

December 2019



The Messenger

Treasures for the King - Pastor Mike Mirakian

My family's tradition is to wait until after Thanksgiving before we decorate for Christmas or start playing carols in our home. A month of Christmas celebration is plenty, and a shorter season makes it that much more special. However, as a pastor, I need to start thinking about and planning for Advent long before December. I typically plan my preaching schedule two to three months in advance, and for Advent, I need to work on special readings and plans for the Christmas Eve service.

So, even without the benefit of a Christmas tree in the corner or "Joy to the World" ringing in my ears, I have been thinking about Christmas for a few weeks now. My thoughts have often turned to the Magi, those mysterious visitors who followed the star to bring baby Jesus gold, frankincense and myrrh. These treasures were fit for a king, but the greatest gift they gave Jesus was their praise: "they bowed down and worshiped Him" (Matthew 2:11).

I wonder what we can bring to Jesus this Christmas season? He doesn't need gold or frankincense, nor is He hoping for a new cell phone or a nice pair of shoes. In fact, what Jesus really wants from us can't be tied with a bow or hidden under the Christmas tree.

For example, Jesus would love to receive a renewed spirit of devotion. We can offer Him fresh and joyful praise. We can pray in His name with sincere faith and an honest desire to see His will accomplished in our lives. We can bring Jesus more time devoted to reading His word and listening to the Spirit speaking truth into our hearts. I'm sure gifts like that would make Jesus smile.

We could bring Jesus a new heart of love for our neighbors. We can give costly gifts of time and service to people in need, knowing that when we love others, we are also showing love to Christ. We can remember how Jesus was compassionate and kind to those in need, and we can go and do likewise in His name.

Jesus would also be happy to receive gifts of submission and humble obedience. The Spirit may be whispering to you about something you need to give up or some new calling God wants you to accept. Maybe you have been ignoring that whisper for a while, and now is the time to give Jesus your obedience. It might require a sacrifice or the courage to do something you doubt you can do on your own, but if Jesus is calling, He will bless your humble submission to His will.

Another treasure we can offer Jesus is to share His good news. Tell your family or your friends how much God has done for you, how He answers your prayers and fills your heart with peace during stressful moments. Tell the story of how Jesus took away your sin and gave you joy that will last forever. Tell about the blessing of walking together with other believers in the church, and invite the people you love to join us in fellowship and worship.

Every gift we give or receive at Christmas is a symbol of Christ, a visible reminder of the greatest gift of all, God's own Son who was born into our dark world to be our Savior. May all your Christmas gifts tell of this good news, and may your most precious gifts be given to Jesus, our Savior and Lord.



Serving in December

Head Usher:

Tom Heck

Counters:

Dave Holmertz & Robin Robinson

Nursery Workers:

12/1 Jeanine Heck & April Parker

12/8 Laura & Noelle Mirakian

12/15 Beth Pasch & Barbara Rehnberg

12/22 Colleen & Gene Felts

12/29 Patti Franzen & Erica Schweiger

Coffee Schedule:

12/1 Dave & Karen Holmertz

12/8 Marcia Johnson

12/15 Ryan & Kara Woodrow

12/22 John & Kathy Loven

12/29 Todd & Elena Cultra



Birthdays

- 3 Richard Peterson
- 4 Carl Ecklund
Emily Lorbach
- 5 Mark Montoya
- 6 Crystal Burdick
- 13 Aidan Breese
- 14 Brandon Melin
Ryan Melin
- 15 William Evans
- 17 Jill Page
- 18 Mario Torres
- 19 Christi Melin
- 20 Nancy Ilgen
- 21 Christopher LeJuene
Noelle Mirakian
- 22 Claire Gray
- 25 Dylan Pronti
- 26 Noah Melin
- 27 Shelby Holmertz
- 28 Kay Forsen
Jeanine Parker Heck



Anniversaries

- 19 Lillian & Richard Slack

60 Plus

Join 60 Plus, December 18th (Wednesday), 11:30 for lunch at Tavern on Clark, 755 Clark Rd. Following lunch we will go to church for a Christmas Carol sing-a-long followed by dessert. Please call your reservations to Judi, 815-222-8971 by Sunday, December 15th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us. Be thinking of restaurants where you would like to have lunch or things you would like to do in 2020. Let Darlene, Judi, Doug & Mary or Dave & Karen know before they meet in January to plan 2020.



Remember in Prayer

The family of Darlene Edwards who passed away last month.

Thank You

Dear Broadway Covenant Church, My name is Glyvis James-Watson. I live in Evanston, Illinois. Currently, I am in the last year of my seminary program. I am pursuing a Master of Divinity and a Master of Business Administration. I am writing to thank you for donating to North Park Theological Seminary. Your generous contribution makes it possible for me to be academically equipped for vocational ministry. Again, thank you for giving to the seminary. Sincerely, **Glyvis James-Watson**

I want to thank Pastor Joyce and all her happy volunteers for coming to stay with Gladys so I can attend the Men's Bible Study. It is a double blessing for me as I get to go to the Bible Study with the men I enjoy and come home to see the joy on the face of Gladys. You all have a special way of making her feel good. Thank you for this special ministry. **Al Damrose**

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	2 7:00 Vida Eterna Prayer	3 8:30 Morning Prayer 6:15 Women's Christmas Banquet	4 6:30 Immerse Kingdoms	5 10:30 Men's Bible Study	6	7
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	9 7:00 Vida Eterna Prayer	10 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg.	11 6:30 Immerse Kingdoms	12 10:30 Men's Bible Study	13	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship	16 Messenger news due in office 7:00 Vida Eterna Prayer	17 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	18 11:30 60 Plus at Thunder Bay carols and dessert 6:30 Immerse Kingdoms	19 10:30 Men's Bible Study	20	21
22 10:15 Worship	23 7:00 Vida Eterna Prayer	24 Come let us <i>Adore</i> Him  5:00 Christmas Eve Worship	25 	26	27	28
29 10:15 Worship	30 7:00 Vida Eterna Prayer	31 8:30 Morning Prayer				

Mission Report

Merry Christmas from the Mission Outreach & Evangelism Team!! This month please pray for the following local ministries that we support:

Rock River Food Pantry: “They fight hunger in the community by providing nutritious food to those in urgent need.” One of the ways you can help the food pantry is by donating peanut butter. We continue to collect peanut butter for them. There is a collection box by the office. For more information please see their website rrvp.org.

Carpenters Place: They are improving the lives of the homeless by providing the tools necessary to rebuild their lives. “On average three homeless men and women secure housing and three gain employment each week.” We have a collection box and a list of needs by the office for anyone who would like to help. For more information please see their website carpentersplace.org.

Rock House Kids: “Their mission is to share God’s love with inner-city children through biblical principles, with physical and spiritual solutions. Since 1999 they have cared for kids ages 6-18 by providing a safe, warm and nurturing environment four evenings a week.” We have a collection box and a list of needs by the office for anyone who would like to help. For more information please see their website rockhouse-kids.org.

One Body Collaborative: They help churches and faith-based organizations to meet the needs of people who come to them. “They perform valuable functions in an efficient, effective and professional manor... meeting people, getting to know them more deeply, praying with them and walking with them in their journey to engage more deeply with God and his people.” They use six strategies to meet these needs: 1) match resources to needs; 2) fill resource gaps; 3) produce measurable outcomes; 4) provide life planning; 5) coordinate volunteers & 6) coordinate multi church projects. For more information please see their website onebodycollaborative.org.

Stateline Youth For Christ: “ They are a non-profit organization seeking to empower disadvantaged teens spiritually, socially and emotionally through creative programs and healthy relationships with adult mentors.” They have a chapter in Rockford that has several programs: 1) City Life “provides free food, games, biblically -themed message and the opportunity to build Christ-centered relationships; 2) Campus Life has an active presence at Auburn, Guilford, East, Lincoln & RESA. “They help young people make good choices, establish a solid foundation for life & posi-

tively impact their schools” & 3) Juvenile Justice Ministry “works in partnership with Rockford Reachout Jail Ministry to establish Christ-Centered mentoring relationships with incarcerated teens.” For more information please see their website statelineyfc.org.

Leadership Team Update

Christmas is a busy and exciting time for the church. I would like to thank all of you who helped with the many parts of decorating, planning, and celebrating the advent of our Lord and Savior. Mario and Patty have been very busy with the church plant. If you have not met them, please introduce yourselves. My wish for you each is to have and blessed Merry Christmas. If you have any questions feel free to contact any member of the leadership team.

2020 Offering Envelopes

The 2020 offering envelopes will be available for pick during the month of December in the front lobby. If you would like to be assigned a box please contact the church office. Thanks.



Church Membership Class

Church membership is open to all followers of Jesus who desire a lasting fellowship with our congregation. Membership allows you to participate in congregational meetings and to serve in elected leadership positions. To become a member of Broadway Covenant Church, you first need to attend a class with Pastor Mike and submit a membership application. If you are interested in learning more, please talk with Pastor Mike.

Financial Report

As of 10-31-19 the donations are higher than budget by \$5,616 and expenses are lower than budget. Praise the Lord and thank you for your faithfulness.

**December 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



We thank God for what he is doing in the Vida Eterna. We have seen his powerful hand at all times. We want to thank Broadway Covenant Church for their unconditional support, thanks to Pastor Mike for being an excellent coach. We have learned a lot in his preaching and his advice, also from the Leadership Team who are supporting us and meeting with us every month, especially to Colleen Felts whose show of love has captivated our hearts.

Currently we are offering classes of: finance on Wednesdays (46 people have already signed up), Bible classes (discipleship) on Sundays (there are 15 people registered), marriage classes will be starting on Saturdays beginning January 11, 2020 (there are 27 people interested). In addition, our prayer meeting continues on Mondays at 7pm where we are praying for all the needs of the people and for this city of Rockford (there are 13 people registered).

November 13th - 17th we had the mobile consulate of Mexico with us. It was all a success. More than 800 people attended in the 5 days that the event lasted, and 93 people enrolled in the Vida Eterna classes. Thank God.

We thank you very much for your prayers for the Lord to continue working. Our goal is in Holy Week next year to open our worship services in Spanish.

May the Lord bless you!
Pastor Mario