



May 2024

The Messenger

The More Things Change... - Pastor Mike Mirakian

Two-thousand years is a long time. It's hard to fathom how dramatically human culture has changed since Jesus called the first disciples to start the church. Many believers at that time thought Jesus would return in their lifetimes and bring the church age to an end just as it was getting started. And yet, here we are, 2,000 years later, and the church is still seeking to fulfill the mission Jesus gave us to carry His love and message to the ends of the earth.

As I have preached through Acts this spring, I have been struck by the many cultural changes that have taken place since that first generation of believers. In some ways, it feels like a completely different world than the one Peter, Stephen and Paul knew. At the same time, I find encouragement in considering those things that remain the same.

One of the most obvious changes through the centuries of church history is the widespread expansion of God's Kingdom. The first generation of believers carried the Gospel from Jerusalem out across the Roman Empire, reaching perhaps as far as Spain. That was a great accomplishment under the power and protection of the Holy Spirit, but now, the message of Christ has gone everywhere. We take it for granted that there are Christians and established churches in virtually every nation on earth. Missionary work is still needed to reach each new generation, but the geographic spread of the Gospel has been tremendous.

Another change we can't ignore is the technological revolution, especially in recent decades. When Paul set out to travel from Jerusalem to Rome, it was a dangerous journey by sea and land that took six months or more. He endured a shipwreck and had to be rescued from a small island. Now of course, people routinely fly across the country or around the world, covering thousands of miles in a few hours. Missionaries can bring the Gospel to remote parts of the world with relative ease, and we can communicate instantly with people in faraway lands by voice, text or video.

American churches enjoy the historically unique blessing of cultural acceptance along with freedom of assembly and speech. The early church faced constant and often brutal persecution. They were opposed by other religious groups and by government authority. Most of Jesus' first disciples died as martyrs. By contrast, we enjoy legal protection and cultural support. It's easy (maybe too easy) to be a Christian in America.

While many things have changed in 2,000 years, what matters most to our faith has remained the same. First and foremost, the good news of Jesus has not and will not change. God still loves people everywhere and invites them to find forgiveness and new life in Christ. Jesus is still the only Savior through whom people can find eternal hope and peace, and that means the message of the church does not need to change. We continue to preach the Gospel and call all people everywhere to repentance and faith in Jesus. We proclaim our Lord's death and celebrate His resurrection. We rejoice in God's grace that saves us, and we long for the glories of heaven when this life ends.

In the same way, the power of the Holy Spirit has not changed. The book of Acts chronicles mighty things those first believers were able to accomplish after the Spirit took up residence in their hearts. By the Spirit's power, they performed miracles, confronted demonic forces, cared for hurting people, and most importantly, helped countless people find new life in Christ. Now, we have the same power at work in our lives and our ministry. The Spirit dwells in our hearts and moves in our church to enable our service in Jesus' name. May God continue to bless and protect His church, until Jesus returns.



Birthdays

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

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

60 Plus

Join 60 Plus for lunch on Tuesday, May 21st, 11:30 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 19th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.

Serving in May

Counters:

Steve Schweitzer & Gene Felts

Head Usher:

Gene Felts

Remember in Prayer

Tom Heck recovering from surgery

Graduates

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.



Leadership Team Update

- Pastor Mike will be preaching from Acts in May. He will also be teaching Sunday School class in May. He will present some studies from the book of Revelation.
- The Leadership Team recommended the approval of funds for repair and renovation of the west parking lot. The church members approved this recommendation at the congregational meeting held on Sunday, April 21.
- A positive report was received for a building inspection conducted on March 14.
- There is a need to nominate a person for the role of financial secretary.

Broadway Covenant Church Annual Meeting

Plan to attend the BCC Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 19th in fellowship hall immediately following the worship service.

Women's Fellowship

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

Historical Pictorial Directories

There are copies of several different Broadway Covenant Church pictorial directories dating back to the 1970s in the southeast entryway. Stop by and take a look or take one home while supplies last.

May

S M T W T F S

			1	2	3	4
			7:30 VE prayer & worship		7:30 VE Women Ministry	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship LT Meeting 11:45 Vida Eterna	11:30 Carol Circle potluck at Louise Peterson's	8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	7:30 VE prayer & worship	10:30 Pastor's Bible Study		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna		8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	7:30 VE prayer & worship	10:30 Pastor's Bible Study		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship BCC Annual Mtg 11:45 Vida Eterna	Messenger news due in the office	8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Jessica's	8:00 Men's Breakfast Mary's Market 7:30 VE prayer & worship	10:30 Pastor's Bible Study		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna		8:30 Morning Prayer	7:30 VE prayer & worship			

**May 2024
Broadway Covenant
Church**

3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

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

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

Mission Report

This month please pray for **Bridge Ministries and Habitat for Humanity**. “**Bridge Ministries** was founded in 1993 when Gary Schwerin felt called and compelled to build bridges in the church of Rockford and the community of Rockford-divided racially, socio-economically, politically, religiously, and denominationally. Here are a few ways they are serving people and churches: Speaking in churches and organizations about reconciliation and unity; Mentoring young leaders to live and lead with passion and relevance; Encourage pastors and churches to remain faithful in reaching outside their walls; Providing encouragement and support to civic, business, and agency leaders and networking them with local churches; Sponsoring public prayer gatherings to pray for the city and the church; and Building friendships with and between those separated by race, denomination, geography, gender or socio-economic status.” For more information see bridgeministries.com.

“**Habitat for Humanity** is a global non-profit housing organization working in local communities across all 50 states in the U.S. and in approximately 70 countries. Habitat’s vision is of a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Habitat works toward their vision by building strength, stability and self-reliance in partnership with families in need of decent and affordable housing. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Rockford Habitat for Humanity was formed in 1988. It took a couple of years to gather the resources to build one home on Clover Avenue. As of fall of 2023 they have built 150 houses, 170 affordable mortgages originated, and close to 100 homes augmented with critical repairs.” For more information see habitat.org and rockfordhabitat.org.

Fabio & Johnna Muiz-France

Praise The connections they are making are having positive influences.
Pray For the people they are connecting with will have their needs met.