19 Mark 6:30-34  Pastor & Teachers Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 Luke 18:1-8  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	21 Numbers 13:26-33  Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	22 John 10:11-18  Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	23 Matthew 5:13-16  J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24 Hebrews 12:1-3  Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	25 2 Corinthians 3:12-18  Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca
26 Matthew 11:25-30  Pastor & Teachers Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	27 John 10:1-5, 22-28  Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Luke 17:12-19  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Erica Wyatt				















**PRAYER**  
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## FEBRUARY 2023 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	2  4:15pmFellowship Singers	3 ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church	4 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm	
5	6	7  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	8	9  4:15pmFellowship Singers	10	11
12  Coffee Hour	13	14  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	15	16  4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	17 ALL CHURCH VALENTINE DINNER 4:30pm Golden Bowl Hughson	18
19	20	21  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 1:00pmWomen's Fellowship Mtg.	22	23  4:15pmFellowship Singers	24  Shed Work Day 9:00am-12:00pm	25
26  Sunday Luncheon	27	28  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon				

### EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour