

What's your story?

What has the LORD done in your life the rest of us need to hear about? What's He doing right now that would be good for the rest of us to hear? If you've trusted in Christ, even as a child, He has been "writing" Himself into the story of your life. Even before we were born, the narratives of our families and our nations—America, Armenia, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, Mexico, Europe—are all woven into the fabric of our lives. Much we share, but even within our church, there is so much diversity.

These different stories of Christ in us enrich us as a church and as a community. Frequently we think that those who know us best are the least interested in our stories. We identify with what Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home." (Mk. 6:4 NIV) I'm praying and hoping we can change that!

When Jesus set the demonized man free, the people begged Jesus to leave. Their pigs were drown, driving into the sea by the demons. They had never seen power like this. Jesus scared them. So, they asked Him to leave. But the man begged to join Jesus and leave home, to start a new life following the only person who could free him from his torment.

18-20 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the demon-delivered man begged to go along, but He wouldn't let him. Jesus said, "Go home to your own people. Tell them your story—what the Master did, how he had mercy on you." The man went back and began to preach in the Ten Towns area about what Jesus had done for him. He was the talk of the town. Mark 5:18-20 (MSG)

Are you surprised that Jesus denies his request? I am. It's hard to imagine Jesus turning any one away who was willing to leave everything and everyone to follow Him. Yet, Jesus sends him home. He sends him to his "own people" with a mission: Tell them your story!

The liberated man's story was "what the Master did, how He had mercy on you." Your story may not be as dramatic—maybe it is!—but it is filled with the mercy of God. What has the Lord done for you? What has He done in you and through you? Take a good look at your life; ask others where they've seen and are seeing Him at work in you. Sometimes they can see His fingerprints more clearly.

Jesus sent the unshackled man home to tell them his story, the story of God in him. I love how Mark describes what he did: The man went back and began to preach in the Ten Towns area about what Jesus had done for him. Did you catch that? God's work is what Jesus does!

Jesus wanted him to go tell his own people his own story of what happens when Jesus, the Messiah, gets involved in one of their own people's lives. I wonder if some of your family members will finally understand when you tell them your story. My own parents had heard the Gospel, but didn't quite get it until Paul shared his story and applied the scripture to them.

But we're "your own people" too! We here at FAPC are your people! We want to hear your stories! You make up the mosaic of FAPC! Yes, that's why we've named our newsletter Mosaix—each one of us is like a shard of glass in our beautiful stained glass windows. Yes, we're broken. Yes, we're chipped and have some rough edges. Yes, we need the grout of the Holy Spirit to bring us together and position us into a beautiful mix that portrays His glory and grace.

So, our plan is to have each one of us, across the generations, share at least twice a month (2nd & 4th Sundays) what the Lord has done and what the Lord is doing. You may even share about what you're anticipating Him to do so we can join you in prayer. It may be a retelling of an answered prayer or how the Lord used someone in your life to open your eyes or your heart to His will or blessing. Yours may be the story of endurance and His faithful, undying love to you through a long, dark shadow of sadness.

What's your story?! We want to hear it!

We'll have a team of people that will help write them up so we'll be comfortable in our own words so we'll be able to share freely. Please let me know when you're ready to get started. We'll likely begin with our Elders and Deacons, so they can lead the way, but we don't have to!

I can't wait to rejoice in your stories!

●●●●● Badveli Greg

Quite a few people commented on the french toast served at Easter breakfast. I'm happy to share the recipe.

Ingredients needed:

- ½ cup butter
- 1 ¼ cups of light brown sugar (lightly packed)
- 1 ½ lbs croissants (chopped coarsely)
- 6 eggs
- 2 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- 1 ½ teaspoons of cinnamon
- ¾ teaspoon nutmeg

Steps:

1. Melt butter in a saucepan. Add 1 cup of brown sugar. Stir to dissolve the brown sugar (over heat for about 1 minute), and then pour it into a lightly greased baking dish
 2. Beat the eggs, milk and vanilla
 3. Combine the remaining ¼ cup of brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg
 4. Arrange half the bread over the sugar butter mixture
 5. Pour ½ the egg over the bread
 6. Repeat with the remaining bread then egg mixture
 7. Top with the rest of the spiced sugar
 8. Cover. Refrigerate overnight
- Bake at 350 degrees covered for 30 minutes. Uncover and bake for an additional 15 minutes.

●●●● Maggie Courtis

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!

The National Association for Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR) is sponsoring an essay contest for undergraduate college and university students on the transformative power of education. The contest is open to fulltime undergraduate students in the United States and students need not be of Armenian descent. Essays should be original, in the English language, and between 750 and 1000 words long. Each essay should focus on a relationship forged with a teacher or professor and how that relationship made a fundamental difference in the student's life. The essay contest deadline is June 15, 2019 and more details are available by visiting: <https://naasr.org>.

Our Condolences:



Alice Osep (Atamian) Minassian passed away in Fresno on May 19, 2019 at the age of 82. A native of Marash, in ancient Cilicia, Alice grew up in Aleppo, Syria where she worked in various factories and found her life's calling in child care at a maternity hospital. She was a gifted cook, baker, and embroidery artist all her days. Alice immigrated to Northern California in 1994 and became an active member at Calvary Armenian Congregational Church of San Francisco, where she was named Mother of the Year in 1999. In 2002, she joined the fellowship of FAPC where her beautiful smile brightened countless ministry events. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Garabed; her parents, Hovsep and Osanna; and her siblings, Lucine, Dickran, and Boghos Atamian. Alice is survived by her children, Minas and his wife, Zovinar; Norayr and his wife, Yvonne; Alina Megerditchian and her husband, Reverend Serop Megerditchian; Reverend Nora Minassian; and Reverend Razmig Minassian and his wife, Jennifer; and 10 grandchildren.

●● Deacon's Corner ●●

The Holy Spirit of God has given us the gift of Love. We love the people of God and over the years, we have built a close relationship with some of the members of our church. As I was commuting to work the other day, I was thinking how wonderful and loving the people of our church are. Our prayer is to serve the people of FAPC and support our elders by the power of the Holy Spirit. Twelve deacons at FAPC are available to contact if you are in need or know of someone who is in need:

Silva Esajian, Kim Garo, Keith Harrison, Maria Kalayjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian, Sandra Marashian, Karine Martirosyan, Rita Shamlan, Varvara Sivas, and myself, Sela Ghazarian.

“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22:37-40

●●●● Sela Ghazarian

●●●● Family Life News ●●●●

“Newsman Clarence W. Hall followed American troops through Okinawa in 1945 where he and his jeep driver came upon a small town that stood out as a beautiful example of a Christian community. He wrote, ‘We had seen other Okinawan villages ... down at the heels and despairing; by contrast, this one shone like a diamond in a dung heap. Everywhere we were greeted by smiles and dignified bows. Proudly, the old men showed us their spotless homes and fields ... their storehouses and prized sugar mill.’ Hall said that he saw no jails and no drunkenness and that divorce was unknown in this village. He was told that an American missionary had come there some 30 years earlier. While he was in the village, he had led two elderly townspeople to Christ and left them with a Japanese Bible. These new believers studied the Bible and started leading their fellow villagers to Jesus. Hall’s jeep driver said he was amazed at the difference between this village and the others around it. He remarked, ‘So this is what comes out of only a Bible and a couple of old guys who wanted to live like Jesus.’

Each day, God gives us a blank sheet to use. If we choose to allow Him to lead us in our conduct, consistency, cooperation and courage, we can live and show our credibility to Him, who makes all the difference!”
The Claims of Christ by Barry L. Davis.



“Discovering Our Purpose in Christ” is the theme of the 16th Biennial Conference of the Armenian Evangelical Women’s Fellowship - West Coast. The Conference will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 2233 Ventura Street, in Fresno on October 4-6, 2019. Alina Melkonian Balabanian will be the keynote speaker and the conference theme is drawn from Proverbs 19:21. For complete information, please call Roseann Saliba at (559) 960-4100 or e-mail resaliba@sbcglobal.net.



If you shop on Amazon, don’t forget to link FAPC with AmazonSmile, so that the church will receive a donation from Amazon, at no extra cost to you.
 Happy shopping! www.smile.amazon.com

“Here are some pictures from our GEM group. We have had so much fun fellowshiping and getting to know each other better. We ate together and even visited the Saroyan House Museum. What an interesting place!”



●●●● Nelda Baker

Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and FAPC Co-Hosted the 2019 Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship – West Ironman Games. The sports weekend took place on Memorial Day Weekend on the campuses of the two Fresno Churches and featured sporting events in volleyball, basketball, and soccer. FAPC Senior Pastor Greg Haroutunian was the keynote speaker and the theme of the gathering was 2 Timothy 4: 7.

Grace, freedom, thanksgiving, support, thoughtfulness, relationships, love, and kindness are the words that come to mind when thinking of my time here of eight years. Thank you. Thank you for your grace in my not so Christ-like moments. Thank you for giving me the freedom to serve. Thank you for the encouraging, thankful words. Thank you for the support shown during both of Tamar's bed-rest seasons. Thank you for your thoughtful words and the opportunities to visit Rev. Dr. Ara Jizmejian during his illness and then for his memorial service. We're thankful for the relationships we have built with you all. Thank you for your love extended to Tamar, Emelia, and Ara. Thank you for the kind acts of service you've done for our family. Truly, thank you is not enough.

I'm grateful for the five years of serving alongside Rev. Greg Haroutunian. Even though we've known each other since 2003 when I was in seminary and he began serving in Boston, it was here in Fresno, where our relationship became stronger. Badveli Greg was and still is one of my biggest "cheerleaders." I cherish and appreciate his encouraging, listening, and counseling heart. His door and phone have always been open and I appreciate the long conversations/discussions about life and ministry. His love and support to us as a family during the challenges of bedrest and Rev. Ara's passing is irreplaceable and a simple "thank you" does not suffice. His ability to listen and handle my crazy rants and ideas or the fire hydrant of energy coming at him is remarkable and helps give a better meaning to what grace is. His encouragement for me to pursue and enroll in the Arrow Leadership program and to always have family as a priority will never be forgotten. Truly, thank you is not enough.

Serving alongside you has been a great adventure. Thank you to the Elders and Deacons and the numerous committees and teams that I've had the privilege of serving alongside. I'm thankful for the different seasons of leadership and serving alongside a multitude of people

- Rev. Mgrdich Melkonian, Rev. Phil Garo, Jr., Rev. Paul Irwin, Jane Bedrosian, Annie Baroutjian, Susan Ruiz, Elizabeth Cole, Jonathan Harrison, Jesse Dunbar, Tim Nightingale, Anto Sakayan, Vera Darakjian, Stephen Goodale, Marine Frnzlyan, Suzy Artemyan, and Marisa Garza. They each helped shape me and invested their energies, gifting, and time to develop and build God's community at FAPC.



It's hard to sum up eight years. We've laughed and cried together, enjoyed seasons of growth, hardships, uncertainty, joy and I'm truly grateful for all of it. It has shaped us all in different ways. I have one request: that in life we have the same pursuit that the Apostle Paul has marked out here in the letter to the Philippians in chapter 3, beginning in verse 8:

"What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ, and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that ones from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

I love the Apostle Paul's passion and commitment communicated in this section. His main goal is to know Christ, to experience the resurrection power, and to "go all the way with him to death." (MSG version) Everything in comparison to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior is insignificant.

As I reflect on my time here at FAPC, my hope and desire is that we all continue to pursue just that—to know Christ and experience the power of his resurrection. To not pour money and time into things that are insignificant, but to passionately pursue knowing Jesus and the power of our

Lord, who raised Jesus from the dead. We have laser focus on making sure our children have a good education. We have laser focus on making sure our retirement is more than adequate. We have laser focus on the things that take priority in our lives. My hope would be that the pursuit after Jesus supersedes it all. In fact, if I can be just as bold as the Apostle Paul, these things are nothing, rubbish, in comparison to knowing Jesus. We need to have a laser focus on knowing Jesus and the power of his resurrection. We don't have to, but wow, we get to. What a privilege, let's not squander the opportunity, but passionately pursue Jesus, as educators, parents, farmers, doctors, whatever our profession.

I love referring and highlighting the word "power" in my sermons over and over again. The root word in the Greek dunamis is where we get the word dynamite in English. Through our time pursuing the knowledge of Jesus, we can experience this power. This power of the Holy Spirit is given to those who have a relationship with Jesus. We have access to this power that has overcome death, evil, and will empower us to overcome fear. We don't have to, but we get to have access to this power and knowledge.

There are way too many stories and relationships to mention, which highlights your heart and the way you've embraced us. So I'm going to be cliché here - this isn't good-bye. It's just see you later. Our time growing with you, our relationships, will never be forgotten, but cherished.

●●●●● Badveli Mgo



● Women's Ministry News ●

FAPC's The Gathering Ministry concluded their first year of events with a fashion show entitled, "Clothe Yourself in Love." Approximately 100 women gathered for a luncheon at Pardini's on May 5 and were treated to a showing of lovely fashions provided by Karina Khachatourian's A. Felice boutique.

Zovig Adanalian shared an inspiring devotional based on the scripture found in Colossians 3:12-14.

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.



Elaine Rubio served as the emcee of the fashion show featuring eight lovely "models" from FAPC: Linda Kay Abdulian, Cindy Afarian, Rita Barsamian, Alexandra Garabedian, Terri Bedrosian, Kohar Kojanian, Morgan Marashian, Rita Shamlan, Evetta Martirosyan, and Varvara Sivas. A huge shoutout to Maryvonne Gagliardi and Steve Marashian for their assistance with the coordination of the fashion show. Their expertise in the retail fashion industry was invaluable. We are also very grateful for those women who assisted our models (who often had very little time before their next runway appearance): Ani and Ann Abajian, Arminé Christenson, Lauren Hallaian, Connie Herrin, Talene Karkazian, Jonelle Kazarian, Arpi Keledjian, and Kara Statler.



The Gathering Ministry strives to provide opportunities for fellowship among multigenerational women within our church body; however, our events have drawn guests from a variety of churches in Fresno. Please join us for future events as we continue to plan meaningful occasions to gather together, support one another, and rejoice in the love of Jesus Christ.

●●●●● Joy Rubio

● Youth Ministry News ●

When was the last time you had a question about your faith? Did you seek out the answer on your own? Did you ask someone else? Or did you think about it for a few minutes before moving on with the rest of your day? I recently



had the pleasure of meeting with one of our youth who had questions about God, his faith, and how the world works. His father had talked with him, but wanted to continue to seek out answers with his son. In the hour and a half that we talked over lunch, we discussed everything from

why God created people to what will happen to us after we die. I was amazed at this young man's curiosity and the implications of the things he was asking. He asked hard questions like, "Why does God love the bad guys?" and "Do we have to love the bad guys?" As we talked, he would ask a follow up question or offer his explanation about what he thought the answer might be. Towards the end of our time together I encouraged him to keep asking questions. I also told him that just because we had talked about these questions together, he can keep asking those questions and talking about them.

As adults, I think that we stop asking questions. Or if we do ask a question, we stop pursuing answers after we hear the first thing someone says. Have you done this before? When we stop asking questions we stop caring about pursuing the truth those questions lead us to. Let us start asking questions again.

In Mark, chapter 4, Jesus tells the parable of the sower. After He finishes and is alone with the disciples, they ask Him about the parables. His response is one that I have overlooked many times. "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you." That is just the start of the response, but I think it is important. The secret of the kingdom of God is about asking questions. Jesus tells the crowd parables, but only explains the parables to His disciples, and only when they ask Him. Are you ready to be His disciple? Are you ready to use the secret of the kingdom of God and ask questions? He is ready and willing to speak if only you ask and listen.

●●●●● Stephen Goodale

IMPORTANT DATES:

June 17-21: Youth serving with VBS and hang outs afterwards

June 21: Summer Kick-Off,
Time and Place TBA

June 27-29: Camp Arev Training Part 1

July 5-6: Camp Arev Training Part 2

ONCE UPON A KINGDOM

CAMP AREV Summer Camp 2019

Dates

Juniors: July 7-13

Junior High: July 14-20

High School: July 21-27

College & Career: August 9-11

CLOSING CEREMONIES & KEBAB PICNICS:

SATURDAY 11am-4pm

(parents plan to pick up campers at picnic)

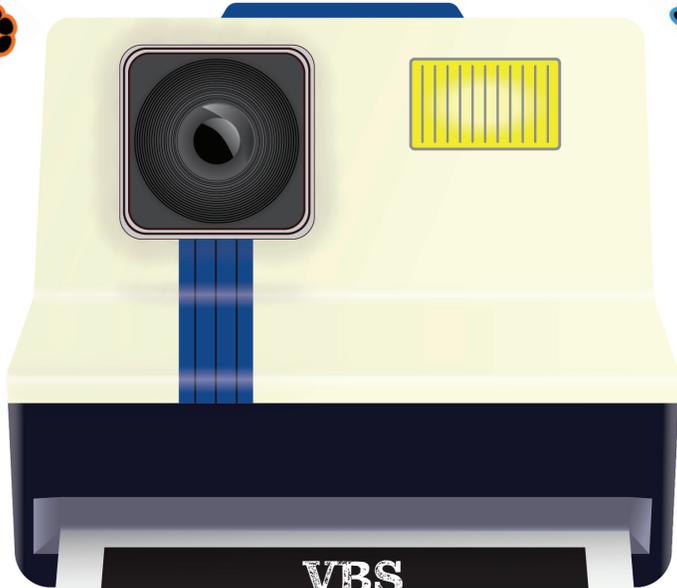
FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION:

Call 818.507.0922 or visit camparev.org/summer

But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.

Matthew 6:33





VBS
 zoom in on Jesus
Into the Wild
 June 17-21
 9AM-12PM
 \$15 per child
 \$35 max per family
 Children 2 yrs-5th Grade

REGISTER ONLINE
FAPCwild19.eventbrite.com

REGISTRATION FORM

FAPC

JUNE 17-21

9:00AM-12PM

\$15 PER CHILD

CHILDREN 2 YRS-5TH GRADE

\$35 MAX PER FAMILY

(NURSERY AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN OF VOLUNTEERS)



ONE FORM PER FAMILY

FAMILY NAME/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME NUMBER _____ CELL NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME/PHONE NUMBER _____

SPECIAL NEEDS/ALLERGIES/OTHER CONCERNS _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) _____

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) _____

AGE _____

AGE _____

FALL 2019 GRADE _____

FALL 2019 GRADE _____

NAME _____

NAME _____

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) _____

DOB (MM/DD/YEAR) _____

AGE _____

AGE _____

FALL 2019 GRADE _____

FALL 2019 GRADE _____

Child #1:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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Child #2:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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Child #3:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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Child #4:

T-shirt size	Youth	XS	S	M	L	XL	Adult	M	L
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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, its agents and employees from any and all liability resulting from their conformance with these instructions.

MEDIA RELEASE: I give consent to my child/children to possibly be photographed/video during this event.

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



First Armenian Presbyterian Church

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Upcoming Special Events

Last Day of Sunday School	June 9
VBS, 9am-12pm	June 17-21
Rev. Mgo Mekredijian's Last Sunday	June 23
Communion Sunday	July 7
Armenian Home Worship, 1:45pm	July 7
Camp Arev Summer Camp, Juniors:	July 7-13
Junior High:	July 14-20
High School:	July 21-27
Colleg/Career:	Aug 9-11
Communion Sunday	Aug 4
Communion Sunday	Sept 1
Rally Sunday	Sept 8

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
15th of the month.
Please e-mail
information to
fapc3@fapc.net.

Staff:
Suzy Artemyan, Church Administrator
Anna Arakelian, Nursery Attendant
Jesse Dunbar, Interim Music Ministry Director
Vera Darakjian, Armenian Ministries Pianist
Marine Frnzlyan, Administrator Assistant,
Nursery Attendant
Stephen Goodale, Director of Youth Ministries
Susan Ruiz, Custodian

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

Ruling Elders: Dr. Hagop Afarian, Sevag Afarian, Ed Esajian, Paul Koligian,
Rev. Razmig Minassian, Dr. Dennis Shamlan, Ron Statler

Deacons: Silva Esajian, Kim Garo, Sela Ghazarian, Keith Harrison,
Maria Kalayjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojayan, Bob Mangasarian,
Sandra Marashian, Karine Martirosyan, Rita Shamlan, Varvara Sivas

