

Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, March 21st 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.
Food Bank	1st Sunday	9:30 a.m.

The Mirror – March 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

Cheryl Leib – Shoulder Surgery

Torrie Slaybaugh – Digestive Issues

COVID – Among Us



TUNE UPS

Have you ever felt in need of a tune up? We take our cars in for tune ups all the time. Have you ever thought of getting a tune up for yourself? Maybe physically, mentally, spiritually? Dr. David Jeremiah had these words to share in his Turning Point Devotional on February 10th. May they be great food for thought for us throughout this month. The recommended scripture reading for this devotion is Isaiah 61:1-3

Tune Ups

The oil of joy. Isaiah 61:3

A young woman in South Carolina pulled into an auto shop for an oil change, but on the way home her engine light came on, and the car stopped running. It turned out the shop employee had installed the wrong filter. It fell off, causing the oil to drain from the engine.

The joy of the Holy Spirit is the oil of a healthy heart. Guilt is the wrong filter in our life. When our joy and gladness drain from our mind, we need to pull into the divine repair shop for a tune up. When we recognize and confess our sin, God restores the joy we have in our relationship with Him.

An old hymn says, "Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing Thy grace." Ask the Lord to look under the hood of your heart. Is there a bad habit? A hidden sin? Have you

neglected His Word? Developed a hardened heart? Damaged a relationship? The Lord knows how to give much needed tune ups to our heart.

May the oil of joy cycle through your spirit today!

Dr. David Jeremiah

The joy of the Lord is your strength, and as your Master anointed with the oil of gladness in his work, so must you be.

Charles Spurgeon



PRAYER OF THE MONTH



Skittles Prayer

Grab a bag of Skittles and for each color you eat pray the following:

Green: Thank and Praise God for one gift or blessing in your life.

Red: Lift up a friend or family member who needs to know Jesus.

Yellow: Now pray for someone who is sick or hurting and needs healing.

Orange: Spend some time praying for our leaders and those God has put in authority (our church leaders, our COB leaders, our bosses, our government, etc.)

Purple: Now pray for our world (other countries, poverty, society, those who are persecuted, famine, as well as the good things God has done for our world, etc.)

Now, repeat! Keep on eating and keep on Praying! Remember, Jesus *Himself* Prayed Unceasingly!

BRETHREN BITS

Here is a statement from Habitat for Humanity:

Does having a house, a home, have an impact on children?

“Children’s well-being, including their cognitive development, health, and education, is significantly affected by the quality of their living environment.

Safe and dignified housing for children is more vital now than ever, as homes are sites of play, work, and other vital elements of a child’s life. Everyone needs to have a place where they feel safe, stable and protected.”

Habitat reaches people in urgent need of stable housing in all of our 50 USA states and approximately 70 countries.

For the month of March let’s keep Habitat Humanity in our prayers and also the children and families that they serve. They are vital to many families and are essential in providing safety and structure to so many in need. Thank you for lifting them up in your prayers.



ANSWERED PRAYER



Read Luke 11:9-13

*The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer.
Psalm 6:9 (NRSV)*

When I review the journey of my life, I awaken memories of childhood. My parents would send me to a kindergarten that was managed by a Christian mother and her daughter. At first I attended with pleasure, but the walk from my home to school was long and hard. Soon I became tired. I rejoiced when my mother bought me a tricycle, but soon I discovered that it was hard work to ride on the rough, unpaved road. One day when it was my turn to say grace before the evening meal, I prayed in a small voice, “Dear Jesus, please move the kindergarten nearer to our home.”

The next morning, my father took my hand and together we went out to find a new house. Before I knew it, our family had moved to a house one block from the kindergarten! I was delighted, and I thanked God, who had answered my little prayer. I became a diligent student. This was my first experience of having a prayer answered. Now, more than 80 years later, I still pray and trust that God hears and answers our prayers.

Prayer: Lord of love, thank you for hearing our prayers. Speak in whispers of grace to those who are learning to pray, and encourage them in faith. Amen.

Thought for the Day

Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find. (Luke 11:9, MRSV)
Norimichi S. Ebisawa (Tokyo, Japan)

WORDS TO LIVE BY

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

In the midst of everything, take time to love and laugh and pray, then life will be worth living, each and every day.

The three essentials of happiness are something to do, someone to love and something to hope for.



THE HISTORY OF ST. PATRICK’S DAY AND WHY IT’S CELEBRATED TODAY



By Erin Cavoto, Published January 13, 2023

What’s the history behind St. Patrick’s Day?

You’re probably not surprised to learn that St. Patrick’s Day hasn’t always been a raucous affair, celebrated with huge parades and green beer. As the feast day of Saint Patrick, it was and still is a holy day in Christianity. The day was first established in 1631 as a modest religious holiday, and honoring Ireland’s patron saint. Because it fell right in the middle of Lent, people began using it as a reason to celebrate and take a break from the restraints and abstinence of the period leading up to Easter. However, it didn’t actually become a public holiday in Ireland until 1904!

The St. Patrick's Day celebrations we recognize today are actually a product of Irish immigrants in America. Parades sprung up in major U.S. cities in the 1700s, including Boston and New York City. As Irish populations grew in America, so did St. Patrick's Day festivities. During the 1900s, Americans on March 17 were wearing green clothes, eating corned beef and cabbage (despite it not being a popular dish in Ireland!), and attending massive parades across the country.

Who was St. Patrick?

Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, known for bringing Christianity to the country. He lived in the fifth century and was actually born in Roman Britain – not Ireland! When he was 16, he was captured by Irish raiders and was sent as a slave to present-day Northern Ireland where he became a shepherd. He grew close to his Christian faith during these difficult years and then went on and spread Christianity to the Irish through baptism and confirmation.

Hundreds of years after his death, several legends became popularized about this religious figure. One of these includes the famous story of St. Patrick driving the snakes from Ireland. But the explanation for there being no snakes in Ireland is simply that there's never been snakes in Ireland!

Why do we wear green on St. Patrick's Day?

Ireland wasn't always associated with the color green. Even though its lush hills would suggest otherwise, the Emerald Isle was actually once aligned with the color blue instead. When Henry the VIII claimed himself to be king of Ireland in the 1500s, his flag was blue, meaning that Ireland was also associated with the color. However, green was later used as the color of the flag in the Great Irish Rebellion of 1641 when the Irish fought against the English. Over the years, green became a national symbol of pride for Ireland.

Wearing green clothes became common in the U.S. at St. Patrick's Day parades and celebrations in the 1800s. It was a symbol that Irish-Americans used to honor their heritage and seems to have stuck all these years later.



THE ORIGINS OF ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Found on the internet



St. Patrick's Day celebrates the Roman Catholic feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick died on March 17, 461. But did you know that he wasn't even Irish? Here are some fun facts about St. Patrick.

History:

Patrick's birthname was Maewyn. He was born in Roman Britain. He was kidnapped into slavery and brought to Ireland.

He escaped to a monastery in Gaul (France) and converted to Christianity. He went back to Ireland in 432 as a missionary. While Christianity had already taken hold in the country, tradition has it that Patrick confronted the Druids at Tara and abolished their pagan rites, making Christianity more widespread.

Patrick became a bishop and after his death was named Ireland's patron saint. Celebrations in Ireland were understated though. When the Irish emigrated to the U.S., they created the bigger celebrations and parades known today.

Eighteenth century Irish soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War held the first St. Patrick Day parades. The celebrations became a way for the Irish to connect with their roots after they moved to America.

JANUARY 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 22

Giving:

Local:	\$4,788.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	316.71
Total:	\$5,104.71



DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH



ANNIVERSARIES

24th –Don & Susan Wyatt

06th –Christopher Heiny

09th –Jeffrey Price

15th –Susan Wyatt

BIRTHDAYS

01st –Cheryl Leib

02nd –Ava Reyes

20th –Sarah (Wyatt) Peterson

26th –Ben Baker

*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/>




MARCH 2023
PRAYER CALENDAR
















S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Philippians 4:4-7 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	2 2 Corinthians 4:7-18 Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 John 14:15-21 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.
5 Romans 12:9-18 Pastor & Teachers Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 John 4:7-14 Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Acts 3:1-10 Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Romans 16:1-15 Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer	9 Joshua 1:1-9 Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Matthew 19:13-15 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.
12 Joshua 3:7-17 Pastor & Teachers Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes	13 Matthew 14:15-21 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Romans 8:31-39 Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 1 John 3:16-24 Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	16 Ephesians 1:3-10 Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Matthew 6:8-15 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.	18 Luke 19:1-10 Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price Jonah & Morgan Price
19 Acts 16:1-5 Pastor & Teachers Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 Psalm 28:6-9 Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	21 James 4:1-10 Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	22 Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	23 Revelation 1:9-20 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24 Isaiah 55:6-13 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	25 Jeremiah 18:1-5 Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca
26 Colossians 3:1-4 Pastor & Teachers Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	27 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Philippians 4:10-13 Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Erica Wyatt	29 Luke 15:3-7	30 Ephesians 1:11-14	31 John 1:19-28	



PRAYER
 The world's greatest wireless connection




MARCH 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  Daylight Savings Begins 2:00am (Set clock ahead one hour)  Coffee Hour	13	14  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	15	16  4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	17 Friday's Fellowship 1:00pm Huckleberry's Turlock	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  Birthday Potluck	27	28  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	29	30  4:15pmFellowship Singers	31	

EVERY SUNDAY

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