



Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, October 17th 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 – October 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 & 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 JOY**

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
ISAIAH 35:10 KJV

Joy is one of the great benefits and blessings of the Kingdom of God within your life. Joy is the melody of heaven that is placed in your heart; joy is the Holy Spirit's symphony that is played within your spirit; joy is the theme song of every person who trusts in the Lord and knows His love.

Joy is the highest level of delight that a person can experience. Human happiness is dependent upon the experiences and circumstances of life, while joy is dependent upon God alone. God, not your personality type, is the source of your joy. Today, joy flows from His heart to yours like a fountain that will never run dry.

It is easy to think that joy can come from other things apart from God. We can anticipate the joys that a new house will bring us, or the delight that a car will be to us once we have it, but there is no lasting satisfaction in any material thing that we possess. This does not mean that these things cannot be a blessing to us when God provides them, but they can never replace the true joys that come to us from God alone.

The joy that comes from God gives you strength. A joyless person is someone whose strength is depleted. Joy invigorates, motivates, and inspires. Joy is like energy that flows through you to lighten your load, renew your zeal, and quicken your steps of faith. Joy is the strength in your legs that helps you stand firm and steady in times of trial; the power in your

arms that enables you to hold on to God's exceeding great and precious promises; the rejoicing in your voice that speaks forth the victory of the Lord over every area of your life.

God not only wants you to have His joy reigning in your heart today, but He wants your joy to become great joy, and He wants great joy to become the fullness of joy. God wants you to be immersed in the delights of His joy today, soaking you through and through, so that every fiber of your being is filled with praises, rejoicing, and celebration of His goodness.

We move into the highest levels of joy when we abide in the love of the Father, and through Him, reach out to love others. Today is your best day as you allow the Father to fill you with His love, love others through you, and as you walk in the fullness of His joy.



PRAYER OF THE MONTH



Preparing our Hearts In Prayer

This month our prayer focus will be on preparing our hearts for Jesus.

1. **First of all, pray about what you allow yourself to see.** Ask God to help you with your “lens of focus”. Take a moment to evaluate what you see in the media, in people, in your day to day situations, at work, and at play. Thank Him for helping you to focus on what He wants you to see, hear, and feel. Ask Him to help you see clearer and refine what needs to be refined.
2. **Next, pray about what you allow yourself to say.** Ask God to guide you in your conduct and choice of words. Take some time to analyze what you say, how you say it, and the impact it has on whom you say it to. This may also lead us to go a step back to look into what we think as well. Ask God to really guide you during this time of reflection so that He can help you become as much like Him as possible. Then ask Him to reveal to you what areas are strong and what areas could use some fine tuning.
3. **Lastly, pray about what you allow yourself to do.** This is where we need to ask God to help us look into our hearts and minds and determine if what we are doing is what He wants us to do. Take a while to really ponder what life's choices you are making and how they align with what God wants for your life. Pray about this. Really listen to see what God tells you. Ask Him to prepare your heart and lead you clearly. Thank Him for His direction. Don't just touch the surface. Dig deep and truly let God help unpack your heart as you contemplate all He did for you!

WORDS TO LIVE BY

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

Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when you would have preferred to talk.

A ship is safe in the harbor, but that isn't what ships were built for.

Joy is not in what we own . . . it's in what we are.

WORDS OF WISDOM

FRUITFUL LIVES

Read Psalm 71:17-21

The righteous flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon . . . In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap. – Psalm 92:12, 14 (NRSV)

It was getting dark. Returning from our walk, we stopped in front of a grand old house. It had been built many years earlier but still had the graceful dignity of a grand lady. Amid the trees and foliage surrounding the house we saw one withered tree with several birds nesting among the branches. They chirped loudly and cheerfully as night approached.

That was quite an image – a withered tree still standing, its branches providing a haven for the birds. I reflected on many individuals in their advancing years who remain useful and are a joy to be with. Even disabled by chronic illness as some may be, they continue to serve as beacons of hope to others.

Supported by faith in God after having lived a full life, we elders in our remaining days can still serve – giving as well as receiving.

Prayer: Loving God, you have made all things good and beautiful. Thank you for the lessons you share with us through nature and other people. Amen.



FUNNY FAMILY STORIES

Found on Reader's Digest website



SOCCER MOM

For the second week in a row, my son and I were the only ones who showed up for his soccer team's practice. Frustrated, I told him, "Please tell your coach that we keep coming for practice but no one is ever here."

My son rolled his eyes and said, "He'll just tell me the same thing he did before."

"Which was?"

"That practice is now on Wednesdays, not Tuesdays." *Submitted by Annette Olsen*

BLOODY AWFUL

When my five-year-old daughter came down with a virus, I took her to the doctor's office. Holding her hands, I explained the sad facts: "The doctor is now going to draw some blood."

Calmly and stoically, she responded, "Whose?" *Submitted by Faye Hintz*

HUNG JURY

After painting the bedroom walls, my husband prepared to put back the pictures. "How should I hang them?" he asked me. "Too high or too low?" *Submitted by Nancy Setter*

HARVARD, HERE I COME!

"How was your first day of school?" I asked my kindergartner.

"Fine," she said. "They want me to come back tomorrow." *Submitted by Shirley Sprague*

THE GUTTER TRUTH

Although my daughter wasn't much of a bowler, when her friend's bowling team was down a player, my daughter agreed to fill in. "So how'd you do?" I asked a few days later.

She rattled off her scores: "One sixty, one sixty-seven, and one fifty-five."

"Wow! That's great."

"No! One game sixty, one sixty-seven, one fifty-five." *Submitted by Ruth Saarela*

LITTLE EINSTEIN

We're not sure how it happened, but my three-year-old nephew James got his tricycle stuck under another bicycle's tire and gear mechanism. My four-year-old kid, Rowan, watched him patiently and painstakingly extricate the trike, then turned around to us and declared, "Him's a genius!" *Submitted by B.O.*

LET'S RAT OUT GRANDMA

During Thanksgiving dinner, my young niece Mackenzie started fiddling with my father's wedding band. Dad said, "That never comes off. You know why? Because I love your nana."

That's when Mackenzie informed him, "Nana takes hers off." *Submitted by Elizabeth Veldboom*

AND ON THE SEVENTH DAY, HE GOT PAID

In church, my three-year-old insists on being the one to put the money into the collection basket. One Sunday, as the basket came toward him, he held out the envelope and asked aloud, "When is God coming to pick up his paycheck?" *Submitted by Chris Allen*

HEAR NO EVIL

It was a typical noisy dinner at my parents' home, and Dad was having trouble following the conversations. He kept jumping in with off-topic comments and asking for things to be repeated. I finally told him he needed to get a hearing aid.

Looking at me as if I were crazy, he said, "What would I do with a hand grenade?" *Submitted by Pat Tornatore*

MYSTERY MAN

My ex-husband hosted a graduation party for our son that included his new family and mine. My confused nephew wondered who was my son's father. When I pointed him out, he asked, "Do you know him?" *Submitted by Laurie Strand*

LISTEN TO REASON

"Can you play with me?" my preschooler asked.

"Not now," I said. "I have too much work to do around the house."

Taking my hand, and with the wisdom of one who has lived many a lifetime, he said, "Mom, I have advice for you. When people tell me to do work, I don't listen to them. Then I don't have work to do. It works for me. You should try it." *Submitted by A. Caldwell*

AUGUST 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 19

Giving:

Local:	\$4,541.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	50.00
Total:	\$4,591.00



DATES TO REMEMBER OCTOBER



BIRTHDAYS

02nd – Jeremy Price

05th – Jerry Stokes

08th – Torrie Slaybaugh

09th – JoAnn Lusk

Joshua Winchester

13th – Earleen Cadruvi

19th – Jessica (Stokes) Wagner

22nd – Arlene Cupp

27th – Nathan Lemmings

Nathan Slaybaugh

30th – Pauline Bert

Laura Radcliffe

Benjamin Price

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>





OCTOBER 2023 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>1 Matthew 22:1-10</p> <p>Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano</p>	<p>2 Psalm 28:6-9</p> <p>Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo</p>	<p>3 Psalm 139:7-10</p> <p>Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger</p>	<p>4 Job 38:1-7</p> <p>Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.</p>	<p>5 2 Corinthians 4:16-18</p> <p>Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.</p>	<p>6 Jeremiah 31:1-14</p> <p>Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family</p>	<p>7 Acts 16:25-40</p> <p>Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin</p>
<p>8 Mark 6:30-44</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer</p>	<p>9 1 Samuel 3:1-10</p> <p>Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield</p>	<p>10 Matthew 28:16-20</p> <p>Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family</p>	<p>11 Luke 10:25-37</p> <p>Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.</p>	<p>12 Isaiah 43:1-7</p> <p>Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes</p>	<p>13 Matthew 25:31-40</p> <p>Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune</p>	<p>14 Psalm 4:1-8</p> <p>Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family</p>
<p>15 2 Samuel 7:18-27</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family</p>	<p>16 Galatians 6:1-10</p> <p>Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family</p>	<p>17 Luke 15:11-32</p> <p>Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.</p>	<p>18 Exodus 2:23-25</p> <p>Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price Jonah & Morgan Price</p>	<p>19 Proverbs 3:1-6</p> <p>Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family</p>	<p>20 Psalm 139:1-6</p> <p>Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer</p>	<p>21 Psalm 30:1-5</p> <p>Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.</p>
<p>22 Mark 8:34-38</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family</p>	<p>23 Matthew 7:7-12</p> <p>Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family</p>	<p>24 Psalm 23:1-6</p> <p>Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson</p>	<p>25 Psalm 147:1-11</p> <p>Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent</p>	<p>26 Isaiah 41:8-10</p> <p>John & Sue Vacca & Sons Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.</p>	<p>27 John 10:14-18</p> <p>Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.</p>	<p>28 Matthew 14:22-33</p> <p>Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt</p>
<p>29 Ephesians 3:14-21</p> <p>Pastor & Teachers</p>	<p>30 Psalm 32:8-11</p>	<p>31 1 John 5:1-5</p>				



PRAYER
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OCTOBER 2023 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



	M	T	W	T	F	S
1		 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	8:00 am Government Commodities Distribution	 4:15pmFellowship Singers	ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church	HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP 9:00am-2:00pm
8		 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon		 4:15pmFellowship Singers		
15		 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 1:00pmWomen's Fellowship Mtg.		 4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	Friday's Fellowship 5:00pm Sizzler's Turlock	
22		 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon		 4:15pmFellowship Singers	 Shed Work Day 9:00am-12:00pm	
29		 EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon				

EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour