



Women's Fellowship: The next meeting is Wednesday, May 24th 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 – May 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 Issues

Evelyn Hurlbut – Heart Issues

David & Cheryl Leib – Recovery from Surgery

Torrie Slaybaugh – Digestive Issues

COVID – Among Us



Psalm 23

Psalm 23 doesn't say, "The Lord is *a* shepherd," or "The Lord is *the* shepherd." It says, "The Lord is *my* shepherd." And if He is my Shepherd, I will not lack:

- I shall not lack peace and provision, for He gives me green pastures and still waters.
- I shall not lack hope and encouragement, for He restores my soul.
- I shall not lack guidance, for He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
- I shall not lack deliverance in tough times, for He's with me even in the valley of shadows.
- I shall not lack protection, for His rod and staff comfort me, and He prepares a table for me in the presence of my enemies.
- I shall not lack help and healing in all the events of life, for He anoints my head with oil.
- I shall not lack endless blessings, for my cup overflows, and goodness and mercy will follow me all my days.
- I shall not lack eternal life and heaven, for I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Excerpt from *100 Bible Verses Everyone Should Know by Heart* by Robert J. Morgan



PRAYER OF THE MONTH



Prayer of Thanksgiving

This month our prayer focus will be on thanking Jesus for everything in our lives. Here are some ideas. If you think of more, then go ahead and pray away!!!

1. Pray a prayer of Thankfulness for your spouse, family, children, parents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews; any relatives of your choice.
2. Pray a prayer of Thanksgiving for all that God provides for you on a daily basis: food, shelter, water, air, good health, good company, good job, good retirement, the world around you, the landscape around you, companionship of animals, etc.
3. Pray a prayer of Gratitude for all that Jesus has taught us and gives us: love, compassion, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, forgiveness, honesty, integrity, hospitality, freedom from our sins, self-control, etc.
4. Pray a prayer of Appreciation for the church family and all they provide for you, especially your pastors, Sunday School teachers, deacons, ushers, janitors, music leaders, prayer teams, bible Study leaders and all leadership
5. Lastly, pray a prayer of Thanksgiving for God, who provides all that we need!

WORDS TO LIVE BY

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

My wish for you: Laughter to cheer you, sunshine on your down days, friendship when you are lonely, achievement in your goals, and love and joy unending.

The measure of a man is not how tall he is, but how much his neighbors respect him.



MISSIONARY MOMENTS

by Evelyn Hurlbut



WHAT IS NORCAL? NORCAL is a ministry that serves child evangelism in the public schools. Volunteers receive training on how to teach the Gospel to children in the public schools. The “club” is titled “The Good News Club”. In some schools children may be given release time to go for a meeting on the school grounds or they may stay after school to meet with the leaders to hear Bible stories, sing, do crafts, play games. There are 17 Good News Clubs in the Central Valley North Chapter. One area where these clubs are active is Modesto City Schools. Another school that has a club is the Valley Springs Elementary School. A student that I will call Bobby attended the Good News Club and listened quietly to the lessons. He started attending in October. Bobby received Christ last January. He comes from a disadvantaged family who does not attend church. His family lives in the same neighborhood as the teacher for the Bible lessons. One day Bobby and his mother saw the teacher working in her yard so they stopped to talk to her. She served cookies while they visited. Now Bobby has a standing invitation to stop by for cookies. There is a neighborhood church near Bobby’s home where Bobby can walk to Sunday School, if mother will give her permission. Prayers are being said for Bobby and his mother will start attending church. Your prayers will be appreciated.



SWEET STORIES ABOUT MOMS

by Reader's Digest Editors



Mother's Day 2023 is coming up on May 14. These readers' stories offer much-needed mom love and inspiration.

There is nothing in the world quite like a mother's love. With Mother's day coming up on Sunday, May 14, you may be in the mood for some heartwarming stories about motherhood. We've gathered readers' short stories – about lessons learned, nostalgic remembrances, the mother-child bond, and inspiring examples of great compassion and love. Share these stories with mom, your kids, or anyone who could use a laugh, a cry, or some mothering.

MY FAVORITE BARISTA

One morning, I jokingly told my husband he dropped the ball because he didn't make me coffee and I was having trouble getting motivated to start the day. My five-year-old son overheard me and asked me to explain what "dropped the ball" meant. A few minutes later, he came into our bedroom holding an overflowing coffee mug with a dishcloth underneath it to catch the drips. He said to my husband, "You dropped the ball, but I picked the ball up," and he handed me the worst tasting most watered-down, yet sweetest cup of coffee ever. *Submitted by Jennifer Stockberger, Mount Vernon, Ohio*

THE GREATEST ADVENTURE

When doctors told us we would never have children, we decided to travel and seek adventure around the world. Shows at the Sydney Opera House, Tables and buffets in Las Vegas. Majestic fjords in Bergen. Tranquil beaches in Honolulu. Abandoned castles and old churches in the Scottish Isles. Endless pools in the Bahamas. Races at Daytona. We were about to book a trip to the Blue Lagoon when we learned I was pregnant. Now, with our toddler, we travel very little. Parenting, it turns out, is the greatest adventure of all. *Submitted by Katherine Colandrea, Winter Garden, Florida*

OPEN HOUSE

We lived in the Bronx, all seven of us kids and my single mom. It was mid-January and a huge snowstorm hit. The snow was so thick, the highways came to a complete stop. We lived a half of a block from the highway. The darkness of night was approaching. There were several cars stuck with people and their families and or pets inside.

Mom stood up and said to my brother "I will open my house to the stranded people on the highway." She said, "Please go and invite them to our house." We had thirteen families come. Our living room was covered in sleeping bags, blankets, and pillows. In the morning, we had three pots of coffee, one huge pot of hot chocolate, bacon, eggs, and warm French bread. Everyone showed such gratitude. Mom's act of kindness and humanity was so profound to me. She showed us all the selflessness of helping others. *Submitted by Diana Allen Castaic, California*

BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Brethren Volunteer Service celebrated its 75th Anniversary in April. We would like to recognize and thank all those who have served in BVS over the years! What a true blessing and example of being the hands and feet of Jesus! Thank You incredibly for your service!

HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE

I was walking down Life's Highway a long time ago
I saw a sign that read Heaven's Grocery Store.
As I got a little closer, the door came open wide
And when I came to myself, I was standing inside.

I saw a host of Angels; they were standing everywhere.
One handed me a basket and said, "My child shop with care."
Everything a Christian needed was in that store
And all you couldn't carry, you could come back the next day for more.

First I got some PATIENCE – LOVE was in the same row
Further down was UNDERSTANDING, you need that everywhere you go.
I got a box of WISDOM, a bag or two of FAITH,
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST
For it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and COURAGE
To help me run the race.
By then, my basket was getting full
But I remembered I need some GRACE.

I didn't forget SALVATION for salvation, that was free.
So I tried to get enough to save both you and me.

Then I started up to the counter to pay my grocery bill
For I thought I had everything to do my Master's Will.
As I went up the aisle I saw a PRAYER, I just had to put that in
For I knew when I stepped outside, I would run right into SIN.

PEACE and JOY were plentiful; they were on the last shelf.
SONG & PRAISES were hanging near, so I just helped myself.

Then I said to the Angel, "How much do I owe?"
He just smiled and said, "JUST TAKE THEM EVERYWHERE YOU GO."
Again, I smiled at him and said, "How much do I owe?"
He smiled again and said,
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL IN FULL A LONG, LONG TIME AGO."

Shared by Betty Jean Snow

IN LOVING MEMORY



Please remember in your prayers those who have passed in the last twelve months, and their families: **Eunice Lasater, Marvene Hilkey, Kathy Price, and Naomi Covey.**

MARCH 2023 STATISTICS

Average Attendance: 20

Giving:

Local:	\$3,959.00
Sunday School:	0
Youth:	0
Messenger:	0
Mariners:	0
Other:	733.48
Total:	\$4,692.48



DATES TO REMEMBER MAY



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12th –Troy & Joy Slaybaugh
- 26th –Vern & Patty Shafer
- 29th –Josh & Heather Winchester

- 08th –Jacob Cadruvi
Sue Vacca
- 12th –Troy Slaybaugh
- 13th –Tommie Parrish
Amy Stokes

BIRTHDAYS

- 04th –Jay Irizarry
- 05th –Susan Price
Harley Radcliffe
- 06th –Steven Best
- 07th –Cherith Franklin

- 15th –Daniel Snyder
- 16th –Don Wyatt
- 17th –Patricia Guthrie
- 23rd –Shawn Cerro
- 28th – Gayle Stanfill
Catherine Vaughn

*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/>





MAY 2023 PRAYER CALENDAR



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 1 Peter 2:4-10 Sarah Adams Gerald Allinson Alex & Cathy Arellano	2 Mark 5:21-34 Candice Arellano Molly Arellano Donna Ayres Elaine Azevedo	3 Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 Ben & Jen Baker Ken Barklow Don & Pat Benton Wanda Bollinger	4 Matthew 18:1-5 Pauline Bert Michael Best Earleen Cadruvi & Fam. Ron Cadruvi & Fam.	5 Isaiah 55:8-11 Phyllis Caudle Linda Carter & Ivy Ashley Cooksey & Fam.	6 Psalm 148:1-14 Arlene Cupp Charlotte DeHart Chuck & Wendla Dyer & Family
7 Matthew 28:16-20 Pastor & Teachers Jim & Sue Eikenberry Zac Fear Pam Franklin & Cherith Franklin	8 Psalm 18:30-36 Kenny Fox Kerby & Heather Frantz Lyndall & Lois Frantz Lloyd Fullmer	9 Galatians 5:16-26 Jerry Goodman Thomas & Patricia Guthrie Harold Harger Clark Hartman Jack & Rosetta Hartsfield	10 Philippians 3:12-21 Ryan & Kelly Heiny & Fam. David & Evelyn Hurlbut Kevin & Deborah Hurlbut & Family	11 Isaiah 40:6-11 Jay Irizarry Randy & Teri Johnson & Family Sheryle Knott & Fam.	12 Genesis 50:15-21 Mary Lou Lee David & Cheryl Leib Norma Lutes	13 Psalm 86:1-7 Gerri Masellis Ric Mason Stacy Nelson Suzanne Neptune
14 Acts 9:36-43 Pastor & Teachers Kelly Olsson Clifford Parker Brad Parrish & Family	15 Jeremiah 18:1-6 Tommie Parrish Daymon & Sarah Peterson & Family	16 1 Kings 19:3-13 Dennis Peterson Oscar Phan Jason & Kirsten Piazza & Family	17 Exodus 4:1-17 Skip & Kathleen Powell Jeff Price Jeremy & Erica Price & Fam.	18 Psalm 34:17-19 Joel & Susan Price & Family John Price Jonah & Morgan Price	19 Luke 6:46-49 Nathan & Kim Price & Family Kay Qualls Mike & Laura Radcliffe & Family	20 John 6:54-69 Mary Rariden Charlotte Rice & Fam. Lana Royer Keith Shafer Vance & Maria Shafer
21 Luke 18:18-19 Pastor & Teachers Vern & Patty Shafer Troy & Joy Slaybaugh & Fam.	22 Matthew 11:28-30 Marilyn Snider Tony & Laura Snyder & Family Gayle Stanfill Glenn Stanford	23 John 15:1-8 J.J. & Soleena Storne & Family Veronica Suderman & Family	24 1 Samuel 17:41-50 Arthur Syverson Mark & Amber Syverson & Family Mike Syverson	25 Isaiah 43:18-21 Natasha Towe Carolyn Trent John & Sue Vacca	26 Romans 8:31-39 Tim & Catherine Vaughn & Family Linda Ward & Fam.	27 Ephesians 4:1-16 Roger & Cynthia Welch & Family Josh & Heather Winchester & Fam.
28 John 14:15-27 Pastor & Teachers Derek Wyatt Don & Susan Wyatt Donny & Errica Wyatt	29 Matthew 8:23-27	30 2 Corinthians 1:3-7	31 Philippians 1:3-6			



PRAYER
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MAY 2023 ACTIVITIES CALENDAR



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

EVERY SUNDAY

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