



February 2025

# The Messenger

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## Generosity and Thanksgiving - Pastor Mike Mirakian

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Compound interest is a remarkable force of financial power. For instance, if you were to invest \$100 at 7 percent interest for 20 years, it would turn into nearly \$400. Or imagine if someone had invested just \$1 at the time of Christ into a bank account paying a modest 1 percent annual rate of return, it would now be worth \$437 million!

Of course, God doesn't fund His Kingdom on compound interest. Instead, God relies on the faithful, generous, consistent giving of followers of Jesus who financially empower the mission of sharing His love and message with the world. It's a much better system.

I don't often preach or write about giving. I may plan a "stewardship sermon" once a year or so, but I don't feel a great need to dwell on this topic because I witness God's goodness and the generosity of His people at work in our church on a regular basis. Broadway is a faithfully generous congregation, and as a result, we enjoy financial stability and are able to be generous in our support of other ministries.

Please don't take this for granted or let it become a source of pride. It is only by God's grace that our church is financially sound. I mean this literally and spiritually. God's word tells us that He provides for us so we can be generous toward others and fund the work of His church. 2 Corinthians 9:11 promises, "You will be enriched in every way so you can be generous on every occasion."

This wonderful promise comes with a serious calling. God will enable our generosity, so long as we remain generous. He will give us what we need so we can give to others in their need. That's the secret of Kingdom economics and how the Church has been provided for all these years.

I don't often preach about giving, but I do believe in the importance of receiving an offering each Sunday during worship. Some churches have dropped this practice, thinking it puts pressure on people or is somehow unbecoming to talk about money in church. We continue to receive offerings each Sunday because we believe giving is a form of worship that reminds us how God provides for His church through the generosity of His people.

Thank you for giving faithfully to Broadway. Along with the many ways you serve and use spiritual gifts in our ministries, your generous giving enables us to fulfill the mission Jesus gave His church. God could have chosen a different system, but in His wisdom, He meets the financial needs of our church through the consistent giving of those who believe in the importance of our ministry.

2 Cor. 9:11 continues, "and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God." We see the fulfillment of this verse every week at Broadway as people express joy and gratitude to God for the love we share and for the message of salvation we proclaim. Your faithful giving supports the spiritual fruit produced through our times of worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship and all the ways we serve in Jesus' name.

As we move through 2025, our church will have needs and expenses, some planned and others unexpected. Church leaders will make decisions and administer our ministries within the budget approved by our membership. We will allocate financial resources to advance our mission and support other Christ-honoring ministries in our community and beyond. All of this happens through the faithfulness of God's provision and the generosity of His people.



## Birthdays

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5	Kent Drews
	Paula Rasanen
7	Kim Lape
11	Elena Cultra
13	Gary Ecklund
	Kathi Engstrom
15	Doug Swanson
17	Kelsey Ecklund
19	Nancy Norman
28	David Holmertz



## Anniversaries

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16 Marvin & Joyce Goodsell  
 28 Larry & Patti Franzen

## Men's Breakfast

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The next meeting for Men's Breakfast will be Wednesday, February 26th when we will meet at Mary's Market on East State Street at 8:00 a.m. All are welcome.

## Leadership Team Update

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- The end of the year financial report from the treasurer indicated that we were able to complete 2024 having covered all expenses. The Leadership Team gives thanks to the congregation for their strong financial support of Broadway.
- Sue Ippolito has indicated that she will be completing her work at Broadway this spring. The Leadership Team has formed a group to work on finding a replacement for Sue.
- Jerry Jacobs has also indicated that he will be completing his work at Broadway by the end of March.
- The leadership Team wishes to recognize helpful work on our building including cleaning and maintenance by a person who is part of Vida Eterna. This help is greatly appreciated.

## Serving in February

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### Counters:

Cheryl Ecklund and Jill Page

### Head Usher:

Carl Ecklund

## Remember in Prayer

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**Karen (Burdick) Pearson** undergoing chemotherapy.

## Women's Fellowship

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Women's Fellowship will resume on February 4th at 9:30 a.m. when we will be studying Psalm 23 with Jennifer Rothschild. It is a seven week study. All are welcome!

## 60 Plus

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Plan now to join 60 Plus at Machine Shed, 7475 E. State St. for lunch Feb. 18th at 11:30 a.m. Call Sue at church or Karen with your reservation by Sunday, Feb. 16th. Let her know if you need a ride. Invite others to join us.

## Church Potluck Lunch

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On Sunday, February 16 we are planning a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to pass. You may bring a salad, main dish, dessert or both. Please come and join us in table talk and fellowship. We will furnish silverware, water and coffee. Plan on joining us.

## Alaska Christian College Fundraiser

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On March 8th Keith Hamilton will be presenting an update on Alaska Christian College and hosting a fundraiser. Please join us at Stockholm Inn. Doors open at 4:30, buffet served at 5:00 p.m. RSVP to Chuck Ford at 815-520-5926 by Feb. 18th.

## A few more Christmas Cards from:

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Gene & Colleen Felts, Pat Johnson, Bob & Barbara Rehnberg and The Duttons

# February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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<b>2</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	<b>5</b>  7:30 VE prayer & worship	<b>6</b> 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Leadership Team Mtg. 11:45 Vida Eterna	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	<b>12</b>  7:30 VE prayer & worship	<b>13</b> 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship BCC Potluck 11:45 Vida Eterna	<b>17</b> Messenger news due in the office	<b>18</b> 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	<b>19</b>  7:30 VE prayer & worship	<b>20</b> 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 Vida Eterna	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship  Election Day	<b>26</b> 8:00 Men's Breakfast at Mary's Market  7:30 VE prayer & worship	<b>27</b> 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	<b>28</b>	

**February 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)**

## Rockford Reads Program

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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, call or text Barb Burwell (717) 503-7398 for more information.

## Mission Report

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This month please pray for **Fabio and Johnna Muniz** and **Carpenter's Place**.

**Fabio and Johnna Muniz** and their two girls are located in France. They are working as cultural bridge builders using language, French history tours, supporting refugees and immigrants, social and professional networking, and partnering with over 30 associations...bringing people together across differences in language and culture in a context that is nonreligious. Fabio also leads a multicultural, multi-linguistic and ecumenical Lectio Divina and centering prayer every other week. Please pray for Fabio and Johnna as they continue to connect with people and find ways to share the Gospel.

**"Carpenter's Place** provides the tools necessary for rebuilding the lives of the homeless. Inspired by Christ's compassion, Carpenter's Place offers direction with accountability to people with broken lives, helping them find peace with God, themselves and their communities. They have a day room where people who live on the street can seek shelter for the day in a positive environment. Their Family Services program works with the whole family in rebuilding their lives...to meet their immediate goals, intermediate goals and long terms goals. Case management is what sets Carpenter's Place apart. Case managers assist the guests in assessing 14 areas of life to create a 'Life Recovery Plan' that is a road map to positive life changes." Please pray that God would continue to provide for the needs of Carpenter's Place and its guests. For more information see [carpentersplace.org](http://carpentersplace.org).