



April 2020

The Messenger

Quarantines and Resurrection - Pastor Mike Mirakian

As I write this, and possibly as you read it, we aren't sure when we will be able to gather again for corporate worship. A lot has changed in our community and throughout our nation over the past few weeks as we adjust routines to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Canceling worship at Broadway may seem like a small concern compared to all the many disruptions our society is dealing with, but worshiping God is no small concern. Canceling worship will not become a "new normal" for us; it is only a temporary necessity.

That said, it is possible that we will not be able to gather on Easter morning, which would be a great loss and hardship for all of us. If we cannot be together that morning, let us assure one another that Jesus will still be worshiped as our Risen Lord. We will still rejoice in the glorious news of His resurrection and in the new life we have found in Him.

The Easter story is about rebirth, about overcoming the grave, about finding hope and life in the midst of sorrow and death. That is the story we need now. Jesus' resurrection gives us faith to look beyond the burdens and trials of this life. It calls us to see past the brokenness and pain, even past the finality of the tomb. Jesus' resurrection assures us that God gives us life that nothing in this world can take away.

When Jesus died on the cross, His disciples felt lost and afraid. They had put their faith in Him, but when He died, it all turned to darkness. They couldn't yet see the light and couldn't imagine how anything could overcome their sorrow and fear. His body was carried to the tomb. The stone was rolled in place. Soldiers stood on guard. It must have felt like there was no hope at all, no way to cut through the darkness.

Today, the news is full of scary stories and anxious thoughts. People are quarantined and isolated. Schools and businesses are closed. We are living through a difficult cultural moment that none of us could have anticipated even six months ago. It might feel like the world is falling apart, that things we have come to depend on now no longer seem reliable. We might feel afraid, worried and depressed. The hard reality is, some people are sick and some have died.

But this darkness will pass, just as Jesus walked out of the tomb at sunrise that Sunday morning long ago. Our God sends light to cut through the darkness. Our God gives life. Our God heals.

We will overcome the coronavirus. We will emerge again from quarantine. We will get back to life as usual. Hopefully, sooner than later.

And we will worship together again. We will sing joyful songs and pray faithful prayers. We will read God's word out loud and let the Spirit speak into our hearts. We will fellowship with one another face-to-face, and someday even hand-in-hand. We will overcome this darkness.

For now, place your hope and faith in God's goodness. Pray for our community and nation. Care for your loved ones at home, and keep in touch with your church family. We will get through this hard time, and Jesus will remain our Risen Savior and Lord.



Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 1 | Aiden Gasmund |
| | Joanna Lorbach |
| 3 | Pat Johnson |
| 4 | Emily Holmertz |
| 6 | Joyce Cosman |
| 7 | Kendra Ecklund |
| 9 | Mario Torres |
| 10 | Kellen Price |
| 12 | Meagan Haase |
| 13 | Grace Hulstedt |
| | Theresa Gregorcy |
| | April Parker |
| | Mitchell Wimbush III |
| 19 | Brian Beyerl |
| | Jesse Starr |
| 20 | Kristi Swanson |
| 22 | Karlee Swanson |
| 23 | Toni Cartwright |
| | Alice Tsai |
| 24 | Doug Boettcher |
| | Jeff Brown |
| | Jamise Roberts |
| 26 | Don Davis |
| 29 | Dan Hitchcock |
| | Kari Whitney |
| | Jeff Irelan |



Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 7 | Theresa & Perry Gregorcy |
| 11 | Gene & Louise Peterson |
| 12 | Mario & Patty Torres |
| 16 | Roy & Janel Leidahl |
| 26 | William & Kathryn Forsen |
| | Carrie & Paul Pretzer |

Serving in April - when services resume

Head Usher:

Steve Schweitzer

Counters:

Bill Forsen & Carolyn Augenson

Nursery Workers:

- | | |
|------|----------------------------------|
| 4/5 | Beth Pasch & Barbara Rehnberg |
| 4/12 | Colleen & Gene Felts |
| 4/19 | Patti Franzen & Erica Schweiger |
| 4/26 | Kathy Holmertz & Gladys Anderson |

Coffee Schedule:

- | | |
|------|----------------------|
| 4/5 | Amy Breese and Aiden |
| 4/12 | Dan & Aina Hitchcock |
| 4/19 | Judi Papka |
| 4/26 | Gene & Colleen Felts |



Remember in Prayer

Theresa Gregorcy home recovering following health issues.
Darlene Pearson with health issues.

Women Ministries – Northern Illinois District

Our Spring Gathering Brunch was originally scheduled for Saturday, April 18th. We are watching and waiting to reschedule this event in May or possibly June. It will be held at Bethesda Covenant Church. Shan Johnson, Director of Family Services at Carpenter's Place is our speaker. The Family Services group is the next recipient for Julie's Project. By the time of our meeting, we should be able to share some schedule work dates. Please watch The Messenger for additional information as it becomes available.

60 Plus

60 Plus will be meeting for lunch at John's Pizzeria, 2914 - 11th Street on Tuesday, April 21st at 11:30 A.M. Please call Sue at church 815-399-9296 or sign up in the church office with your reservations by April 19th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.



Letter from Pastor Mike

Dear Church Family,

I hope you are all feeling well and remaining hopeful during this stressful time. God is still good, powerful, merciful and able to meet the needs of our world. Please join me in praying for peace and hope in our community.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

I want to share a few ways you can support our church and stay active in your faith in the coming days:

1. Pray. We may not be doctors or medical researchers working on the front lines of the fight against the coronavirus, but when we pray, we join the cause of pushing back against the disease and all the anxiety people are feeling. Pray for the sick. Pray for protection for people in our community. Pray for doctors and nurses. Pray for government officials making decisions that affect our society. Pray that God would destroy the virus and spare humanity from its spread.
2. Stay in touch with one another. We may not be able to gather as a whole church family, but we can stay connected through phone calls, emails and social media. If God puts someone on your heart, reach out to them and make sure they are doing okay.
3. Help those in need. As needs arise in the church, we will do our best to connect those in need with people able to help. Call me if you are in need or if you have a service to offer. For example, one couple in the church has offered to do grocery shopping for anyone who doesn't feel comfortable getting out. If that would be helpful to you, let me know.

Pastor Mike

Leadership Team Update

I so appreciate Sue doing this messenger to keep us informed and communicating. These are odd times, and we will be so glad to be able to worship together again.

I appreciate Pastor Mike and Kent for taping the sermon and putting it on the internet. It is comforting to see Pastor Mike.

I also appreciate Dave. He has been depositing the money and paying the bills.

Finally, I appreciate each and every one of you. I miss my church family, but I know you are praying and talking to one another. The Leadership Team has been communicating by phone and email. Please let myself or anyone of the leadership team know if you have needs.

We will help you find help. We do not know when we will be worshipping together. Hopefully sooner than later. As soon as we are able, we will resume our normal activities.

Stay home, stay safe, stay well, and may God's blessing be with you all.

Colleen

**April 2020
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

Mission Report

This month we are praying for **Alaska Christina College**, which is located in Soldotna, Alaska. "The mission of Alaska Christian College is to empower Alaska Natives through biblically-based higher education and Christian formation to pursue excellence in character, learning, and service as followers of Christ." They had a great year in 2019. They enrolled their largest class and graduated their largest fall class. In December they celebrated seven new graduates who earned their AA degrees and are planning to continue on to pursue careers in education, counseling, ministry, non-profit management and veterinary medicine. ACC has just introduced Vision 2020. "It is our vision to offer our growing student body the resources and facilities they need to succeed. Together we can increase the capacity of Alaska Christian College for decades to come and empower our students to thrive." They are going to build an athletic center that will retain existing students and provide crucial support for student's well-being. They have already started on the addition to the Academic Success Center which will double class - room capacity. They are praising God that they have raised 3.75 million of the 5.5 million needed to complete the project. Please pray that they will raise the money to complete the project and for the students who are currently attending. First Covenant and Broadway will be sending a mission team this May to work on projects. Please pray for them as well.

Covenant Harbor

Praise: Great winter camp season which focused on building relationships with one another, outdoor play, shared conversations, and experienced and shared God's love.

Pray: For Executive Ray Warren who will retire in May to spend more time with his family and relocate to Florida.