

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”*

*Colossians 3:1-4*

I love my smartphone—even if it’s three years old and getting slower by the update! When I received my iPad on my 50th birthday, I was exuberant! I was ecstatic! I was effusive in my gratitude to my family! A little less thrilled with it yesterday when it took nine minutes to load an app that my 3-year-old phone loaded in twenty-five seconds.

I love Apple products. I even love android and PC products. Pretty much anything that anyone claims to be the latest & greatest in tech makes my “wish list”. How about you? Are you an early adopter? Are you drawn to new tech developments? Or do you have a mild distrust for anything that doesn’t need a pencil sharpener or eraser?

Whether you’re on board with the massive shift in the last fifteen years or not, the smartphone and apps are here to stay ... at least until something even better, more efficient or faster comes along! The real question—which I have honestly rarely asked—is how this new reality affects my relationship with Jesus Christ. How does your smart phone, social media and everything else that happens from your phone impact you and us and our personal and collective relationship with Jesus Christ, the Lord of heaven and earth?



Last month, I listened to a fantastic book, *12 Ways Your Phone is Changing You*, by Tony Rienke. I highly recommend you read or listen to it and engage in a family discussion over the material! Rienke highlights how our phones increase our inability to concentrate for more than 25 seconds. This tendency to distract ourselves is damaging relationships and our productivity.

With Facebook & Instagram, we’re captivated by our craving for immediate approval and affirmation for our posts and we can compete with each other to offer an “A+” version of ourselves and our families. We are tempted to present to the online world a dishonest and deceptive picture of who we are.

Apart from losing our ability to engage in civil discussion and disagreement, our social media experience actually moves us away from personal interaction—especially with people who don’t have our same preferences, opinions, news sources, and “likes”.

What’s ingenious of God, however, is that He’s ahead of us once again. Before there were smartphones and social media obsession, He created the Church. He placed His people in the Body of Christ with all our differences, imperfections, awkward qualities, and habits.

We can try to hide in the church, but face-to-face interaction tends to expose us. Who we are “leaks” when we rub shoulders and share physical space together. While someone may “accept” me as a “friend” on social media and increase our status, our acceptance of one another in the Body of Christ can actually transform us. As the poem from last month so poignantly expressed, our authentic, grace-filled relationships with each other give us the freedom to grow and change to become more like Jesus.

I could add to Rienke’s list of dangers and even to his list of benefits (he loves his phone even more than I do!). But the one that really hit home for me was “FOMO”: the fear of missing out. Have you noticed how hard it is to put your device down or out of reach? We might miss out on something! I’m all for being aware of what’s going on around me. However, FOMO has me exclusively focused on the here and now! Thoughts of eternity or “things above” grow dim and can’t compete with the instant activity and all the notifications on my phone.

You’ve heard me say how deeply impacted I’ve been by Badveli Ara Jizmejian’s prayer reminders on his phone. He used his smartphone to make sure he didn’t “miss out” on what’s most important. He liked gadgets more than most of us. But he made them his servants, to help him set his heart & mind on Christ and His priorities.

Check out the book. Check out of your smartphone intentionally. Do the hard work of self-evaluation—or even better: give someone else the privilege of giving you their input on your smartphone addiction/usage.

Let’s set our hearts & minds on Christ’s kingdom here & now *and* to come!

## Men's Ministry

Becoming Like Jesus Together (Mark 3:13-15) was the theme of the April 10 Men's Fellowship Dinner at FAPC. Guests gathered in the Fellowship Hall narthex and feasted on a sumptuous meal of New York steak, savory barbecued chicken, buttery pilaf, succulent green beans, and garden salad prepared by Chefs *Robert Garabedian, Dennis Shamlian,* and *Susan Ruiz*. Senior Pastor *Gregory Haroutunian* guided the study in Reverend Mark Batterson's award winning inspirational volume, "Play the Man." Guests studied the seven virtues of manhood: (1) tough love; (2) childlike wonder; (3) will power; (4) raw passion; (5) true grit; (6) clear vision; and (7) moral courage. The next Men's Fellowship Dinner will take place at 6:30 p.m. on June 5, 2018.

To build on the themes and bonds of the 2018 Men's Retreat, FAPC Men's Ministries will hold a series of Monthly Fellowship Breakfasts through the end of the year. The breakfasts will take place from 7 to 8:30 a.m. in the Christian Education Building Fireside Room. The plan is to meet together for breakfast, worship, teaching, discussion, and prayer. The first breakfast gathering, held March 31, explored the theme of "Mercy: Where Surrendering is Winning" and the second breakfast gathering, held April 28, explored the theme of Extending Grace. Future breakfasts will take place on the following Saturdays: May 19, June 30, July 28, August 18, September 29, October 27, November 24, and December 29. For more information, please e-mail Associate Pastor Mgo Mekredijian at [mmekredijian@fapc.net](mailto:mmekredijian@fapc.net) or call (559) 237-6638.



*Silva Emerian* wrote a "Valley Voices" essay about the FAPC Minas Project in the April 14 edition of The Fresno Bee. In describing her experience with Jesus Parable of the Talents, Silva wrote: "I learned that I don't have to have an instantaneous, mind-blowingly perfect idea for every act required of me. I just have to have a willing and obedient heart. Despite my tantrums, God was able to use me and so many others to extend His kingdom in small and big ways."

## Deacon's Corner

Deacons at FAPC meet regularly to make sure we are leading and serving in ways that pleases and glorifies God. Our meeting typically starts by prayer, asking our Heavenly Father for wisdom and guidance as we begin our discussions. During our meeting, we focus on our member list and discuss how to connect, with the compassion of Christ, to individual people experiencing pain and suffering. We want to help people find the hope and love of Jesus Christ. God wants us to take care of each other in times of sickness, weakness, and to share our joys together. No special academic training or education is required for the work of God through deacon work!

●●●● Sela Ghazarian



*Chinar Merjanian*, a member of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco, spoke to the FAPC Family during a March worship service about her planned missions work in Armenia. Later this spring, Chinar will be ministering to the people of the Republic of Armenia under the auspices of the Antioch Center for Training and Sending (ACTS). ACTS is a missional community and movement based out of Colorado Springs, Colorado that exists to equip and send 10,000 young pioneering leaders to finish the task of world evangelization, make disciples, and sing back the King. Chinar recently asked the people of FAPC to pray for grace, strength, and effectiveness for her and fellow missions team members. You can communicate directly with Chinar at [chinarjoy@gmail.com](mailto:chinarjoy@gmail.com).



Join *Franklin Graham* on *May 28* at *7:30 PM* at the Fresno Fairgrounds as he shares a powerful message of hope and enjoy an exciting evening of live music from Jeremy Camp and more. Bring your friends and family! All seating provided. Parking available adjacent to the amphitheater.

## Attention all graduates

For kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotions, please submit your names. All other graduates, please submit name, picture, institution graduating from, degree, activities, favorite scripture, and future plans, to the church office administration at [fapc3@fapc.net](mailto:fapc3@fapc.net). Deadline to submit is *Sunday May 27<sup>th</sup>* and Graduation Sunday is June 10<sup>th</sup>.



*Armine Nahigian* was elected Senior Class President for Clovis North High School. She is the daughter of Eliot and Dr. Lynette Nahigian and the granddaughter of Briske Barsamian.

## The Food Pantry is LOW!!!!

Our food pantry is IN NEED of the following items ONLY: *pasta, pasta sauce, rice, mashed potatoes, mac & cheese, canned fruits, canned corn, pinto or kidney beans, canned chicken or tuna, soups, & cereal.* Thank you for your generosity in contributing to this important ministry!



### Our Condolences:



*Mary Mabel (Tootikian) Elia*, one of the most senior members of FAPC, passed away on April 4, 2018 at the age of 99, a month shy of her centenary. A native of Fresno, 18-year-old Mary married Joe Elia on Christmas Day 1936 at the Elia Family Home on Van Ness Avenue near Mono Street. For many years, Mary and Joe managed the Marlo Regency Apartments in Northwest Fresno. Mary joined the membership of FAPC on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1945, the day the Battle of Okinawa began in the South Pacific. A charter member of the Young Women's Society of Fidelis, she served as President of the women's ministry in 1948-1949 and in 1950-1951. In 1964, she became a member of the FAPC General Building Council, which envisioned and constructed the modern campus of the Church in three phases from 1969 to 1986. In later years, Mary served as a member of the Board of Deacons and the Church Session. From 1992 through 1997, she was a devoted member of the Centennial Commemorative Committee, which celebrated the first 100 years of FAPC ministry. On October 21, 2017, Mary attended the 120th Anniversary Banquet of the Congregation and was honored for her 72 years of faithful membership. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Mabel (Davarian) Tootikian; her beloved husband, Joe; and her dear son, Allen Joe Elia. She is survived by her son, Dennis Elia, and by her grandchildren, Ariele Elia and Britz Elia.

# YOUTH GROUP NEWS & EVENTS

On March 25, 2018, the FAPC Youth Group took a trip to the Fresno State bowling center for an activity day. Over 15 youth participated in the two hours of bowling fun! It was also great to see that some of the youth brought their friends along to experience the fun as well. Overall, the afternoon was filled with gutter balls, strikes, friendly competition, great conversations, and a lot of laughter. We were blessed to enjoy each other's company!

●●●●● Anto Sakayan



**miss summer camp yet?**  
**summer camp 2018**

**ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL  
CAMP  
AREV  
EST. 1977**

**Juniors (3rd -5th grade) July 8-14**  
**Juniors High (6th-8th grade) July 15-21**  
**High School (9th-12th grade) July 22-28**  
**College & Career (18+) September 14-16**

## Mark Your Calendars

*Mother's Day, May 13*  
No Sunday School

*May 28 (11AM-3PM):*  
*Memorial Day Picnic*  
JOINT Picnic at Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church  
Good food, good games, and good fellowship!

*Last day of Sunday School is June 10*  
where we celebrate with the Youth leading  
the worship service on Youth Sunday.



**FIRST ARMENIAN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

**9:30-11:30 A.M.**

**JUNE 11-15**

**AGES: 2 YRS-5TH GRADE**  
**\$10 PER CHILD**

**REGISTER WITH THE FORM ON  
THE BACK, BY MAY 15**

**GO GISH** A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE!



# Registration Form



**FAPC**

**\$10 per child 2 yrs to 5th grade  
\$25 max per family**

**June 11-15, 9:30-11:30AM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Completed \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Siblings Attending? Please include their names and ages on the line below:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs/Allergies/Other Concerns \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a friend your child would like to be with? \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Child #1:</b>									
<b>T-shirt size</b>	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
<b>Child #2:</b>									
<b>T-shirt size</b>	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
<b>Child #3:</b>									
<b>T-shirt size</b>	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L

**MEDICAL RELEASE:** In case of emergency, I understand that a reasonable effort will be made to contact me. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give an agent of the First Armenian Presbyterian Church the permission to act in my behalf to seek emergency medical treatment for my child in the event treatment should be needed. I give permission to any licensed physician selected by this agent to administer such emergency treatment as said physician in his/her judgment deems necessary; and I hereby absolve First Armenian Presbyterian Church, it's agents and employees from any and all liability resulting from their conformance with these instructions.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



*Connected to Christ*  
family church community  
may 18-20, 2018



Jonelle SG Kazarian is a dearly loved child of God and follower of Jesus whose desire is to walk, love, pray and love in the Spirit. She is the bride of Kalem for the past 18+ years and the mom of Judi-16, Peter-14, and Frank-12, whom she also homeschools. Jonelle grew up in Fresno and currently resides in Fowler CA although the years between her birth and now have spanned coast to coast, 4 colleges and universities, traveling to all 50 states, as well as life and ministry in Armenia. She has a Masters of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy from Fuller Theological Seminary. Currently Jonelle spends her time mentoring others, extending God's grace, learning how to learn, and sharing health through her Juice Plus+ business. Jonelle enjoys creating art from items she finds on the road, in junk stores, and from the trash. She loves sports, cooking, eating, and speaking at women's retreats!!

**ACTIVITIES**  
DEEP TEACHING, FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP, OUTLET SHOPPING, ZIP LINE, ARCHERY, HIKING, CRAFTS, AND MUCH MORE.....

**PRICE BREAKDOWN**  
WEEKEND PRICE: LODGING + SESSIONS + MEALS + ACTIVITIES: \$165  
SATURDAY ONLY: TWO SESSIONS + MEALS + ACTIVITIES: \$125

For information call 818.507.0922 | Register at [www.camparev.org](http://www.camparev.org)



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*Upcoming Special Events*

- No Sunday School
- Mother's Day May 13
- "Maturing Men" Breakfast May 19
- Armenian Home Visit May 20
- Joint Memorial Day Picnic @ Pilgrim May 28
- Armenian Home Visit June 3
- Men's Fellowship Dinner June 5
- Youth Sunday June 10
- VBS 9:30-11:30am June 11-15
- Father's Day June 17
- "Maturing Men" Breakfast June 30

Church Office:  
 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
 (M - F)  
 P: 559.237.6638  
 F: 559.237.9526  
 E: fapc3@fapc.net

Mosaix submissions  
 are due by the  
 15<sup>th</sup> of the month.  
 Please e-mail  
 information to  
 fapc3@fapc.net.

**Staff:**  
 Suzy Artemyan, Church Administrator  
 Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director  
 Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist  
 Marisa Garza, Administrative Assistant &  
 Nursery Attendant  
 Marine Frznlyan, Nursery Attendant  
 Susan Ruiz, Custodian

**Teaching Elders:** Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (badveli@fapc.net)  
 Rev. Mgo Mekredjian, Associate Pastor of Young Families' Ministries (associate@fapc.net)

**Ruling Elders:** Dr. Hagop Afarian, Ed Esajian, Krikor Kalayjian, Paul Koligian, Fernando Rubio, Dr. Dennis Shamlian, Ron Statler

**Deacons:** Vera Darakjian, Silva Esajian, Maryvonne Gagliardi, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison, Maria Kalayjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian, Karine Martirosyan, Rita Shamlian, Varvara Sivas

