

December 2016



The Messenger

Praying for Peace on Earth - Pastor Mike Mirakian

Every Christmas season we sing about “peace on earth.” We long for it. We pray for it. We wait and watch and hope that one day we will taste the goodness of God’s peace, even on this troubled earth. We echo the great company of the heavenly host who announced Jesus’ birth with a declaration of glory to God and a plea for God’s peace to break forth upon the earth, especially “to those on whom His favor rests” (Luke 2:13-14).

It’s good to pray for peace, just as it’s good and Christ-like to make peace. So, let me invite you to spend some time this Advent season seeking God’s peace in our world. Below are some specific ways to pray for peace, and you may also find opportunities to be a peace-maker, to join God in spreading the peace-giving message of Jesus.

First and foremost, pray that people you care about will open their hearts to the Peacemaker and find salvation in Jesus Christ. He came to offer people everywhere peace with God through the forgiveness of our sins. We all know people who have not yet said yes to that offer. Pray for them by name this season. Lift them up to the God who loves them and ask that He would pour over them the peace that only Jesus can give.

Pray for peace and unity in our church. Jesus prayed for His disciples and for those who would come after them that we “may be one” (John 17:20-23). Even a church that loves each other well and has shared many years of fruitful ministry together needs the Spirit’s guidance to remain unified and at peace. Pray that we will resist the temptation to insist on our own way or to demand what we want at the expense of what may be best for others.

Pray for peace among Covenant churches, in our community and throughout the nation. The ECC has a long heritage of joining together for ministry and shared mission. We are a growing church family and continue to spread the gospel around the world, but the Covenant also feels the tension of cultural change. Pray that God will strengthen our denominational leaders and bring unity to our fellowship as we seek to share Biblical truth in a culture that increasingly rejects it.

Pray that peace and safety would prevail in our neighborhood and that Broadway will be a source of light in times of darkness. God calls us to love our neighbors and to seek the best for the community around us, so we open our eyes to see needs and open our hearts to practice love. Pray for families who live near the church, that God would meet their needs and draw them to Himself through our ministry or another Christ-honoring church.

Pray for peace in our nation as we heal from a divisive and difficult election season. Pray for those who feel bitterness or fear. Pray also for those who feel emboldened to demand their interests be put ahead of the interests of others. And pray that God would give the President-elect and all our national leaders wise and compassionate hearts that desire God’s best for everyone.

Finally, pray for peace in your own heart. Ask God to fill you with the joy and hope that come from knowing the Savior as Immanuel, God with us. Whatever burdens you carry or dreams you pursue, pray that God will hold you safely in His hands, supplying what you need and teaching you to find His grace sufficient.

Library News

The weather outside is “frightful” but the fire is so “delightful”. One of the many songs during this Christmas season people will be singing. Of course I do not like the “Let it snow, Let it snow” part of the song. But there is another song I enjoy singing during the season and that is **Joy to the World**. Although we sing it at Christmas time it is a song reminding us that Christ will be coming back for us one day. What a wonderful time that will be! As we prepare for this Christmas season, I would encourage you to share the Christmas Story with family and friends. Our family enjoys the passage from Luke 2.

We have many books in the church library that can help get you into the true spirit of Christmas. Come check out what we have available. From our family to yours we want to wish you a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Youth Ministry

Well, winter is here, whether we like it or not. It's 26 degrees as I write this right now. Anyhow, for December the dates we are planning on meeting are the 4th and the 18th. We are gonna hold off until the holidays are over before we schedule any special events, however another lock in should be in order here soon. Anyway, thanks to everyone who supports and prays for the youth group regularly, April and I greatly appreciate all the effort that is put forth by Broadway! God bless!
Skyler Retzlaff

Christmas Card Banner



Send one Christmas card to your church family and donate the postage savings to Missions! Stop by the banner in the east hallway to view all the greetings.

60 Plus

Join 60 Plus, December 13th, 11:30 for lunch at Thunder Bay on East State Street. Following lunch we will go to church for a Christmas Carol sing-a-long followed by dessert. Please call your reservations to Peggy, 282-0640, by Sunday, December 11th and let Peggy know if you need a ride. Invite others to come with you.

Be thinking of restaurants where you would like to have lunch or things you would like to do in 2017. Let Dan & Aina Hitchcock, Peggy Frint, Doug & Mary Gibson or Dave & Karen Holmertz know before they meet in January to plan the year.

THUNDER BAY



Sharing Our Story

I was asked to write an article about myself. Wow, where do I begin? Well first things first, I am Kenneth Earl Yarwood Jr. I was born and raised in Elgin, Illinois in 1948. I attended First Congregational Church, and was always very active. I sang in the choir starting at the age of 7, was active in Sunday School, was confirmed in 8th grade and became a member and was very active on several boards.

You are probably wondering how I ended up in Rockford, and found a spiritual home at Broadway. As with all people I have struggled to define who I am. We all go through it every day of our life. I had a major stroke in 2011 but God and Jesus got me through it and gave me a mission. They wanted me to continue to help my friend Raquel. She is bi-polar and in need of a little help. It is a struggle at time, to say the least. She has seen remarkable progress in the last 2 years. In the last 6 months she has asked me to help her find Jesus. What a challenge and what an honor!

Well, I still am a work in progress but God and Jesus are now central in my life. This is who I am but with God's help I know I can be better. In God's love, Ken

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts	2	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship YOUTH	5	6 8:30 Morning Prayer 6:00 Women's Christmas Banquet	7	8 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 4:00 RCFB Concert	12 6:30 Girl Scouts	13 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Thunder bay sing-a-long 6:30 LT Meeting	14	15 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Cub Scouts	16 Melin/Loven Rehearsal	17 Melin/Loven Wedding
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship YOUTH	19 Messenger news due in office	20 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	21	22 10:30 Men's Bible Study	23	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service 
25 <i>Merry Christmas</i> 10:15 Worship	26 Office Closed	27 8:30 Morning Prayer	28	29	30	31



Birthdays

- 3 Richard Peterson
- 4 Carl Ecklund
Emily Lorbach
- 5 Mark Montoya
- 6 Crystal Burdick
- 8 Florence Boyer
- 13 Judy LeGault
Aidan Breese
- 14 Brandon Melin
Ryan Melin
- 15 William Evans
- 17 Jill Page
Amy Berg
- 19 Christiana Melin
- 20 Nancy Ilgen
- 21 Christopher LeJuene
Noelle Mirakian
- 22 Claire Gray
- 25 Dylan Pronti
- 26 Noah Melin
- 27 Shelby Holmertz
- 28 Kay Forsen
Jeanine Parker Heck



Anniversaries

- 19 Lillian & Richard Slack
- 26 Dennis & Denise Suhr
- 28 Fred & Darlene Pearson

Serving in December

Head Usher: Brad Gasmund

Counters: Robin Robinson & Dave Holmertz

Nursery Workers:

- 12/4 Jeanine Heck & April Parker
- 12/11 Amy Breese & Kevin McCulloch
- 12/18 Kathy Holmertz & Kim Lape
- 12/25 Laura Mirakian & Jon Brown

Coffee Schedule:

- 12/4 Dave & Kim Lape
- 12/11 Kara & Ryan Woodrow
- 12/18 Theresa Gregorcy
- 12/25 Gary Ecklund



Remember in Prayer

Justin Murdock, Ft. Sill, OK
Katie Rowl home from the hospital.
Mary Gibson home from the hospital.

Thank You

Thank you to those who attended my birthday party. I really enjoyed seeing you. Thanks, also, for the many birthday cards I received. They were very much appreciated. God Bless you, Thelma Melquist

Congratulations to:



Krista and Jesse Starr on the birth of their son Milo Gordon, born the on November 20th. Thankful grandparents are Paula and Dick Rasanen.

Financial Report from the Treasurer

As of 10-31 the giving receipts are \$18,925 under budget. Fortunately all bills are paid due to spending lower than the budget. However, we hope to meet the giving budget this year as we prepare to cover the future costs of a full staff. To reach this goal, we need \$66,000 over the 8 Sundays in Nov & Dec or \$8,250 per Sunday. Received on 11-6 \$6,743 & 11-13 \$5,437 & 11-20 \$2,644.

2017 Offering Envelopes

The 2017 offering envelopes will be in the lobby for you to pick up during the month of December. If you do not currently have envelopes but would like a box please contact the church office.



Mission Report

This month we are praying for two of our local ministries: **Rock River Valley Food Pantry** and **Carpenter's Place**.

Rock River Valley Food Pantry's mission statement is as following: "RRVP fights hunger in the community by providing food to those in urgent need." In their fiscal year 2016, .3 million pounds of food were provided to over 23,550 clients. According to their newsletter "they serve a diverse clientele including families, individuals, people with mental and physical disabilities, students, veterans, underemployed, working poor and people living at or below poverty level." They give a jar of peanut butter to each family that they serve because most everyone likes it and it is a healthy treat. We are continuing to collect peanut butter for the pantry. There is a collection area at the front entrance and the southeast entrance for anyone who wishes to contribute.

Carpenter's Place's mission "is to provide the tools necessary for rebuilding lives of homeless adults." On average one homeless person gets into housing each day they are open and two homeless people secure employment each week. Carpenter's Place has several groups and classes that meet there. Group Hope is a support group for those dealing with bi-polar and depression issues. Sarah's Circle is a support group geared specifically to women. There are also several Bible Studies for anyone who wants to participate. They have an art program that provides opportunities for clients to discover creative abilities and learn discipline through bringing an art project to completion. Completing an art project often improves self-esteem and motivates as well as provide discipline that aids in daily life situation.

Fabio and Johnna Muniz-Japan

- Pray that Johnna's pregnancy will continue to go well.
- Pray that they would continue to be diligent in their study of their language and culture.

Peter and Anna

- Pray for the adoption process that they are going through.
- Pray for their Family Center that more people will get involved.

Leadership Team Update

A Search Team for our new Youth & Worship Pastor position has been appointed. Members are Arlene Schweiger, Laura Mirakian, Steve Schweitzer (chair), Tyler Whitney, Pastor Mike (ex-officio) and Keith Holmertz (ex-officio). Please pray faithfully for this group as they seek who God will direct us to for this important position.

Members of the 2016-2017 Leadership Team are Kent Drews, Kathi Engstrom, Colleen Felts, Dave Holmertz, Keith Holmertz, Mike Mirakian, Kim Schweitzer and Ken Yarwood.

2016 Love Tree Gifts

If you took a tag and shopped for the item listed, please return it on or before December 4th. Contact Laura Price at (815)397-3548 if you have any questions or you are interested in helping deliver the gifts.



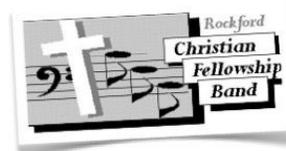
Julie's Project - 2016

On November 18, 107 blankets were delivered to *remedies, renewing lives*. Please accept my thanks for Broadway's support of this project. Your financial donations, material donations and the gift of your time working on these blankets allowed Women Ministries of the Northern Illinois District to reach and surpass our goal again this year. The administrative staff at *remedies* was truly grateful for our efforts and how it will bless the lives of their women and children. Laurie Schwalm, Chairman of Women Ministries-No. Illinois District

Christmas Concert

On December 11, 2016 at 4:00 pm it will be our privilege to have the **Rockford Christian Fellowship Band** share a holiday concert with us. Plan to attend and invite your friends to join you. The RCFBand is a non-denominational organization consisting of Christian musicians that performs at community events, churches, and retirement centers.

Karl Burdick, Wes Nelson, and Gordy Samuelson from our congregation are members of the band.



**December 2016
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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We're on the Web
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