

27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

Matthew 6:27, 33-34

"Do you live in the past, the present or the future?"

That was the question on the personality inventory that I was trying to answer right after college graduation. What was worse, for me, was that it was asking me to draw my perspective with three circles! Take about it? Sure! Write about my thoughts? Sure! Draw them?! No possible way! I can't draw to save my life! My circles even look like squares!

But ... with the help of modern (late 20th century) technology, I'm going to attempt to recreate my answer to this question.

Before I do, though, how do you live your life? More in the past, in the present or in the future? Use circles to express how you interact with these phases of your life.



You probably shouldn't tread too much into the spacing between the circles. I was just lucky to get them on the page! My dad was too much! Maybe because he's a mathematician or maybe just because he thinks spatially and can draw, he had his circles intersecting! Maybe some of you did too. Makes sense because the three "time zones" obviously intersect.

But, however artistically & spatially challenged I was and am, these circles pretty much represent how I view life. I live "now", with my past playing a significant role in my thinking and the future having a much smaller influence. Actually, my "future" circle is bigger now than what I drew when I was twenty-one, but that's only because we have children.

How about you? What were your circles like? I hope you didn't fall into the trap of judging me. I only shared mine (though easily worthy of judgment & criticism) to encourage you to reflect on and draw yours. Hint: there's no "right" answer.

I know Jesus seems to vindicate me in the portion that I quoted, but that's not the purpose of the quotation. Jesus' desire is that we would trust our Father in Heaven with our present and our future. His heart for each of us is that He would so fill our circles with His presence as we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness that we would be free to live wholeheartedly for Him without anxiety.

How are you doing? I guess my real question is which of the circles create most of the anxiety in your life? Is it the past? The future? Or today, right now? Whichever it is, Jesus is calling us to give Him the opportunity to free us from our anxieties, to release us from the control they exercise over us and the way they bind us.

My devotional this month says it so well. "When we believe that God cares about our needs, we can stop worrying about the future and enter the joys and challenges of today." \*

Bring your circles to the Lord today. Give Him your anxieties. (You'll probably have to do it tomorrow too, probably daily for a while.) Ask Him to fill you with the confidence and the courage to trust that He has tomorrow (and yesterday) covered, so you can live with Him as your Lord & King, rather than your worries. That's my prayer for you and for me!

●●●●● Badveli Greg

\*Capacity for Presence, Joy Neal. RETOOL, Calibrating our Heart's for God's Service. Mission Aviation Fellowship, copyright 2017

## Deacon's Column

The Session and Congregation bid farewell to Ministry Staff Member Marisa Bagato Garza during the August 19 worship service. Hired in January 2016, Marisa served as FAPC Administrative Assistant and Principal Nursery Attendant for more than two and one-half years. In addition, she worked with the "Mommy and Me" Friday morning ministry for young mothers and their pre-school age children. Marisa is departing FAPC to serve as a Kindergarten Aide at the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School in Clovis. Associate Pastor Mgo Mekredijian paid tribute to Marisa and offered a moving prayer and token of the Congregation's esteem as young parents and their children gathered around her for the occasion.

"Hand of God" is the theme of the 2018 Camp AREV College and Career Weekend Retreat. The Retreat will take place on September 14-16 at the Edward J. Manishagian Conference Center in Frazier Park. Reverend Calvin Sagherian, Interim Pastor of Calvary Armenian Congregational Church in San Francisco, will be the Retreat Speaker. For more details, please visit: <https://www.camparev.org/collegeandcareer>.



**Members/RE-members Class**  
**Sunday, September 16 @ 4 p.m.**  
**It's a perfect time to**  
**become a member!**

### Our Condolences:

The Session and Congregation extend heartfelt sympathies to Krikor and Maria Kalayjian, Nerses and Kenarig Kalayjian, and their families on the passing of their dear mother and grandmother, Mrs. Helen Kazandjian. Mrs. Kazandjian, age 91, went to be with the Lord, and on Aug 10, her family had a celebration of life graveside service.

What is the role of our church deacons? What is their purpose, their responsibility? My guess is that each of us will come up with a response pretty similar to that found in the EPC constitution, "The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, concern for needs, and of serving others. Therefore, the first duty of the Deacon is sympathy and service."

What I love about our church is the way so many take on this role "unofficially," but so genuinely, sincerely and constantly. You know, always taking time to make calls, send cards, offer handshakes and hugs, smiles and conversation – those signals of welcome and support, those little things that we all cherish and at some point all need. And what's even more amazing is the happiness the giver also receives. As Badveli Bernard used to exclaim, "What a joy." Indeed, what a joy for giver and receiver. This being an "unofficial" deacon isn't a required duty or obligation. It's simply an expression of love. Every FAPC member is a deacon in his/her own right, and it's this congregation-wide love that makes our church community so special.

●●●● Keith Harrison



Aris Howsepian was chosen to perform on the violin at the Opera House in Sydney, Australia on 21 July 2018 as part of an international high school Honors Orchestra. He was selected to play 1st Violin, 4th Chair.

"Spiritual Discipline" was the theme of the June 30 and August 18 Maturing Men Breakfasts in the Christian Education Building Fireside Room. Men of all ages are welcomed to attend the Saturday morning gatherings. Future breakfasts will take place from 7 to 8:30a.m. September 29, October 27, November 17, 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.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 8:12



I love how it says in another translation, "God is not a secret to be kept." The reality is if we love Jesus then it will not be a secret in our lives. It will SHINE through. We're hoping our church family along with their children through the various children's programs will grow in learning and knowing how to be little lights SHINING for Jesus, at home, with their friends, at school, etc.

This year, I'm excited to announce that Mrs. Zovig Adanalian will be our Sunday School Coordinator. Her experience as a teacher and zeal for the Lord SHINES through and we're excited to see what God is going to reveal throughout Sunday School. One of the biggest observations we've had especially for children under the age of six is consistency, as regard to their teacher. We set a goal to have teachers commit to serving per semester and not rotate every other week. In addition to classroom time, we will still begin Sunday School at 9:37AM with JAM (Jesus and ME). JAM is a time of worship, sharing God's Word, prayer, and announcements. We have a collection of wonderful JAM leaders that rotate leading worship every Sunday: Dr. Chris Shamlan, Rev. Razmig Minassian, Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Ms. Lori James, and Mr. Ara Catchatoorian.

We're thankful for previous teachers/leaders and excited about this year's team. Here's our Sunday School leadership team for 2018-2019.

- Pre-K (2018): Mrs. Mariana Sarkisyan
- Pre-K (2019): Mrs. Kinsey Sivas
- Kindergarten (2018): Mrs. Cindy Afarian
- Kindergarten (2019): TBD
- 1st-2nd Grade: Mrs. Julie Thurber
- 3rd-5th Grade: Mrs. Silva Esajian, Ms. Tina Esajian, Mr. & Mrs. Zaven Kalebjian
- Junior High (2018): Mrs. Kim Haroutunian
- Junior High (2019): Mr. Paul Koligian
- High School (2018-2019): Rev. Phil Garo

In God's Word, we read sections on families, the roles of parents, and the roles of spouses to one another (Colossians 3:18-21; Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Psalm 78:1-4). God doesn't take the design of family lightly, based on His Word, it's very important. We too at FAPC, don't want to take it lightly. We're thankful and encouraged by your partnership as newly married couples, couples, or young families into seeing FAPC being your godly family.

Vision: Our vision for the Young Families is to see intergenerational ministries that keep families learning, playing, serving, and worshipping together. We understand that some of us "young families" are at different stages in our lives. But even in the midst of different stages, there's so much wisdom, knowledge, and experience that can be learned from one another. That's what community-family is, a place where we feel safe to be vulnerable, loved, cared for, taught to grow and pursue after Jesus, and encouraged in our faith. Additionally, the Children's Ministry staff and volunteers are making a commitment to enter into a Spiritual nurturing partnership with you to the end that your child will one day confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

Lastly, we want to say thank you for your love and commitment to Jesus. We're thankful that you've put your trust in FAPC's leadership to help you along in raising our children to know Jesus. We don't take that partnership lightly, so thank you for the privilege to walk alongside of your journey as families who want to live for Jesus.

***MAKE SURE YOU JOIN US FOR THE START OF SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH RALLY SUNDAY BREAKFAST SEPT 9, 9:15AM!***

●●●● Badveli Mgo

# Rally Sunday Breakfast

9/9/18

## Christian Ed Wing

9:15AM-10:45AM

Singing. Breakfast. Time  
together.

Rally Sunday marks the  
beginning of Sunday  
School.

Come as a family and  
enjoy a wonderful  
breakfast, meet your  
child's teacher, and hear  
what to expect in the  
coming year.

"I am the light of the world. Whoever  
follows me will never walk in darkness, but  
will have the light of life."

John 8:12



"God is not a  
secret to be  
kept." Matt.  
5:14-16 MSG

FRIDAY

9/28



## HYMNS. ORGAN. VIOLIN. SINGING.

**Location: 430 S 1st Street,  
in the sanctuary.  
6:30pm-7:15pm**

Join us for an evening of **singing hymns** lead on **organ**, followed by a light snack and **fellowship** afterward. Mike Varlas will be leading us on the organ in **singing praises to God**. In addition we will hear about the **history** and **meaning** of the hymns and how they are still **relevant** to us today. For more information please call 559-237-6638, or contact us by email. This is an event for **all ages**.

"The most important thing that a child could ever learn about is the existence, character, and plan of God. If you know this fact, it will alter the way you understand and interpret every other fact in your life." Parenting, Paul David Tripp, p. 30

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- There's laundry to do.
  - Clean the house.
  - Worry about who they will be.
  - Pack their lunches.
  - Changing diapers.
  - Worry if they will get married.
  - Put bandaids on.**
  - Disciplining them.
  - Take them to soccer, ballet, art class.
  - Constantly feeding them.
  - Wait up worrying why they're not home yet.
  - Getting them dressed.
  - Burping them.
  - Help them move into college.
  - Walking them down the aisle.

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Parenting often seems exhausting.

Join us for a JOINT Pilgrim and FAPC adventure as we listen to Dr. Paul David Tripp expounds on 4 Gospel principles from his recent book called "Parenting." Nov. 2-3, Friday eve and Saturday mid-day mini conference, hosted at FAPC. More details to follow.

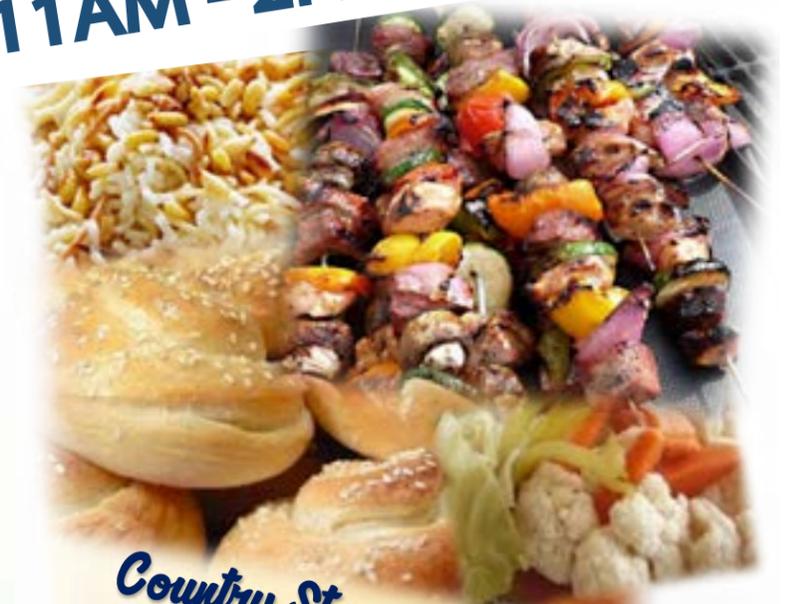


# First Armenian Presbyterian Church

Annual Merchant's Lunch  
**Thursday, November 8, 2018**  
**11 AM - 2 PM**

100 Years & Still Cooking

*Beef Filet Kebab or  
Garlic Chicken Kebab*  
Each Meal Includes:  
*Rice Pilaf  
Cheese Boureg  
Green Salad  
Peda Bread  
Paklava*  
**\$15**



*Country Store with Delicious  
Homemade Goodies and Authentic  
Armenian Favorites*

Dine in – Take Out – Drive Thru  
For Further Information  
Call: 559-237-6638  
Fax: 559-237-9526  
Email: [administration@fapc.net](mailto:administration@fapc.net)

430 S. First Street, Fresno 93702  
Cross Streets  
First & Huntington

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another-and all the more as you see the Day approaching.  
Hebrews 10:24-25



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### Upcoming Special Events

Armenian Home Visit	Sept 2	Church Office:	Mosaix submissions
Rally Sunday Breakfast, 9:15-10:45am	Sept 9	8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.	are due by the
New Members, Re-Up Members Class, 4PM	Sept 16	(M - F)	15 <sup>th</sup> of the month.
Hymnfest, 6:30PM	Sept 28	P: 559.237.6638	Please e-mail
Armenian Home Visit	Oct 7	F: 559.237.9526	information to
Joint Series with Pilgrim: Video Series		E: fapc3@fapc.net	fapc3@fapc.net.
“Parenting” by Dr. Paul David Tripp	Nov 2-3	Staff:	
Armenian Home Visit	Nov 4	Suzy Artemyan, (on Maternity leave) Church	
Merchant’s Lunch	Nov 8	Administrator	
Armenian Home Visit	Dec 1	Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director	
		Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist	
		Marine Frznlyan, Administrator Assistant,	
		Nursery Attendant	
		Ani Sargsyan, 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 Shamlan, Ron Statler

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

