

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, June 20th 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 – June 2023

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

Kenny Fox – Health Issues

Evelyn Hurlbut – Heart Issues

David & Cheryl Leib – Recovery from Surgery

Torrie Slaybaugh – Digestive Issues

COVID – Among Us



SPECIAL FATHERS

As June approaches, several things are coming to my mind. In May I think of Mothers and then in June I think of Fathers. Not only was I blessed with a phenomenal earthly father, I was also given a wonderful father-in-law, grandfathers, and many men who have stepped up to lead me as fathers, grandfathers, and uncles. What do all of these men have in common, our Heavenly Father! They were led by Godly examples and in turn applied that to me, and for that I am eternally grateful! When people ask me to put in words who God is and how He makes me feel, I go right back to my childhood and beyond when I would sit in my dad's lap and he would read to me and sing with me. The look in his eyes showed how much he loved me. His touch and care would show me how much he wanted the best for me. And then he would teach me and all the time reiterate how much my Heavenly Father loves me, cares for me, and wants the best for me. I felt the same way with my grandfathers and uncles growing up. Then with my church "fathers and grandfathers" as they would lead me in Sunday School and in fellowship with one another. Then as an adult, I have felt the same way with my father and father-in-law as they continue to help me, guide me, and love me. Both of them have taught my husband how to do the same. And now I also add my church family and CMA family to this list of wonderful men in my life. I would not be who I am today without all of these Godly examples! It is a true joy and blessing to be God's child and to be led by His Saints.

Two songs that I just love are *Daddy's Hands* and *My Father's Eyes*. As I sing them, I think of my earthly fathers and my Heavenly Father and just well up with tears of joy, gladness, and

appreciation for God giving me so much in Himself, and the men in my life. Enjoy these words of these songs.

Daddy's Hands

I remember daddy's hands folded silently in prayer, and reaching out to hold me when I had a nightmare. You could read quite a story in the caluses and lines, years of work and worry had left their mark behind. I remember daddy's hands; how they held my momma tight, and patted my back for something done right. There are things that I've forgotten that I loved about the man, but I'll always remember the love in daddy's hands. Daddy's hands were soft and kind when I was crying. Daddy's hands were hard as steel when I'd done wrong. Daddy's hands weren't always gentle, but I've come to understand there was Always love in daddy's hands.

My Father's Eyes

I may not be every mother's dream for her little girl. And my face may not grace the mind of everyone in the world. But that's all right, as long as I can have one wish I pray. When people look inside my life, I want to hear them say, She's got her Father's eyes, her Father's eyes. Eyes that see the good in things when good is not around. Eyes that find the source of help when help just can't be found. Eyes full of compassion. Seeing every pain. Knowing what you're going through and feeling it the same. Just like my Father's eyes.

Take a moment this month to thank the fathers in your life that mean so much to you!!

Susan Price



PRAYER OF THE MONTH



Prayer for Encouragement, Strength, and Guidance

This month let's focus on prayers that encourage, strengthen, and guide us in our walk with Jesus. When I went on a search for this sort of prayer, I found this one and thought it was stated perfectly. In your quiet time with God, take a moment to pray this prayer several times throughout the month of June. Let Jesus encourage, give you strength, and guide you in a mighty way this month.

Oh Lord, I give you my worries and concerns, and I ask for your guidance.

You see it all, the outer circumstances; the inner turmoil. I know that You understand my life, that sometimes my heart weighs heavy with trouble.

Right now I lay all these things before You.

I breathe in, safe in the knowledge that I am held by grace. I breathe out, knowing that I am held secure in Your arms.

And I wait on You.

For You are all truth, You are overflowing love, You are a beacon of hope and a fortress of faith.

Lord, I choose to be attentive to Your voice.

May I be alert to Your Spirit's guiding as I journey onwards with You.

I love You Father.

In Jesus Name we pray. Amen!

WORDS TO LIVE BY

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

If you want to feel rich, just count all the things money can't buy.

If you removed the rocks, the brook would lose its song.

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

BITS AND PIECES OF WISDOM

(shared by Evelyn Hurlbut)

I saw this in front of a church in Modesto, “**God heals broken hearts but He needs all the pieces.**”

❖ **Golden Rule: Do to others as you SAY you do.**

❖ **If you are unworthy, you are the perfect candidate for Grace from God.**

When our children were in our home, as well as when I was teaching, I found this in a book. I apologize that I cannot remember the name of the author and the book. “**No parent should spend all her/his time in the garden of a child's life digging up the weeds; there is always the danger of scratching out the flowers not yet above the ground.**”

It may be a little hurt or a great big hurt, we have all had something happen to us. We are told to let go of things and forgive. Easier said than done. In my lifetime of learning to forgive I have found how much I need God's help to practice forgiving. A little booklet that I picked up years ago helped put a bit of humor along with truth in the area of forgiving. The book is entitled, “*Forgiveness Therapy*”, by David W. Schnell. I wish to quote a few axioms from this little booklet now and then.

- ❖ **“Forgiveness means bending without breaking, being strong enough to withstand the heavy weight of injury but resilient enough to recover. Be forgiving!”**
- ❖ **“Life is never perfect and often unfair. Forgive life's inevitable failures.”**
- ❖ **“Forgive yourself: for what you regret doing and for what you wish you had done, for not being fully yourself and for being only yourself.”**
- ❖ **“Self-forgiveness cleanses the soul, washing away shame and guilt. Out of self-forgiveness comes the power to extend forgiveness to others.”**



SHORT STORIES ABOUT DADS

by Reader's Digest Editors



FIRST IN FLIGHT

The little Cessna had just cleared the pattern in its climb to 1,500 feet when my father said, “OK, we can land now.” With my newly minted private pilot's license in hand, I had wanted him to be my first non-instructor passenger. I'd planned to circle the Michigan State University campus and come back to the university-owned airport. I reminded him of this, and I'll never forget what Dad said, more than 40 years ago: “I'm not fond of small planes. I just wanted you to know that I have confidence in you.” *Submitted by Kay Lockridge, Santa Fe, New Mexico*

“TALKING IS LIKE KETCHUP”

I sat in my dad’s living room reading one night while he watched television. An hour passed before I realized it, and I felt bad for not speaking during that time. I asked if he was OK, and he said yes. Then I apologized for not talking more. “Carmen,” Dad replied. “Talking is like ketchup. If you like the meat enough, you don’t need the ketchup – and if you like the company enough, you don’t need the conversation.” My dad never earned a college degree, but he was the smartest person I ever knew. *Submitted by Carmen Mariano, Braintree, Massachusetts*

DAD’S SECRET SPOT

My dad was a gardener before it was cool. He would proudly tell people, “I can grow just about anything.” He could – except for my beloved lilacs. He tried everything, with no luck or lilacs to show for his efforts. One night when I was a teen, it was raining in that way it does in Minnesota in April: violent and cleansing. I heard the creak of the side door, and he stood soaking wet, etched with scratches, holding an abundance of lilacs. “I found a secret lilac spot,” he said. “It wasn’t easy, but I got them.” That’s how he got everything. *Submitted by Lucia Paul, Plymouth, Minnesota*

GOOD VIBRATIONS

My dad died unexpectedly at age 78, leaving our family heartbroken. During the funeral mass, my sister felt her phone vibrate in her purse. She was a little surprised that someone would be calling her, knowing she was at dad’s funeral mass. Afterward, she found there was a message: “Hi, this is your dad,” said the male voice. “I wanted to let you know I made it home.” The caller obviously had the wrong number, but the message was clear. My dad had completed his journey to heaven and wanted us to know. Thanks Dad – until we meet again. *Submitted by Nancy Perkins, St. Johns, Michigan*

STILL HERE

My dad sat straight up in bed and smiled at me. Even though his mouth was crusted with fever sores, he grinned a big grin from his unshaven face. Dementia had completely taken him from me – or so I thought, until he spoke to me. “Honey,” Dad almost seemed to sing the words. “What are you doing here?” My throat muscles ached from trying to talk and not cry. Choking back my tears, I half-sobbed, “Daddy, I’m here to especially see you. I love you, you know.” “Me too, honey,” he whispered. Then, still smiling, Daddy fell asleep. *Submitted by Mary Ellen Raneri, Latrobe, Pennsylvania*

A LESSON IN PATIENCE

In the spring of 1960, I was riding with my dad on his milk route. He spotted a small turtle crossing the road, stopped to pick it up, and put in the glove compartment. He told me not to play with it until we got home. Of course, when he got back to the truck at our subsequent stop to pick up milk cans, I was crying over a fresh bite on my finger. The moral of the story: It’s wise to follow instructions. And if you are going to poke something, use a stick instead of your finger. *Submitted by Robert Cronce, Brown City, Michigan*



APRIL 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 20

Giving:

Local:	\$7,759.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	391.69
Total:	\$8,150.69



DATES TO REMEMBER JUNE



ANNIVERSARIES

15th –Tim & Catherine Vaughn
22nd –Thomas & Patricia Guthrie
24th –Lyndall & Lois Frantz
27th –Alex & Cathy Arellano
Joel & Susan Price

12th –Wyatt Price
15th –Zachary Baker
Jonah Price
16th –Dennis Peterson
17th –Kathleen Powell
18th –Lyndall Frantz
21st –Kirby Frantz

BIRTHDAYS

02nd –Linda Ward
08th –Phil Franklin
10th –Alex Arellano
Jennifer (Welch) Wuchner

Kristof Vaughn
22nd –Wanda Bollinger
23rd –Katie Lutes
28th –Thomas Guthrie
30th –Rochelle Slaybaugh

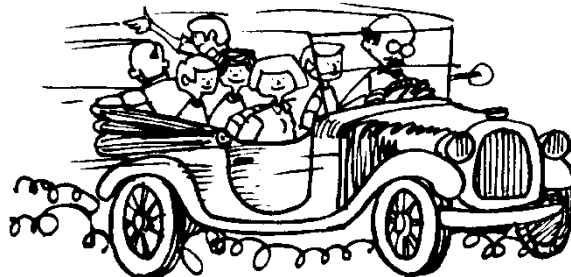
*If we have missed wishing you a happy birthday or a happy anniversary, we may not have your dates.
Please turn in your name and dates to the church secretary.
You are important to us!*

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/>





JUNE 2023 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 Ephesians 2:4-10 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	2 Luke 15:8-10 Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Philippians 4:10-13 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger
4 Isaiah 43:1-7 Pastor & Teachers Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 1 Samuel 16:1-7 Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Matthew 19:13-15 Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Luke 11:5-13 Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Psalm 33:1-11 Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer	9 Genesis 24:12-27 Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Matthew 13:31-35 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family
11 Psalm 32:8-11 Pastor & Teachers Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	12 Judges 20:18-28 Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes	13 Psalm 145:13-21 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Ephesians 4:29-32 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Micah 6:6-8 Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	16 1 Peter 5:6-11 Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Matthew 6:25-34 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.
18 Ephesians 6:1-4 Pastor & Teachers Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price	19 Habakkuk 3:16-19 Jonah & Morgan Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	21 Psalm 29:1-11 Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	22 Deuteronomy 11:18-20 Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	23 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24 Luke 10:25-29 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson
25 Mark 9:2-13 Pastor & Teachers Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	26 Matthew 5:43-48 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	27 Job 42:1-6 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Romans 8:26-28 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	29 Psalm 121:1-8	30 Zechariah 2:1-5	



PRAYER

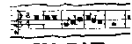















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JUNE 2023 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



M	T	W	T	F	S	
1			1  CHOIR PRACTICE 4:15pm Fellowship Singers	2 ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church	3 HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm	
4	5	6  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	7  8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	8  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	9	10
11  Honor Grads, Parents Luncheon	12	13  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	14  Flag Day	15  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	16 Friday's Fellowship 5:00pm Black Bear Turlock	17
18  Father's Day	19	20  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 1:00pm Women's Fellowship Mtg.	21  First Day of Summer	22  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	23  Shed Work Day 9:00am-12:00pm	24
25  Coffee Hour	26	27  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	28	29  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	30	

EVERY SUNDAY

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