

December 2018



# The Messenger

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## Jesus Came for Us - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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During Advent, I will preach a sermon series called “Jesus Came for Us” about why Jesus came into the world and who He came to save. Of course, Jesus came into the world to save sinners, to rescue people like you and me who would be forever lost without God’s grace offered through Jesus Christ.

Through the four Sundays of Advent, we will talk about Jesus coming for people who are overwhelmed (Dec. 2), for those trapped in spiritual and emotional bondage (Dec. 9), for sinners drowning in shame (Dec. 16), and for people like each of us who have real needs we can’t solve ourselves (Dec. 23). Jesus came for us.

I hope these messages will speak not only to our faithful church members but also to anyone ready to hear a word of hope and encouragement. With that in mind, I would like to ask you to invite friends and family members to join us for worship during Advent. I have prepared invitation cards with information about our worship times and this sermon series. Please pick up an invitation and hand it to a neighbor, co-worker, relative, friend or anyone else who might be open to hearing the good news about why Jesus came into the world.

The first message, on December 2, will explore Jesus’ invitation to people feeling overwhelmed with the burdens of life. In Matthew 11:28-30, Jesus calls to Himself all “who are weary and burdened.” He offers “rest for your souls” under His easy and light yoke.

Do you ever feel overwhelmed? Everyone does, sometimes. People carry financial burdens of debt and mounting expenses, and social burdens of trying to fit in and be accepted by others. We carry the load of strained relationships, stress at work, and the needs of people we love. Even more, we struggle under the weight of spiritual burdens like shame and doubt.

Jesus said, “Come to Me.” This remains His invitation of grace to everyone feeling overwhelmed, stressed out or just tired of carrying a heavy load. Jesus invites us to come to Him, but first, Jesus came to us. He didn’t wait up in heaven for people to search for Him and make us climb up to His heavenly throne. No, Jesus came to us, born as a helpless child, offering Himself into a world of need so He could hand deliver this invitation of rest.

Jesus doesn’t want the people He loves to feel overwhelmed by the pressures of life. He wants to set us free and to lift burdens from our shoulders. He offers us to a peace that fills our hearts now, in this life, and will last for all eternity.

What is extraordinary about Jesus’ offer of rest for the weary is that He grants us rest and peace by means of His own sacrifice, suffering and death. The rest Jesus offers is not simply a good night’s sleep or a few days of R&R at the lake. Jesus’ death and resurrection bring us rest for our souls, peace for our hearts that so often beat rapidly under the spiritual oppression of a dark and troubled world. Jesus’ victory over sin, evil and death assure us that we can rest in God’s loving presence.

This is why Jesus came into the world. This is the good news of Christmas that we are called to share with the people around us. May God bless your Christmas celebration with rest and peace, and may He bless our church as we share His love and message with those in need.



## Birthdays

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- 3 Richard Peterson
- 4 Carl Ecklund  
Emily Lorbach
- 5 Mark Montoya
- 6 Crystal Burdick
- 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

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- 19 Richard & Lillian Slack

## Serving in December

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### Head Usher:

Tom Heck

### Counters:

Dave Holmertz & Robin Robinson

### Nursery Workers:

12/2 Stacey Parlapiano & Amy Breese

12/9 Gene & Colleen Felts

12/16 Jeanine Heck & April Parker

12/23 Barbara Rehnberg & Beth Pasch

12/30 Kathy Holmertz & Jon Brown

### Coffee Schedule:

12/2 Dave & Karen Holmertz

12/9 Ryan & Kara Woodrow

12/16 Marcia Johnson

12/23 John & Kathy Loven

12/30 Todd & Elena Cultra



## Remember in Prayer

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**Gladys Damrose** with health issues.

**The family of Judy LeGault** who passed away.

**Mary Gibson** with health issues.

**Sylvia Bowman** recovering from surgery.

**Tom Heck** recovering from knee surgery.

**Cathy Alexander** and family in the death of her sister, Chris.

**Bud Johnson** with health issues.

**Marcia Johnson** recovering from hip surgery.

**Jeff Irelan** recovering from back surgery.

**Steve Schweitzer and family** in the death of his father.

## Thank You

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Dear Broadway Covenant Church, My name is EJ Jackson and I'm a student at NPTS. I'm in year 3 of a 4 year program to get an M.div/MNA. Thank you so much for your contribution to my education! I'm learning so much that I know will continue to impact my ministry career. I currently serve as a youth pastor on the south side of Chicago and I look forward to continue in youth ministry upon graduation. Thank again for you support. It means so much to me. EJ Jackson

I just want to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Broadway Covenant for your prayers and support over the past few years for our family and especially prayers for Chris. She is now in the loving arms of her Savior and finally at peace. Thank you for all the cards and out-pouring love you have shown our family, especially me, in the past 2 1/2 years that Chris was slowly declining. In Christ's Love, Cathy Alexander and family

# December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 Love Tree Gifts Due 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	3  6:00 Girl Scouts	4 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:15 Christmas Banquet	5  6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	6  10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	7	8
9 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	10	11 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus 6:30 LT Meeting	12  6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	13  10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	14	15
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	17 Messenger news due in office 6:00 Girl Scouts	18 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:00 Girl Scouts	19  6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	20  10:30 Men's Bible Study	21	22
23 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	24  5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28	29
30 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	31					

# Mission Report

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This month please pray for our local missions that we support either through our budget or donation of items: **Rock River Food Pantry:** They “fight hunger in the community by providing nutritious food to those in urgent need. The families that they serve have income at or below the poverty level. They struggle to stay afloat and one medical bill, major car repair or additional household expense can make a difference as to what is on the dinner table. Broadway collects peanut butter to give to the pantry to hand out with the food. There is an area at each entrance where you can drop off a jar or peanut butter. **Carpenter’s Place:** They serve the homeless by helping them to rebuild their lives. One of the main ways is to help them obtain jobs. The clients are given training on interviewing skills, communication skills, team building, problem solving, reliability and attendance. They also help them discover what jobs they would do well at. “In the last 12 months homeless adults achieved the following results: 179 obtained stable housing and 174 secured employment (136 full time & 36 part time)”. **Rock House Kids:** “is a non-profit organization that reaches out to children 6-18 years of age who are in need and offers them a safe warm nurturing environment. They offer a hot meal and instruction time with caring adults and send them home with a kid friendly food bag. They offer Bible classes, social activities, school support and seasonal gatherings.” There is a collection box and a list of needs by the office. They are also part of our Love Tree gifts. **Stateline Youth For Christ:** “They offer Christ centered mentoring relationships with overlooked, ignored and lost youth. They have 5 active campus sites at Lincoln, Kennedy, RESA, Auburn & Guilford. Their Juvenile Justice Ministry is developing a partnership with Rockford Reachout and are also implementing AfterCare as teens re enter the community. They also offer City Life which is open to any teenager. This ministry features free food, games, a biblically themed messages and the opportunity to build healthy Christ centered relationships”. **One Body Collaborative:** They help churches help people. “They operate a phone ministry and resource clearing house. Callers are referred by churches, ministries, friends and neighbors. One body will validate the need and match appropriate resources with the caller’s needs. They also help identify resource gaps in the community and then work to engage and equip local churches to provide those resources.”

## **Peter and Anna:**

**Praise:** Successful surgery for their daughter.

**Pray:** Full and complete recovery for her.

## **Fabio and Johnna Muniz-France**

**Pray:** They will find a place to live when they move to Lyon this month.

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## Leadership Team Update

Thank you to all who came to the annual meeting. The leadership team always welcomes questions and comments. Our team members are Theresa Gregorcy, Toni Cooper, Ken Yarwood, John Loven, Kim Schweitzer, Kathi Engstrom, Dave Holmertz, Pastor Mike Mirakian and Colleen Felts. Enjoy the advent season, as we prepare for the birth of our Lord and Savior.

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## 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.

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## 2019 Offering Envelopes

The 2019 offering envelopes are available for pick up in the north lobby.



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## Financial Report

As of 10-31-18 expenses have exceeded donations by \$9,126 which is substantial improvement from last month. Thank you. 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.

**December 2018  
Broadway Covenant  
Church**

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Worship Leader - Maggie Johnson  
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**We're on the Web**  
[www.broadwaycovenant.com](http://www.broadwaycovenant.com)

## 60 Plus

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Join 60 Plus, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 Darlene, 815-398-3902 by Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join you. Be thinking of restaurants where you would like to have lunch or things you would like to do in 2019. Let Darlene, Judi, Doug & Mary Gibson or Dave & Karen know before they meet in January to plan 2019.

