

May 2023



# The Messenger

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## Looking Back to Move Forward - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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Before moving forward it's usually wise to take a look back. Recalling what you have faced in the past before stepping into the future may save you from repeating a mistake or may help you accomplish something you once failed to achieve. By looking to the past, we gain wisdom for the future.

That's the story and the message of Deuteronomy. Moses gave a series of speeches shortly before the end of his life and recorded them for posterity in his final book. He recounted for the Israelites all they had experienced since leaving Egypt and during their 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

God had rescued His people and given them the Law at Mt. Sinai. He had fed them each day with manna from heaven and water from miraculous springs in the desert. And yet the people rebelled, complained and even forged idols to worship in God's place.

Moses retold these stories and reminded Israel of the 10 Commandments and other regulations God expected them to observe. Moses pleaded with the people to repent of their past failings and to remain faithful to the God who cared for them. This was Moses' final opportunity to lead the people he loved and to serve the God he worshiped. Moses told Israel to look back before moving forward into the Promised Land.

I plan to preach from Deuteronomy in the coming weeks to help us consider how we can follow this same wisdom. What have we learned through our years of walking with God that can help us bear fruit today and tomorrow? How has God led us in the past, and how can we trust Him to show us the way forward?

Think about the past three years of navigating the pandemic. What have we learned from dealing with illness and anxiety? How has our church changed? How has your own view of the world been affected? Maybe you have become more cautious about large gatherings. Maybe you will be more skeptical about government regulations. Maybe our church will value more highly on our shared times of worship and fellowship.

We may also want to look back on past seasons of financial hardship to help us weather this year's high inflation and possible recession. Remember how God has provided through other times of uncertainty, and now trust Him again. Consider the choices you have made – some wise and profitable, others misguided – and apply these lessons to what you face today.

Looking back to prepare for the future is also a wise habit in our personal and family lives. Before you begin a new chapter – perhaps a job change, retirement or moving away to college – think back to other seasons of change you have experienced. How did you adjust to a new routine? How did you build new relationships? What did you do that worked and what fell flat? Recalling the highs and lows of past experiences can show you a better way forward this time around.

Our spiritual lives also benefit from looking back. God's word was written long before we were born, and we gain wisdom from those who have gone before us. In the same way, our own journeys of faith prepare us for the next steps ahead. Remember answered prayers and moments of closeness with God. Recall dry seasons when you struggled to hear God's voice or make sense of His word. These experiences and the wisdom of past generations can help us find our way forward.

What will happen tomorrow may feel new and surprising, but looking back can put the future into helpful perspective. That's why Moses asked the Israelites to remember their 40 years of wandering before crossing the Jordan into a new land. It's also why we should consider the many ways God has been faithful to us as we trust Him for tomorrow.



## Birthdays

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- 6 Pat Gasmund
- 9 Karl Burdick  
Kathy Holmertz
- 12 Sylvia Bowman
- 14 Laura Price
- 16 Izzy Parlapiano
- 17 Susan Nelson  
Mike Mirakian
- 18 Pat Retzlaff  
Tyler Swanson
- 23 Amy Breese  
Cheryl Carlson



## Anniversaries

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- 2 Jerry & Charmel Jacobs
- 12 Kari & Tyler Whitney
- 14 Jason & Shelby Holmertz

## 60 Plus

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Join 60 Plus for lunch on Tuesday, May 16th, 11:30 AM at Jessica's, 5091 Edgemere Ct., Roscoe, IL (corner of Hononegah Rd. and Hwy 251). Please call Sue at church (815) 399-9296 or Karen Holmertz with your reservation by May 14th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.

**Jessica's**  
RESTAURANT

## Serving in May

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### Counters:

Ron Carlson & Gene Felts

### Head Usher:

Keith Holmertz

## Remember in Prayer

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**Amy Breese** with health issues.

**Sue Nelson** recovering from hip surgery.

## Thank you

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Thank you for the cards and prayers. They are very appreciated.

**Sue Nelson**

## Carol Circle

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We will meet at Louise Peterson's home on Monday, May 1st for a Cinco de Mayo potluck. We'll gather at 6:00 pm for a time for fellowship, food, devotions and sharing. Please let Louise know if you are able to come.

## Women's Fellowship

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Women's Fellowship meets on Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. as they begin season 3 of "The Chosen." Come and join us. Questions? Call Colleen Felts at 815-222-3826.

## Pastor's Bible Study

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The Pastor's Bible Study meets on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. in the adult classroom. Everyone is welcome to attend as they continue to study the life of King David.

## Broadway Covenant Church Annual Meeting

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The 2022 Broadway Covenant Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, May 21 immediately following the worship service.

## ECC Annual Meeting

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The Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church is June 28th - July 1st in Garden Grove, CA. If you are interested in being a delegate (virtual option available) please contact Keith Holmertz.

# May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 6:00 Carol Circle at Louise Peterson's	2 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	3 10:15 Mobile Library 7:00 VE prayer & worship	4 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	5 6:00 VE Women Ministry	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	8	9 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:30 LT Meeting	10 7:00 VE prayer & worship	11 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	12 6:00 VE Women Ministry	13 2:00 Memorial Service for Cris Burdick
14 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	15	16 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Jessica's	17 7:00 VE prayer & worship	18 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	19 6:00 VE Women Ministry	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship BCC Annual Mtg 11:45 Vida Eterna	22 Messenger news due in the office	23 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	24 10:15 Mobile Library 7:00 VE prayer & worship	25 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	26 6:00 VE Women Ministry	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	29  office closed	30	31			

**May 2023  
Broadway Covenant  
Church**

3525 Broadway  
Rockford, IL 61108

Senior Pastor - Mike Mirakian  
Phone - (815)399-9296

**We're on the Web**  
**[www.broadwaycovenant.com](http://www.broadwaycovenant.com)**

## Graduates 2023

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**David Mirakian** will graduate from Calvin University with a degree in Computer Science.  
**Noelle Mirakian** will graduate from Rockford Christian and plans to attend Hope College in the fall.  
**Matthew Jacobson**, grandson of Aina & Dan Hitchcock, is graduating from North Dakota State University in Fargo with a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture.  
*Contact the church office to submit a name for this list.*



## Mission Report

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This month please pray for **Bridge Ministries and Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity**.

“The mission of **Bridge Ministries** is to build up and bring together the body of Christ, to do the work of Christ together. The vision of Bridge Ministries is transformed communities, glowing the grace, prosperity, and presence of God.” The following are a few ways they work to accomplish this: “speaking in churches and organizations about reconciliation and unity; mentor young people to live and lead with passion and relevance; encourage pastors and churches to remain faithful in reaching outside their walls; sponsor public prayer gatherings to pray for the city and the church & build friendships with and between those separated by race, denomination, geography, gender or socio-economic status.” For more information see [bridgeministries.com](http://bridgeministries.com).

**Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity** was started in 1988. They are celebrating their 35 th year building affordable housing in the Rockford metropolitan area. “They have now completed construction of 144 new homes; have rehabbed 29 homes and serve a minimum of 8 families through home ownership opportunity and 30 families through critical home repairs each year.” They work with school districts to teach construction trades to students by having them work on the homes. They have eleven homeowners who will be completing or starting a home this year. For more information see [rockfordhabitat.org](http://rockfordhabitat.org).