

November 2023



The Messenger

Finding Holy Ground - Pastor Mike Mirakian

Where do you go to feel the presence of God?

We all have favorite places in this world. Locations that hold special memories or that fill us with awe or happiness. There's a rocky shore line called Bass Rocks in Gloucester, Massachusetts that I love to visit. Waves crash, and the air is cool and salty. I also have a lifetime of fond memories from my grandmother's home and land in Leavenworth, Kansas. I remember fishing in the little pond as a child and eating corn grown in the back field.

Places can hold meaning in our hearts, and some of them help draw us closer to God. Our church sanctuary may be an obvious example. Maybe you know a place where you can walk and pray or a beautiful vista where you can witness the majesty and goodness of God.

Where do you go to feel the presence of God?

During November, I will preach a three-week series on "Holy Ground." We'll read about places where God has revealed Himself in special ways to His people, places where God has spoken and provided, places we still consider blessed because of what God has done there.

First, we will focus on Mt. Sinai, the wilderness summit where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush and later gave the 10 Commandments, written by His own finger on stone tablets. God's glory burned over that mountain, and His voice echoed down its slopes. It may look barren and desolate, but it was once alive with the manifest presence of God.

Then, we will read about Mt. Moriah, perhaps the most spiritually significant location in all the world. It's where God provided for Abraham and where 1,000 years later Solomon built the Temple. Today it sits in the middle of Jerusalem, and people still gather there to pray and seek the Lord's blessing.

Next, we will turn to Jesus' words and consider the holy places where we meet with God today. Places of prayer. Places of worship. Places where we feel God's presence and open our hearts to receive His word. Jesus told us to pray in quiet places where God listens to us and "sees what is done in secret" (Matthew 6:6).

We don't believe that things or places are sacred in and of themselves, but some places have spiritual significance because God meets us there in special ways. God is holy, and He blesses the things He touches. God can make holy a field, a mountain, a building or a closet where you pray. You can find holy ground where you hear God's voice, where you know His goodness, where you feel the Spirit's comfort and peace.

As we read these Biblical stories and talk about the amazing things God has done in special places, I hope you will watch with expectation for God's hand to move in the holy places you know. God is not silent or still. He moves constantly among us and speaks His wisdom into our hearts. If we listen, watch and wait, we will experience His glorious presence.

The truth is, God is the same always and everywhere. The holy ground of scripture and the special places we know help us feel God's goodness because we go there with expectant, open hearts. May God give us ears to hear and eyes to see His glory everywhere we go.



Birthdays

- 4 Karen Holmertz
- 7 Royce Cates
Karen Knox
- 17 Kara Woodrow
- 19 Christine Bauer
- 22 Phil Adams, Sr.
Bill Forsen
- 23 Lillian Slack
- 29 Barbara Carlson



Anniversaries

- 10 Jeff & Rose Peterson
- 12 Gene & Colleen Felts
- 16 Randy & Nancy Rainwater
- 22 Ron & Cheryl Carlson
- 28 Steve & Becky Bamberger

Schermer Pecans



Schermer pecans will be available again this year. I am pleased to share that there is **no** price increase. The fancy mammoth halves are \$13.00 for a one pound bag. The chocolate covered pecans are \$12.00 a bag. You may pre-order with Carolyn Augenson. Payment is due when the pecans are delivered. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser.

Love Tree

Love Tree tags will be selected on November 26th during worship service. Once again, we will be purchasing gifts for some of the students at Rolling Green School. The tags may have many items listed but it has been requested by the school staff that you only buy one or two items. In the past some children have received six gifts and others have received one. Please keep the total of the gifts purchased to a maximum of \$40. Return the gifts, wrapped, with the tag the student has filled out, SECURED to the gifts. This is the only way the school can identify the student to whom it goes. Have the gifts back to church by December 10th.



Serving in November

Counters:

Jill Page and Cheryl Ecklund

Head Usher:

Carl Ecklund

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30 a.m. in the adult Sunday school room. We will continue to watch and discuss THE CHOSEN, session three. All women are welcome!

Carol Circle

We will meet at Louise Peterson's home on Monday, November 6 at 6:00PM. Please bring a dish to share. Fellowship, devotions and a time to share prayer requests will follow dinner. Please let Louise or Carolyn know if you are able to attend.

60 Plus

60 Plus will meet for lunch November 21st at 11:30 a.m. at Mary's Market Café, 4431 E. State St. Call church (815)399-9296 or give Karen your reservation by November 19th. Also let her know if you need a ride and remember to invite others to join us.



Leadership Team Update

In November, we have many giving opportunities. Please pray for how you can best help in the ministry at Broadway as well as in the community. Please pray for our leadership team as we prayerfully and responsibly prepare the budget and plan for 2024. Our current giving is down, and we need to determine how we are able to meet the needs of those in the church and community. Join us on Sunday, November 19th following the worship service for our Congregational Business Meeting. Leadership Team members: Keith Holmertz, Colleen Felts, Sue Warren, Ron Burwell, Ron Carlson, Jeanine Heck and Bob Schweiger.

Thanksgiving Service

Plan to join us for a combined Thanksgiving worship with Vida Eterna on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7:00 p.m. There will be a time of fellowship and pie following the service.

November

S M T W T F S

			1	2 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	3	4
			7:30 VE prayer & worship			
5 2:00 DST 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	6 6:00 Carol Circle @ Louise Peterson's	7 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 6:30 Leadership Team Mtg.	8 7:30 VE prayer & worship	9 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	13	14 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	15 7:30 VE prayer & worship	16 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship BCC Annual Mtg 11:45 Vida Eterna	20 Messenger news due in the office	21 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Mary's Market	22 7:00 Worship and fellowship	23 	24 7:30 VE Women Ministry	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	27	28 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	29 7:30 VE prayer & worship	30 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study		

**November 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

Thanksgiving Baskets

We will begin collecting non-perishable food items and cash donations for the Thanksgiving baskets. These baskets are for any member of the church or for friends of our church family who need a little extra help at this Thanksgiving time. To recommend a family, call the office with names, addresses and number of people. Please drop off any non-perishable food items in the labeled boxes at the front of the church and by the office. Make checks out to Broadway Covenant Church and mark in the memo Thanksgiving.



Mission Report

This month please pray for Covenant World Relief and Development. “CWRD works through local partners around the world to reduce human suffering for the most vulnerable people and support healthy communities. They have granted over \$1.7 million for community development and disaster response within the last year. CWRD has funded 39 community development projects in 18 countries and sent additional resources to nine countries in response to 19 disasters. The ministry of CWRD connects churches to like minded organizations around the world, and transformation happens in the lives of thousands of people through skilled ministry of global partners.: An example of this is Hillcrest Covenant Church whose youth were inspired to participate in Project Blue. “Project Blue is, an immersive experience designed to help participants learn about water needs in the majority world, including places like rural India where significant time is spent walking long distances to retrieve daily for water.” Hillcrest developed a relationship with a Covenant Church in India and are in regular communication with each other. They have continued to help support their ongoing water needs. For more information see covchurch.org/serve-globally/covenant-world-relief.