

June 2019



The Messenger

A New Vision for Reaching our Community - Pastor Mike Mirakian

During our congregational meeting on May 19, we discussed an opportunity for Broadway to join together with other local Covenant churches and the Central Conference to help plant a new church seeking to reach the Latino community in Rockford. It's an exciting opportunity for the Covenant, for Broadway, for Rockford, and most of all, for the Kingdom.

The Central Conference has not yet determined where the new church should begin its ministry, possibly at Broadway or at First Covenant, but each of the northern Illinois congregations has been asked to support this vision with finances, prayer and building relationships with the new church. Broadway will donate to the church plant up to \$25,000 over the next three years, a sum that will be added to similar donations from the other local churches and matched by both the Central Conference and the national Covenant denomination.

Reaching the Rockford Latino community is a worthy and important goal. About one third of our city's population is Latino, and while there are a few churches reaching into this fast-growing population, none of our existing Covenant churches have been effective at drawing Latinos into our congregations. The neighborhood around Broadway, including Rolling Green and beyond, is about 40% Latino. We believe that everyone needs to know Jesus and to be welcomed into the church. If a new ministry can reach this segment of our community better than we can, we should be grateful to support their efforts. All the better that this new church plant will be a Covenant ministry, sharing Biblical values and meaningful relationships with Broadway and our existing sister churches.

Should Broadway end up hosting the church plant, we will be called upon to open our doors and our hearts to new brothers and sisters, sharing our building and our lives with the church's pastor and the people they reach. What a great gift we would be able to give to the new church, and what a gift their ministry and presence would be to Broadway! We trust that the Spirit will guide Superintendent Danny Martinez and his church planting team as they make important decisions in the coming days.

Joining in the vision and work of planting a new church also provides an opportunity for deepening relationships with our sister churches. We are not alone in ministry, and it is a great blessing to have several Covenant churches nearby. We can love each other in times of fellowship, join together for worship and service, and rejoice in seeing the Spirit move at each church and in the lives of all our members.

Please join me in praying for the Central Conference, for Pastor Danny and his team, and for the church plant pastor and his or her family who will soon be moving to Rockford to begin a new chapter in their lives. Every church that seeks to honor Jesus relies on the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit, along with the blessing of God. Church plants, in particular, require tremendous faith, prayer and the steadfast commitment of God's people to nurture the new church from a dream into the reality of a growing congregation.

Please also be in prayer for Gather 2019, the Covenant Annual Meeting in Omaha the last week of June. I will attend the Ministerium meeting and represent Broadway at the Annual Meeting. Several leadership transitions are underway in the Covenant and important issues will be addressed, including revisions to the clergy pension plan. It is also likely that issues related to the Covenant's position on human sexuality and marriage will be raised. Life together in the church is not always simple, but it is a blessing worth working at and supporting.

Rockford Church Planting 2019

What? The Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church is led to start a church in the Rockford Area. Due to the Covenant presence and the growing diversity, it seems to be the proper time for this investment and unification of the local churches to grow and reach an underserved area.

Who? The church planting process searches for the right location, right people to plant and financial partnerships to facilitate planting a healthy and missional church. We currently have 5 couples in consideration for the Rockford Church plant. The decision has been made to start a Latina (Spanish speaking) church due to the large minority of Latinos/Hispanics in the area.

When? Since the new church planters most likely would have to relocate to Rockford, there will be a period of adjustment and getting to know the communities. We expect this period to be 3 to 6 months before a service starts. A group of 30 is required to start the weekly worship. Funds would start being allocated starting in June 2019.

How? This is a collaboration between the Evangelical Covenant Church, The Central Conference and the local churches of Rockford and the surrounding area. A third of the budget will be provided by each, which translates to \$8333 per partnering church, per year. This is a three-year commitment.

Additional considerations needed are love offerings dedicated to moving expenses, furniture, hospitality towards the new family, investment in the new church plant. Showing them around town, connecting them to people that can attend, serving in the launch team to make church happen, attending first services to serve or to support.

This has the potential to bring life into the church that is investing. This helps mobilize the church to serve outside the 4 walls and into a new demographic that is underserved. This also gives the congregation the opportunity to be generous in a specific missional way.

Why? Church planting is the best method of evangelism. We believe God is calling us to do this. This makes financial and ecclesiastic sense. This will cause a revival in Rockford if all the churches commit to pray, love and invest the new church plant.

How can you help? Pray, get involved, invest. God knows your heart and he will placed something specific in you if you ask.

Sincerely,

Rev. Danny Martinez, Superintendent

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	3 6:00 Girl Scouts 6:00 Carol Circle Potluck at Swanson's	4 8:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 LT Meeting	5	6	7	8
9 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	10	11 8:30 Morning Prayer	12	13	14	15 10:00 Prepare Habitat Lunches
16 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	17	18 8:30 Morning Prayer 11:30 60 Plus at Sophia's	19	20	21	22
23 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	24 Messenger news due in office	25 8:30 Morning Prayer	26	27	28	29
30 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship						



Birthdays

- 1 Steve Abrahamson
- 2 Kathy Loven
- 3 Ann Chapetta
- 4 Brianna Haase
- 7 Janel Mamer
- 8 Stacey Parlapiano
Mike Pasch
- 9 Aina Hitchcock
Jim Page
Sophie Gray
- 10 Darlene Edwards
- 13 Laura Schweitzer
Christopher Jones
- 14 Mary Beth Jones
- 15 Tim Gill
Brad Johnson
- 16 Larry Franzen
- 23 Cathy Alexander
Alice McCulloch
- 25 Erin Clark
- 26 Patti Franzen
Brad Gasmund
- 30 Shazma Jones



Anniversaries

- 8 Dick & Paula Rasanen
- 10 Bud & Pat Johnson
- 11 Doug & Kristi Swanson
- 15 Don and Donna Davis
- 16 Danny & Mary Beth Jones
- 17 Beth & Mike Pasch
- 19 Mike & Laura Mirakian
- 24 Derek & Christina Melin
- 25 Doug & Mary Gibson
- 27 Albert & Gladys Damrose
- 28 Royce & Beth Cates
- 29 Bruce & Michele Johnson
Robert & Arlene Schweiger

Serving in June

Counters:

Jim Page & Sue Warren

Nursery Workers:

- 6/2 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 6/9 Jeanine Heck & April Parker
- 6/16 Kathy Holmertz & Laura Mirakian
- 6/23 Jon Brown & Amy Breese
- 6/30 Barbara Rehnberg & Beth Pasch

Coffee Schedule:

- 6/2 Dave & Karen Holmertz
- 6/9 Marcia Johnson
- 6/16 Ryan & Kara Woodrow
- 6/23 John & Kathy Melin
- 6/30 Todd & Elena Cultra



Thank You

Alice Tsai would really like to thank the people who sent her birthday cards and some presents, too. It really made her day! Thanks so much to Broadway Covenant Church for being my church family!

2019 Graduates

If you or anyone in your family is graduating from high school, college or graduate school this year please submit their names and school to the church office by calling 815-399-9296 or emailing sue@broadwaycovenant.com.



60 Plus

60 Plus will meet at Sophia's Restaurant, 5467 Bridge Street, Roscoe, IL for lunch Tuesday, June 18th at 11:30. Make your reservations with Darlene 815-398-3902 by June 16th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.

Mission Report

As we approach summer it is time to think about camping. The Covenant has 2 camps located in the Central Conference. **Covenant Harbor** is located in Lake Geneva, WI. They have winter and summer camps. During the summer they serve over 2900 campers and their winter camps serve over 1000 students. Each camp experience is dedicated to reaching people for Christ and encourage students to love others. **Covenant Point** is located in Iron River, MI. their mainland area is a 13 acre peninsula on Hagerman Lake. Their "Back 40" Wilderness is largely undeveloped and is home to their high and low rope courses, a tree house, 2 yurts that each sleep 8 and their Nature Center. They have an 8 acre island 1 mile from the mainland and is a unique wilderness setting for youth campers. Children and adults from all backgrounds come together at both camps to grow in their faith in Jesus. The following are some comments about the camps: "I always meet Jesus at camp" - a camper; "Our son came home with a desire to be a worship leader someday. He wants to read his bible everyday and work on personal self-control. We see a difference in him" - camper's parent; "Our kids got to be kids for a week . . . no worries or turmoil. They were listened to and cared for in new ways. They learned about God and his love. They came home feeling successful for the first time in their lives." - Homeless Shelter Director.

We are also praying for **Covenant Children's Home** in Princeton which now houses **Freedom House**. Freedom House's mission is "to provide compassionate, confidential free services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault as well as awareness and prevention education in their community." They do this through domestic violence programs, equine-facilitated therapy and sexual violence programs.

Fabio and Johnna Muniz-France

Praise: They received their 5 year residence card. God gave them strength and courage when they were feeling weak and vulnerable.

Pray: Sophia would continue to make good friends. Upcoming English social they are hosting.

Leadership Team Update

We are so grateful for all Steve Schweitzer does for the property team to keep our church maintained and beautiful. The leadership team is excited and praying for the church plant coming to Rockford. Please keep our church in your prayers as God continues to direct our ministries. Please continue to call and ask questions regarding our church. The LT is staying consistent for the next year. They are Toni Cooper, Theresa Gregorcy, Ken Yarwood, John Loven, Kim Schweitzer, Kathi Engstrom, Dave Holmertz and Colleen Felts

Ladies Night Out

All Broadway women are invited to meet at Red Lobster Monday, July 1 at 6:00pm. This is always an enjoyable evening so please plan to come. Reservations can be made with Kristi

Swanson by calling her at (815)398-7960 or her cell at (815)262-4212. Or email her at kristen_swanson_92@comcast.com.

(Note – spaces in her address are _.) Please make your reservation no later than June 26.

Hope to see you there.



Light Piercing Darkness

Information is now available in the adult Sunday school room for Women Ministries Fall Fellowship September 13 - 15. If you wanted to go to Triennial but didn't, use this opportunity to renew and refresh at Covenant Harbor. Registration is open as of June 1 and is on a first come first served basis. Cost depends on where you stay. There are some scholarships available from the Central Conference. Information and forms are on the front counter in the office. Please pick up a brochure for all the details. Our own Colleen Felts is one of the workshop presenters. See Neva Anderson or Carolyn Augenson with any questions.

**June 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