



August 2019

The Messenger

Updates from Around the Covenant - Pastor Mike Mirakian

It's been a busy summer for Covenant churches around the nation and in our neck of the woods. You may have already heard what happened at the Covenant Annual Meeting in late June and about plans for the Latina church plant in the Rockford area, but I want to provide some updates so we are all aware of what God is doing in our larger community of believers.

Covenant Church Plant in Rockford: As you may remember, Broadway agreed at our May congregational meeting to help financially support the Central Conference's vision to plant a new church in the Rockford area to reach the fast-growing Latino community, and we offered to host the new church in our building. The other local Covenant churches have also offered financial and ministry support to this vision. While no firm decisions have been made by the Central Conference, they are seriously considering our offer to host the church plant at Broadway.

Church plants require a great deal of time, energy and financial support to develop from a vision into an actual worshipping church filled with people. Most of all, church plants need prayer. Please join me in praying that God would direct this process and that He will grow in each of us a love for the Latino community in Rockford and a deep desire to see more people come to Christ.

Covenant Annual Meeting: Over 1,000 delegates from Covenant churches across North America gathered for the Covenant Annual Meeting the last week of June. This record turnout was largely motivated by agenda items related to same-sex marriage. After a long and spirited debate, and in agreement with the recommendation of the Covenant Executive Board, the Annual Meeting voted to dismiss First Covenant Church of Minneapolis. This church has openly dissented from the Covenant's position on human sexuality and marriage and had locally ordained their pastor after his ordination was suspended by the denomination. In separate votes, the Annual Meeting also removed the credentials of two Covenant pastors, including the lead pastor at FCCM.

While these were hard votes for me and many delegates, I believe the Annual Meeting did the right thing. It's sad to see a sister church removed from our denominational family and to dismiss two ordained pastors. Their attitude and actions over the past several years, however, made their continued relationship with the Covenant untenable.

The aftermath of this stressful process has left a few scars on the Covenant, especially within the Ministerium, where pastors have expressed strong opinions on both sides. May God bring healing and unity to His church, and may His word continue to guide us.

It's important to reiterate the Covenant's long-held view on human sexuality: "Heterosexual marriage, faithfulness within marriage, abstinence outside of marriage – these constitute the Christian standard. When we fall short, we are invited to repent, receive the forgiveness of God, and amend our lives." We also affirm that we love and welcome all people in our church and desire to see everyone find new life in Jesus Christ.

Changes to Covenant Pension Plan: Another important vote at the Annual Meeting authorized significant changes to retirement benefits for Covenant pastors. For decades, the Covenant has managed a traditional pension plan that provides defined benefits for retired clergy and spouses. While the pension plan has been well-managed, a new model is needed to care for pastors long into the future. The new system will include 403b accounts, similar to 401k benefits offered by for-profit businesses. Church contributions will continue to be mandatory for all credentialed clergy.

Covenant Pastors and Missionaries: As happens every year, the Annual Meeting also approved the ordination and commissioning of men and women called to full-time Covenant ministry. There were 51 pastors ordained and 8 missionaries commissioned. May God's grace and strength be with these servants of Christ.



Birthdays

- 2 Ethel Johnson
- 4 Jemma Roberts
- 8 Betty Klaung
- 8 Dave Lape
- 9 Mike Parlapiano
- 13 Eve Clark
- 13 Ken Yarwood
- 14 Wyone Leather
- 16 Ranee Jones
- 17 Cindy Beyerl
- 20 Maynard Carlson
- 22 Margo McCulloch
- Todd Cultra
- Geordan Jones
- 24 Doug Gibson
- 26 Jerry Jacobs
- 28 Mary Gibson
- Rich Nobel



Anniversaries

- 2 Toni & Ralph Cartwright
- Tom & Jeanine Heck
- 8 William & Linda Evans
- Patrick & Rachel McCulloch
- Jacob & Jamise Roberts
- 18 Bruce & Cindy Beyerl
- 19 Anders & Arlene Gredenius
- 23 Kent & Jean Drews
- 25 David & Kim Lape

Serving in August

Head Usher:

Jon Brown

Counters:

Jon Brown & Randy Price

Nursery Workers:

8/4 Jeanine Heck & April Parker

8/11 Gene & Colleen Felts

8/18 Beth Pasch & Barbara Rehnberg

8/25 Laura Mirakian & Kathy Holmertz

Coffee Schedule:

8/4 Gene & Colleen Felts

8/11 Keith & Kathy Holmertz

8/18 George & Beth Plomos

8/25 Dave & Kim Lape



Remember in Prayer

Ethel Johnson with health issues.

Doug Boettcher at Fairhaven receiving hospice.

Patti Franzen recovering from eye surgery.

60 Plus

60 Plus does not meet in August. Our next lunch will be Wednesday, (they are closed on Tuesdays) September 18th at the Capri. Plan to join us at that time.

Retreat at Covenant Harbor for 60+

REGISTER for this summer's 60+ Retreat! Crescendo: Lives of Lasting Purpose to be held at Covenant Harbor August 27-29, 2019 at this link <https://covenantharbor.org/60-plus-retreat/> or call the office at Covenant Harbor (262) 248-3600 for assistance.

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 pick up flyers at the information table to hand out to family members and friends who previously attended BCC. We are looking forward to a memorable Sunday that you will not want to miss! Thanks, The Homecoming Committee



August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	5	6 8:30 Morning Prayer	7	8	9	10
11 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	12	13 8:30 Morning Prayer 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg.	14	15	16	17
18 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	19 Messenger news due in office	20 8:30 Morning Prayer	21	22	23	24
25 9:15 Prayer 9:30 Worship	26	27 8:30 Morning Prayer	28	29	30	31

Mission Report

Now that we are in August it is time to be thinking about going back to school. This month please pray for **North Park University, North Park Seminary** and **Tim Sales** with **Inter Varsity Christian Fellowship**. **North Park University** started in a Minneapolis church basement in 1891. In 1894 they were offered land in the North Park neighborhood in Chicago and moved there. "Now North Park is Chicago's city centered Christian university. It serves nearly 3200 undergraduate and graduate students from around the country and the world. Within a diverse, close-knit community, it offers a values-based education to students through more than 40 undergraduate majors, as well as graduate and continuing education in business, non-profit management, nursing, education, music and theology." **North Park Seminary** is the seminary of the Evangelical Covenant Church. "The mission of the seminary is to serve both the global and local church. They intend the community life to be hospitable to the diversity of God's creation. Their educational philosophy seeks to relate the Great Commission (Matt. 28:10-20), the Great Commandment (Matt 22:36-50) and care for creation (Gen. 1) critically and creatively to the university campus, ecclesial communities, and the marketplaces of life. Their devotion to the spiritual formation of their studies aims to cultivate their personal holiness, apostolic identity, intellectual, integrity, evangelical witness, and ethical commitment." **Tim Sales/InterVarsity:** Tim oversees several chapters of InterVarsity in Northern Illinois. "InterVarsity Christian Fellowship is a vibrant campus ministry that establishes and advances witnessing communities of students and faculty." They have 1121 chapters on 772 campuses. "They minister to students and faculty through small group bible Studies, large group gatherings, leadership training, thoughtful discipleship, and life changing mission trips." Intervarsity is a great way for students to get to know other students especially for those who are new to college life.

Peter & Ruth Dutton-Thailand

Praise- Unity of spirit and purpose and a combination of new young leadership with wisdom of older church elders at their Thailand Covenant Church.
Pray- Courage, vision, and humility for their Thailand Covenant Church pastor and leaders to lead the church in the direction God has for them.

Peter & Anna

Praise- Their organization's business license was renewed.

Pray- The power of the spirit to break through some hardened hearts to bring healing and openness to change. Continued healing for their daughter.

Leadership Team Update

There are several projects going on at church. The roof and back door will be completed soon. While we are waiting for the final decisions regarding the church plant, we will start painting and projects on the rental home. If you would be able to do some painting or odds and ends of handiwork, please let Sue or I know. Continue to spread the word regarding the homecoming weekend in September. Please reach out to any LT member with questions.



Julie's Project - 2019

Our next work date is scheduled for Saturday, August 17. We'll begin at 9:30 am and finish around noon. Please consider coming to help tie (or cut) blankets. Our goal is 65 blankets and we're about half way there.



We meet in the Fellowship Hall of First Covenant Church. Park at the west end of the parking lot and come in the kitchen door.

Light Piercing Darkness



There's still time to register for Fall Fellowship help at Covenant Harbor September 13 – 15. Go to covenantharbor.org for information and registration forms. Hope to see you there.

**August 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

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.