



April 2024

# The Messenger

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## Easter's Afterglow - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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Did you know there is no official terminology in the liturgical calendar to mark the 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension? Our church doesn't pay much attention to the church calendar beyond Advent and Holy Week, but I find it surprising that in 2,000 years, Christians haven't come up with a good word to describe this fascinating and deeply meaningful time period when our Risen Lord walked with His followers preparing them to take over His ministry.

To be fair, liturgical calendars do mark this time as the seven weeks of Easter, calling the church to an on-going celebration of Jesus' resurrection. That's certainly appropriate.

Some extraordinary things happened during those 40 days. Jesus, risen from the dead in His earthly body, was able to pass through walls, suddenly appearing in a room with the disciples on at least two occasions. He ate food and showed His friends the wounds He had received on the cross, proving that He wasn't a ghost or some heavenly manifestation of the man they had known. Jesus walked with them and talked with them, just like before, but with a kind of resurrection afterglow.

Jesus also completed some unfinished ministry business before ascending into heaven. He restored Peter, who had denied knowing Him on the way to the cross. He helped Thomas overcome his doubt. He gave the disciples their mission to go and make other disciples. He reaffirmed the promise of the Holy Spirit, who would fall on believers giving them power to tell the world about Jesus.

Those 40 days were all about preparing Jesus' followers to build the church. He appointed leaders, gave them a mission and assured them of the amazing power available to them through the Holy Spirit.

Thinking back on those exhilarating days, John included two remarkable statements in the closing passages of his Gospel.

*Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:30-31).*

*Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written (John 21:25).*

We believe in the Risen Lord who does countless amazing and wonderful things. We believe in His miraculous power and in the wisdom and truth of His teaching. We believe in His mercy for sinners like us and in His promise to return at the end of the age.

We also believe Jesus established the church to share His love and message with the world. Our mission remains the same, and the powerful presence of the Spirit now lives inside us. We worship and pray. We read God's word and fellowship together. We reach out to neighbors with love and compassion. We invite sinners to find the Savior.

So, in the afterglow of Easter, we remember what Jesus did for us on the cross, we celebrate His glorious resurrection, we hold fast to the promise of His return, and we dedicate our church to sharing Jesus with those in need.



## Birthdays

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3	Pat Johnson
4	Emily Holmertz
6	Joyce Cosman
7	Kendra Ecklund
9	Mario Torres
10	Kellen Price
13	Theresa Gregorcy
	April Parker
20	Kristi Swanson
23	Toni Cartwright
	Alice Tsai
26	Don Davis
29	Dan Hitchcock
	Jeff Irean



## Anniversaries

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7	Theresa & Perry Gregorcy
12	Mario & Patty Torres
26	Carrie & Paul Pretzer

## Carol Circle

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We met in March and decided that going forward we will meet in May, Sept. and Nov. There will still be ladies' night out in July. The time change to 11:30 for a luncheon potluck seemed to work better for our members. The next meeting will be Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> with a "Cinco de Mayo" theme. Louise Peterson will host in her home. Watch for future announcements and mark your calendar. Hope you can join us.

## Serving in April

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### Counters:

Bob Schweiger & Sue Warren

### Head Usher:

Tom Heck

## Remember in Prayer

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**Dave Roen** with health concerns.

## Graduates

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If you or anyone in your family is graduating from high school, college or graduate school this year please submit their names and school to the church office by calling (815)399-9296 or email to [sue@broadwaycovenant.com](mailto:sue@broadwaycovenant.com).

## Leadership Team Update

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- There will be a Prayer Service on Sunday, April 7
- The Central Conference annual meeting will be on May 2-4 in Batavia
- The Covenant Annual Meeting will be June 26-29 in Cincinnati
- Broadway Church Congregational meeting will be on May 19
- Beginning April 1 the church office will be open on Tuesday and Wednesday

## Women's Fellowship

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Women's Fellowship continues to meet on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the adult Sunday school room. The current study is "Surrendered" by Barb Roose. All women are welcome!

## 60 Plus

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Join 60 Plus for lunch on Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 at Stockholm Inn. Please call Sue at church (815)399-9296 or Karen Holmertz with your reservation by April 14<sup>th</sup> and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.

## Women's Ministry - Northern Illinois District

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A Spring Gathering is planned for Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> held at First Covenant Church at 9:30am. At hot breakfast will be served for \$7.00. Retiring missionary Karen Groot is our speaker. She will share information about their work in Thailand and also about Abundant Life Center. ALC trains women to sew so they are able to support themselves. The beautiful and reasonably priced products will be available for sale. Please RSVP to Carolyn Augenson or directly to Yvonne Raymond at (815) 979-6891 by Monday April 15<sup>th</sup>.

# April

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	1	2 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	3  7:30 VE prayer & worship	4  10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	5  7:30 VE Women Ministry	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Leadership Team Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	8	9 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship  6:30 Rolling Green Mtg.	10  7:30 VE prayer & worship	11  10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	12	13
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 Stockholm Inn	17  7:30 VE prayer & worship	18  10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	19	20  9:30 WM-NID Spring Gathering @ 1st Cov.
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship  11:45 Vida Eterna	22 Messenger news due in the office	23 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast Mary's Market  7:30 VE prayer & worship	25  10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship  11:45 Vida Eterna	29	30 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship				

**April 2024  
Broadway Covenant  
Church**

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Rockford, IL 61108

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

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

## Mission Report

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This month please pray for **Alaska Christian College and Stateline Youth for Christ.**

**Alaska Christian College (ACC)** is in Soldotna Alaska and was established in September 2001. “ACC has sought to provide programs to meet the needs of Alaskan students and prepare them to serve their communities. They offer four-degree programs, are accredited by ABHE, and have transfer partnerships with numerous schools in Alaska and the lower forty-eight. ACC believes that the student’s spiritual development is more than going to class. Students can go to evening worship for some energizing music and singing, listen to a sermon during Wednesday chapel, be inspired by guest speakers, get guidance and support from their mentor or pick up a guitar and make their own music in the Denali room.” For more information see [alaka.edu](http://alaka.edu).

“**Stateline Youth for Christ (SYFC)** exists to reach youth throughout the Stateline area with the gospel of Jesus Christ and in doing so bring gospel-centered transformation to the Stateline area. SYFC has after school activities that have games, fellowship, biblically themed messages, opportunities to build healthy relationships, and mentoring. They also have a camp that creates an outdoor environment that invites God to transform lives of young people through shared experiences, outdoor challenges, and times of solitude that draw students to the heart of God within the context of authentic relationships and memorable learning experiences. In addition to these programs, SYFC has mentors who come along side youth during their time of incarceration to build relationships to show them their identity, freedom, values, and purpose in Christ, and to equip them for a new life beyond incarceration.” For more information see [statelineyfc.org](http://statelineyfc.org).