

April 2019



# The Messenger

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## We Believe the Easter Story - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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After our long, cold winter, it seems fitting that Easter comes late this spring, not until April 21. By then, the ugly snow piles should be a distant memory and the green grass should be ready for mowing. Spring will be in full bloom, fulfilling God's annual promise to bring renewal and rebirth to His good world. In the same way, and with infinitely greater significance, God fulfilled His promise to send us a Savior who would die and rise again.

Believing that Jesus rose from the dead is the centerpiece of our faith. He walked out of His own tomb and left behind His burial cloths as evidence that He was once dead but now lives forever. We believe the story. We believe it actually happened, just as we believe that the sun will rise tomorrow just as it did today. We believe, not because we were there to witness it or have seen Him with our own eyes, but because we experience His living presence in our hearts and witness it in the people around us.

Jesus is alive and His Spirit dwells within us. We know it's true, just as we know spring follows winter. We believe the Easter story, and it makes us who we are.

If not, we are fools who worship a dead man. If not, we are deceived and spread a worthless deception to others. If Jesus didn't rise, then, as Paul wrote, "we are of all people most to be pitied" (1 Cor. 15:19).

Believing in Jesus' resurrection also gives us an unshakeable hope for our own eternal future. Jesus rose, and so will we. Jesus overcame the grave, and so will we. Jesus lives forever, and so will we.

In the midst of our ever-darkening culture and its ever-growing doubts about all things spiritual and divine, we hold fast to the truth of Jesus' resurrection and the hope of everlasting life in His name. We believe it in our hearts, and we share this story publicly. Like every generation of Jesus' followers, from Paul's time until now, we boldly proclaim the centerpiece of our faith, calling those who are lost in sin to be found in the grace of God. Jesus still offers forgiveness and new life to all who come to Him in faith.

I hope you will set aside time in the coming weeks to rejoice in God's grace as you remember Jesus' death and resurrection. And I hope you will find opportunities to tell His story. Maybe a door will even open for you to invite someone you care about to join us for worship.

I also want to encourage you to join with our local Covenant brothers and sisters during Holy Week. First Covenant is inviting the people of Broadway and Bethesda to join them for a Maundy Thursday dinner and worship service, April 18 at 5:30 p.m. (Broadway will host the Maundy Thursday service again next year.) Bethesda's Community Good Friday Service will be April 19 at noon. These are wonderful opportunities to build unity with our larger Covenant family as we celebrate our shared faith in what Jesus has done for us.

## Mission Report

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This month we are praying for Alaska Christian College which is located in Soldonta Alaska. Their vision is "to empower Alaska natives through biblically based education and Christian formation to pursue excellence in character, learning, and service as followers of Christ. Their vision is to be the premier college of choice for Alaska native students so that their graduates follow and serve Christ within the church and larger society." They have 4 Associate Degrees: Behavioral Health, General studies, Christian Ministry, and Paraprofessional Education. The most important thing for the staff at ACC is to provide instruction, resources and support services that will help the students reach their goals. They care about all the students and want what is best for them. According to their website "Alaska Christian College is about community. We get to know each student on a personal level. You won't get lost in the crowd." Their college life is more than academics. They also have spiritual development. They have evening worship with music and singing and Wednesday Chapel with inspiring guest speakers. They also have mentors for guidance and support. ACC has extra-curricular activities that include ultimate frisbee, trips to the beach, hiking trips, basketball city leagues, fully equipped fitness center and student lounge with table tennis, pool table, TV and board games. Please pray for the students as they finish out their school year and are making plans for their future.

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

Praise - They started their first "Meetup" - English conversation at Starbucks.

Pray - They will continue to make connections and friendships.

### **Harbor Point Ministries**

Praise - Covenant Harbor is expanding their partnership with Jill's House "A National Organization that enables families raising children with intellectual disabilities to experience a weekend of rest."

Pray - For upcoming camps this summer, that all who want to attend will be able to do so and that they would experience God in their lives.

## Leadership Team Update

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The Central Conference Annual Meeting is Friday April 26 through Saturday April 27. We can have three delegates. If you would like to be a delegate, please let Colleen know. It is at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, so an easy drive from here.



We are working on cleaning the closets in the basement. We will be announcing when we are ready to have anyone interested look, and take what they would like. The cry room is being remodeled. We will now call it the quiet room reflecting a room to be close to the worship, while being in a quiet setting.

As always, feel free to contact anyone on the leadership team with ideas or questions. Thank you, Toni Cooper, Theresa Gregorcy, Ken Yarwood, John Loven, Kathi Engstrom, Dave Holmertz, Kim Schweitzer, Colleen Felts and Pastor Mike Mirakian.

## NIDWM Spring Gathering

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Join with women from around our district on Saturday, April 13 at Valley Covenant Church in Stillman Valley. Registration is at 9:15 am with brunch at 9:30 am. Cost is \$7.00. Nancy Ellis from Belvidere Evangelical Covenant Church will be sharing about "The Joy in Christ" Toy Distribution Ministry. This ministry has been chosen to receive our "Julie's Project - 2019" blankets. There will also be an opportunity to help tie a few blankets during the morning - no skills required! RSVP by April 10<sup>th</sup> to Lori Schultz at 815-234-2860 or call Carolyn Augenson at 815-398-6814. We will plan to car pool to Stillman.

# April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 6:00 Carol Circle Potluck at Swansons	2 ELECTION DAY  8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	3 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	4 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	8	9 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:30 LT Meeting 6:30 RG Meeting	10 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	11 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship <i>Palm Sunday</i> 	15 6:00 Girl Scouts	16 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Baci's 6:00 Girl Scouts	17 3:00 Memorial Service @ FCRC For Ginny Roen 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	18 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	19	20
21 9:00 Breakfast 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship <i>Happy Easter</i> 	22 Messenger news due in office	23 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	24 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	25 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	26 Central Conference Annual Meeting	27 Central Conference Annual Meeting
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	29	30 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship				



## Birthdays

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- 1 Aiden Gasmund
- 3 Pat Johnson
- 4 Emily Holmertz
- 6 Joyce Cosman
- 7 Kendra Ecklund
- 10 Kellen Price
- 12 Meagan Haase
- 13 Grace Hulstedt  
Theresa Gregory  
April Parker  
Mitchell Wimbush III
- 19 Brian Beyerl  
Jesse Starr
- 20 Kristi Swanson
- 22 Karlee Swanson
- 23 Toni Cartwright  
Alice Tsai
- 24 Doug Boettcher  
Jeff Brown  
Jamise Roberts
- 26 Don Davis
- 29 Dan Hitchcock  
Kari Whitney  
Jeff Irelan



## Anniversaries

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- 7 Theresa & Perry Gregory
- 11 Gene & Louise Peterson
- 16 Roy & Janel Leidahl
- 26 William & Kathryn Forsen  
Carrie & Paul Pretzer

## Serving in April

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### Head Usher:

Steve Schweitzer

### Counters:

Bill Forsen & Carolyn Augenson

### Nursery Workers:

- 4/7 Laura Mirakian & Jon Brown
- 4/14 Stacey Parlapiano & Cathy Alexander
- 4/21 Kathy Holmertz & Colleen Felts
- 4/28 Gene & Colleen Felts

### Coffee Schedule:

- 4/7 Amy & Aiden Breese
- 4/14 Dan & Aina Hitchcock
- 4/21 Judi Papka
- 4/28 Gene & Colleen Felts



## Remember in Prayer

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**Thelma Melquist** in the death of her son, Jim Friemuth

**Kent Drews** recovering from surgery.

**Andrew Olson**, Evie Gill's nephew, undergoing treatment for lymphoma.

## Celebrate with Carl Lindberg

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Carl, who served as our worship leader last year, is getting married! Carl and Ashlyn's wedding will be June 16 in Bremerton, WA. If you would like to send Carl a note, you can reach him at [carljindberg@gmail.com](mailto:carljindberg@gmail.com) or 37616 SE 83rd Place, Snoqualmie, WA 98065.

## 60 Plus

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Join 60 Plus for lunch on April 16th, 11:30 AM at Baci's, 2990 N. Perryville Rd. Please call your reservation to Darlene 815-398-3902 by April 15th and let her know if you need a ride. Invite others to join us.

## Maundy Thursday



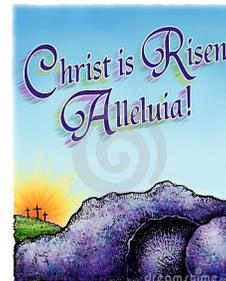
First Covenant Church, 316 Wood Rd, Rockford, IL 61107, will host a soup and communion service the evening of April 18th. Dinner is at 5:30 followed by service at 6:30 p.m. Plan to join this combined church event. You can sign up in

the front lobby or call our church office (815-399-9296) by Monday, April 15th when our list will be passed on to First Covenant.



## Easter Breakfast

We will be serving breakfast from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. on Easter morning. A minimum contribution of \$3 for children under 12 and \$5 for adults with a family cost of \$15 is suggested. All your donations are appreciated as the money will be used for the Broadway Covenant Care Fund. Please sign up in the front lobby or call the office by Thursday April 18th to make your reservation.



## Community Good Friday Service

Bethesda Covenant Church will host this event on Friday, April 19th from noon until 3:00 p.m. Plan to attend and hear seven people speak on the last words of Christ.



## Easter Plants

We will be having another glorious display of spring flowers and lilies for our Easter service this year. Fill out this form or call the office to reserve your plant. The price is \$16 and checks should be made out to Broadway Covenant Church with "Easter Plant" in the memo.



## Upcoming Events

- Broadway Covenant Church Annual Meeting - plan to join us on Sunday, May 19 following the worship service.
- 2019 Covenant Women Ministries Triennial - "I AM", will be held in Minneapolis this July. There are invitation cards and pricing information in the church office. You can also visit [iam.covchurch.org](http://iam.covchurch.org) to learn more or register to attend.
- Global 6K for Water - First Covenant is sponsoring this walk on Saturday, May 4th with check in at 8:30 and walk at 9:00 a.m. Visit the World Vision website for more information.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

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In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

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**April 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](http://www.broadwaycovenant.com)**