



April 2026

The Messenger

Always Easter—Pastor Mike Mirakian

You may remember in the land of Narnia before Aslan returns it was “always winter but never Christmas.” What a dreadful curse coined by C.S. Lewis to capture the cold darkness of life without eternal hope. Turning that phrase on its head, let me suggest that through faith in our Risen Lord, we live in a land that is “sometimes spring and always Easter.”

It’s great to welcome the warmth and green of spring after a cold northern Illinois winter. Birds sing and rabbits run as leaves and flowers bud forth with new life. With spring comes Easter, our grand celebration of Jesus bursting forth from the grave with new life and the promise of eternity for all who believe.

Spring, of course, won’t last. Summer heat will soon melt spring away until next year. But Easter? The glorious truth and abiding hope of Jesus’ resurrection remains alive in our hearts day after day, down through the years, across generations and into eternity.

We’ll celebrate Easter on April 5, but don’t let it end there. Keep the wonder of the empty tomb and the joy of life-after-death burning in your soul. It’s the impossible, wonderful story that makes us people of faith and shapes us into people of purpose. It’s the good news that God loves all people everywhere and has the power to change even the hardest heart. It’s the assurance that the darkness and sorrow of this life can’t define us and won’t defeat us. It’s the joyful promise that death is not the end and that through our Risen Savior we too will rise.

How can you keep it always Easter in your heart? Let me offer three ways.

First, invite the Holy Spirit to work in and through you each day. The Spirit of Jesus lives in you, always present and always powerful. Hold

fast to this promise: “And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you” (Romans 8:11). Listen to the Spirit’s voice as you read God’s word. Let the Spirit comfort you in times of need. Allow the Spirit to work through you by the gifts He has given you for building up the church and spreading the good news of Jesus.

Second, overcome sorrow and fear by trusting in the promise of new life through our Risen Lord. You don’t know what challenges await you in the coming days, but you can know for sure that Jesus will walk with you, giving you strength to endure and hope to overcome. This hope is for today, for tomorrow and even for eternity. You live under the promise of resurrection. Remember these hopeful words: “Weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning” (Psalm 30:5). Just as Jesus rose early that Sunday morning, so He will take away your weeping and give you joy instead.

Third, live with the joy of resurrection always in your heart, remembering how Jesus rose and trusting that you will live forever with Him. Therefore, you can “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). Every day the sun rises, every time we gather as a church family, you have reason to rejoice. God loves you. He blesses and protects you. He speaks to you through His word. He surrounds you with people of faith and fellowship. You are held in the mighty hands of Him who raised Jesus from the dead, and for you and all people of faith, it’s always Easter.

Sunday School

In April and May, we will consider how Christians can grow in the Fruit of the Spirit. Using various scriptures, we will uncover truths about each fruit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 so we can pursue these character traits and become more fruitful each day. Everyone is welcome to join us in the adult classroom at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School will meet through May 17.

60 Plus

Plan to join 60 Plus at Riverside Family Restaurant, 3415 East State Street, for lunch on April 21 at 11:30 a.m. Call the church office at 815-399-9296 or let Karen Holmertz know with your reservation by Sunday, April 19. Let her know if you need a ride and invite others to join us.

Pastor's Bible Study

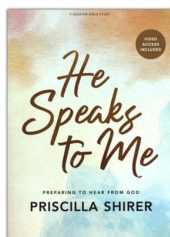
Pastor Mike is leading PBS through a study of Romans. Pastor's Bible Study meets each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. in the adult classroom. Everyone is welcome to join as we discuss issues of faith, read God's word and pray together.

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Joanna Lorbach
- 3 Pat Johnson
- 4 Emily Holmertz
- 6 Joyce Cosman
- 7 Kendra Ecklund
- 9 Mario Torres
- 10 Kellen Price
- 13 Theresa Gregorcy
April Williams
Mitchell Wimbush
- 20 Kristi Swanson
- 23 Toni Cartwright
Alice Tsai
- 24 D'Angelo Wimbush
- 29 Dan Hitchcock
Jeff Irelan
Kari Whitney

Women's Fellowship

Women's fellowship meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. All women are invited for study, prayer, and sharing. Plan to join us as we begin a new Bible study titled *He Speaks to Me* by Priscilla Shirer. In this study, we will explore how to prepare to hear from God by developing a more intimate prayer life.



Happy Anniversary!

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

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will meet at Mary's Market, 4431 E. State Street, at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 8 for a time of fellowship and sharing. All are welcome. You do not need to RSVP but if you have questions, please contact Ron Burwell at 717-525-3391.



Holy Week Schedule

Please join our Covenant brothers and sisters for the Maundy Thursday Service at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Belvidere on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. On Sunday, April 5 at Broadway, we will enjoy Easter Breakfast from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the adult classroom (Sunday School not meeting that morning) and Easter Worship at 10:15 a.m.

Serving

Counters:

Bob Schweiger
Sue Warren

Head Usher:

Sylvia Bowman

Easter Plants



Please call the church office at 815-399-9296 before March 30 to reserve your Easter plant in memory of your loved ones. The price is \$16 per plant and checks should be made out to Broadway Covenant Church with "Easter Plant" in the memo.

Remember in Prayer

The family of Catherine Johnson who has recently passed away.
 The family of Lynelle Overturf who has recently passed away.
 The family of Joyce Goodsell who has recently passed away.
 The family of Gene Swanson who has recently passed away.
 Suzan Lopez mourning the passing of her mother.
 Jerry Jacobs mourning the passing of his mother.
 The family of Don Davis who has recently passed away.



Covenant Home Altar

Pick up the latest edition of *The Covenant Home Altar* on the table in the entryway and enjoy daily devotions.

2026 Graduates

Is someone in your family graduating from high school, college, or graduate school? We would like to acknowledge our graduates in an upcoming newsletter and encourage the church to pray for them. Please contact the church office to share their name and school.

Prayer Chain

For urgent prayer requests, Broadway utilizes a phone and email Prayer Chain. If you would like to be added to either list please contact the church office at 815-399-9296 or email office@broadwaycovenant.com.

Care Ministry

Broadway is starting a new Care Ministry under the direction of Colleen Felts and Pastor Mike to help care for our church family. You will be contacted soon by your Caregiver, who will offer support, prayer and encouragement on behalf of our church. We want everyone at Broadway to feel connected and loved.

Local Ministry Donation Baskets



The Mission Outreach and Evangelism Team invites you to check out the Local Ministry Donation Baskets located in the entryway. We are currently collecting



items to support Rock House Kids and Stateline Youth for Christ through the month of April. Please call the church office at 815-399-9296 for a list of specific items requested by these ministries. Thank you for your generous support of these two Rockford Ministries as they actively support the needs of young people in our community.

Mission & Ministry Update

This month please pray for Alaska Christian College and Rock House Kids.

Alaska Christian College (ACC) started in September 2001. They offer four degree programs, accredited by ABHE, and have transfer partnerships with numerous schools in Alaska and the lower forty-eight. ACC offers coursework leading to an Associate in Arts degree with an emphasis in Christian Ministry, Behavioral Health, General Studies, and Paraprofessional Education. 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 community. ACC offers weekly Bible studies, small groups, and chapel services that give students the opportunity to grow in their walk with Jesus. For more information see www.alaskaacc.edu.

Rock House Kids began in 1999 with a nine-year old boy who was running away from a dangerous home situation. The founder assisted him with food, clothing, school support and other items that he needed. Soon after, his friends joined him and over the years RHK has grown to be a safe haven for neighborhood children. They teach children the importance of avoiding drugs and gangs and finishing school. They also teach the children about Jesus and how he loves them unconditionally and cares about their every need and concern. Classroom leaders stress the importance of positive moral character traits such as honesty, thankfulness, and love as they encourage and strengthen them spiritually and emotionally. For more information see www.rockhousekids.org.

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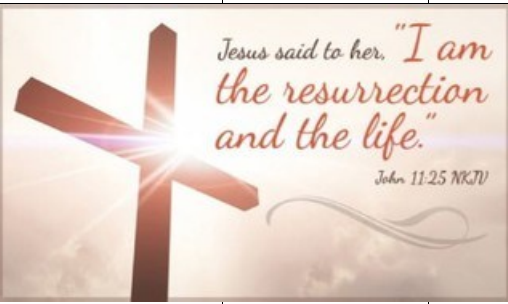
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			1	2	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter 9:00 Easter Breakfast 10:15 Worship 11:45 VE	6	7 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast	9 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	10 6:30 VE	11
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 Leadership Team 11:45 VE	13	14 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	15	16 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	17 6:30 VE	18
19 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:45 VE	20	21 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship 11:30 60 Plus	22	23 10:30 Pastor's Bible Study	24 6:30 VE	25
26 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship 11:30 MOE Team 11:45 VE	27	28 8:30 Morning Prayer 9:30 Women's Fellowship	29	30 No Pastor's Bible Study Central Conference Annual Meeting		

**April 2026
Broadway Covenant
Church**

3525 Broadway
Rockford, IL 61108

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

We're on the Web
www.broadwaycovenant.com