

November 2018



The Messenger

Thankful for the Blessings We Share - Pastor Mike Mirakian

As we approach Thanksgiving, I am reminded that gratitude nourishes our souls and expressing thanks, especially in public ways, brings honor to our Lord and edifies our brothers and sisters in faith. In other words, it's good for us and it pleases God when we give thanks.

We will take time as a congregation to express our gratitude during the Thanksgiving service on Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. (followed by fellowship over pie!). I hope you will be there and come ready to declare publicly God's goodness in your life.

In the meantime, I want to share some ways I have seen God moving among us over the past year for which I am grateful. This begins with my gratitude for being called to preach God's word and care for His people at Broadway. Serving among you is a blessing, and I thank God for each one of you.

I am also grateful for how our church cares for one another during times of hardship and loss. One of the greatest tests of fellowship is how people respond to needs. I witness, time after time, our congregation showing up, reaching out, praying and offering help when members of our church family face difficulty. Over the past year, we have seen more than our fair share of funerals, and I am grateful each time to witness people from our church comforting those who grieve. These expressions of love make a lasting impact on everyone who enters our doors, especially those who don't have their own church home for support.

This fall, I am also giving thanks for how many of us are reading through the New Testament and attending the *Immerse* discussion groups. The Sunday morning and Wednesday evening gatherings have been lively, fruitful and encouraging. As we read scripture, especially alongside other believers, our spiritual lives grow deeper and our bonds of fellowship strengthen. *Immerse* has invited us to feed on God's word, and we are discovering anew how nourishing it is.

I know I am not alone in also being grateful for our worship and music leadership during 2018. First, we were blessed by Carl Lindberg, and now Maggie Johnson has joined our staff as Worship Leader. Maggie brings a joyful spirit, strong musical ability and a heart devoted to Jesus. I give thanks for her ministry among us and for how God has raised up talented church members to help us worship each Sunday with voices, piano, guitar, bass, organ, harmonica, mandolin, box drum and all the technical expertise needed in the sound booth.

In addition, I offer thanksgiving to God for the gifts and energy He has given those who serve in leadership and administrative roles in the church. It's not easy running an organization, especially when we desire to honor God with our decisions and day-to-day operations. We are blessed with many wise and dedicated people who keep Broadway running by overseeing finances, recruiting volunteers, planning events, maintaining property and equipment, and attending to the many other tasks that undergird our public ministry.

For all of these blessings, I am grateful to the people of Broadway, but even more, I give thanks and praise to God for supplying the needs of His church. This church, after all, belongs to Jesus and bears His name. He cares about what happens here and about all the people who pass through our doors. His Spirit abides with and among us, and we give thanks that God, in His grace and wisdom, calls us together as a church body. May He continue to bless us and enable us to serve the mission of Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving Worship

Plan now to join us on Wednesday, November 21st at 7:00 p.m. for our Thanksgiving worship followed by a time of fellowship. You can sign up to donate a pie in the north entryway.



A Miracle Birth

You are invited to the Women Ministries Christmas Banquet Tuesday, December 4. We will gather at 6:15 pm for dinner. The program will be presented by Bobbi Smith. She is a neonatal nurse and will share with us the miracles she has experienced. Tickets will be on sale before and after church November 11, 18 and 25 for \$15.00. We hope you can join us for this special evening. This is a great event to share with your friends and family.



2018 Love Tree Outreach



There will be a Christmas tree decorated with tags from various community services/needs in the sanctuary on Sunday, November 18th. You will have the opportunity to take a tag and shop for the item listed. Please do not feel that you need to take a tag, but if you do take a tag please return in on or before the due date. It is anticipated that the tags will be available from Rockford Rescue Mission, families with needs and Rock House for Kids. Gifts need to be returned to church on or before Sunday, December 2nd for delivery. Plan now to share the joy of the blessed season with others. Please contact Laura Price at (815)494-3311 if you have any questions, or if you are interested in helping to deliver the gifts.

Thanksgiving Baskets

We will begin collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations for the Thanksgiving baskets. These baskets are for any member of the church in need and for friends of our church family who need a little extra help at this Thanksgiving time. To recommend a family, call the office with names, addresses and number of people. Please drop off any non-perishable food items in the labeled boxes at the front of the church and by the office. Make checks out to Broadway Covenant church and mark Thanksgiving baskets in the memo.



60 Plus

Plan to join 60 Plus for lunch November 13th (different week because of Thanksgiving) at Stone Eagle, 6445 East State Street at 11:30. Call your reservations to Darlene, 815-398-3902 by November 11th and let her know if you need a ride.

Youth

We had a beautiful day to visit Edwards on Columbus Day, and several youth joined us for fun and donuts. This month, the youth will gather after worship (around 11:45 a.m.) on Sunday, Nov. 4 for food, games and a devotion. If you know any young people, grades 6-12, who might want to join us, please invite them and let Pastor Mike know.

AVA Training

We have received an invitation from Batavia Covenant Church and The Holmstad. They are having an AVA (Advocacy for Victims of Abuse) training along side of Women Ministries of the ECC. It will be people begin the healing journey, November 10, from 9:00-4:30 at the Holmstad (100 W Fabyan Pkwy, Batavia, IL). This workshop will equip attendees to become advocates for victims of abuse and to help people begin the healing journey. The cost is \$20 including lunch and materials. To register, go to bit.ly/ava-batavia. Questions may

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
 November 4th				1 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	2	3 9:15 NIDWM Fall Event
4 2:00 Turn clocks back 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	5 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Carol Circle Potluck	6 Election Day 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:00 Girl Scouts	7 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	8 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	12	13 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Stone Eagle 6:30 LT Meeting	14 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	15 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	16	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship Dr. Dwight Perry Preaching Love Tree Lunch and Business Mtg.	19 Messenger news due in office 6:00 Girl Scouts	20 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:00 Girl Scouts	21 7:00 Service and Pie	22 	23	24
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	26	27 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	28 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	29 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	30	



Birthdays

- 3 Ramani Jones
- 4 Karen Holmertz
Sarah Gray
- 6 Judy Sowl
Richard Slack
- 7 Royce Cates
Karen Knox
- 8 Donna Davis
- 15 Timothy Clark
- 17 April LeJuene
Kara Woodrow
- 19 Christine Bauer
- 20 Milo Starr
- 22 Phil Adams, Sr.
Bill Forsen
- 23 Marthe Kingambo
Lillian Slack
- 25 Audrey Jacobson
- 29 Barbara Carlson
- 30 Bud Johnson
Sevren Jones



Anniversaries

- 12 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 15 Jack & Judy Sowl
- 16 Randy & Nancy Rainwater
- 26 Kevin & Candice McCulloch
- 28 Steve & Becky Bamberger

Serving in November

Head Usher:

Carl Ecklund

Counters:

Cheryl Ecklund & Jill Page

Nursery Workers:

- 11/4 Colleen & Gene Felts
- 11/11 Kathy Holmertz & Laura Mirakian
- 11/18 Laura & Randy Price
- 11/25 Jon Brown & Cathy Alexander

Coffee Schedule:

- 11/4 Jean & Kent Drews
- 11/11 Kathy & Keith Holmertz
- 11/18 Candice & Kevin McCulloch
- 11/25 Kim & Dave Lape



Remember in Prayer

Gladys Damrose with health issues.

The family of Judy LeGault who passed away.

Mary Gibson with health issues.

Thank You

Many thanks for all the cards, phone calls, flowers and visits during and after Dennis' death. Thanks also to Pastor Mike for his visits. I really appreciate all the love and concern from the Broadway church family. I have been so blessed. Nancy Norman

On Monday October 15, 2018, 70 blankets were delivered to Rock House Kids. Thank you for your continued support of Julie's Project through financial donations, time donations from your women and your prayer support. This is the fourth year for this important ministry. May God continue to use us to provide warmth and love for his children.

Laurie Schwalm, Women Ministries Chair Northern Illinois District



Mission Report

This month please pray for **Congo Technical Assistance**. This ministry was started by Bob and Janet Thornbloom to help improve the lives of the people of Congo. Their son Marc now leads this ministry. Congo Technical Assistance works to improve infrastructures that will link villages to better markets and allow trucks to travel easily between markets. They also help widows earn money by teaching them to sew and provide sewing machines. Congo Technical Assistance helps support small repair shops to repair bicycles and vehicles as well as provide an area for charging cell phone batteries. They also train health technicians and provide treated mosquito nets that will kill the mosquitos. We have a church bank in the entry way for any donations for these projects. The Covenant Church is also doing work in the Congo through a partnership with World Vision to sponsor children in Gemena and thus help improve the whole community. Through this partnership the community is developing and changing lives through clean water, education, health, agriculture, economic development and advocacy.

Covenant World Relief

We are again collecting coins and/or bills to help those in need throughout the world. Please pick up a label and cover for a can and fill this month We will be collecting these on November 25th. Or if you prefer you can write a check to Broadway Covenant Church and note Covenant World Mission.

PRAYER & PRAISE

Peter & Anna:

Praise: For good connections and overall refreshment at a recent retreat

Pray: For safety in their work and speedy recovery for daughter who had surgery.

Fabio & Johnna Muniz- France

Praise: For their Brazilian babysitter, their bilingual church, their French school & friends

Pray: Managing schedules and better sleeping for Julia; quick language acquisition and a sense of belonging at school for Sophia and wisdom for Fabio and Johnna during this time of transition.

Leadership Team Update

Our current leadership team is, Kathi Engstrom, Dave Holmertz, Kim Schweitzer, Toni Cooper, John Loven, Ken Yarwood, Theresa Gregory, Pastor Mike Mirakian, Colleen Felts. Please feel free to contact any of us with concerns.

The Search committee for the music worship leader and youth pastor has been concluded. We appreciate the work and effort they have done. The arrival of Maggie Johnson has met the need of Worship leader. The need for a youth pastor will be continued to be monitored and reevaluated.

The need for water dispensers has been evaluated. Steve Schweitzer had purchased three water dispenses, one in the lower level, one near the nurse-ry, and one near the cry room in the narthex. Colleen and Gene Felts will be sure we have water refills. We are ordering cup dispensers. Please let us or Sue in the office know if there are any problems.

Christmas Decorations will go up on November 30th. Rather than the day after thanksgiving. Please consider helping with these decorations

The annual budget meeting will be Sunday, November 18th after church. Lunch will be served.

Dr. Perry Preaching Nov. 18th

We are excited to welcome Dr. Dwight Perry to preach at Broadway on Sunday, Nov. 18. Dr. Perry is Dean of Faculty/Professor of Homiletics and Leadership at North Park Theological Seminary.

2019 Offering Envelopes

The 2019 offering envelopes will be available for pick up next month. If you do not currently have weekly envelopes for your offering please contact the church office to be assigned a box for the 2019.

Financial Report

As of 9-30-18 expenses have exceeded donations by \$15,501. All bills including missions have been paid due to the surplus from prior years. The Leadership Team hopes our faithful giving will close this gap between donations & expenses by the end of the year. Please give prayerful consideration to this need. If you have questions about year-end giving & taxes please call Dave Holmertz, Treasurer at 815-399-1523.

**November 2018
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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We're on the Web
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