



**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</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 – February 2024**

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**

**Evelyn Hurlbut** – Strength & safety in her home  
**David Leib** – Strength & healing  
**Dennis Peterson Family** – At his passing  
**Glenn Stanford** – Strength & healing  
**Troy Slaybaugh** – Healing of throat  
**COVID** – Among Us



### **TODAY IS YOUR BEST DAY** **BECAUSE OF GRACE (PART 3)**

*And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. II Corinthians 9:8 KJV*

Grace abounds to you today with so many favors, blessings, and joys.

Without His grace we were songbirds without a song; by His grace we have been given a new song to sing and a melody of praise for our hearts to rejoice in.

Without His grace we were trees bearing bitter fruit; by His grace we bear sweet fruit, lush fruit, and fruit that remains.

Without His grace our heads hung low and turned away from the light of His love; by His grace our heads have been lifted up and our hearts have been flooded with His glorious light.

Without His grace we were defenseless against the attacks of the enemy; by His grace we stand against the enemy triumphantly – completely equipped with the full armor of God, the blood of Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the ministry of the heavenly host.

Without His grace we lived in confusion, were lost, and had no clear direction; by His grace we have been found, and His wisdom guides our lives as He makes straight paths for our feet.

Without His grace our words had no message, and we gave our opinion only to have it drowned out by the opinions of others; by His grace He has put His sure and certain words in our mouths. We can now speak the truth in love and know that the Word of God abides forever.

Without His grace we were blind, stumbling about in the darkness, trying to find our purpose and make a way for ourselves in the world; by His grace our eyes have been opened, our purpose has been made known, our hearts are set on eternity, and we daily walk in the good things that He has prepared for us.

Without His grace we were fearful, motivated by self-interests, and striving to succeed; by His grace we have entered into His rest, we walk in His peace, and we daily live for His glory.

Without His grace we were without hope, without the assurance of heaven, and bound by the fear of death; by His grace we abound in hope, we rejoice in the certainty of the resurrection, and we glory in knowing that the very best is still ahead.



## PRAYER OF THE MONTH



### Prayers of How to Utilize Our Time

This month I had several avenues that caught my eye for our prayer of the month. They were good, but not quite the “aha” type. So, I decided to forgo it for the time being and decided to type in my Positive Insight articles that I also provide for our CMA newsletter. I decided to have Sam pick one and the one he turned to was just perfect for our prayer of the month. I just love how God works!

Norman Vincent Peale was having lunch with a longtime friend who is one of the most inspirational people he knows. Norman told his friend that he had recently met a man who said it was impossible to be happy anymore. The friend immediately responded, “No happiness?” Then he reached into his wallet and pulled out a card. Here is what it said.

**TAKE TIME TO LAUGH:** It is the music of the soul.

**TAKE TIME TO PLAY:** It is the source of perpetual youth.

**TAKE TIME TO PRAY:** It is the greatest power on earth.

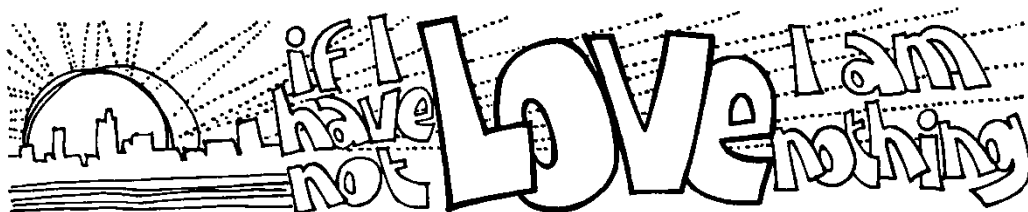
**TAKE TIME TO LOVE AND BE LOVED:** It is a God-given privilege.

**TAKE TIME TO BE FRIENDLY:** It is the road to happiness.

**TAKE TIME TO GIVE:** It is too short a day to be selfish.

Norman loved it and added, **TAKE TIME FOR GOD:** It is the way to life.

So, this month I would like us to take time to pray for each of the bold phrases above. Take a couple minutes each day to pray for them to be an integral part in your life and in the lives of those around you. All of these things are important and essential. So, let’s be sure to give them a special and intentional time in our daily lives.



## **WORDS TO LIVE BY**

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

**When sorrow comes, we have no right to ask, “Why did this happen to me?”  
unless we ask the same question whenever joy comes our way.**

**The roots grow deep when the winds blow strong.**

**Contentment is not the fulfillment of what you want, but the realization of what  
you already have.**

## **WORDS OF WISDOM**

*Please Read Psalm 51:1-12*

*Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Psalm 51:10*

Over the past 14 years, I have been blessed to be part of a Christian medical-dental mission team reaching out to the Kechi Mayan Indians in their remote villages in Belize. What has amazed me is how happy most of these beautiful people are, even though they have few material possessions. Yet, they have much wealth: loving and stable families, gentle and kind hearts, a love of the earth, and a sense of God’s daily nearness.

During one of my first mission trips, God did a mighty work within me! God created a new heart within me and brought me into a relationship with God. I have not been the same since. My own heart has been made more peaceful and spiritually attuned. I have seen God do the same work within other team members as well over the years.

Before these mission trips I was spiritually empty. But as I serve others in the name of Christ, God continually renews me. Each time I return, I receive more than I give; and I am further changed.

**Prayer:** O Lord, help those who are struggling with their faith to come to you. Open their eyes, create in them new hearts, and fill them with your Holy Spirit. Amen.

### *Thought for the Day*

As we serve others, God offers us a new heart and a new life.

*Michael J. Guevara (Louisiana)*

  *“Love is patient, love is kind. Love never fails. 1 Cor. 13:4a & 8a”*  

# ALL THINGS FOR GOOD

## *Prayer of Romans 8:28*

Father,  
I know you love me,  
And I love you,  
But I am troubled.  
And I don't understand.  
How can any good come from this situation?  
Still, I am trusting You.  
And I know this circumstance has purpose.



So, help me find the good,  
In what I see as bad.

In my unrighteousness, let me see the work of Your grace.

In my problems,  
Let me see the strength of Your power.

In my disappointments,  
Let me see presence of Your comfort.

In my failures,  
Let me see the grace of Your love.

And, in my confusion,  
Let me see certainty of Your will.

*“For I know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

*(Romans 8:28)*

Amen!

*(Turning Point Ministries – Dr. David Jeremiah)*



*“And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love. 1 Cor. 13:13”*



## DECEMBER 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 24

### Giving:

Local:	\$5,954.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	14.50
Mariners:	0
Other:	1,291.99
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$7,245.99</b>



## DATES TO REMEMBER FEBRUARY



### ANNIVERSARIES

15<sup>th</sup> –Phil & Pam Franklin  
24<sup>th</sup> –Don & Pat Benton

17<sup>th</sup> –Pat Benton  
19<sup>th</sup> –Natalie Hartman  
20<sup>th</sup> –Johnathan Snyder  
23<sup>rd</sup> –Evelyn Hurlbut  
24<sup>th</sup> –Ivy Carter  
26<sup>th</sup> –Tanner Radcliffe  
Loretta Stein  
Zachary Snyder  
27<sup>th</sup> –Joy Slaybaugh  
Lori Ward

### BIRTHDAYS

01<sup>st</sup> –Lloyd Fullmer  
02<sup>nd</sup> –Phyllis Caudle  
08<sup>th</sup> –Norma Lutes  
11<sup>th</sup> –John Vacca  
15<sup>th</sup> –Seth Lutes

*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](https://www.facebook.com/EmpireCOB);

**Twitter:**[https://twitter.com/empire\\_cob](https://twitter.com/empire_cob); and

**Instagram:**<https://www.instagram.com/empirechurchofthebrethren/>





# FEBRUARY 2024 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 1 Corinthians 2:6-16  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	2 Luke 18:15-17  Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Psalm 56:1-13  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger
4 Mark 12:41-44  Pastor & Teachers Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Psalm 8:1-9  Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Ephesians 6:17-20  Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family	7 Leviticus 6:8-13  Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Psalm 19:1-14  Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer	9 Luke 12:22-34  Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Psalm 18:1-6  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family
11 Luke 10:38-42  Pastor & Teachers Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	12 Psalm 23:1-6  Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes Seth Lutes	13 Genesis 1:1-28  Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune	14 Matthew 6:9-15  Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Job 11:7-16  Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	16 2 Corinthians 5:16-21  Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Ephesians 4:25-32  Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.
18 Numbers 13:17-29  Pastor & Teachers Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price	19 Psalm 91:1-13  Jonah & Morgan Price Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	20 Luke 7:11-17  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer	21 Isaiah 40:28-31  Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer	22 John 12:20-29  Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family	23 2 Corinthians 1:3-7  Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family	24 Philippians 4:4-7  Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson
25 Isaiah 55:6-9  Pastor & Teachers Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe	26 John 13:31-35  Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca & Sons Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family	27 James 1:2-12  Linda Ward & Fam. Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.	28 Romans 8:22-30  Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	29 Hebrews 11:8-12		



















**PRAYER**  
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# FEBRUARY 2024 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1  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  Coffee Hour	12	13  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	14  Valentine's Day	15  4:15pm Fellowship Singers 6:00pm Board Meeting	16  All Church Valentine Party 1:00pm Golden Bowl Hughson	17
18	19	20  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon 1:00pm Women's Fellowship Mtg.	21	22  4:15pm Fellowship Singers	23  Shed Work Day 9:00am-12:00pm	24
25  Sunday Luncheon	26	27  EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 9:00am-Noon	28 LEAP YEAR! 	29  4:15pm Fellowship Singers		

## EVERY SUNDAY

9:45am Sunday School

10:45am Informal Worship

11:00am Worship Hour