



March 2018

# The Messenger

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## Journey to the Cross - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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Stations of the Cross is an ancient devotional ritual consisting of a series of images depicting Jesus' journey to the cross with accompanying prayers. The Stations are modeled after the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, a pathway that allows believers to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

You don't need to travel to Jerusalem to be blessed by the devotional invitation offered by the Via Dolorosa. We can take this spiritual journey through the words of the Gospels, walking with our Lord through His betrayal, arrest, trial, sufferings and death. Before we rejoice in His resurrection (Easter is April 1st), we should allow our souls to enter those dark moments that Jesus endured on our behalf.

Below is a series of readings from Matthew and short prayers to help us walk along this devotional pathway. You might want to read these all in one sitting during Holy Week, or you may choose to read one at a time.

1. Jesus knew what was coming. Matthew 20:17-19 ó *Thank you, Jesus, for choosing the way of the cross. Help me to take up my cross and follow where You lead.*
  2. Hosanna! Matthew 21:6-9 ó *Jesus, You are my King and my Savior! Teach me to honor You each day.*
  3. He was betrayed. Matthew 26:14-16 ó *Forgive me for betraying the name of Jesus as I sin. Show me the way of righteousness.*
  4. His body and blood. Matthew 26:26-28 ó *Thank you for pouring out Your grace over my life. Teach me to remember Jesus' death and celebrate the new life I find in Him.*
  5. Gethsemane. Matthew 26:36-39 ó *Father in Heaven, it was Your will for Jesus to die on my behalf. Help me to accept Your will, even when it's hard.*
  6. Jesus the Messiah. Matthew 26:62-64 ó *Give me strength to speak truth, and use me to show others who Jesus truly is.*
  7. Three denials. Matthew 26:69-75 ó *Forgive me when my faith falters and my courage wanes. Give me strength to speak Your name publicly with joy and gratitude.*
  8. Crucify! Matthew 27:20-23 ó *Father, Your heart must have broken when they called for Your Son to die. Help me to resist the pressures of the crowd and stand up for Your truth.*
  9. Mocked and beaten. Matthew 27:27-31 ó *Thank you, Jesus, for suffering in my place. Teach me to love even those who hate.*
  10. Forsaken. Matthew 27:45-46 ó *God of Glory, You looked away from Jesus as He was covered by the shameful stain of my sin. Thank you for the overflowing grace that washes me clean.*
  11. Death. Matthew 27:50-51 ó *Jesus, You walked all the way to death for me. Help me to walk with You wherever You lead.*
  12. Burial. Matthew 27:57-61 ó *Father, how hard it must have been to watch Your Son's lifeless body placed in a dark tomb. Help me to die to sin and live for Christ.*
- Resurrection! Matthew 28:1-10 ó *I rejoice in Jesus' resurrection! Fill me with the hope of everlasting life in His name.*

## God Takes Great Delight in You

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Central Conference Women Ministries Spring Celebration happens March 16 & 17 at First Covenant Church Rockford. Information and registration forms are available on the table in the north narthex and in the Women's Fellowship/Adult Sunday School room. Registration must be post-marked by March 6 and is \$50. Hope to see you there.

## Whitehead Knitting Club

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The kids at Whitehead School loved the knitting club we had for them after school last year for 6 weeks. They have invited us back. Our hope is that we would have four people who know how to knit that would be willing to come and teach a set number of kids one day after school (2:15pm) for eight weeks. We want to finish a dish rag or a pot holder in time for the kids to give it to their Mom's for Mother's Day. Please let Kim Schweitzer know soon if you are willing. Kim.Schweitzer@comcast.net or call or text her at (815) 262-0888.

## Youth Ministries

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Hello everybody. I hope this message finds you all well and dry, considering the sheer amount of rain we've been getting the last few weeks. We're almost to spring, hang in there people! The dates for March are as follows we will meet on the 11th and then again on the 25th for regularly scheduled youth group.

## Leadership Team Update

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- Plan to attend the special congregational meeting on March 18th following worship. We will vote on new members and a recommendation on a new roof for the education wing.
- An invitation to join us for our Maundy Thursday soup and communion service has been made to Bethesda Covenant and First Covenant Church.

Members of the 2017-2018 Leadership Team are Colleen Felts, Dave Holmertz, Kathi Engstrom, Ken Yarwood, Kent Drews, Kim Schweitzer, Mike Mirakian and Keith Holmertz.

## Special Congregational Business Meeting

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There will be a Special Congregational Business Meeting following worship on March 18, 2018 for the purpose of voting on membership for Todd and Elena Cultra and on some building improvement projects. The meeting will be short so please plan to stay after worship for a few minutes.

## Central Conference Annual Meeting Delegates

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The Central Conference Annual Meeting will take place from April 26-28, 2018 at the Glenn Ellyn Covenant Church. If anyone would like to be a delegate to this meeting, or if you have questions, please contact Pastor Mike or Keith Holmertz. We need to appoint delegates by March 13, 2018.

## Covenant Annual Meeting

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The Annual Meeting of the Covenant Church will take place June 21-23, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN. We are also in need of delegates for this meeting. If you are interested or have questions please talk with Pastor Mike or Keith Holmertz. We need to appoint delegates by May 14, 2018.

# March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				<p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Boys Scouts</p>	2	3
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship</p>	5	<p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <p>8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Girl Scouts</p>	7	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Boys Scouts</p>	9	10
<p style="text-align: center;">11</p> <p>2:00 DST 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship YOUTH</p>	12	<p style="text-align: center;">13</p> <p>8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 LT Meeting</p>	14	<p style="text-align: center;">15</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Boys Scouts</p>	16	17
<p style="text-align: center;">18</p> <p>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship <b>Special Congregational Meeting</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">19</p> <p>Messenger news due in office</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">20</p> <p><b>ELECTION DAY</b> 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus @ Stockholm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Girl Scouts</p>	21	<p style="text-align: center;">22</p> <p style="text-align: center;">10:30 Men's Bible Study</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:30 Boys Scouts</p>	23	24
<p style="text-align: center;">25</p> <p><i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship YOUTH</p>	26	<p style="text-align: center;">27</p> <p>8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship</p>	28	<p style="text-align: center;">29</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 Maundy Thursday soup and communion</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">12:00 Community Good Friday @ Bethesda</p>	31



## Birthdays

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- 2 John Loven  
Deon Woodard
- 5 Dick Rasanen  
Gerald Bauer
- 7 David Roen  
Danny Jones
- 11 Roger Creedy
- 12 Peggy Frint
- 14 Marvin Goodsell  
Judy Prather
- 17 Colleen Felts  
Derek Melin
- 18 JoAnn Olson
- 19 Beth Cates
- 24 Shirley Anderson
- 25 Rachel McCulloch
- 26 Joyce Goodsell  
Patrick McCulloch
- 27 Alice Nelson
- 28 Betty Lockett
- 30 Kelsey Melin  
Colton Whitney  
Teague Whitney



## Anniversaries

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- 27 Carl & Cheryl Ecklund
- 28 Dennis & Nancy Norman

## Serving in March

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### Head Usher:

Tom Heck

### Counters:

Jim Page & Steve Schweitzer

### Nursery Workers:

3/4 Cathy Alexander & Kevin McCulloch

3/11 Barbara Rehnberg & Beth Pasch

3/18 Laura & Keaton Price

3/25 Gene & Colleen Felts

### Coffee Schedule:

3/4 Dave & Karen Holmertz

3/11 Marcia Johnson

3/18 Ryan and Kara Woodrow

3/25 John & Kathy Loven



## Remember in Prayer

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**Justin Murdock**, Ft. Sill, OK

**Emma Parlapiano** recovering from heart surgery.

**Ken Yarwood** recovering from knee surgery.

**Richard Slack** with health issues.

## Thank You

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On behalf of our family, thank you for all of the help and support we received. The service was beautiful. It's comforting to know that our mom had such a good church family.

Linda Burton, David Rowl, Jane Rowl & Rod Rowl

## 60 Plus Lunch

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Join 60 Plus for lunch March 20th, 11:30 at Stockholm Inn. Please call your reservation to Darlene 815-398-3902 by March 18th and let her know if you need a ride. Invite others to join us. There are still tickets remaining to see the Collingsworth Family Christian Concert at the Fireside on May 23rd for the evening performance. (main floor seating) Cost is \$45.95 plus tip which includes the Fish & Chicken Buffet and the concert. We will be transported by the Y bus and the charge is \$5 per person. Please let Karen (815-399-1523) know if you are interested in going.

# Mission Report

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This month we are praying for **Peter and Ruth Dutton** who are in **Thailand**. They live in the northeastern part of Thailand. Peter and Ruth are involved in English as a Second Language classes. Tongspan Prometta, the first president of the Covenant Church of Thailand passed away January 13th. Peter and Ruth gathered with other Covenanters to say good-bye to their friend and mentor. He was a great example of a servant, people-centeredness, humility and leadership. Peter recently had successful knee replacement surgery. Praise God for wonderful doctors and care he received. Peter & Ruth will be making a quick trip back to Colorado & Idaho to visit Ruth's dad, who had a stroke and her brother, who has critical health issues. Please pray for them as they travel and the time that they spend with family.

**Peter and Anna** Pray for complete healing and recovery for their daughter as she recovers from surgery. Also, patience, wisdom and guidance for Peter and Anna.

## **Covenant Youth of Alaska**

**Praise:** New staff members. For the way God is moving in the lives of young adults across Alaska. For compelling vision that motivates the staff and team.

**Pray:** For Acts 29 - A three-month cross cultural multi-ethnic discipleship school for young adults. For those who feel unworthy- that they know God's love.

# Community Good Friday Service

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Bethesda Covenant Church will host this event on Friday, March 30th from noon until 3:00 p.m. Plan to attend and hear seven people speak on the last words of Christ.



# Easter Breakfast

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We will be serving breakfast from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. on Easter morning. A minimum contribution of \$3 for children under 12 and \$5 for adults with a family cost of \$15 is suggested. All your donations are appreciated as the money will be used for the Broadway Covenant Care Fund. Please sign up in the front lobby or call the office by Thursday March 29th to make your reservation.



# Maundy Thursday

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Broadway Covenant will host a soup and communion service the evening of March 29th at 6:00 p.m. Plan to join us and sign up in the front lobby or call the church office by Monday, March 26th.



# Easter Plants

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We will be having another glorious display of spring flowers and lilies for our Easter service this year. Fill out this form or call the office to reserve your plant. The price is \$16 and checks should be made out to Broadway Covenant Church with "Easter Plant" in the memo.



Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**March 2018  
Broadway Covenant  
Church**

3525 Broadway  
Rockford, IL 61108

Senior Pastor - Mike Mirakian  
Youth Director - Skyler Retzlaff  
Worship Leader - Carl Lindberg  
Phone - (815)399-9296  
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**We're on the Web**  
**[www.broadwaycovenant.com](http://www.broadwaycovenant.com)**