



August/September 2025

The Messenger

Focused on the Gospel of Grace - Pastor Mike Mirakian

We all get distracted sometimes. We let our focus drift from time to time away from what matters most. Even faithful followers of Jesus like you and me sometimes let troubles and temptations cloud our minds, distracting us from loving God and serving Jesus as fully as we should.

One of the great distractions of our age is the never-ending flow of information speaking and sparkling at us from our many screens. TVs, cell phones, computers and tablets shine into our eyes and fill our minds with more information than we could possibly remember or find meaningful. From news to movies to ads to silly videos, we soak in all these sights and sounds without giving much thought to how they distract us from doing good things of lasting value.

During August, I will preach from Galatians, a letter Paul wrote to call a local church back to the essential truths of the Gospel. They had gotten distracted. They had fallen for some bad ideas that turned their minds and hearts away from the grace of God offered by Jesus Christ.

Paul wrote to get them back on track. He begins with a startling comment: “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all” (Gal. 1:6-7). Even if an angel from heaven were to bring a different message, Paul warns, don’t fall for it.

He spends much of the letter explaining how the gospel of grace is more true, more life-giving than any other spiritual or worldly idea. His words called the Galatians – and now us – back to Jesus, reminding us that we are saved through faith in His name. Paul wrote in a different letter about his single-minded focus: “For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Corinthians 2:2).

We often make faith and life more complicated that it needs to be. We get distracted by things that seem important, things that feel good, things that other people say matter. Meanwhile, we take our focus off the good news of Christ crucified.

Of course, Jesus calls us to be involved with the world around us and to love our neighbors. He gave the church a mission that includes more than just preaching the Gospel. We care for the needs of others, we worship and fellowship together, we pray and serve and seek to make this world a better place. These good works, done to God’s glory, aren’t distractions so long as we do them for the sake of advancing the gospel of grace in Jesus’ name.

And we return, again and again, day after day, to the central truth of the Gospel. Jesus died on the cross to set us free from sin and death. He rose again to open the way for us to live with God forever. We are saved by grace through faith.

The best remedy for the distractions of this world is time spent with God in His word and in prayer. So, let me encourage you as we head into our fall ministry season, to make a commitment to open God’s word more often either on your own or, even better, with other believers at Broadway.

Read scripture and pray every day. Listen to what God is saying to you. Fill your heart with Jesus’ story. If you are able, join one of our Bible studies that resume in September. Sunday School meets each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Women’s Fellowship gathers on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. I lead Pastor’s Bible Study each Thursday at 10:30 a.m.

Happy Birthday!

8	Dave Lape
13	Ken Yarwood
14	Wyone Leather
17	Cindy Beyerl
22	Todd Cultra
26	Jerry Jacobs
28	Rich Nobel

Happy Anniversary!

2	Toni & Ralph Cartwright Tom & Jeanine Heck
18	Bruce & Cindy Beyerl
19	Anders & Arlene Gredenius
20	Barbara & Ron Burwell
23	Kent & Jean Drews
25	David & Kim Lape

Serving in August

Counters: Jon Brown, Randy Price

Head Usher: Jon Brown

Recruiting Greeters

Broadway Covenant Church needs volunteers to greet one Sunday morning each month before the morning worship service at approximately 10:00 a.m.-10:20 a.m. If you are interested in serving in this way contact Barb Burwell at: bburwell@messiah.edu or call or text (717) 503-7398

New Pulpit Bible

There is a new pulpit Bible in the Sanctuary. You can find the previous Bible, which we have had for about seventy years, in the church library.



August 2025

Directory

The new 2025-2026 Directory will be coming out soon. Please call the church office at (815) 399-9296 by Aug 10 with any updated information.

Church Library

The church library is open to anyone who wants to borrow a book. The library is set up using an honor system, so feel free to take any book and return it when you're done. There will also be a curated selection of books in the entryway.

Rockford Reads Program

The Missions, Outreach and Evangelism Team seeks to provide opportunities for Broadway Covenant Church to serve the community. So once again this coming school year there is an opportunity to participate in the Rockford Reads Program at either Rolling Green Elementary or Whitehead Elementary. Volunteers are recruited to come in to the school for one hour a week, to read to children. If you have questions and/or are interested in volunteering in this program, contact Barb Burwell. Either email, bburwell@messiah.edu or text or call (717) 503-7398

Mission Update

As young people are going back to school in August, please pray for North Park University, North Park Seminary and Tim Sales with InterVarsity Cristian Fellowship.

"North Park University was founded in 1891 by the Evangelical Covenant Church and enrolls 3200 students from around the world. At North Park, excellence implies not only a deep tradition in the Liberal Arts and Christian faith, but a spirit of reaching out to serve and learn from the dynamic community around them. Students encounter different Christian traditions and study in a diverse environment. From campus worship to global outreach, University Ministries is about transforming students to impact the world for God." For more information see www.northpark.edu.

"North Park Seminary is the only Seminary of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Their mission is to help students grow in knowledge and identity to answer God's call for their lives. They believe that theological education is more than course work. In addition to classes in Bible, Theology, History and Ministry, they give their students the tools and understanding needed to be competent across cultural, economic, geographic, and gender boundaries." For more information see www.northpark.edu/seminary.

"InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's purpose is to establish and advance at colleges and universities witnessing communities of students and faculty who follow Jesus as Savior and Lord: growing in love for God, God's word, God's people of every ethnicity and culture, and God's purpose in the world. They achieve this purpose through evangelism (drawing students to Jesus); Discipleship (teach students to respond to God's Word); Multiethnicity (Engage people of all cultures and ethnicities) and Mission (encourage service to God's purpose in the world)." For more information see intervarsity.org. Tim Sales is the Northwest Illinois Area Ministry Director.

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	4	5 8:30 Morning Prayer	6 7:30 VE prayer & worship	7	8	9
10 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	11	12 8:30 Morning Prayer	13 7:30 VE prayer & worship	14	15	16
17 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	18	19 8:30 Morning Prayer	20 7:30 VE prayer & worship	21	22	23
24 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 Happy Labor Day!	2	3	4 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	5	6
7 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Potluck 11:45 Vida Eterna	8	9 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 60 Plus	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	17 7:30 VE prayer & worship	18 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	19	20
21 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	22	23 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast 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 MOE Team Meeting	29	30 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship				

Happy Birthday!

5	Arlene Gredenius
	Bob Rehnberg
	Patty Torres
10	Kathy Almond
12	Anders Gredenius
13	Perry Gregorcy
14	Marcia Johnson
	Jonathan Torres
16	Ron Miller
	Linda Evans
17	Don Leather
21	Bob Schweiger
	Erica Schweiger
23	Louise Peterson
24	Jean Drews
30	Barbara Burwell

Happy Anniversary!

2	Randall & Laura Ann Price
4	Ryan & Kara Woodrow
8	Dan & Laura Schweitzer
11	Robert & Barbara Rehnberg
14	Emily & Brian Lorbach
15	James & Jill Page
16	Wayne & Carolyn Augenson
27	Keith & Kathryn Holmertz

Serving in September

Counters: Gene Felts, Sue Warren

Head Usher: Bob Schweiger

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will resume Tuesday Sept 2 at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited for study, prayer, and sharing. The first several weeks we will resume our study Perfectly Flawed, by Lisa Toney. It is a study on the life of Peter.

September 2025

60 Plus

Join 60+ for a day of activities at Covenant Harbor on Lake Geneva on Sept 9. The day begins with check-in at 10 a.m. and includes worship under the Big Tent, lunch in the Lodge, a one-hour Gage boat cruise, camp tours, and relaxing with lake views from the lawn or Boathouse. The day ends at 4 p.m. The cost is \$39 per person and you must register online at covenantharbor.org by Sept 1. There is a partial refund available if you cancel by Sept 1. You can call (262) 248-3600 if you need assistance with registration. After you register, call Karen so she can arrange carpooling rides. Covenant Harbor uses the 60+ name for this day just like us. Register asap to make sure you get in.

Sunday School

Beginning Sept 7, Sunday School will feature a variety of Biblical and topical studies this fall. We will discover God's truth and grow in faith as we read scripture and discuss our spiritual lives together. Please join us Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the adult classroom.

Pastor's Bible Study

Pastor Mike will lead PBS this fall through a study of Acts, picking up where we left the story in chapter 9. Beginning Sept 4, Pastor's Bible Study meets each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the adult classroom. Everyone is welcome to join as we discuss issues of faith, read God's word and pray together.

Potluck

On kickoff Sunday Sept 7 we will have a potluck dinner after church. Table settings, beverages and chicken will be provided. Please bring a dish to pass and share. It is a great time of fellowship and making friends. There will be a sign-up sheet in August so we know how much chicken to order.

Rockford Reads Program

The Missions, Outreach and Evangelism Team seeks to provide opportunities for Broadway Covenant Church to serve the community. So once again this coming school year there is an opportunity to participate in the Rockford Reads Program at either Rolling Green Elementary or Whitehead Elementary. Volunteers are recruited to come in to the school for one hour a week, to read to children. If you have questions and/or are interested in volunteering in this program, contact Barb Burwell. Either email, bburwell@messiah.edu or text or call (717) 503-7398

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast will start again on Wednesday September 24. We will meet at 8 a.m. at Mary's Market on State St.

Carol Circle

Carol Circle will meet on Monday, September 8th at 11:30 a.m. for a potluck luncheon. Louise Peterson has graciously agreed to host us at her home. Please let Louise or Carolyn know if you will be able to join us. There will be devotions and a time to share prayer requests. New participants are always welcome. Hope to see you there.

September 2025

Mission Update

In September, please pray for Covenant Youth of Alaska (CYAK).

"CYAK's mission is to share the love and hope of Christ with Alaska's youth and young adults. A large number of Alaska Natives rely on each other and the land for provisions. They travel far distances for hunting and gathering. They live in rural villages that can only be accessed by plane, boat, or snow machine. However, there are still struggles. Alaska Native Youth have some of the highest rates of suicide, teen pregnancy and sexual abuse in the country. CYAK was formed in 1992 to respond to these issues. They coordinate a team of youth leaders, churches and volunteers who focus on ministering to students between the ages of 12 and 25. Their ministry to students range from youth groups in small villages to equipping students for life with vocational training and Christian mentoring. Whatever stage an individual is in, CYAK will support and challenge them. By the time they are 25 they want to see young adults transformed by the Gospel and leading their communities towards hope and health." For more information see CYAK.org.

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Broadway Covenant
Church**

3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

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

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com