

July 2019



The Messenger

We Could All Use Some Re-creation - Pastor Mike Mirakian

One of the pastors I knew while growing up would often say the same thing each summer after returning from a week or two of vacation. He would tell the church that he had enjoyed a nice time of “re-creation.” In one way, it’s just a silly pun, a clever way to justify spending some fun time with family and away from work. Vacation, he was saying, wasn’t just recreational fun, it was something redemptive and meaningful, a time of being created anew through days of rest and leisure.

Over the years, I have come to appreciate that notion of re-creation and might even appropriate it for my own time away from church responsibilities this summer. My family has already been to Kansas to visit my parents, and in July we will travel to Ohio to see Laura’s family and then spend a few days in Door County. It will be nice to be away and experience some re-creation.

I hope you can experience the same. Re-creation doesn’t have to include travel or time away from work. In fact, it should be a normal part of our daily and weekly routines, not just something we schedule during the summer. From devotional Bible reading and daily prayer to setting aside a Sabbath rest each week, we should routinely invite God to restore and renew us. Re-creation can happen even as we enjoy time with family or breath in God’s goodness while walking outside or gazing up at the stars.

It doesn’t matter where or when, it just matters that you are intentional to invite God’s grace and healing touch to refresh your soul. We all need those times of re-creation, and we need them more often than once a year.

The truth is, we humans get tired. God never slumbers or sleeps. He doesn’t need rest or time away from His weighty responsibilities. But we are not like God in that way. In fact, I think God created us to need rest so we would have to set aside our work and turn off our busy brains at the end of each day, and so we would yearn for a day each week to be still and quiet in His presence. Sleep is a gift from God (Psalm 127:2), as is Sabbath rest (Mark 2:27).

The Bible doesn’t tell us that Jesus took vacations, but He certainly found time away from the demands of ministry to rest and be alone with God. He would rise early to pray. He often went off to quiet places by Himself or with just a couple close friends. He traveled with His disciples along peaceful paths between villages. He liked to sail across the Sea of Galilee, at least in part because it afforded Him some downtime, moments of rest before the crowds of needy people would swarm around Him again.

So, I hope you will take some time for re-creation this summer, and maybe you can develop new habits of seeking renewal with God that you will be able to practice all year round. You might enjoy a prayer-filled walk through a local park or a cup of coffee while you read scripture. You might find refreshment on the golf course with good friends or over dinner with your family. God may bring healing to your soul as you hike in the mountains or listen to the surf along a beautiful beach.

I hope you also feel spiritually recharged through times of worship and fellowship at church. Gathering with our church family to praise and serve our Lord should bring blessing into your life, and the church building can be a place of retreat throughout the week.

May God grant you times of rest so you will have the strength you need to serve Him.



Birthdays

- 1 Candice McCulloch
- 3 Jacobs Roberts
- 4 Charmel Jacobs
- 5 Gladys Anderson
- 6 Jonathan Brown
- Laura Mirakian
- Jessica Murbirigi
- 7 Arlene Schweiger
- Jackson McCulloch
- 8 Megan Woodrow
- 11 Tom Heck
- 12 Jasmine Gasmund
- 13 Judi Papka
- 16 Rosalie Pearson
- Mason McCulloch
- Beth Plomos
- 17 Joan Boettcher
- Wesley Nelson
- 22 Kimberly Haase
- 25 Nancy Rainwater
- 26 Linnea Holmertz
- Wayne Augenson
- 28 Dillon Melin
- 31 Pam Zollar
- Charlotte Boulware
- Cortney Retzlaff



Anniversaries

- 7 Brad & Patricia Gasmund
- 8 Erin & Tim Clark
- 14 Mike & Stacey Parlapiano
- 23 Philip & Kathy Adams
- 24 Gerald & Christine Bauer

Serving in July

Head Usher:

Jon Brown

Counters:

Jon Brown & Bill Forsen

Nursery Workers:

- 7/7 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 7/14 Laura & Randy Price
- 7/21 Colleen Felts
- 7/28 Kathy Holmertz & Colleen Felts

Coffee Schedule:

- 7/7 Dan & Aina Hitchcock
- 7/14 Amy Breese & Aiden
- 7/21 Nancy Ilgen
- 7/28 Gene & Colleen Felts



Julie's Project/Meet our Missionaries

Please join us Saturday, July 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Covenant Church for a chance to meet Jen Dao and "Apple" from Thailand. They will share what is going on with women in that country. We will tie blankets for a while before they share and also for a time after. Please come to hear them and to help meet our goal of 65 blankets to give those in need in the Belvidere area.



Mark Your Calendars!



Sunday September 22, 2019, we will be having a Broadway Homecoming Celebration during the worship service and will continue on to the church picnic. We are extending invitations to former members and visitors to join us in a time of fellowship and reuniting with friends from Broadway's past. Please let John Loven know of anyone that should be invited. We are looking forward to a memorable Sunday that you will not want to miss!
Thanks, The Homecoming Committee

60 Plus

60 Plus does not meet in July and August. We will resume again in September.

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 6:00 Ladies Night out Red Lobster	2 8:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 LT Meeting	3	4 Independence Day office closed 	5	6
7 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	8	9 8:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 RG Meeting	10	11	12	13 9:30 Julie's Project at 1st Covenant
14 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	15	16 8:30 Morning Prayer	17	18	19	20
21 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	22 Messenger news due in office	23 8:30 Morning Prayer	24	25	26	27
28 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	29	30 8:30 Morning Prayer	31			

Mission Report

This month we are praying for **Peter and Anna** and their four children who are in Asia. They are involved in a marriage mentoring program. They are committed to helping other couples in their relationships and meeting with them in their home. One couple taught them how to make home made noodles. Each week they learned how to make a different kind noodle. As they cooked and hung out in their kitchen, they could spend long conversations talking about marriage, children and the good news of Jesus Christ. Please pray for this couple that God would bless their marriage relationship and use them to bless others. Peter & Anna's youngest daughter is still having medical issues. Please pray for healing and for Anna and their daughter as the return to Illinois for 2 weeks in July for medical tests and a check-up. Peter and Anna need to obtain their annual renewals for their work permit and business licenses. Please pray that they get the required renewals to stay another year.

Johnna & Fabio Muniz-France

Praise - They hosted their first American-Japanese Cultural Fusion.

Pray - For community development in their neighborhood – for creative solutions for young unemployed men.

Covenant Youth of Alaska

Praise - Celebration event after Native Youth Olympics that was a safe place where they could celebrate together.

Outreach Opportunities

The Outreach and Evangelism Committee wants to provide some opportunities for all members to experience “service to the least of these” out in the community. So, we are going to plan two maybe three opportunities each year, at organizations we support, for a group of us to serve together. I am going to list a few options below and we will have sign-up sheets in the narthex at church for you to add your name to indicate your preference. You can vote for more than one! It's kind of a voting so we can pick the two that most people would enjoy. This is NOT a sign up to serve. Once we schedule it, everyone will have an opportunity to commit to serving at that time.

1. **Rockford Rescue Mission** - serve dinner meals to the residents from 6-8 pm Monday-Saturday. It can be a one hour shift or the whole time.
2. **Rockford Rescue Mission** - praying over the resident's bunks. During the day, while the residents are in programs, we would pray over their bunks and leave encouraging notes to let them know we were there.
3. **Pregnancy Care Center** - adopt a mother for a year. This would need the Leadership Team to approve a dollar amount so we could be responsive to needs that a small baby might have. We would be helping them with special situations, encouraging them, keeping in contact with them, offering rides to doctor's appointments, etc. we would be stand-in parents for the new mom.
4. **Women's Crisis Chapel** - doing an evening chapel service. Each evening from 5-6 pm groups come in and do a short chapel service for the women and their children. Bible readings, a short teaching, music, and singing make-up the service. Some women provide support to the residents with children if they need special attention. **This opportunity is for WOMEN ONLY.**

Please help us in trying to encourage one another to serve outside of Broadway with the love of Christ.

Leadership Team Update

There have been several people working on the grounds around church. Thank you for your efforts to keep our church beautiful Please continue to pray for the Latina Church plant. We have not heard anything further at this time. Several of you have expressed their interest and support in that plant. Also continue to pray for our denomination and the decisions they are making. Most importantly, pray that God's will be done. Enjoy your summer. If you have any questions, call any person on the LT, John Loven, Dave Holmertz, Kathi Engstrom, Kim Schweitzer, Ken Yarwood, Toni Cooper, Theresa Gregorcy, or Colleen Felts.

**July 2019
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

Congratulations to these 2019 Graduates



<u>Student</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Family</u>
Kelsey Ecklund	Wheaton College	Carl & Cheryl Ecklund – daughter
Ashlyn Ege	Southern Illinois University	Gene & Louise Peterson - granddaughter
Sam Korbel	Drexel University, doctorate degree	Karl & Cris Burdick - grandson
Austin Loven	Southwest Assembly of God University Waxahatchie, Tx	John & Kathy Loven - grandson
Allie Loven	Rockford Christian High School	John & Kathy Loven - granddaughter
Dillon Melin	Winnebago High School	John & Kathy Loven - grandson
Nathan Moore	Valley Christian High School San Jose, CA	Al & Gladys Damrose – grandson
Sarah Moore	Grove City College Pennsylvania	Al & Gladys Damrose – granddaughter
Bryanna Scharre	Northern Illinois University	Cathy Alexander – great niece