

October 2018



The Messenger

What Happens in Your Soul - Pastor Mike Mirakian

Sweet nectar pools deep in the heart of an *angraecoid* orchid, a flower so intricately designed that only one species of long-tongued moth can reach the nectar and thereby transfer the orchid's pollen. Deep in the human heart dwells a soul, so wonderfully made that only its Creator can reach its depths and know perfectly the life it contains.

Your soul defines who you are. It is the truest, deepest part of your being. God beautifully and intricately designed it for eternity, and the human soul stands at the pinnacle of creation, the masterwork of the Master of the Universe.

Scripture tells us that God created humans in His own image and that, even after the Fall, even after we became sinful and broken, we continue to bear the image of God. The soul forms part of this divine reflection. Bearing God's image doesn't describe what we look like or how we walk around on two legs or that we can think abstractly; instead, it means that God placed in us a spiritual spark that allows us to know and love Him.

So, how does this God-reflecting image, though shattered and smudged by sin, shape who we are? What does this spiritual core, hidden in the recesses of our hearts, do? What happens in your soul?

The most significant answer is simply that our souls enable us to know God and to love him. Of course, our minds can know about God. With our brains, we can study scripture and theologize about God's nature. But it's the soul that engages in relationship with the Almighty. The soul alone has the capacity to love its Creator in ways that our minds cannot fully comprehend or shape into words. Our souls experience God and commune with him. Our souls sense God's glory and fathom His majesty.

God also granted the soul the faculty to experience feelings that run deeper and more abidingly than emotions. For example, within the soul, we feel sorrow and joy. People sometimes laugh at fond memories shared during a loved one's funeral, but that laughter does not remove the sorrow of grief. In another moment, tears of sadness may fall even as the joy of Jesus' resurrection promise flows through the heart. The feelings that take shape in the soul do not easily bend with the winds of emotion.

Shame and peace also happen in the soul. We feel, deep in our hearts, a desire to hide our sin from God, like Adam covering his nakedness with fig leaves. Our souls feel shame until we confess and seek God's forgiveness. Then our souls find peace, and we can walk afresh in the garden with the Lord at our side.

Part of my calling as a pastor, perhaps the most important and mysterious part, is shepherding souls, helping people exercise their hearts in order to deepen their relationship with God. We feed our souls as we read God's word and as we worship and pray. We nurture our souls through fellowship with other believers and through acts of Christ-like love.

One prescription for our souls flows from Philippians 4:8, telling us, "[W]hatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." As we fill our minds and hearts with what is good and true and beautiful, our souls open to God's loving presence.

Children's Sunday School

Sunday school resumed in September for all ages and our children's class has an awesome group of volunteers equipped with a new curriculum entitled "How to be a SUPER HERO!" Bring your children or grandchildren and invite your neighbors & friends to join them upstairs on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.



School Supply Collection

We will again be collecting school supplies for Rolling Green and Whitehead schools. The sales on school supplies are happening now so we are reminding you of this outreach we do for the schools in this neighborhood. We deliver them to the schools for the second semester, in January. Suggestions include:

#2 pencils (preferably sharpened already), pencil sharpeners, pens, spiral notebooks, three ring binders, pocket folders, crayons, markers (they prefer washable) dry erase markers and scissors. These are just some of the supplies they need all the time. This outreach is just one simple way we can tell them we support their efforts on behalf of our children and it may open the door for them to come to us for other needs they may have. Any questions, call Kim Schweitzer - (815)262-0888

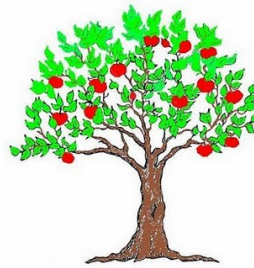


Women Ministries Fall Gathering

Our church is hosting the Fall Gathering of Women Ministries on Saturday, November 3. Registration is 9:15 am with breakfast at 9:30 am. Our speaker is Lori Johnson from RAASE (Rockford Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation). Rockford is a "gateway" city and as such is a hot spot for human trafficking. Come and hear what we all need to be aware of and how we can help put an end to this problem. Invite your daughters and granddaughters. The cost is \$7 payable that day. Please call Sue here at church at (815) 399-9296 with your reservation no later than Monday, October 29th. Let her know if you need a gluten free meal option.



Youth



The Youth will be taking a trip to Edward's Apple Orchard on Monday, (Columbus Day) October 8th at 1:30 p.m. They will also go kayaking at Rock Cut on Saturday, October 27th at 10:30 a.m. If you know any young people (grades 6-12)

who would like to join us, please contact the church office, April Parker, Pastor Mike or Laura Mirakian.



October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 1:00 CDSMP 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Carol Circle Potluck	2 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:00 Girl Scouts	3	4 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	8 1:00 CDSMP 1:30 YOUTH to Edward's Orchard	9 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:30 LT Meeting 6:30 RG Meeting	10 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	11 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	12	13 9:30 NIDCW Board Mtg.
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	15 1:00 CDSMP 6:00 Girl Scouts	16 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Machine Shed 6:00 Girl Scouts	17 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	18 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	22 Messenger news due in office 1:00 CDSMP	23 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	24 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	25 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	26	27 10:30 YOUTH Kayak at Rock Cut
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	29	30 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	31 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group			

Birthdays

- 3 Eugene Peterson
Maurie Anderson
5 Brian Lorbach
6 Kim Schweitzer
Scott Seibold
7 Becky Bamberger
9 Darlene Pearson
Steve Bamberger
Beth Pasch
10 Lorna Bjurstrom
Emma Parlapiano
12 Randy Price
14 Chris Alexander
16 Michelle Gasmund
17 Keith Holmertz
18 Janet Patterson
19 Jaxon Jones
20 Gloria Murbirigi
22 Carolyn Augenson
Barbara Rehnberg
Tyler Whitney
McKenna Coates
23 David Mirakian
24 Catherine Johnson
Emmy Miller
25 Sally Gill Pierce
27 Gene Felts
28 Thelma Melquist
Susan Warren
29 Steve Schweitzer
30 Mary Ann Egler
Laura Holmertz
31 Toni Cooper

Anniversaries

- 3 Todd & Elena Cultra
6 Pat & Annette Retzlaff
7 Steve & Chris James
11 Jesse & Krista Starr
17 Wesley & Susan Nelson
19 Donald & Wyone Leather
22 Daniel & Aina Hitchcock
25 Steven & Kim Schweitzer
26 Ron & Emmy Miller

Serving in October

Head Usher:

Kevin McCulloch

Counters:

Steve Schweitzer & Dan Hitchcock

Nursery Workers:

10/7 Gene & Colleen Felts

10/14 Stacey Parlapiano & Amy Breese

10/21 Barbara Rehnberg & Beth Pasch

10/28 Jeanine Heck & April Parker

Coffee Schedule:

10/7 Amy & Aiden Breese

10/14 Dan & Aina Hitchcock

10/21 Judi Papka

10/28 Gene & Colleen Felts



Remember in Prayer

Nancy Norman & family in the death of her husband Dennis.

Family of Louise Larson who passed away last month.

Thank You

Dear Broadway Covenant Church,

Thank you all so much for the cards, visits and prayers for me to get well. Thank you, **Judy LeGault**

Broadway Covenant Church,

Thank you so much for supporting me in my mission to go to Seminary! I greatly appreciate both the financial support and the prayers that I have received from you. This past summer at Cascades Camp has been a very fun but very difficult summer, so I'm looking forward to starting classes soon! I hope all has been well at Broadway for the past couple months & continue to go well. You are in my thoughts and prayers often. I hope you are able to show God to your community. I hope you welcome Maggie well!

Blessings, **Carl Lindberg**

Dear Broadway Family,

Thank you so very much for your love and care for our mom- Louise Larson. She appreciated all your cards and visits. Thank you most for your prayers for her as her health declined. We appreciate Pastor sharing in her Memorial Service and Karen Holmertz and the church women helping so much with the reception. Thanks too, for the beautiful flowers. May God bless you, **Dennis Larson, Don Larson, Bonnie Fertig and Julia Gallagher**

Mission Report

This month we are praying for KICY Radio Station located in Nome Alaska. Communication among the villages of Alaska is very difficult and many villages don't have pastors. KICY provides Christian teaching to them. They are able to send the Gospel into places where other forms of media are not available. Besides broadcasting in Western Alaska, they also broadcast into Eastern Russia in their language. A pastor in Eastern Russia has received many calls about the positive impact KICY is having on their lives. The staff of KICY are volunteers and they do a little bit of everything around the station: selecting music and write and produce commercials, public service announcements, promotional messages and God spots. They also travel to the villages to cover various events from church conferences to sporting events. KICY was able to replace hollow braces on their towers with solid steel angle iron braces providing necessary stability and longer life for the towers. They are praising God for great weather for 2 weeks that allowed the work to be done efficiently and for all who contributed to the project.



Peter & Anna
Praise: **Nome, Alaska** Safe travels

and children had a great first week of school.

Praise: Doctor they found who will be able to treat their daughter.

Pray: Co workers will grow in faith and love and be humble servants to the community.

Pray: They can get visas and residency permits without any problems or delays.

Fabio & Johnna Muniz-France

Pray: for their family as they adjust to life in France and for Johnna & Fabio as they finish their language training.

Leadership Team Update

The hum of the fall has begun as groups gather on Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The girl scouts and boy scouts are using our excellent facilities. The LT continues to address ministry needs, building needs and staffing. We are pleased to have Maggie Johnson, and pleased Nancy Norman has come back. We continue to recognize our strengths and gifts as we oversee portions of ministry needs. Please continue to talk with myself or any person on the LT with concerns. We are here to help serve with you. Kim Schweitzer, Dave Holmertz, Kathi Engstrom, John Loven, Theresa Gregorcy, Toni Cooper, Ken Yarwood, Pastor Mike Mirakian and Colleen Felts

Meet our new Worship Leader

My name is Maggie Johnson. I grew up in a small Swedish town in the middle of Kansas but am now from Mason City, Iowa. My dad is the senior pastor at the Covenant Church in Mason City and all throughout high school I led worship (with my brothers!) there. I currently go to North Park University in Chicago and, fun fact, Carl Lindberg is my cousin! I love playing ultimate frisbee (I am on the girl's team at North Park) and I love all things music. I am super excited to worship with all of you at Broadway and am looking forward to meeting each one of you.

60 Plus

Plan to join 60 Plus for lunch October 16th at the Machine Shed, 11:30 a.m. Call your reservations to Darlene Pearson, 815-398-3902 by October 14th. Also let her know if you need a ride.



**October 2018
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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Worship Leader - Maggie Johnson
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We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com