

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, July 18th 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 st and 3 rd Fridays	1:00 p.m.
Women's Fellowship	3rd Tuesday	1:00 p.m.
Emergency Food Bank	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.

The Mirror – July 2023

The Mirror is published once a Month. Information deadline is the 3rd Tuesday of the month.



Empire Church
of the Brethren

P.O. Box 215

Empire, CA 95319

Phone: 209-522-4302

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

Kenny Fox – Health Issues

Evelyn Hurlbut – Heart Issues

David & Cheryl Leib – Recovery from Surgery

Torrie Slaybaugh – Digestive Issues

COVID – Among Us



TODAY IS YOUR BEST DAY **BECAUSE YOU ARE IN CHRIST**

God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the One who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and He gave Himself to purchase our freedom. I Corinthians 1:30 NLT

Different people use different measurements to evaluate their day. A salesman may land a big account and call it his best day. An athlete may break a record in his sport and call it his best day. A woman may marry the man of her dreams and call it her best day. A writer may have her first book published and call it her best day.

As a child of God, however, today is your best day because you are in Christ. You may be a salesman who landed a big account today, or may have made no sale at all. Your best day is not founded in what you've accomplished, but in who you are in Christ.

Being in Christ means that He is the atmosphere in which you live your day.

I was recently in a large conference room for a staff meeting. Because I was *in* the room, the atmosphere of the room had an influence upon me. The room had padded chairs to sit upon. The lighting in the room was soft and inviting. The colors on the walls were pleasing to the eye. Best of all, the room was air-conditioned, making everyone inside feel comfortable, even though it was hot outside.

Because you are *in Christ*, everything that is true about Christ will have an impact upon you. It is in Him that you live and move and have your being. As you go through this day, consider all that is yours because you are in Christ.

- *You stand before God with your past forgiven and forgotten.*
- *Your life is under His ownership and watch-care.*
- *You have been brought into union and fellowship with God.*
- *You have no cloud of condemnation hanging over your head.*
- *You are no longer a slave to the sins that once had you bound.*
- *You are covered by the love of God from every direction.*
- *You are God's child and a part of God's family of believers.*
- *You have been set apart for God's special purpose.*
- *You can see life with a heavenly point of view.*
- *You are in God's strong hands.*
- *You travel on paths of victory as you walk with your hand in His.*
- *You have a new calling, a new purpose, and a new direction.*
- *You overflow with spiritual blessings.*
- *You live under and in the authority of Jesus.*
- *You are showered with grace and kindness.*
- *You are God's masterpiece in the making.*
- *You have a relationship with Jesus that will never end.*
- *You can go through this day clothed with the righteousness of Christ.*



PRAYER OF THE MONTH



Prayer for Refuge, Redemption, and Freedom
Whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant.

“These words are the bull’s eye that **Jesus** insists His followers work at hitting 100 percent of the time. It is the only goal worth aiming for: being a servant filled with the power of the **Spirit**, intent upon ransoming the many sinners, the many who do evil and the backwash of personal sin. To be suffering servants goes against everything they have hoped for or wanted. It is time now for the disciples to decide. Do they go now into Jerusalem, the place of the confrontation with power and the death of the prophets? Or do they subtly and even unconsciously begin to withdraw and renege on their commitment to being His disciples and friends?

They, we, must learn to pray to **God** from the position of Jesus, who serves God alone and so suffers in this world because of that single-hearted choice. The **prayer of the psalmist** is a good place to start, to remember our priorities and absolute need for God as the only power worth serving with all our heart and soul and mind and strength. **‘You will free me from the snare they set for me, for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; you will**

redeem me, O Lord, O faithful God.’ Psalm 31:4-5. These are some things that we can only learn from God. The Spirit teaches us to pray and to know the steadfast love of God.”

WORDS TO LIVE BY

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

Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe something inside them was superior to circumstance.

Only a fool tests the water with both feet.

WORDS OF WISDOM

(shared by Evelyn Hurlbut)

FACE IT – DON’T FEAR IT!

It is easy for us to be caught up in the daily difficulties we experience, and sometimes we want to withdraw and avoid the conflict of facing our giants. But we should not be intimidated by these challenges. Rather, we should depend on the power of God to overcome these situations, and we must rely on His Word and follow the instructions set before us in Scripture.

- 1. Take up the shield and face your fear head on.** *Do not be afraid . . . I am your shield, your exceedingly great reward.* Genesis 15:1b
- 2. Know that God hears and will come to assist.** *Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is.* Genesis 21:17
- 3. Face the challenge head on.** *Look, the LORD your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it, as they LORD God of your fathers has spoken to you; do not fear or be discouraged.* Deuteronomy 1:21
- 4. Don’t be intimidated by the giants you face.** *Today you are on the verge of battle with your enemies. Do not let your heart faint, o not be afraid, and do not tremble or be terrified because of them.* Deuteronomy 20:3
- 5. Stay the course!** *Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the LORD God – my God – will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the LORD.*
1 Chronicles 28:20
- 6. Remember that God will always be with you.** *For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, “Fear not, I will help you.”* Isaiah 41:13
- 7. Be assured of who you are in Christ.** *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine.* Isaiah 43:1
- 8. Don’t give your earthly giants too much credit! Greater is He that is in you!** *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.* Matthew 10:28
- 9. Remember that God knows what you’re going through, and He loves you and desires to help you overcome.** *But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.* Luke 12:7
- 10. God will always be there for you.** *Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*
Revelation 1:17b



FAMILY VACATIONS: PART ONE

by Reader's Digest Editors



SEEING AMERICA

When I was a child – one of five – our parents left nothing to chance when preparing for our summer vacation. Lists were made and trunks packed weeks in advance. On the morning of the trip, a final check was made. When everything was deemed ready, we piled into the station wagon and began the six-hour drive. Then, sometime into the trip, our mother realized that something was missing: one of my sisters. We drove back home, where my father found her sitting on the toilet. *Submitted by George Doscher, Hillsborough, New Jersey*

HONEYMOON WITH THE IN-LAWS

After my husband and I were married, my in-laws offered to pay for our honeymoon. Visions of Hawaii or Mexico came to mind. Not quite. They told us we were heading to Disney World. Not only that, but since they'd always wanted to go, they were coming along. Turns out, my mother-in-law's two best friends also always wanted to go to Disney World, as did their three kids, not to mention my sister-in-law and her husband. I can't say a lot of honeymooning went on. *Submitted by Cristina Beitz, El Cajon, California*

FLIGHT INSURANCE

I was looking forward to the trip to New Orleans my mother and I were taking until we reached the airport. Suddenly I had a panic attack at the thought of having to fly. Dad, bless his heart, did everything he could to calm my nerves. "You know, you're safer in a plane than you are in a car," he reminded me. That reassurance eventually worked. He gave me a loving kiss on the head, then asked my mother, "Did you buy flight insurance?" *Submitted by Donna Sonnenlitter, Struthers, Ohio*

DON'T SIT IN THE EXHIBITS

On our trip to California, we visited the Getty Museum. After a while, my bored ten-year-old, Nick, was flagging. "If you're tired, find a place to sit," I told him. I then went back to the portraits.

Minutes later, alarms went off and security guards were scrambling. Turns out, Nick had found a place to get comfortable. He'd crawled under a velvet rope into an exhibit and perched on a priceless Louis XIV, with his legs up on the armrest. *Submitted by Julie Lynch, Ithaca, New York*

ONLY TWO CATS

Uncle Bart was a city boy whose familiarity with wildlife began and ended with pigeons. One time he joined us at our cabin in the woods. In the evening, he opened the door to let our cats in. The first cat walked in; then the second. Bart stood there coaxing the third cat to come, which we found strange – we had only two cats. The third cat was a possum. *Submitted by Jonathan Hakulin, Baltimore, Maryland*

MAY 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 19

Giving:

Local:	\$3,559.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	465.92
Total:	\$4,024.92



DATES TO REMEMBER JULY



ANNIVERSARIES

20th –Roger & Cynthia Welch
28th –Skip & Kathleen Powell

16th –Julie Warner
17th –Jen Baker
18th –Sheryle Knott
Carolyn Trent

BIRTHDAYS

01st –Bailey Price
02nd –Natasha Towe
06th –Glen Stanford
13th –Patty Shafer

20th –Pam Franklin
24th –Cynthia Welch
29th –Veronica Suderman

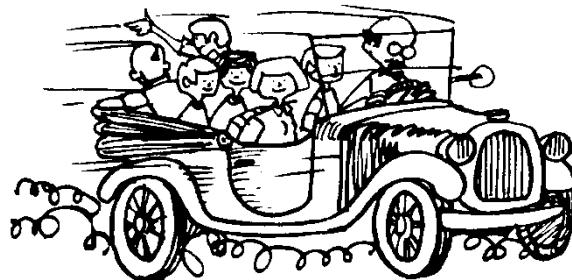
*If we have missed wishing you a happy birthday or a happy anniversary, we may not have your dates.
Please turn in your name and dates to the church secretary.
You are important to us!*

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/>




JULY 2023
PRAYER CALENDAR




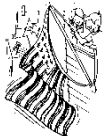









S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 Isaiah 43:14-21 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano
2 Jeremiah 29:10-14 Pastor & Teachers Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Matthew 10:37-42 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 John 4:7-14 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 James 2:14-17 Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Isaiah 30:19-21 Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Psalm 32:1-11 Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 1 Kings 19:9-16 Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer
9 Matthew 19:13-15 Pastor & Teachers Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Psalm 4:1-8 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 Lamentations 1:1-7 Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	12 Psalm 3:1-8 Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes	13 Luke 21:1-4 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Psalm 139:1-14 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Matthew 14:22-33 Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family
16 Proverbs 4:10-19 Pastor & Teachers Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Psalm 121:1-8 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.	18 Psalm 31:14-24 Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price	19 Isaiah 43:1-7 Jonah & Morgan Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 Proverbs 1:1-7 Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	21 1 Peter 5:1-4 Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	22 Romans 8:18-30 Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford
23/30 John 6:1-14 Ephesians 4:1-6 Pastor & Teachers J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24/31 Luke 8:22-25 Song of Solomon 2:8-13 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	25 John 17:20-25 Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	26 Exodus 19:16-25 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	27 Psalm 100:1-5 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Matthew 7:7-11 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	29 Philippians 4:4-7



PRAYER
 The world's greatest wireless connection




JULY 2023
ACTIVITIES CALENDAR


	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1					1 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
2	3	4  Church Office Will Be Closed	5  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	6  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	7 ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church	8
9  Red, White and Blue Luncheon	10	11  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	12	13  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	14	15
16	17	18  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 1:00pm Women's Fellowship Mtg.	19	20  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	21 Friday's Fellowship 5:00pm Marie Callender's 3500 Coffee Rd.	22
23/30  Coffee Hour	24/31	25  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	26	27  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	28  Shed Work Day 9:00am-12:00pm	29

EVERY SUNDAY

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