

April/May 2025



# The Messenger

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## On the Way to the Cross - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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It will soon be Easter, but let's not rush too quickly to the story of Jesus' resurrection. Let's walk with Him toward the cross, let's listen to the words He spoke, let's contemplate His suffering and allow our souls to feel the sorrow of His death. Easter falls late on the calendar this year, so let's take time to remember all Jesus endured to become our Savior.

Several people played small but important roles in Jesus' passion, including some whose names are not recorded in scripture, like the centurion who was moved by watching Jesus die and the criminal who professed faith as he was crucified next to Jesus. Then, there were three people whose stories teach us about our Savior and what it means to follow Him. We do know their names.

The first and most enigmatic was Barabbas. During the Passover festival, Roman authorities often released a Jewish prisoner to show good-will to the people of Jerusalem. As Jesus stood on trial, Pilate initially wanted to release Him, but the crowd insisted that Barabbas be released instead. Barabbas was a rebel and a murderer. Those who opposed Jesus preferred to save Barabbas and condemn Jesus.

Pilate eventually agreed, and Barabbas was set free in place of Jesus. A violent criminal and condemned sinner was released, and Jesus was put to death.

We believe Jesus' death saves us. He died in our place. He took the punishment for our sin. Jesus suffered and died so we don't have to. Like Barabbas, we are set free.

Then, there was Simon of Cyrene. He happened to be walking into Jerusalem just as the Roman soldiers led Jesus out of the city to be crucified. They stopped Simon and ordered him to carry Jesus' cross.

We don't know why they chose Simon or if he had ever met Jesus before that moment. We do know that he carried the cross behind Jesus, helping our Savior bear that terrible burden on the way to His life-giving death. All four Gospels record Simon's name, so it's fair to assume he became known by the early church and perhaps even became a believer.

Simon did in a literal, physical way what Jesus asks all His followers to do: carry the cross and follow Him. We serve Jesus in obedience, sometimes even suffering for the sake of His name. We follow where He leads, going often into places of need and sorrow. Like Simon, we carry the cross faithfully, remembering that Jesus suffered even greater pain and sorrow.

Third, we read about Joseph of Arimathea who buried Jesus' body. Joseph was a follower of Jesus and what he did for our Lord's body was an act of faith. It was also an act of courage. Joseph sat on the ruling council of religious leaders, the same group that put Jesus on trial and sent Him to Pilate to be executed.

After Jesus died on the cross, Joseph asked Pilate for His body so he could bury it in accordance with Jewish custom. Joseph showed love for his Savior despite what his peers would think of him. Like Joseph, we stand up for Jesus when others reject Him. We tell His story and profess faith even in the face of persecution or ridicule. We love Jesus no matter the cost.

I hope you will take time to read the story of Jesus' suffering and death. Walk with Him to the cross and give thanks for God's saving grace. Then, your heart will be ready for Easter morning as we rejoice in the resurrection.



## April Birthdays

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3	Pat Johnson
6	Joyce Cosman
7	Kendra Ecklund
9	Mario Torres
13	Theresa Gregorcy April Williams
20	Kristi Swanson
23	Toni Cartwright Alice Tsai
26	Don Davis
29	Dan Hitchcock Jeff Irelan



## April Anniversaries

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

## Women's Fellowship

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Women's Fellowship meets on Tuesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. During the month of April they will study a series by Lisa Harper focusing on preparation for Easter. All are welcome!

## Men's Breakfast

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The next meeting for Men's Breakfast will be Wednesday, April 23rd when we will meet at Mary's Market on East State Street at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome.

## Serving in April

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### Counters:

Bob Schweiger and Steve Schweitzer

### Head Usher:

Tom Heck

## Remember in Prayer

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**Emmy Miller** with health issues.

**Ron Carlson** recovering from knee surgery.

## April 60 Plus

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Join 60 Plus for lunch on Tuesday, April 15th, 11:30 at Stockholm Inn. Please call the church office (815)399-9296 or Karen with your reservation by Sunday, April 13th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.

## Adult Sunday School in April

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During the month of April, Laura Mirakian will teach the Sunday School class on the topic of prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us in the adult classroom at 9:00 a.m.

## Leadership Team Update

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- Valley Covenant Church will host our Maundy Thursday service on April 17.
- Pastor Mike will continue preaching from the Gospel of John each Sunday through Easter.
- The Leadership Team has recommended that the Missions, Outreach and Evangelism team be given an additional \$3000 from our surplus to be distributed among our various budgeted ministries.

## Goodbyes

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It is with mixed feelings we say goodbye to two of our staff. Jerry Jacobs concluded his music ministry with us on Sunday, March 30. Sue Ippolito ended her ministry with us on March 26th. They have been a blessing to our church through the years. We wish all the best to them as they enter a new time in their lives. They will be greatly missed.

## Easter Breakfast

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Breakfast will be served Sunday, April 20 at 9:00. We will serve in the adult Sunday school room on the first floor. Come any time between 9:00 to 10:00 and join us before our worship celebration of our risen savior!

# April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship  ELECTION DAY	2  7:30 VE prayer & worship	3	4	5
6 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship  11:45 Vida Eterna	7	8 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship  6:30 Rolling Green Mtg.	9  7:30 VE prayer & worship	10  10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	11	12
13 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Leadership Team Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	14	15 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Stockholm Inn	16  7:30 VE prayer & worship	17  10:30 Pastor's Bible Study  6:30 Maundy Thursday @ Valley Covenant	18	19
20 9:00 Easter Breakfast 10:15 Worship  11:45 Vida Eterna  	21	22 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast at Mary's Market  7:30 VE prayer & worship	24  10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	28	29 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	30  7:30 VE prayer & worship			

# May

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				1 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	2	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	5	6 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	7 7:30 VE prayer & worship	8 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	9	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Leadership Team Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	12	13 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	14 7:30 VE prayer & worship	15 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	16	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship BCC Annual Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	19	20 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus at Jessica's	21 7:30 VE prayer & worship	22 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	23	24
25 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	26 	27 8:30 Morning Prayer	28 7:30 VE prayer & worship	29	30	31



## May Birthdays

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- 9 Karl Burdick  
Kathy Holmertz
- 12 Sylvia Bowman
- 14 Laura Price
- 17 Susan Nelson  
Mike Mirakian
- 23 Amy Breese  
Cheryl Carlson



## May Anniversaries

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- 2 Jerry & Charmel Jacobs

## 2024 Annual Meeting

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The Broadway Covenant Church Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 18th following the worship service in fellowship hall. Please plan to join us.

## May Adult Sunday

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In May, Pastor Mike will lead the class through writings by C.S. Lewis. Sunday School class meets in the adult classroom at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

## Welcome

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Starting in May, Noelle Mirakian will join us as an office manager while she is home for the summer. Her hours will be announced soon. We are very glad to have her join us for this summer. Welcome Noelle!

## Serving in May

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### Counters:

Sue Warren and Gene Felts

### Head Usher:

Gene Felts

## May 60 Plus

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Join 60 Plus for lunch on Tuesday, May 20th, 11:30 at Jessica's, 5091 Edgemere Ct., Roscoe, IL (corner of Hononegah Rd and Hwy 251). Please call the church office (815)399-9296 or Karen with your reservation by Sunday, May 18th and let her know if you need a ride. Remember to invite others to join us.

## Carol Circle

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Carol Circle will meet on Monday, May 5 at 11:30 for a potluck luncheon to celebrate Cinco de Mayo. Louise Peterson will host us. Please let Louise or Carolyn know if you will be able to join us. There will devotions and a time to share prayer requests.

## May Mission Report

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In May, please pray for **Bridge Ministries and Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity (RAHFH)**.

“**Bridge Ministries** exists to serve the local church...to build up and bring together the pieces that are currently divided or standing alone for increased effectiveness in our community. Here are a few ways they are serving people and churches in the community: Building trust and friendships with and between church and community leaders; Collaborating with local churches to meet practical needs in our community; Leading prayer gatherings in city hall, at the school board, and throughout the city; Mentoring young leaders and encouraging seasoned ones; Offering leadership training and consultation to empower effective ministry teams; Networking churches, pastors, clergy groups, and non-profit organizations to foster greater oneness and cooperation; Working to bring racial reconciliation to our city; Speaking to churches and non-profit organizations on spiritual growth; and provide prayer opportunities around the city.” For more information see [bridgeministries.com](http://bridgeministries.com).

“**RAHFH** was formed in 1988. They are dedicated to building homes, neighborhoods, and lives through improved housing opportunities. They build simple, decent affordable homes to be sold to families currently living in substandard housing. RAHFH is for families who are ready to make a life-changing commitment to become homeowners. Families are selected based on the need for adequate housing, ability to make mortgage payments, and willingness to become partners in the program.” For more information see [rockfordhabitat.org](http://rockfordhabitat.org).

**April/May 2025  
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)**

## An Opportunity to Serve

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The Mission, Outreach and Evangelism Team volunteered to help out with three Sunday evening chapels at Rockford Rescue Mission. The first chapel is May 18th and we need 6 volunteers to help set up and serve the supper after the chapel service. Volunteers need to be at the rescue mission from 4:30-6:00 PM on that Sunday. If you have questions and/or are willing to help out on Sunday, May 18th, call or text Barb Burwell at (717) 503-7398.

## Mission Report

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In April, please pray for **Alaska Christian College (ACC) and Stateline Youth for Christ**. ACC started in September 2001. "They wanted to offer programs to meet the needs of Alaskan students and prepare them to serve their communities. Today ACC offers four-degree programs, accredited by ABHE, and transfer partnerships with numerous schools in Alaska and the lower forty-eight. Their vision is to be the premier college of choice for Alaska Native students so that their graduates follow and serve Christ within the church and larger society. They offer spiritual development through evening worship services with music, singing, and a sermon, and through guidance and support from a mentor." For more information see [alaskacc.edu](http://alaskacc.edu).

"**Stateline Youth for Christ** is a non-profit organization seeking to empower disadvantaged teens spiritually, socially, and emotionally through creative programs and healthy relationships with adult mentors. They do this through several programs: City Life offers weekly gatherings where young people can have fun and hear a biblically themed message; K-Play partners with the Kiwanis Club of Rockford and is working to improve relationships between youth and law enforcement; One on One and group mentoring, Juvenile Justice Ministry provides mentors to come alongside youth during their time incarcerated to build relationships in order to show them their identity, freedom, value and purpose in Christ and to equip them for new lives beyond incarceration." For more information see [statelineyfc.org](http://statelineyfc.org).