

**ANNOUNCING**

**January**

**Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Tuesday, January 16<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 – January 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**

**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 GRACE (PART 2)**

*Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. II Timothy 1:9 KJV*

There are so many benefits of grace that are yours today.

*Salvation:* You are saved by grace. The forgiveness of your sins, your justification before God, your redemption from the slavery of sin, your deliverance from evil, and your future home in heaven are yours today because of grace.

*Sufficiency:* Grace enables you to do all God calls you to do today. Success is not based today upon what you can accomplish, but upon what He will do through you. Grace is not about your strength, but about His mighty power working in you, even in the time of your greatest weakness.

*Edification:* Grace builds you up, lifts you up, and keeps you standing. Grace is heard in the sound of God's voice speaking over and over into your ear, "I am for you today. I am with you today. I am the source of everything good, everything lovely, everything holy, and everything mighty."

*Hope:* Grace assures you of a glorious future and an overwhelming inheritance that is yours in Jesus Christ. Grace leads you on, cheers you on, and moves you on into all that is in God's heart for you.

*Victory:* Grace brings to you all that is yours in Christ. You are victorious today because Jesus is the triumphant One. You are more than a conqueror because He has conquered all. You are above all things because all things are under His feet. You reign in life because He reigns – King of kings and Lord of lords.

*Abundance:* Where sin once abounded, grace abounds even more. Where darkness ruled, grace overruled. Where death held you in cruel bondage, grace brought you into a glorious new freedom. Grace is never poured out to you like raindrops, but like a cascading waterfall.

*Purity:* Grace is the doorway into the beauty of God’s holiness. Grace is never a license to sin, a freedom to sin, or a cloak for sin. Grace brings us into a life that is greater than what sin could ever offer us. Grace extends the hand that lifts us out of the miry clay, throws the rope that pulls us from the deepest pit, and lights the flame that brings us out of the darkest cave.

*Gifting:* Gifts that come to you from God are grace gifts. His grace gifts to you will be different than the grace gifts He gives to others. Grace does not play favorites. The gifts that have been given to you from God are the perfect gifts that are needed for you to fulfill His will and His calling in your life.



## **PRAYER OF THE MONTH**



### **Prayers of Kindness**

This month I went in search of scriptures about kindness. When there is something we seek and hope to instill in our lives it is always helpful to go looking for scripture we can read, practice, pray, and ask for God’s wisdom. There were several verses to choose from but these verses from Proverbs 11:24-25 really stated it in such a meaningful way. Here it is, “One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.”

So now, let’s turn this scripture into prayer.

Our Dear Precious Heavenly Father, help us to be one who gives freely. Help us to give of ourselves even when it is difficult and something we would rather not do. Help us to use Your strength to give freely so we can grow with you. Help us not withhold what we should give. Help us to not be selfish in our ways so that we do not suffer needlessly. As we grow closer to you help us share the blessings you have given us with others so that they in turn want to bless others. In the process help us to never forget why we have the blessings in the first place. As we give freely, and grow deeply, with only the love and living water you provide, help our kindness show in ways that others know that You are the source of our joy, our kindness, our love, our peace, and our lives! Thank you Jesus for watering us, enriching us, and blessing us! Please help us show Your kindness to those we encounter each and every day! Without You, we would be nothing! In Jesus Name we pray, Amen!

Now it is your turn. See how you can take the scripture above and pray it throughout January.

## WORDS TO LIVE BY

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

**Life is not a problem to be solved, but a gift to be enjoyed.**

**The hardest part of a job is getting started.**

**The purpose of life is to matter . . . to have it make a difference that you live at all . . . by using whatever talents you may have to the very fullest.**

## WORDS OF WISDOM

### *My Jesus Is Everything*

He supplies strength to the weary.  
He increases power to the faint.  
He offers escape to the tempted.



He sympathizes with the hurting.  
He saves the hopeless.  
He shields the helpless.  
He sustains the homeless.

He gives purpose to the aimless.  
He gives reason to the meaningless.  
He gives fulfillment to our emptiness.  
He gives light in the darkness.  
He gives comfort in our loneliness.  
He gives fruit in our barrenness.  
He gives heaven to the hopeless.  
He gives life to the lifeless!



My Jesus is . . . Everything!

By: Anne Graham Lotz



## **BVS 75<sup>th</sup> Event at the Empire Church of the Brethren**

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Empire Church of the Brethren hosted one of many Brethren Volunteer Service 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events. The event was attended by members of the Empire Church as well as former BVSer's from the past. The church also merged the event with the annual Thanksgiving dinner.

The turnout was great. We had about 30-40 people show up. 14 of them were former BVSer's who served in the early days of BVS. They all got to share some of their story. To me, that was the reason for the gathering so we can celebrate a milestone while discussing what we did and what we learned from our time of serving.

A former BVSer, Glenn Stanford, who was responsible for me joining BVS, gave the opening prayer. After that, we all sat down and had a great Thanksgiving dinner provided by Pam Franklin and the Women's Fellowship. The food was delicious as always.

Next, we started the program. I started off by talking a little about BVS itself and some of the history and how it started. Then I had everyone do a little table talk with the table of people they were sitting at. Table talk included a list of questions that I came up with so other people have a better idea of what others experience was like. For those that didn't serve, it allowed them to hear some cool stories. Some of the questions included: What valuable lessons did you learn and take with you moving forward in life; What was your memorable moment (or moments) in BVS; Where was your orientation training at; How many people are in your unit, and do you still connect with them; If you served in multiple projects and locations, which one stands out the most; A personal favorite? Everyone got a chance to share their stories at their table.

After the table talk, a lot of the BVSer's got on the mic and shared part of their story with everyone in the room. I got a chance to talk about where and when I served and talked about a favorite memory of mine. I served 3 different projects which means I got three different stories and memories. Some folks served one or two years at one location. Some served multiple locations.

Finally, I was able to present the photo slideshow that I had created for everyone. I collected photos from BVSer's from the past and I had a lot of my own photos that I added in the PowerPoint. I want to thank everyone that sent photos for the slideshow. It was a big hit. The only downside was that the music didn't play during the presentation. I am not sure what happened, but I added music to the PowerPoint, and for some reason the music didn't play. But everyone still enjoyed seeing the photos, nonetheless.

Our pastor, John Price closed us out in prayer and that concluded our BVS 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary event at the Empire Church of the Brethren. This was a success, and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a pleasure to be able to host such an event and I thank everyone who came, everyone who prepped and cooked the dinner, everyone who posted about the event, who sent pictures for the slideshow, the pastors who opened and closed in prayers, and the congregation for allowing me to bring an idea that I had come to fruition.

*Jeremiah "Jay" C. Irizarry*

Empire Church of the Brethren  
BVS Unit 275 (2007-11)

# NOVEMBER 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 20

## Giving:

Local:	\$4,471.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	14.50
Mariners:	0
Other:	20,050.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$24,535.50</b>



## DATES TO REMEMBER JANUARY



### BIRTHDAYS

08<sup>th</sup> –Michael Best  
09<sup>th</sup> –Don Benton  
14<sup>th</sup> –Nicole Knott

19<sup>th</sup> –Abigail Winchester  
20<sup>th</sup> –Ron Cadruvi  
22<sup>nd</sup> – Kelly Olsson

*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/>




**JANUARY 2024**  
**PRAYER CALENDAR**
















S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	<b>1</b> John 1:1-9  Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	<b>2</b> Romans 5:1-5  Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	<b>3</b> 1 Thessalonians 5:12-23  Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	<b>4</b> Titus 3:4-8  Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	<b>5</b> Philippians 2:1-11  Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	<b>6</b> Psalm 55:1-8, 16-19  Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family
<b>7</b> 1 Kings 17:7-16  Pastor & Teachers Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	<b>8</b> John 11:32-44  Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer	<b>9</b> Psalm 16:1-11  Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	<b>10</b> Ephesians 3:14-21  Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	<b>11</b> Colossians 3:12-17  Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	<b>12</b> Psalm 107:33-37  Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes Seth Lutes	<b>13</b> Psalm 119:97-104  Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune
<b>14</b> John 6:16-24  Pastor & Teachers Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	<b>15</b> Luke 21:1-4  Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	<b>16</b> Isaiah 66:7-13  Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	<b>17</b> Psalm 57:1-11  Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.	<b>18</b> Philippians 4:10-13  Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price Jonah & Morgan Price	<b>19</b> John 15:1-8  Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls	<b>20</b> Matthew 11:28-30  Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer
<b>21</b> Judges 6:33-40  Pastor & Teachers Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer Vern & Patty Shafer	<b>22</b> Ephesians 2:1-10  Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam. Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family	<b>23</b> Psalm 30:1-12  Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family	<b>24</b> Matthew 7:7-12  Veronica Suderman & Family Arthur Syverson	<b>25</b> Psalm 95:1-7  Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent	<b>26</b> Luke 15:11-32  John & Sue Vacca & Sons Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family	<b>27</b> Deuteronomy 31:3-8  Linda Ward & Fam. Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.
<b>28</b> Psalm 46:1-3  Pastor & Teachers Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	<b>29</b> 1 John 3:11-18	<b>30</b> Matthew 6:25-34	<b>31</b> Psalm 139:13-18			



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




**JANUARY 2024**  
**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR**


	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 	2  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	3  8:00 am <b>Government Commodities Distribution</b>	4  4:15pmFellowship Singers	5 <b>ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FELLOWSHIP</b> 11:30am-2:30pm at the Church	6 <b>HEAVEN'S BOUNTY THRIFT SHOP</b> 9:00am-2:00pm
7	8	9  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	10	11  4:15pmFellowship Singers	12	13
14  <b>Yearly Council Meeting</b>	15	16  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon 1:00pmWomen's Fellowship Mtg.	17	18  4:15pmFellowship Singers 6:00pmBoard Meeting	19 <b>Friday's Fellowship</b> <b>1:00pm</b> <b>Golden Bowl Hugson</b>	20
21	22	23  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	24	25  4:15pmFellowship Singers	26  <b>Shed Work Day</b> 9:00am-12:00pm	27
28  <b>Sunday Luncheon</b>	29	30  <b>EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY</b> 9:00am-Noon	31			

**EVERY SUNDAY**

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