



January 2019

The Messenger

The *Immerse* Journey Continues - Pastor Mike Mirakian

I have been impressed with the wide and deep participation of our church in *Immerse: Messiah*. Since September, well over half the church has read the New Testament and joined together for engaging and theologically challenging discussions on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. What a joy it is to read God's word and allow the Spirit to form us individually and as a church body through the powerful truth of scripture.

Several years ago, the Leadership Team evaluated our church across 10 areas of mission and ministry, and we concluded that one point of strength at Broadway is our devotion to God's word. We love to read and study scripture, and we make real efforts as a church to incorporate the Bible into many, if not all, aspects of our ministry. I am grateful for the many ways God's word informs and shapes us.

Based on our strong participation in *Immerse: Messiah*, we have decided to continue the scripture reading journey this winter and spring. *Immerse: Beginnings* will lead us through the first five books of the Old Testament.

The discussion groups will continue meeting on Sunday mornings (9:00 a.m.), led by Colleen Felts and me, and on Wednesday evenings (6:30 p.m.), led by John Loven. The week of January 20, we will celebrate finishing the New Testament and introduce *Immerse: Beginnings*. If you have not yet joined a group, this will be a great opportunity to begin.

The first five books of the Old Testament, often referred to as the Pentateuch, set the stage for the rest of scripture and for God's loving relationship with humanity. The Pentateuch was written by Moses 3,500 years ago, telling about events from his own lifetime as well as ancient stories passed down by oral tradition and through the inspiration of God's Spirit.

We will read about God creating the world and everything in it. We will read about humanity's Fall into sin, and how God promised, from the very beginning, to provide redemption for the people He loves.

We will also meet the courageous, faithful – yet flawed – men and women God called to build up the nation of Israel and the family line through which the Messiah would eventually come. We will see how God led His people through dangers, temptations and captivity. There are wars, miracles, scandals, heartbreak, loss and triumph.

And we will spend time reading the law God gave Israel through Moses. Some of these sections may be challenging and tedious reading, but I trust we will find truth and inspiration even in these words. God's law reveals His character and points us toward His perfect will for how we should live, love others and honor Him.

Christians continue to read the Old Testament for several important reasons. First, it is God's inspired word, which means its truth is timeless and enduring. Second, God's character and purposes for humanity never change, so the God we meet in the OT is the same God we love and worship today. Third, the OT was the Bible Jesus read and taught. Fourth, the OT points ahead to Jesus' coming and helps us understand more fully why He died and rose again and how God's plan of redemption through Jesus unfolded over the centuries. For these reasons and others, we cherish the Old Testament.

Immerse: Beginnings books are available in the adult classroom (\$10 please), along with the reading schedule. Thank you to Colleen and John for helping lead the discussion groups and to everyone who has participated.



Birthdays

- 1 Wilhemina Kirkwood
- 2 Michele Johnson
- 4 Ryan Woodrow
- 8 Steve James
Michael Woodrow
- 10 Devin Boulware
- 11 Brandon Gasmund
- 13 Denise Suhr
- 14 Ralph Cartwright
- 15 Kathy Adams
Thelma Coates
- 16 Lisa Brown
Gordon Samuelson
- 18 Robin Robinson
Evie Gill
John Haase
- 23 Alex Brown
- 24 Tobin Holmertz
- 25 Teri LeJeune
- 26 Cheryl Ecklund
- 28 Maggie Johnson
- 31 Brett Holmertz



Anniversaries

- 2 Brett & Laura Holmertz
- 22 David & Karen Holmertz
- 29 Tim & Evie Gill

60 Plus 2019

60 Plus will not meet for lunch in January but plan to join us for our February 19th lunch. The planning committee: Doug & Mary Gibson, Judi Papka, Darlene Pearson and Dave and Karen Holmertz will meet in January to plan what we will do for the year. Let the committee know if you have a restaurant or something you would like 60 Plus to do in 2019 as soon as possible.

Serving in January

Head Usher:

Steve Schweitzer

Counters:

Randy Price
Dan Hitchcock

Nursery Workers:

1/6 Cathy Alexander & Laura Mirakian
1/13 Gene & Colleen Felts
1/20 Laura & Randy Price
1/27 Stacey Parlapiano & Amy Breese

Coffee Schedule:

1/6 Judi Papka
1/13 Dan & Aina Hitchcock
1/20 Amy Breese and Aiden
1/27 Gene & Colleen Felts



Remember in Prayer

Kathy Loven and family in the death of her mother.
The family of Ginny Roen who passed away.
Roger Creedy and family in the death of his step son Scott Seibold.

Devotionals for the New Year

Looking for a new devotional for the New Year? Check out the following suggestions which are available in both hard copy and as ebooks from christianbook.com and other vendors.

Restoration Year: A 365 Day Devotional by John Eldredge
Thomas Nelson 2018

Daily Wisdom for Women by various people Barbour Books 2018

Stand Strong: 365 Daily Devotions for Men by Men by various men
Discovery House 2018

Encouragement for Today: Devotions for Everyday Living by Lysa TerKeurst, et al Zondervan 2013

Daily Gifts of Grace: Devotions for Each Day of Your Year by various people Thomas Nelson 2013

In addition *The Covenant Home Altar* produced by the Covenant Church of America is also an excellent compilation of devotions. It is available quarterly in the southeast Narthex.

January

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

**January 2019
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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Rockford, IL 61108

Senior Pastor - Mike Mirakian
Worship Leader - Maggie Johnson
Phone - (815)399-9296

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

Mission Report

This month please pray for **Missionary Aviation repair Center (MARC)** located in Soldonta, Alaska. Their mission is “to expand the reach of the Gospel in Alaska by: flying people and supplies where there are no roads, supporting other missionaries and their aircraft, and training missionary-minded pilots and mechanics. MARC has provided a lifeline of hope to the remote villages, strengthened the ministry of Christians, and expanded the reach of the Gospel across the Alaskan frontier since 1964.” This past year has been a challenging year as 2 of their pilots left the ministry and they had 1 less aircraft. But in spite of this they were still able to do one of their most important missions: transport youth from the remote villages to give them the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. “They flew 381 youth (52 more than last year) from 23 villages to 4 different Bible Camps. Please pray for safety & wisdom and guidance for the pilots and mechanics.

Peter & Ruth Dutton-Thailand

Praise: For camps and events that have been able to host and partner at their camp over the last year.

Pray: for the future of “Grace Center” campground- that it will play a pivotal role in seeing their part of Thailand reached

Fabio & Johnna Muniz-France

Praise: They found an apartment in a perfect place.

Pray: for interactions with their new neighbors, and all the small business and governmental offices in the area.

Peter and Anna

Pray: For them to connect deeply with people whom they are mentoring and coaching-that God will bless these relationships and healing and growth will happen. Also, for continued healing for their daughter and that they will be able to follow-up on her medical conditions overseas.

Thank you Al Damrose for your dedication and service to the Mission Committee all of these years.