

**ANNOUNCING**

**NOVEMBER**

**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, November 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.
Emergency Food Bank	Tuesday	9:00 a.m.

**The Mirror – November 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 & Life Issues

**Pam Franklin** – Vertigo

**Evelyn Hurlbut** – Strength

**David Leib** – Strength

**Dennis Peterson** – In Rehab

**Glenn Stanford** – Strength

**COVID** – Among Us



### **TODAY IS YOUR BEST DAY** **BECAUSE OF PEACE**

*Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means.*

*The Lord be with you all. II Thessalonians 3:16 KJV*

Peace is such a precious gift from the Lord. Peace has been defined in many ways – calm in the midst of a storm, quiet in the midst of turmoil, tranquility in the midst of uncertainty. The presence of peace is the absence of confusion and strife. Peace can also be defined as the deep and unshakable conviction that all is well with your soul. Peace comes when your heart is confident that God is in control, not only of the universe, but of your life, as well. Peace also comes by knowing that God is for you and by being in harmony with God as you live from day to day.

Peace is also the *shalom* of God. One of God's names is Jehovah-Shalom. It means that God not only gives peace, but He *is* peace. Shalom is a word that embraces God's favor, blessing, prosperity, health, welfare, rest, wholeness, and friendship.

There was a time when my family and I went to Puerto Rico to become part of a missionary team on the island. Before we left the United States, we turned over our possessions to the missionary group that was sending us. It was something we were happy to do, thinking we would be a part of the mission for a long time. The way things turned out, we only stayed with the mission for a year.

Our return flight to the States took us to Los Angeles International Airport. When my wife, or two children, and I arrived at LAX, we got our luggage and walked outside to wait for our ride. As we waited, I looked down at our five pieces of luggage that stood at my feet. In those five suitcases were all the possessions we owned. I had a few dollars in my wallet, no money in the bank, and no idea what I would be doing next.

It was in that moment that a deep sense of God's peace came flooding over me.

I had never known peace at that depth before. I was overwhelmed and overjoyed. Quietly, in that moment, I heard God's still small voice speak these words to my heart: "My peace does not depend upon what you have or don't have. No matter how many possessions you may acquire from this time on, none of them can add one ounce of peace to your life." As I stood there soaking in what God was saying, I also heard Him say, "Any possession you may lose from this point on cannot take one ounce of My peace away from you."

Today is your best day because the God of peace and the peace of God is your portion – a peace that no circumstance, thing, or person can either increase or diminish. *Roy Lessin*



## **PRAYER OF THE MONTH**



### **Prayers for Turning Anxiety Into Peace**

This month our prayer focus will be on turning anxiety into peace. You all know how much I love to sing and this month I have the words of three songs for you to use as prayers. Personalize them by inserting the words, "my" and "I" whenever needed so that it can truly be your prayer.

1. **Pray the words of the Cares Chorus.** May Jesus uplift you as you pray these words. "I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down at your feet; and anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon you." Repeat as many times as needed!
2. **Next, pray the words of All Your Anxiety.** Ask God to help you give Him ALL of your burdens.  
Verse 1 – Is there a heart o'er bound by sorrow? Is there a life weighed down by care:  
Come to the cross each burden bearing. All your anxiety, leave it there.  
Verse 2 – No other friend so keen to help you. No other friend so quick to hear. No other place to leave your burden, no other one to hear your prayer.  
Verse 3 – Come then at once; delay no longer! Heed His entreaty, kind and sweet; You need not fear a disappointment. You shall find peace at the mercy seat.  
Chorus – All your anxiety, all your care. Bring to the mercy seat, leave it there; never a burden He cannot bear. Never a friend like Jesus!
3. **Lastly, pray the words of He Is Our Peace.** Let these words flow through you, sustain you, and bring you peace. "He is our peace who has broken down every wall. He is our peace. He is our peace. Cast all your cares on Him, for He cares for you. He is our peace. He is our peace."

## **WORDS TO LIVE BY**

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

**Before you flare up at another's faults, take time to count ten of your own.**

**Getting back on the right track usually involves getting out of a rut.**

**Smile! It costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive without making poor those who give.**

## **BVS 75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY EVENT**

On November 18, Noon time, Empire Church of the Brethren will be hosting an event to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brethren Volunteer Service, in conjunction with the annual Thanksgiving dinner.

As a former BVSer (2007-11), I wanted to organize an event celebrating the program's 75<sup>th</sup> year. My goal is to gather BVSers from the past, present, and future to come together and talk about their experiences and share their stories from their year or two they served. We want to hear stories from people who served from all over. And for those that are interested in BVS, this would be a great opportunity to learn from those that served previously and hear about certain experiences they have gone through.

The Lord has blessed me by serving at three different locations: New Windsor, Maryland; Wichita, Kansas, and Monticello, Iowa. I have gained numerous experiences and learned so much. By God's grace, I have built my own BVS story to share. And I believe each person who has served in BVS has built their own story to share. This is a great opportunity to share with others with what they had learned and experienced while sharing God's love through acts of service.

If anyone who was a former BVSer, current BVSer, thinking about joining, or anyone who wants to participate in the activities that has no connection with BVS but is interested in hearing stories, I want to invite you to this event, to not only celebrate BVS 75<sup>th</sup>, but also enjoy a nice Thanksgiving meal prepared by Pam Franklin and the folks of the Empire CoB. There is no cost to the event. However, if you can RSVP to me by November 9<sup>th</sup>, we will know how much food needs to be made. Also, we are looking to build a photo slideshow for the event. If anyone has photos that they want to use for the slideshow, please email me at [irizarry.technology@gmail.com](mailto:irizarry.technology@gmail.com) Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there.

*Jeremiah "Jay" C. Irizarry*

Unit #275 (2007-11)

Empire Church of the Brethren





## **BVS CELEBRATING**

# **75 YEARS**

**Brethren Volunteer Service**



## **COME JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION!**

►Former, Current & Future BVS'ers ►Anyone interested in hearing BVS stories ►  
Gather for a Ham & Scalloped Potato Lunch with time afterward to share the  
experiences that help make up the BVS story.

**Empire Church of the Brethren**  
**5101 Yosemite Blvd., Modesto, CA 95357**  
**Saturday, November 18, 2023**  
12:00noon – 3:00pm

*Bring your family and invite a friend.*

**Reserve your spots at the table . . . RSVP by November 9<sup>th</sup> to:**  
**irizarry.technology@gmail.com**

Send some pictures of you/your project to the above email and Jay will put together a slide show. Attach your digital photos or simply take a picture of your photographs, attach and send.



## **SOME TRUE STORIES ABOUT FUNNY** **THANKSGIVING MISHAPS**

Found on Reader's Digest Website



### **CUTIE PIE**

Thanksgiving was at my aunt's house and I had promised to bring two pies – but not my new puppy. (Sluggo was six months old.) Determined to impress, I baked a magnificent pumpkin pie with delicate pastry leaves embellishing the crust, and a blueberry one with a buttery woven lattice. I triple wrapped the pies in foil and headed out for a run. I returned home to find half-eaten pies – and a purple puppy. *Submitted by Tina Koenig of Hollywood, Florida*

### **MIND THE GAP**

While we drove through South Carolina to visit my family for Thanksgiving, our Brooklynite friend was full of questions. He studied the passing landscape with a worried look. "How's the economy down here? I see some areas built up, but there are these long gaps between them." My brother, a Southern gentleman, thought a moment then answered, "Down here, we call those 'gaps' farms." *Submitted by Rose Gilbert of Maplewood, New Jersey*

### **OFF THE TABLE**

On Thanksgiving one year, I was racing home from work because I had several guests coming over for dinner. The only thing I still needed was a centerpiece for the table. I wanted a decorative squash, so I rushed to my local store and hunted for them until I saw the store manager. Flustered and out of breath, I yelled, "Are you out of your gourds?" to which he replied, "Why, what did we do this time?!" *Submitted by Jill Brooks of Bountiful, Utah*

## ALL MEAT AND NO POTATOES

It was Thanksgiving and preparation was in full swing. Suddenly the power went out. I went downstairs to reset the circuit. I heard murmurs as I went back up to the kitchen. There stood my mother-in-law (who had the job of mashing the potatoes) holding the electric beater like a pistol. Bullets of mashed potatoes decorated the walls of the kitchen. An hour later we sat down to Thanksgiving dinner – with fewer mashed potatoes than usual. *Submitted by Marjorie Beall of Peoria, Illinois*

## A HAIR OUT OF PLACE

I kept seeing ads for “the new, younger you,” so I went for a new hair consult. They shave your head, except for the sides, and sew in a weave to lock in the hairpiece. When I got home, my own dog wouldn’t let me in! Then I went to visit family at Thanksgiving. But when I walked up to my parents and brothers at the airport and went to hug my mom, she backed off and said, “Can I help you?” (The new me only lasted a year.) *Submitted by Steve Morgese of McHenry, Illinois*

## SEPTEMBER 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 24

### Giving:

Local:	\$5,076.77
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	362.28
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$5,439.05</b>



## DATES TO REMEMBER NOVEMBER



### ANNIVERSARIES

14<sup>th</sup> –Jerry & Amy Stokes

### BIRTHDAYS

01<sup>st</sup> –Heather Winchester

02<sup>nd</sup> –Ken Barklow

Kaitlynn Lutes

03<sup>rd</sup> –Wendla Dyer

05<sup>th</sup> –J.J. Storne

08<sup>th</sup> –Erica Price

10<sup>th</sup> –Candice Arellano

18<sup>th</sup> –Clark Hartman

Tim Vaughn

20<sup>th</sup> –Jerry Goodman

22<sup>nd</sup> –Mary Rariden

25<sup>th</sup> –Uriah Winchester

26<sup>th</sup> –Geri Masellis

30<sup>th</sup> –Laura Snyder

*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/>



# NOVEMBER 2023 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Psalm 56:2-24  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	2 Romans 12:1-2  Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Matthew 2:18-25  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Romans 10:11-17  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.
5 Matthew 7:15-20  Pastor & Teachers Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Romans 8:26-30  Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Hebrews 11:1-3  Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Habakkuk 3:16-19  Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer	9 Matthew 14:22-33  Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Hebrews 13:1-8  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 John 15:9-17  Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.
12 Psalm 19:1-10  Pastor & Teachers Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes Seth Lutes	13 2 Corinthians 9:6-9  Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Matthew 6:25-34  Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Mark 10:46-52  Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	16 Matthew 25:31-40  Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Psalm 121:5-8  Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.	18 Ephesians 2:1-10  Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price Jonah & Morgan Price
19 Hosea 11:1-4  Pastor & Teachers Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 Psalm 20:1-9  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	21 John 15:1-8  Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	22 Acts 16:25-34  Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family	23 Psalm 100:1-5  Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family	24 Hebrews 2:1-4  Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson	25 Mark 5:21-34  Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent
26 Luke 21:1-4  Pastor & Teachers John & Sue Vacca & Sons Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family	27 1 Samuel 16:1-13  Linda Ward & Fam. Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Philippians 4:4-9  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	29 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 21:26	30 Luke 12:22-26		


















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





# NOVEMBER 2023 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



M	T	W	T	F	S	
		1  8:00 am <b>Government Commodities Distribution</b>	2  4:15pmFellowship Singers	3 <b>ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church</b>	4 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm</b>	
5  <b>Daylight Savings Ends 2:00am (Set clock back one hour)</b>	6	7  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon</b>	8	9  4:15pmFellowship Singers	10	11
12  <b>Coffee Hour</b>	13	14  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon</b>	15	16  4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	17 <b>Friday's Fellowship 1:00pm</b> Su Casita Waterford	18 <b>BVS celebrating 75 years 12:00pm-3:00pm</b> at Empire CoB
19  <b>All Church Thanksgiving Dinner</b>	20	21  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 1:00pmWomen's Fellowship Mtg.</b>	22	23  <b>Thanksgiving Day Church Office Will Be Closed</b>	24  <b>Shed Work Day 9:00am-12:00pm</b>	25
26  <b>Sunday Luncheon</b>	27	28  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon</b>	29	30  4:15pmFellowship Singers		

## EVERY SUNDAY

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