

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” Romans 12:1-2 (NIV11)

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? What are you waiting for??? We have less than thirty shopping days left until Christmas!!! Do you hear the feigned shrill in the repeated punctuation marks?!

With all the “supply chain” issues businesses are facing this Christmas, we’ve been urged to shop early and, in fact, I wouldn’t be surprised if I’m already too late! Oh well, sorry kids! No worries, Sossy probably has it all covered anyway.

Seriously, are you ready for Christmas? I have some friends—maybe they’re like you—who do all their shopping during the “after-Christmas” sales and they’ve already wrapped all their presents and they’re just waiting to decorate before bringing out and placing all the presents under the tree.

What will you be giving to Jesus this year for Christmas? After all, it’s His birthday that we’re celebrating! What would He want? Have you ever thought about that? You’re right, of course, He does “have everything,” and would be pretty tough to shop for. But if you were to give Him a present, what gift would you give? What would He want from you?

You’ve just given Him your gratitude for Thanksgiving, though the Scripture seems to assume that we’re doing this all year long, every day and every hour! You can keep that up! Praise, glory, your worship, your resources for His kingdom’s expansion—all of these would be absolutely appropriate gifts!

We can never forget the gifts the Magi brought to celebrate His royal birth: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Jesus also said that we should always

remember the “alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard.” Jesus praised her extravagance as the preparation for His burial.

What do you have to give to Jesus? What can you give Him that would express your love and devotion to Him?

Let’s go with what the Apostle Paul commands: your body & your mind.

That checks the “extravagant” box and the “expensive” box. It would definitely be unique because there’s no one quite like you. It also fits the “is this something He would want” list because we find it in His Word!

This Christmas, let’s present ourselves (did you like that pun?) as unwrapped, living sacrifices, available to be offered as He chooses—how & when. Let’s renew our minds, aligning our thoughts with His Word and desires and resist the pull to make this season all about ourselves or lots of extravagant gifts for ourselves. Our bodies and our minds, let’s offer each of them intentionally, daily to Him.

Again, Paul says it so well in Romans 6:11-13
“¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. ¹²Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.”

Every morning as we rise, let’s offer our every part of our bodies and our minds as an offering, a sacrifice to Jesus in honor of His birth, in honor of His death & resurrection, in honor of His soon return!

Happy Birthday, Jesus!!!
Merry Christmas, FAPC family!!!



CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Sarah Lynn Koligian, Ed.D. on being named 2021 Superintendent of the Year by the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA). Dr. Koligian is the Superintendent of the 20,000-student Folsom Cordova Unified School District in Sacramento County, California.



Jennifer Herrin Minassian, PA-C on being featured in the Everyday Heroes: Making Lives Better display at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in Fresno. Jennifer is a graduate of Biola University and Western University of Health Sciences in Pomona and has been a member

of the Occupational Medicine Department at Kaiser Permanente Fresno since the Spring of 2017.



Badvelis Greg Haroutunian and Razmig Minassian on the occasion of National Clergy Appreciation Month. The Session, Board of Deacons, and Congregation saluted the two pastors during the October 31st Worship Service, for their Gospel ministries at Camp Arev and at FAPC.



Haley Paloutzian Georgouses on passing the July 2021 California Bar Examination. A graduate of Santa Clara University School of Law, Haley is the daughter of Dirk and Bonnie Paloutzian, the granddaughter of Dr. Rodney and Shari Paloutzian, and the great-granddaughter of the late Ernest and Mary Paloutzian.



Sona Yemenjian on the publication of her exquisite Tabouleh Middle Eastern Salad recipe in the November 2021 editions of Bluffs View and Fig Garden Magazines.



PAST EVENTS...

Family groups are an important ministry of our church. Spending time together, studying God’s Word, and supporting one another with prayer and encouragement in central to our fellowship. This semester, four family groups met. Over fifty people were involved and committed to being together over the four groups. The Armenian Language family group met every other Sunday after church, the Wednesday Men’s family group met for lunch each week, the Paul Haroutunians led a Tuesday night family group and the Rubios led a Thursday night family group over Zoom. Please consider getting involved in a family group when they resume in January! Contact Stephen to sign up for a family group, or to become a leader.



The third annual Harvest Fest was hosted on Sunday, October 31st, on Hagop and Aleen Afarian’s property. Hot Dog on a Stick provided corndogs, lemonade, and funnelcake fries and a nacho and chili bar was also provided. Ten cars were set up for Trunk or Treating and many who attended were dressed in costumes. The Gospel was shared each hour with the Wordless Book and bracelets with beads reminding children of the Gospel. A sack race, three-legged race, human wheelbarrow, and pie eating contests were enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to all who volunteered!



FAPC welcomed Thanksgiving 2021 to Central California with its 123rd Annual Merchants’ Lunch and Country Store. The harvest lunch took place at the Church Campus from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, November 10th. The event featured three drive-through lanes and a streamlined Country Store in the Christian Education Building parking lot. Guests arrived and departed with takeout boxes filled with freshly grilled beef lulu kebab, rice pilaf, cheese boereg, garden salad, peda bread, and paklava. Lunch proceeds benefited Central Valley Justice Coalition, a 501(c)(3) ministry that partners with the Church and community to prevent human trafficking. During the November 14th Worship Service, Elder Paul Haroutunian, Chairperson of the Missions Committee, presented a check for \$9,000 to Program Manager Arien Garcia for the CVJC Freedom Fund. The Session and Congregation extend heartfelt thanks to Merchants’ Luncheon Chair Maryvonne Gagliardi and her team for an unforgettable meal and day.



Thank you to all who donated to Operation Christmas Child. Samaritan’s Purse delivers shoeboxes to children around the world each year, giving some of them their only Christmas present they will receive. This year, our church donated online to fund over 200 shoeboxes to be packed and sent into hard-to-reach countries.

●●●●● Family Life News ●●●●●

UPCOMING EVENTS...

The December **Congregational Meeting** will be held immediately after the service on Sunday, December 12th. The items to be considered are the election of the incoming Elder and Deacons and the presentation of the budget for January through June of 2022. All are welcome to attend, but only members will participate in the election.



Join us for **Christmas Eve** this year at **8 p.m.** Come, celebrate Jesus' birth with singing, Scripture, and the message of what Jesus wants for Christmas. Children are invited to come in their pajamas and will have a chance to sing a song or two up front. This year, spend the evening before Christmas with your church family and enjoy cookies and hot cocoa together afterward in the Fireside room. You won't want to miss this!



Come, celebrate **Armenian Christmas** on **Wednesday, January 5th**, in the sanctuary at **7 p.m.** Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church will be joining us for a service in Armenian.



The **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting** will take place January 10th through the 30th. Our church will be hosting Monday, January 10th, at 7 p.m. More details to follow.



Our church is hosting the **Presbytery of the Pacific Southwest** (POPS) in January. If you would like to volunteer to join the team who will be providing meals and hosting the members of Presbytery, please contact the church office. You are invited to join us in the sanctuary on Friday, January 21st, at 7 p.m. for a worship service with Presbytery. Come join us as we serve and worship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



DEACONS' CORNER

Isaiah 53:5 has touched my heart considerably in the past couple of months. The verse reads: *"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed."* This verse encourages me to continue to follow Jesus, without turning back.

With the new year approaching, our current Deacons will have served three or six years by the end of 2021. As for me, serving as Deacon chair for the past six years, the Lord has shown me how much I need him. He blessed my life with good people who love the Lord wholeheartedly.

Those who have committed themselves and served on the Deacon team in 2021 are: Rita Barsamian, Grace Chavoor, Kim Garo, Keith Harrison, Simon Kalebjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojayan, Karine Martirosyan, Noelle Nightingale, Rita Shamlian, Ando Sivas, Kinsey Sivas, and Sandy Marashian who served as co-chair for part of 2021.

We each have a role to play in our church because we are followers of Christ Jesus. My prayer is that we will never stop being involved in the life of the church and will continue to follow Christ. We must always be part of His Church because we are His Church. I am grateful to our Lord Jesus for all that He has done for us. His goodness and mercies never end.

Sela Ghazarian



Editor's Note: In respacing the articles and Deacons' Corner last month, Sandy Marashian's name was left off as author of the Deacon's Corner article.



Dear Volunteers,

I know God is a magnificent God, and He continues to show me His magnificence through people like you. You are each a gift and a blessing, and I want you to know just how good you have been to me, FAPC, and our community. You may think that it's not much, but your help has been invaluable, big or small. Thank you for your continued support during Merchants Lunch (another successful event) I will forever be grateful to you all, now and forever. May God continue to bless you. As I have been humbled to be a part of this event and walk along side each of you.

In His honor,
Maryvonne C. Gagliardi



●●●●● Family Life News ●●●●●
HARVEST FEST 2021



Our Condolences...

Hagop S. "Jack" Ayndejian, Ph.D., dear brother-in-Christ, passed away on October 30, 2021 at Willow Valley Communities in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on October 30, 2021 at the age of 85. A native of Lebanon, Dr. Aynedjian was educated at the Faculty of Beirut, Pitman Center of London, and Providence-Barrington Bible College in Rhode Island. He married Grace Nazarian in 1959 and continued his education at New York University. After graduating, Hagop became a faculty member of both N.Y.U. Medical Center and the Albert Einstein Medical College/Montefiore Medical Center. He taught microsurgery to post graduate medical doctors and co-authored more than 50 published articles on renal topics. During the pastorate of Reverend Bernard Guekguezian, Hagop and Grace relocated from the East Coast to Clovis to serve FAPC outreach ministries to the Armenian-American Community of Central California. In 2005, the Aynedjians retired to Pennsylvania Dutch Country where they continued their outreach to the unsaved. Hagop was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Grace, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Aynedjian of Beirut. He is survived by his children, James and his wife Amy Runnion, John, and Sharon and her husband, Dana Barkdoll; four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.



Would you like to receive your Mosaix Newsletter by email? Let us know! You can opt out of receiving physical mailings and switch to emails only by contacting the church office at fapc3@fapc.net.



How can we be praying for you? Let us know any specific prayer requests you have by emailing them to karendaoudian@gmail.com to add them to our prayer chain emails. If you would like to join the prayer chain email list please let us know.



FIRST ARMENIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR

Christmas Eve

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?



Come celebrate Jesus' birth with us as we sing carols, read Scripture, and answer the question:
What does Jesus want for Christmas?

Join us at 8 p.m. | Cookies and Hot Cocoa to follow in the Fireside Room

Armenian Christmas Service

Join us in celebrating with
Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6TH, 2022 | 7 PM
FIRST ARMENIAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
430 FIRST STREET, FRESNO, CA 93702






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Upcoming Special Events

December 5 - Communion Sunday
December 12 - Congregational Meeting
December 14 - Session Meeting
December 17 - FAPC Monthly 24 hour prayer
December 24 - Christmas Eve Service
December 24 - Office Closed for Christmas
December 31 - Office Closed for New Year's
January 5 - Armenian Christmas Service
January 10-30 - 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting
January 10 - FAPC hosting 21 Days of Prayer
January 21-22 - FAPC to Host Presbytery

**Unsolicited submissions are
welcome.
All submissions are subject to
editorial revisions.
Please email to
administration@fapc.net**

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Kalem Kazarian, Rev. Razmig Minassian, Dr. Dennis Shamlian

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Harrison, Simon Kalebjian, Arpi Keledjian, Kohar Kojayan, Sandra
Marashian, Karine Martirosyan, Noelle Nightingale, Rita Shamlian, Ando
Sivas, Kinsey Sivas