



March 2019

The Messenger

Our Journey through the Old Testament - Pastor Mike Mirakian

We live in a culture obsessed with the new and the next. From technology to health care, even fashion trends, everything seems to run on the theory that what's new must be what's best. In some ways, new things in our lives are blessings, like new medications that help heal diseases and new ways to communicate with people far away. But let's not give up on all the old things, just yet.

Including the Old Testament. The New Testament, at 2,000 years of age, is quite ancient compared to most of what our modern world values, and the Old Testament pushes human understanding and experiences with God back thousands of years further. But that doesn't mean the Old Testament has lost its value in our spiritual lives. We can still learn about God and hear His voice speaking through the most ancient passages of scripture.

Many of us are reading through the first and oldest five books of the Bible in *Immerse: Beginnings*. In March, we will read Exodus and Leviticus, and I will preach on Israel's exodus wanderings. Some of this material may feel quite ancient and foreign. There are laws about how to eat and what cloths to wear. There are stories of battles between people we have never heard of in places we may never visit.

Still, the Old Testament is God's holy and inspired word just as much as the Gospels, Paul's letters and the rest of the New Testament. I love to read and teach the Old Testament, in part because it is so foreign to us, so far removed from our experience; and yet, we still find God's truth there and discover how He, from the earliest days of humanity, pointed ahead to the plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. We learn in the Old Testament that God doesn't change and that He is patient, gracious and compassionate toward people like us who often rebel against our Creator and Redeemer.

On Sunday, March 24, we will also be blessed with a special guest preacher who I trust will help us find new ways to appreciate the power of God's word, Old and New. That morning, we will welcome Justin Kron, a missionary with Chosen People Ministries, who shares the good news of Jesus with Jewish people and helps the larger Christian church support evangelism in the Jewish world. Justin will speak about why Jesus had to die to save us, connecting the Old Testament promises of God to the New Testament story of Jesus' death and resurrection.



Justin Kron
Sunday, March 24
"Why Did He Have to Die?"



CHOSEN PEOPLE
MINISTRIES



Birthdays

- 2 John Loven
Deon Woodard
- 5 Dick Rasanen
Gerald Bauer
- 7 David Roen
Danny Jones
- 11 Roger Creedy
- 12 Peggy Frint
- 14 Marvin Goodsell
Judy Prather
- 17 Colleen Felts
Derek Melin
- 18 JoAnn Olson
- 19 Beth Cates
- 24 Shirley Anderson
- 25 Rachel McCulloch
- 26 Joyce Goodsell
Patrick McCulloch
- 27 Alice Nelson
- 28 Betty Lockett
- 30 Kelsey Melin
Colton Whitney
Teague Whitney



Anniversaries

- 27 Cheryl & Carl Ecklund

Serving in March

Head Usher:

Tom Heck

Counters:

Jim Page and Steve Schweitzer

Nursery Workers:

- 3/3 Cathy Alexander and John Brown
- 3/10 Barbara Rehnberg and Beth Pasch
- 3/17 Laura & Randy Price
- 3/24 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 3/31 Kathy Holmertz and Amy Breese

Coffee Schedule:

- 3/3 Dave & Karen Holmertz
- 3/10 Marcia Johnson
- 3/17 Kent & Jean Drews
- 3/24 John & Kathy Loven
- 3/31 Todd & Elena Cultra



Remember in Prayer

Thelma Melquist in the death of her son, Jim Friemuth

Daylighting Savings Time



Spring forward on Sunday morning, March 10th, move your clock ahead at 2:00 a.m.

60 Plus 2019

Join 60 Plus for lunch March 19th, 11:30 a.m. at Stockholm Inn. Please call your reservation to Darlene 815-398-3902 by March 17th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.



Stockholm Inn

March

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 6:00 Girl Scouts	6 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	7 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	8	9
10 2:00 DST 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 11:30 60 Plus at Stockholm Inn 6:00 Girl Scouts	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 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	29	30
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship						

Mission Report

This month we are praying for **Peter and Ruth Dutton**. They have been in the mission field since 1988 and have 2 grown children. Currently they are serving in **Thailand**. Thailand has had Christian missionaries for more than 100 years but less than 1% of the population are Christians. The Covenant Church is focusing on the Isaan community in the northeast part of Thailand. Peter & Ruth's church was given a campground. They are using this campground to spread the gospel and strengthen the church. Their vision is to "sponsor camps and to open the use of their facilities to the work of the wider body of Christ in Thailand." Soon after they decided this there were several groups who were interested in conducting a camp on church planting and learning about the development and lessons learned from a new movement in central Thailand. Two months after those camps they learned from several groups that there were more than 25 new believers. In looking to the future, they would love to build more cabins and sleeping space, finish off their large meeting hall and build a dormitory to house 100 kids during school breaks. Peter and Ruth also teach English As A Second Language at a school For the Performing Arts, which is a combination of High School and Junior College. They recently held an ESL camp at their campground. Please pray for the future of their campground that they will play a pivotal role in seeing their part of Thailand reached.

Praise & Prayer

Peter and Anna:

Praise: That the people they are mentoring are slowly changing.

Pray: For the director of their agency who has been dealing with emotional stress. Also, for the person leading the marriage seminar and that it will be well attended.

Covenant Youth of Alaska:

Praise: For James who has served many roles during his ministry in Alaska.

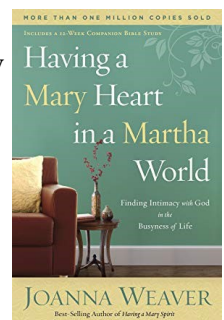
Pray: For the youth that are being mentored that they would live their lives for Jesus.

Leadership Team Update

The annual report is now available in the narthex or church office. Please pick one up, and bring it to the annual meeting in May. Our Leadership team is available to pray for you or answer questions. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us. Thank you, Toni Cooper, Theresa Gregorcy, Ken Yarwood, John Loven, Kathi Engstrom, Dave Holmertz, Kim Schweitzer and Colleen Felts.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship. Starting February 26, we will start a new study based on the book, Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, by Joanna Weaver. All women welcome. This is a good time to join us. We meet Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.



WM Spring Celebration

There's still time to register for "Encourage" the Spring Celebration to be held in Batavia on March 15 and 16. Come for just Saturday if that fits better with your schedule. Lisa Orris is the speaker. There are copies with information on the table in the northeast narthex. Cost is \$40. They are available on the Central Conference website, www.centralconferencewomenministries.com. Click on *Brochure and Registration* to download. Save Saturday, April 13 for our Northern Illinois District Meeting at Valley Covenant Church.



**March 2019
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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Worship Leader - Maggie Johnson
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We're on the Web
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