

May 2019



The Messenger

Joining Together in Mission - Pastor Mike Mirakian

Like some of you, I did not grow up in a Covenant church. I have no Swedish blood in me, and as far as I can remember, I had only visited one Covenant church before beginning my seminary education. My family attended Presbyterian churches during my childhood, but I had some theological reservations about serving in that denomination. So, when I realized God was leading me into pastoral ministry, I had to find a new church home, a search that led me to the ECC.

One of the factors that drew me to the Covenant, and that I still feel strongly about, is congregational polity. That is, our churches are governed by the members of the church, rather than by denominational officials who hold authority over local churches. In Covenant churches, members elect leaders, approve budgets and make all the critical decisions related to running the church and its ministries.

We take seriously the “priesthood of all believers,” a New Testament doctrine that invites all followers of Jesus to join together in the church’s mission and ministry. While we acknowledge the importance of called, gifted and ordained clergy, we don’t hold pastors up above other believers as though they deserve special reverence or authority. All followers of Jesus are gifted and called to serve the church in a variety of ways, according to the wisdom of God’s Spirit. All believers share authority and responsibility within the church.

I raise this because we are in the season of important church meetings. Broadway will hold our Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19; the Central Conference Celebration (annual meeting) took place the last week of April; and Gather, the Covenant Annual Meeting, is coming up at the end of June in Omaha. These meetings matter for Covenant churches because we value the voices and contributions of all our members.

During our meeting on May 19, we will elect (and re-elect) Leadership Team members, hear ministry and financial reports, and consider how to move forward together on important ministry initiatives. One issue we will consider is how our church can help support the Central Conference’s vision to plant a Latina Covenant church in Rockford. The conference hopes to expand our reach into the growing diversity of our community, and they are seeking the help of the established churches in our district. Together, our congregations can help fund and encourage a new church body that will reach the fast-growing Latino population around Rockford.

In similar ways, but on a larger scale, decisions made at the Covenant Annual Meeting help shape the future of our shared ministry. The Covenant supports international mission and relief work and provides resources to local churches that enable our ministry. The Covenant also ordains pastors and sets guidelines for how pastors should teach and care for the people of our churches. Decisions made at the Annual Meeting impact ministry within every Covenant church, as is the case with recent discussions around human sexuality.

Congregational polity is a blessing and a heavy responsibility. We each have a voice and a vote. Please be in prayer for the upcoming meetings, and as you feel led, add your voice to the decision-making process. All members are encouraged to attend Broadway’s Annual Meeting in May, and if you would like to serve as a delegate to the Covenant Annual Meeting, please talk with me or a member of the Leadership Team.



Birthdays

- 6 Pat Gasmund
- 9 Karl Burdick
Kathy Holmertz
- 11 Zach Bickford
- 12 Sylvia Bowman
- 14 Laura Price
- 16 Gladys Damrose
Izzy Parlapiano
- 17 Susan Nelson
Mike Mirakian
- 18 Pat Retzlaff
Tyler Swanson
- 19 Neva Anderson
- 21 Anna McCulloch
- 23 Amy Breese
- 30 Brooke Bamberger

Serving in May

Head Usher:

Keith Holmertz

Counters:

Robin Robinson & Gene Felts

Nursery Workers:

- 5/5 Laura & Randy Price
- 5/12 Cathy Alexander & Jon Brown
- 5/19 Barbara Rehnberg & Beth Pasch
- 5/26 Laura Mirakian & Colleen Felts

Coffee Schedule:

- 5/5 Kent & Jean Drews
- 5/12 Keith & Kathy Holmertz
- 5/19 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 5/26 Dave & Kim Lape



Remember in Prayer

Jeff Irelan in the death of his brother, Joe.

John Loven in the passing of his mother.

Congratulations to:

Emily and Brian Lorbach on the birth of their baby girl, Joanna Irene, who was born on Monday, April 1st. Proud grandparents are Arlene & Bob Schweiger.



Anniversaries

- 2 Jerry & Charmel Jacobs
- 12 Kari & Tyler Whitney
- 14 Jason & Shelby Holmertz

60 Plus

Plan now to join 60 Plus at Ned's Family Restaurant, 2132 Business Route 20 for lunch May 21st at 11:30 a.m. Call Darlene 815-398-3902 with your reservations by May 20th and let her know if you need a ride. Invite others to join us.

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	2 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	3	4 8:30 Global 6K For Water @ 1st Cov.
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	6 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Carol Circle Potluck at Swanson's	7 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:00 Girl Scouts	8 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	9 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	13	14 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:30 LT Meeting	15 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	16 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship BCC Lunch and Annual Meeting	20 Messenger news due in office 6:00 Girl Scouts	21 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Ned's 6:00 Girl Scouts	22 6:30 Immerse Discussion Group	23 10:30 Men's Bible Study 6:30 Boys Scouts	24 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal	25 1:00 Gonzales Wedding
26 10:00 Prayer 10:15 Worship	27 Happy Memorial Day Office closed	28 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	29	30 10:30 Men's Bible Study	31	

Mission Report

This month we are praying for **Bridge Ministries and Rockford Area Habitat For Humanity**. **Bridge Ministries'** goal is to transform Rockford by everyone working together. "Some of the ways they are doing this are the following: building trust and friendship with and between church and community leaders; collaborating with local churches to meet practical needs in our community; leading prayer gatherings in city hall, at the school board and throughout the city, networking churches, pastors, clergy groups and non-profit organizations to foster greater oneness and cooperation; working to bring racial reconciliation to the city and providing prayer opportunities around the city." **Rockford Area Habitat For Humanity** "seeks to put God's love into action by bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope. They are dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. It was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all." This year the Covenant churches are building a home for a woman, her son & grandson. If you are interested in helping the construction contact Jonathan Brown at 815-399-5578. Broadway will be providing lunches for about 60 workers on Saturday June 15th. If you are interested in helping with the lunches contact Sue Warren at 815-397-3158 or suswarren3326@comcast.net.

Peter and Anna

Praise: That time spent with a couple they were mentoring also included learning to make homemade noodles.

Pray: For wisdom in making good decisions in their leadership roles.



Leadership Team Update

We will be having our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, May 19, after church. There are several items to be discussed. The Covenant is considering a church plant in the Rockford area. We also are going to discuss the roof. We will have a light lunch. Please plan on attending.

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.

Take a look . . .

The closet and cupboards in the dining room alcove have been cleaned. The items on the pew will be donated at the end of the month. Please take time to look to see if there is anything you want, or feel we need to keep.



Upcoming Events

- 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 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.



**May 2019
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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Worship Leader - Maggie Johnson
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We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com