



January 2025

The Messenger

Prayers for a New Year of Light - Pastor Mike Mirakian

Each new year begins during the cold, dark days of winter. Perhaps that's why people often celebrate with fireworks and sparkling decorations, lighting up the midnight sky with festive radiant colors. I'm usually asleep before the ball drops in Times Square, but I do appreciate the thought of spreading light into the darkness as we celebrate the dawn of a new year.

Perhaps we can make 2025 a year of light. Light that overcomes darkness. Light that fills people with hope. Light that reveals truth and goodness.

Jesus calls us to "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16).

Let me invite you to pray in the coming days – maybe all year long – for God's light to shine brightly in our world. Here are some ways to pray that 2025 will be a year of light:

Ask God to keep our church focused on the mission of sharing Jesus' love and message with the world. Jesus tells us to put our light on stand and let it shine for all to see. We reflect God's glorious light as we fellowship together, love our neighbors and share the good news of our Savior.

Pray that we will remain a welcoming church, with door and hearts open to everyone God sends our way. God's light shines with compassion and warms with kindness. May we be ready to welcome and love people who need Jesus.

Seek God's blessing and peace for people around the world, especially those who have suffered through violence in recent days. Pray for an end to the war in Ukraine. Pray for peace to be restored in Israel and the Middle East. Pray that the light of Christ would shine from churches throughout the world, offering peace to people everywhere.

Lift up the Church, here at home and throughout the world. Ask God to bless, protect and strengthen His people so they can spread His light into every corner of creation. Pray for missionaries who carry Jesus' message, for churches in faraway places and for our sister churches throughout the Covenant.

Pray for yourself and your family, that God's peace would flow in place of anxiety and fear. Ask God to fill you with the light of His truth, His hope and His grace. May our homes be places of light where we feel safe and cared for. May our families receive the assurance of God's blessing even as we seek to be a blessing to our neighbors.

Ask God for wisdom. Seek His ways instead of the world's. Fill your heart with the light of God's word so you can walk in His truth under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Through it all, pray that the light Jesus placed in our hearts will "shine before others." What we do, the words we say, even the values by which we lead our lives should allow God's grace and goodness to radiate from us. Don't hide the light away or put it under a bowl. Instead, put Jesus' light on a stand so everyone will see the glory of our Savior.

I pray that 2025 will be a joyful and blessed year for each of you and our church family.



Birthdays

- 1 Wilhemina Kirkwood
- 2 Michele Johnson
- 4 Ryan Woodrow
- 8 Michael Woodrow
- 11 Brandon Gasmund
- 13 Denise Suhr
- 14 Ralph Cartwright
- 15 Kathy Adams
Thelma Coates
- 16 Lisa Brown
Kathi Knight
Gordon Samuelson
- 18 Robin Robinson
Evie Gill
- 23 Alex Brown
- 24 Tobin Holmertz
- 25 Teri LeJeune
- 26 Cheryl Ecklund
- 31 Brett Holmertz



Anniversaries

- 2 Brett & Laura Holmertz
- 22 David & Karen Holmertz
- 29 Tim & Evie Gill

60 Plus

60 Plus will NOT meet in the month of January. Plan to join us in February.

Serving in January

Counters:

Randy Price and Dan Hitchcock

Head Usher:

Steve Schweitzer

Remember in Prayer

Evie Gill, recovering from surgery.

The family of Barbara Carlson who passed away last month.

Karen (Burdick) Pearson undergoing chemotherapy.

Kim Schweitzer recovering from surgery.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet on January 7th at 9:30 a.m. to complete our current series of The Chosen Season 4. We will take off the rest of January. Our next study will resume on February 4.

Men's Breakfast

The next meeting for Men's Breakfast will be Wednesday, January 29th when we will meet at Mary's Market on East State Street at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Rockford Reads Program

Broadway Covenant Church has an opportunity to participate in the Rockford Reads Program at either Rolling Green Elementary or Whitehead. Rockford Reads provides volunteers to come in to the school for one hour a week, to read to children. If you are interested in volunteering in this program, contact Barb Burwell for more information.

Save the Date

On Sunday, February 16 we are planning a potluck lunch. This will give us a time to visit and share a meal. Please bring a dish to pass. We will furnish silverware, water and coffee. Plan on joining us.

Christmas Banner Cards from:

Dave & Karen Holmertz
Aina & Dan Hitchcock
Jerry & Charmel Jacobs
Bob & Arlene Schweiger
Sue Warren
Ron & Barb Burwell
Keith & Kathy Holmertz
The Haven Network
Paul Carlson Partnership

Youth for Christ
Harbor Point Ministries
Central Conference Staff



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1  Office closed	2	3	4
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Mission Outreach Committee 11:45 Vida Eterna	6	7 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	8 7:30 VE prayer & worship	9 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Leadership Team Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	13	14 8:30 Morning Prayer	15 7:30 VE prayer & worship	16 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	17	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	20 M I D Messenger news due in the office	21 W I N T E 8:30 Morning Prayer	22 R I N 7:30 VE prayer & worship	23 D E N V	24 E R	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	27	28 8:30 Morning Prayer	29 8:00 Men's Breakfast at Mary's Market 7:30 VE prayer & worship	30 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	31	

**January 2025
Broadway Covenant
Church**

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Rockford, IL 61108

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We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com

Mission Report

Happy New Year from the Mission, Evangelism & Outreach Committee. This month please pray for **Missionary Aviation Repair Center (MARC)**. “MARC started as an organized aviation maintenance facility for Alaskan missions in 1964 by Roald and Harriett Amundsen. Within a year, God provided a Cessna 180 and led them to provide not only quality maintenance, but also safe, efficient, and economical transportation for missionaries who did not have their own aircraft. Today with more than 230 villages inaccessible except by sea or air, Alaska has unique ministry concerns, and it’s the remote nature of the people they need to reach that necessitates their aviation ministry. Alaska is also a place of pronounced spiritual and physical needs exaggerated by isolation and harsh conditions. Their purpose is to serve God there. MARC’s mission is to expand the reach of the Gospel in Alaska by: Flying people and supplies where there are no roads; Supporting other missionaries and their aircraft; and Training missionary-minded pilots and mechanics.” For more information see www.marcalaska.org.

Peter & Ruth Dutton-Thailand

Praise: New church in Thailand and for the growth of the work there.

Pray: Continuing unity among Thai churches who are working together to see the gospel shared in the least church part of Thailand.