

February 2019



The Messenger

Another Year of Generous and Joyful Giving - Pastor Mike Mirakian

I recently completed my eighteenth year of pastoral ministry, having served three Covenant churches in three different conferences, including nearly six years here at Broadway. During this time, I have been amazed over and over by God's goodness and by the faithfulness of His people. This faithfulness is expressed through worship, service and financial sacrifice, enabling the mission of Jesus Christ to move forward.

To be honest, there have been years when the church I served struggled to and/or failed to meet its financial goals. Despite the generosity of many people and diligent oversight of talented leaders, sometimes the church faces money problems. I am grateful that Broadway has been financially healthy and wisely managed throughout my time here, and while we came up a bit short on our giving during 2018, our leadership had the foresight to save surplus funds from previous years.

As we make our way through 2019, I trust that God will again provide for each of us and our families in ways that enable our generous support of the church. Your faithful and consistent giving throughout the year allows us to meet our obligations and plan effectively for future ministry. Broadway is a generous church, and our leaders have proven themselves, over many years, to be wise and careful administrators of God's resources.

Giving is a spiritual discipline, not unlike prayer, and as a discipline, our giving habits need to be reinforced by both personal motivation and the encouragement of others. Just because we have established the discipline of giving doesn't mean we will automatically keep on giving at the level God desires. We need to renew our commitment to stewardship and invite the Spirit again to direct how we use the resources God has blessed us with.

When I introduce the offering during worship, I always read a short passage of scripture to encourage us, and one verse I often turn to is 2 Corinthians 9:7. It ends with the familiar statement, "God loves a cheerful giver." That's the positive side, and earlier in the verse, we read what our attitude in giving should not be: we should not give "reluctantly or under compulsion." In other words, we give freely, openly, faithfully, cheerfully, and not begrudgingly or from a place of guilt or threat.

You might pay your taxes reluctantly or even under compulsion (though Jesus would have us pay taxes without grumbling). You may not have a smile on your face as you pay your cable bill or your property taxes. But giving to support the work of God's kingdom should bring us joy for at least three reasons.

First, God has promised to enable our generous giving. He will supply our needs, even blessing us beyond what we need, as we faithfully commit to give sacrificially to the church. Giving is not a secret way to trick God into making you rich, but God has promised to enrich us so that we can be generous (2 Cor. 9:11).

Second, our giving makes possible the advancement of our mission. Jesus called His followers to share His love and message with people in need, and while we preach the gospel free of charge and give away the good news to all who seek it, our ministry needs the fuel of financial support.

Third, we can give confidently to Broadway because we know that those who manage our ministry do so with integrity and with hearts devoted to Jesus Christ. Money given to the church pays our staff, maintains our building, supplies our ministries and supports mission work.

Thank you for being faithful to Jesus and generous to our church.



Birthdays

- 5 Kent Drews
Paula Rasanen
- 6 Joyce Ball
- 7 Kim Lape
- 9 Carrie Pretzer
Keaton Price
- 10 Justin Holmertz
Dan Schweitzer
- 11 Elena Cultra
- 13 Gary Ecklund
Kathi Engstrom
- 15 Doug Swanson
Lauren Leidahl
- 16 Al Damrose
Andy Brown
- 17 Kelsey Ecklund
Odin LeJeune
- 19 Nancy Norman
- 20 Jason Holmertz
Roy Leidahl
- 24 Jeff Chapetta
- 28 David Holmertz



Anniversaries

- 16 Marvin & Joyce Goodsell
- 25 Maurie & Shirley Anderson
- 28 Larry & Patti Franzen

Serving in February

Head Usher:

Carl Ecklund

Counters:

Cheryl Ecklund & Jill Page

Nursery Workers:

- 2/3 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 2/10 Jeanine Heck & April Parker
- 2/17 Kathy Holmertz & Jon Brown
- 2/24 Barbara Rehnberg & Beth Pasch

Coffee Schedule:

- 2/3 Kent & Jean Drews
- 2/10 Keith & Kathy Holmertz
- 2/17 Dave & Kim Lape
- 2/24 George & Beth Plomos



Remember in Prayer

Todd & Elena Cultra in the death of Todd's grandmother, Dorothy Cultra

Thank You

A big thank you to all who gave food and monetary donations for the Thanksgiving baskets last year. Also, thank you to all who came on the Monday before Thanksgiving to fill and deliver baskets. You did a great job. We all made Thanksgiving a little happier for the these folks and we know they appreciated our care, and concern for them.

Financial Report from the Treasurer

We ended 2018 with our expenditures exceeding receipts by \$8,586. Thankfully we were able to cover the shortage with overages from prior years. Thanks to everyone for your faithful support of the Lord's work at Broadway.

60 Plus 2019

Plan now to join 60 Plus at the Hoffman House for lunch on February 19th at 12:00. (notice time change) Call Darlene 815-399-3902 with your reservations by February 17th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.



February

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

Mission Report

This month we are praying for **Fabio and Johnna Muniz** who are in **France**. They have just finished their language school and after a year and a half have a permanent home. Their “mission is to live out and teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ as cultural bridge builders to those who may not otherwise experience Jesus, those who may need help from separating a relationship with Christ from religiosity”. They are working on starting Cultural Fusion in Lyon. “Cultural Fusion is what takes place when people of all different backgrounds, beliefs, cultures and languages get together to practice languages, play and sing music and support refugees and immigrants. It is a place where lonely people can meet new friends, people with similar interests can find companionship, and those who feel like they’re on the margins can find a place to call home. It can be found in meetings that are international gatherings where people from different countries can discuss sociology, psychology, history, science, technology, current events, spirituality and the most fascinating and controversial person in history Jesus Christ. It can be experienced in cafes, homes, community centers and often involves music.” Please pray for Fabio & Johnna as they do all the prep work, laying foundation, for language and international groups (language study, forming relationships, preparing resources for foreigners moving there, places to volunteer to migrants and refugees and discerning what to say yes to during this important season).

Peter and Anna

Praise: Great Christmas and New Year with volunteers of their Family Service group.

Pray: For their family as they prepare to send their oldest son to boarding school for High School. For wisdom and understanding as they do their work during the current political times.

Alaska Christian College

Praise: With completion of Taikuu residence hall they are now able to use other on campus housing for 3 single moms and 2 married couples.

Pray: Students to grow into their identity in Christ and see themselves as his children. Wisdom and refreshment for Student Services Staff.

Leadership Team Update

Winter is always a good time of the year for projects. The leadership team is working on several right now.

- We see the need to organize our slides of the church history and put them in a digital format. If any one has interest in this, please notify any one on the LT.
- As the Christmas decorations came down, it is obvious that we have accumulated a great deal of clutter in some of the areas of the church. We are going to start that progress. Nothing will be thrown away until people have a chance to look at it. Then we will begin the process of giving it away and throwing it away. If you would like to be a part of this, let us know.
- Finally we are beginning the planning of a homecoming for this fall, John and Kathy Loven are working on this. Please let us know if this is an area you would like to participate in.

We need all of the members of this body to be an effective church. I thank God for each and every one of you. The members of the LT are Ken Yarwood, Theresa Gregory, Toni Cooper, John Loven, Kathi Engstrom, Kim Schweitzer, Dave Holmertz, Colleen Felts and Pastor Mike. Stay warm and enjoy your Immerse study.

Women Ministries Events

Julie’s Project 2019 first tie date - Saturday 2/23
9:30 am at First Covenant Fellowship Hall
(additional dates to be scheduled)

Encourage - Central Conference Spring Celebration, March 15-16 at Batavia Covenant Church. Speaker is Lisa Orris, cost is \$40. Watch for more information in the bulletin.

No. Ill. District Spring Meeting - April 13,
9:15 am at Valley Covenant Church in Stillman Valley

Triennial “I AM” – July 18-21 Minneapolis Marriott City Center (early registration ends 2/15.) For information go to iam.covchurch.org.

Fall Fellowship Women’s Retreat at Covenant Harbor, September 13-15

**February 2019
Broadway Covenant
Church**

3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

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

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

2018 Christmas Card Greetings from:

Dave & Karen Holmertz
Wes & Sue Nelson
Jonathan Brown
Dan & Aina Hitchcock
Karl & Cris Burdick
Al & Gladys Damrose
Colleen & Gene Felts
Sue Warren
Evie & Tim Gill
Darlene Pearson
Thelma Melquist
Mike Woodrow
Neva Anderson
Betty Lockett
Judi Papka
Bud & Pat Johnson



Jerry & Charmel Jacobs
John & Kathy Loven
Todd & Elena Cultra
Betty Klaung
Alice Tsai
Cathy Tsai
Theresa & Perry Gregorcy
Harbor Point Ministries
The Central Conference of the ECC
Rock House Kids
The Muniz Family
Rockford Rescue Mission
Ceroni Piping