



August 2024

# The Messenger

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## Wise Hearts and Discerning Minds - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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We are blessed to live in a society of great abundance with lots of things and money and personal freedoms, and yet we suffer from an alarming scarcity of that which gives life meaning and leads to true peace and security: wisdom.

For all the wealth and power we see in our culture, people are starving for wisdom, discernment and truth. We have fallen for the deception that might makes right and that those with the loudest voices should lead. Even in our personal lives, we often join with the world's ways instead of seeking after God's wisdom.

During August, I plan to preach on wisdom. We will read about Solomon asking God for wisdom instead of wealth, power and fame. We will read in Proverbs about the blessings we receive as we seek after and follow God's wisdom. We will read in Ecclesiastes about how to find meaning and fulfillment in life.

We find wisdom as we read God's word, taking truth into our hearts and learning to submit to the Spirit's leading. God also grants us wisdom in answer to our prayers. He longs to give us what we need to serve His purposes, and God is always ready to give wisdom to those who seek it. We also find wisdom through the counsel of faithful believers whose hearts have been shaped by God's word.

With wisdom, we can know best how to raise our children and care for our families.

With wisdom, we can manage our finances, even in the midst of economic uncertainty.

With wisdom, we can discern what is best for our community and nation, even knowing how to vote in a time of political confusion.

With wisdom, we can deal with difficult people and hard situations, making the most of every opportunity to do what is right.

With wisdom, we can decide what ideas to fill our minds with and which voices to listen to.

Without wisdom, we will be drawn into the world's ways of thinking and acting, becoming what scripture calls a fool. Fools are driven by selfish greed, by lustful desire and by misguided pride. Fools take the easy way, seek immediate gratification and ignore the feelings and needs of others. "The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice" (Proverbs 12:15).

Without wisdom, we also run the risk of becoming what scripture calls wicked. People who are wicked are morally corrupt and spiritually deceived. They do what is wrong without shame or regret, hurting others and mocking those who suffer.

Ultimately, God will hold people accountable for the foolish and wicked things they do. "The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath" (Proverbs 11:23).

As followers of Jesus, as people who have tasted the goodness of the Lord and as those who believe and obey God's word, we desire wisdom. Like Solomon, we ask God to give us wise and discerning hearts, and we trust He will provide. "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you" (James 1:5).

May the Lord grant us wise hearts and discerning minds.



## Birthdays

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



## Anniversaries

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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

## Annual Church Picnic

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Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for the annual church picnic on Sunday, September 8th in fellowship hall. Please consider calling Colleen Felts to help with this event.



## Serving in August

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### Counters:

Jon Brown and Randy Price

### Head Usher:

Jon Brown

## 60 Plus

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60 Plus will not meet in the month of August.

## Thank You

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Thank you to Beth and George Plomos for donating the beautiful hosta plants that have been planted near the building after the completion of the west parking lot and in front of the church.

## Remember in Prayer

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The family of **Peggy Frint** who passed away in July.

## Leadership Team Update

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- Pastor's Bible Study will resume on Sept 5 continuing a study of Luke.
- Payment for the work on the church parking lot has been paid in full.
- The church has upgraded its software (Servant Keeper). With this change there will be changes in on-line giving procedures for Broadway Covenant.
- A short summary of the annual meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church is available on the denomination website. You can access the report using the following link:

[https://covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/DWNLD-2\\_Gather2024\\_Delegate-Summary.pdf](https://covchurch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/DWNLD-2_Gather2024_Delegate-Summary.pdf)

## Carol Circle

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Mark your calendars for Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> and Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> for the final meetings of Carol Circle for the year. Come for a potluck lunch at 11:30 at Louise Peterson's home. More information to come.

## Central Conference Fall Fellowship

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**GET FREE**  
Loosening the Ties That Bind  
Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not let yourselves again with a yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1

Fall Fellowship is being held at Covenant Harbor Friday September 13 – 15. All information can be found on their website [covenantharbor.org](http://covenantharbor.org) under the Events tab - Fall Fellowship. The speaker is Rev. Cheryl Cornelius from Gary, Indiana where she serves as co-pastor.

# August

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4 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	5	6 8:30 Morning Prayer	7  7:30 VE prayer & worship	8	9	10
11 10:15 Worship LT Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	12	13 8:30 Morning Prayer	14  7:30 VE prayer & worship	15	16	17
18 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	19 Messenger news due in the office	20 8:30 Morning Prayer	21  7:30 VE prayer & worship	22	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

**August 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](http://www.broadwaycovenant.com)**

## Mission Report

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As we approach August, we think of kids going back to school. Please pray for **North Park University, North Park Seminary, and Tim Sales with Intersarsity Christian Fellowship.**

“**North Park University**’s history and heritage reach back to a Minneapolis church basement in 1891, where classes in language and business gave Swedish immigrants, the skills needed to prosper in America. Now North Park University is Chicago’s city-centered Christian university. It serves nearly 3200 undergraduate and graduate students from around the country and world. Within a diverse, close-knit community, it offers a value-based education to students through more than 40 undergraduate majors.” For more information see [www.northpark.edu](http://www.northpark.edu).

“**North Park Seminary** is the denominational seminary for the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). They are rooted in the affirmations of the ECC but welcoming to students from a variety of denominations. They believe theological education is more than coursework. In addition to classes, 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](http://www.northpark.edu).

“For over 75 years **Intersarsity Christian Fellowship** has had a vital presence on hundreds of college campuses, courageously proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Savior, engaging in discipleship around scripture, and loving people of every ethnicity and culture. Their ministry focuses on Evangelism, Discipleship, Multiethnicity and Missions.” **Tim Sales** is the Northwest Illinois Area Ministry Director. For more information see [intersarsity.org](http://intersarsity.org).