



Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

April 2023 Vol. 4:1

“¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised. ¹⁴ And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith. ¹⁵ More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. ¹⁷ And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. ¹⁹ If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. ²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ... ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸ Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:13-20, 57-58 (NIV2011)

If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, the Christian faith is a lie.

If Jesus Christ did not rise from the dead, the entire world should pity followers of Jesus. All the good works done in Jesus' name will have been beneficial. All the kindness done in Jesus' name, appreciated or not, will have blessed the world. All the educational advancements, medical care and disaster relief will have brought good to the world. But we would be pathetic, misguided romantics. Worse, we would not know forgiveness or the presence of the Holy Spirit. We would have no genuine

hope for life after this life. Sunday worship or devotion to Christian ethics or ideals would be an exercise in fantasy and futility.

That's how important the resurrection is!

However, if Christ has been raised, everything changes! There is hope for our ailing and broken world. There is power to counteract the evil all around us. There is grace to extend compassion and work hard to alleviate suffering. There is a reason to sacrifice our own comfort and convenience for the sake of others.

Worship and prayer are meaningful and effective. Jesus's promise to give the Holy Spirit and to be with us always are not simply platitudes but anchors for our souls! His soon return is our expectation and "our sure and certain hope."

It is so easy to become so familiar with Jesus. Without intentional focus Christmas, Lent, Palm Sunday, Good Friday and even Easter—Resurrection Sunday—can be reduced to holidays and sentimental clichés. Reading the Scripture and prayer can become empty routines.

Last week, I was struck with the thought that I actually believed that God would act and accomplished what I had prayed about. Could it be that I have been "praying" without faith? Of course! What about your time in the Bible? Can we read the words and never absorb the truth or power? And Sunday worship—do you ever sit (or stand) through it without any engagement?

Jesus is alive! He is risen from the dead! Everything He said can be trusted! His promises are true! You are no longer in your sin! The dead in Christ are "with the Lord!" We have reason to live with purpose and sacrifice!

As the Church has proclaimed for millennia, "Christ has died, Christ is RISEN, and Christ will come again!" This is our Easter hope! Jesus Christ is alive!

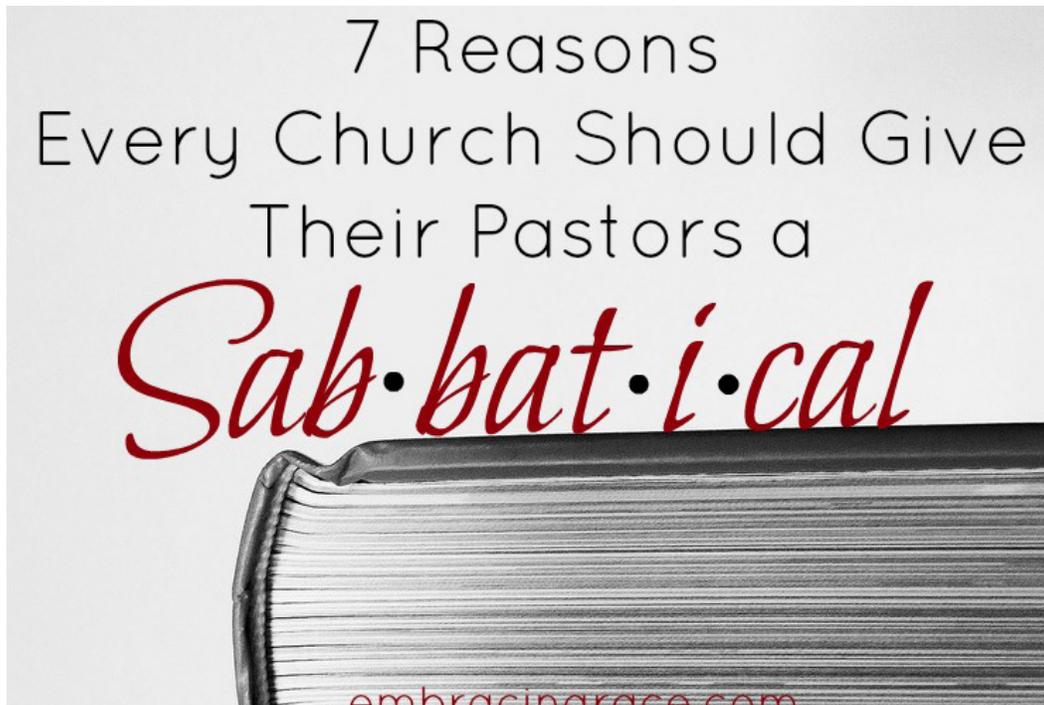
Because He lives,

Badveli Greg

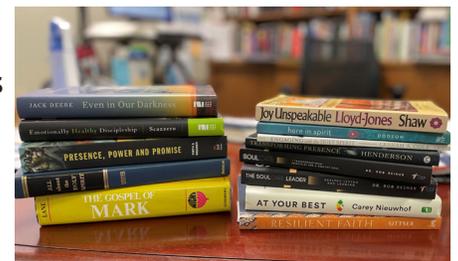




Sabbatical Leave Information



- #1: Your pastor needs an opportunity to declutter his mind.
- #2: Your pastor needs time and freedom to nurture family relationships.
- #3: Your pastor needs time for self analysis.
- #4. Your pastor needs an extended opportunity to be fed.
- #5. Your pastor needs to view church ministry through the eyes of a member.
- #6. Your pastor needs time off from the ministry roller coaster.
- #7. Your pastor needs a healthy, happy pastor’s wife.



[Excerpted from Sabbatical Leave Proposal approved by Session on February 21, 2023.]

Purpose: To provide a time for personal replenishment and establish healthy rhythms for spiritual pastoral leadership. Internally genuinely adopt the calling as a disciple-making pastor. Give time to develop & articulate a plan for how FAPC can cultivate a family of disciple-makers.

My Goal: To become an intentional disciple-making leader, personally ready to launch the first steps of the disciple-making core of our Mission Statement.

Objectives: Focus on me, renewing my joy as a beloved child of God and an intentional disciple-making leader. Work on my personal relationship w/Jesus, especially “abiding in Jesus”: being, not doing.

Pray for each member of the church biweekly, having contacted 10-15 members each week prior to departing so I can learn how they would like me to pray for them. This way we can report to each other @ Family Camp.

I will only attend other churches, NOT entertain ministry or preaching/teaching opportunities.





Sabbatical Leave

Information



A Sabbatical Leave is a break and change from the everyday routine and therefore would include a balance of reflection and prayer, rest, study, and travel. The concept of sabbatical is rooted in the biblical concept of “Sabbath” which God modeled (Genesis 2:1-4a) and commanded (Exodus 20:8-11). In Leviticus 25:1-7, the Lord says that after the sixth year the people were not supposed to sow the fields or harvest a crop. The land was allowed to rest, and therefore so were the people.

Why are we offering our pastor a sabbatical? The purpose of offering a Sabbatical Leave within First Armenian Presbyterian Church is to allow adequate time away from normal job responsibilities for personal and professional growth, spiritual renewal and a revitalization of vision and hope.

How does FAPC benefit by providing a sabbatical to our pastor? The Leave should offer a time of refreshment for the benefit of both the participant in the Leave and his or her staff and/or congregation. It would also be appropriate for First Armenian Presbyterian Church to consider how the sabbatical time would be an opportunity for its own growth and renewal.

How long is a sabbatical? A maximum of four (4) months in any one year; or two (2) months in each of two (2) consecutive years; which is the option Badveli Greg has chosen. He’ll also add several of his unused vacation time at the end of the leave, returning for Family Camp. Who determines the sabbatical? The Senior Pastor and Session will work together to determine a timeframe best suitable for the sabbatical. When possible, the sabbatical should be scheduled at a time that will minimize the disruptive effect on the normal operation of the church (i.e., summer may be preferable). Eligibility for a Sabbatical Leave within First Armenian Presbyterian Church would require the completion of at least seven (7) consecutive years of employment. There must be at least seven (7) years between Sabbatical Leaves.

How will we know what was accomplished during the sabbatical? Upon returning, the pastor will make a written and oral report to the Session recapping how the time was spent and what was learned. Additionally, a congregational celebratory event will be held to provide an exchange of information between the pastor and the members of the congregation.

What happens if I need pastoral care during the time of the sabbatical? During the time of the sabbatical, FAPC Elders and Deacons will be available for Pastoral Care. When needed, additional clergy will be available, details to follow.

Who will perform funerals and weddings during the time of the sabbatical? During the time of the sabbatical, additional clergy will be on-call and available to perform funerals. It will be at the pastor’s discretion to participate. Previously scheduled weddings may be performed at the discretion of the pastor.

Who will oversee the normal operation of the church during the time of the sabbatical? The Session is the final authority of First Armenian Presbyterian Church and would continue to be in the absence of the Teaching Elder. Session will determine among themselves who will serve as temporary Moderator of Session. Session meetings will continue as scheduled. Our Administrator, Jacci, will be responsible for daily decisions in consultation with Session. Session and the Deacons will play a vital role in the week-to-week care and service of FAPC and its mission.

There are FAQ’s at the back of the Narthex for additional information. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need additional information.

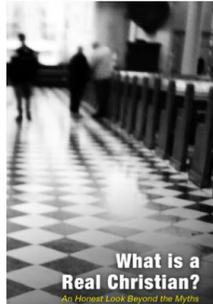




FAPC Missions Committee Update

April 2023

The Missions Committee wants you to know that it is with pure joy that we serve our great God and the Body of Christ at FAPC. Missions and Evangelism are at the heart of the Great Commission.



“What is a Real Christian?”

Here is the fourth Myth of what some would answer why they are a Christian:

Myth #4:

Going to Church Makes You a Christian

Last Sunday, four out of ten Americans went to church. But, does that mean that all these people are Christians? Of course not. Even some thieves go to church.

Some people go to church because it’s a social habit. Others attend because their family makes them go. At the encouragement of a minister, they may even go to special classes for confirmation or membership.

It is true that Christians go to Church and take an active part in church life. But, attending church doesn’t make you a Christian.

Below are your current 2023 FAPC Missions

Committee Members:

- *Paul Haroutunian, Elder Director
- *Nelda Baker, Vice Chair
- *Jay Khushigian
- *Elaine Rubio
- *Rev. Gregory Haroutunian (ex officio)

disciples to make obedient disciples. Ten percent of all FAPC times and offerings goes to missions. We have vetted and formally chosen to provide financial support for these individuals and organizations posted on this page because they evangelize and make disciples for Jesus. We hope you are excited to hear what God is doing with these partners and we strongly encourage you to get to know them and prayerfully support them. Their contact information is posted below. If possible, please consider providing direct further individual financial support.

Your Missions Committee at FAPC

Presbyterian Church




Rev. Razmig Minassian
Director - Camp AREV
razmig@camparev.org



Arman & Lilit Asatryan
Armenia
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Arman Asatryan
Lilit Asatryan



Pastor Vardan,
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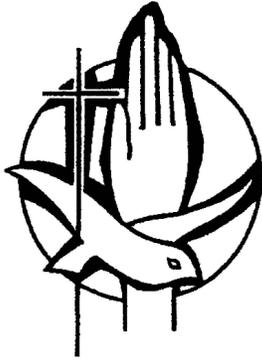


marva.ward@esali.org



evh@evangelhome.org





Greetings in Christ from our Deacon Ministry Team,

We are excited to begin a new year together with our FAPC Deacon team.

Our Deacon ministry is focused on four areas of Christian service. With Christ at our center, we remain dedicated to Prayer, Witnessing, Fellowship and the Word.

Our Ruling Elders are primary in guiding our path for the Deacon Ministry. We are grateful for the wonderful years of dedicated service of those outgoing deacons who concluded their service at the end of 2022. Currently, we are underway in the process of welcoming incoming Deacons to the fellowship with those congregants they are assigned with.

With heartfelt gratitude we thank Karine Martiroysan's service of six years and Grace Chavoor's service of three years.

What are Deacons and what are we entrusted to do? A Deacon assists in overseeing the ministry of compassion of our congregation to those ill, bereaved and those in any way distressed. We seek to serve the people with energy and love.

We also may serve as ushers and participate in worship, meetings, fellowship, prayer gatherings and Deacon Meetings. Deacons affirm and adopt the EPC essentials of Faith. In the year ahead our Deacon Ministry will spend time learning together through workshops in the areas of Faith, the Word and Fellowship.

If you have any specific questions or items of concern regarding our Deacon Ministry, we welcome you to talk with us, a member of our Deacon Team or Badveli.

We look forward to the year ahead in this important Ministry to FAPC.

Our Deacon team will periodically be highlighting FAPC congregants and would love to have you participate. Please enjoy this month's "Center Stage".

Noelle & Sandy



CENTER STAGE

David Avakian



What is something you enjoy doing and why? Watching sports. It's the thrill of victory or the agony of defeat. I love the drama of what could happen and how there is so much suspense within that time the game is on.

What or who is the reason you are connected with being at FAPC? My father, Rev. Carl Avakian, invested his entire life into the Armenian church community, and I feel connected to my father by attending FAPC. FAPC is a family church, and I feel at home when I am there.

What are you most grateful for over this last year? For all the people that have lifted me and my sister up in prayer and supporting us through this grieving process.

CENTER STAGE

Hagop Catchatoorian



What is something many of us don't know about you? A significant interest? A hidden talent? I am a high school athlete. I compete in track and field in the shot put and discus events. It is an extremely niche sport that has helped me get stronger and more athletic.

What is God revealing to you in this season of life? He is revealing that He helps in ways I don't see. Recently, we had lockdowns at school four times in five days, and thankfully they were all false alarms, or merely threats and not actual danger. Each time I prayed to Him, and by His grace, nothing happened.

What or who has had the greatest influence in your life? Camp Arev has had the greatest influence on my life, especially in my walk with Jesus. Every time I go, I learn more about Him, make connections with other followers, and improve my overall mindset when it comes to faith.



Prayer Breakfast 2023

Dr. David Jeremiah keynoted the **75th Annual Fresno-Clovis Prayer Breakfast**. The Breakfast took place March 1, 2023 at the Fresno Convention and Entertainment Center New Exhibit Hall with more than 2,500 in attendance. Dr. Jeremiah is the Senior Pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon and Founder of Turning Point/Inspiration Ministries. He is the author of more than 40 books, including the FAPC 2022 Advent Meditation, “Why the Nativity?” Dr. Jeremiah’s Prayer Breakfast topic was “Unanswered Prayer: Seven Things that Can Get in the Way of Prayer.” He explained that our prayers are not answered when we: (1) do not pray (James 5: 13-18); (2) we have unconfessed sin (Psalms 66:18, Proverbs 15: 29; 28;; Ezekiel 14: 1-3; 1 Peter 3: 12; John 1: 9); (3) have unbelieving minds (James 1: 6-8; Hebrews 11: 6); (4) have wrong/unrighteous motives (James 4: 3, Psalms 37: 4, Luke 12: 13, 15); (5) have unresolved conflicts (Mark 11: 25-26, Matthew 5: 23-24); (6) have uncompassionate hearts (Proverbs 21: 13, John 3: 16-22); and (7) have unresponsive husbands (really!) (1 Peter 3: 7). Dr. Jeremiah has often said: “Prayer--it is easy to do and yet so often, we fail to pray to God unless we are in a place of despair or trouble. When we neglect to pray, we are missing the tremendous blessing that comes from daily conversations with our Creator. Unlike other relationships, God not only loves you with an incomprehensible love, but He is also always available, always listening, and always ready to hear from you.”



How many “!” were in Badveli’s Mosaix Article?





Prayer Breakfast 2024



Anthony Kevin “Tony” Dungy will keynote the 2024 Fresno-Clovis Prayer Breakfast. Dungy coached the Indianapolis Colts to victory over the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XLI (2006) and is a current analyst for NBC Football Night in America. A 2016 inductee into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Dungy is the author of such books as “Quiet Strength,” the “Uncommon” series, “The Mentor Leader,” and “The Soul of a Team.” The Prayer Breakfast will be held from **7 to 9 a.m. on February 27, 2024** at the Fresno Convention Center New Exhibit Hall. More information is available by visiting: <https://fresnoclovisprayerbreakfast.org>.



Reverend Razmig Minassian has been named Minister to the Armenian Evangelical Youth Fellowship-West Region (AEYF-WR). Badveli Razmig will continue to serve as Executive Director of Camp AREV and Ruling Elder of FAPC.

CAMP AREV ~ AEYF RETREATS ~ CAMP AREVELK

Upcoming 2023 EVENTS

AEYF WEST SPRING RETREAT APR 15, SO CAL	NATIONAL LEADERS CONFERENCE NOV 10-12, TBD	AEYF EAST COLLEGE & CAREER MAR 3-5, NY
IRONMAN GAMES SEP 15-17, FRESNO	JUNIOR'S MAY 5-6, NJ GR. 7-12	
CAMP AREV JUNE 25-JULY 1, HS1 JULY 9-15, HS2 JULY 16-22, JR'S JULY 23-29, JH AUG. 4-6, YA	CAMP AREVELK GR. 5-12 AUG. 6-12, NY	

AEUNA MINISTRIES



Women's Retreat 2023

Friday, April 28, 2023 - Sunday, April 30, 2023

Age Group: 18+ All Women

Cost: \$200

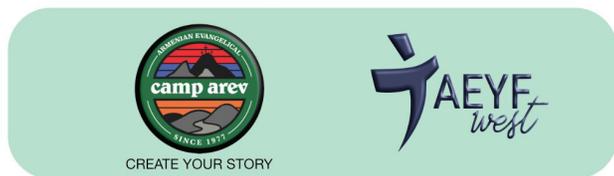
CAMP AREV WOMEN'S RETREAT!
WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN AMAZING TIME OF WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, TEACHING AND MORE.

Our annual Women's Retreat is Back and is better than ever! We know many of you miss being on the mountain top to experience God's presence and enjoy time of fellowship. So here are some details we'd love for all of you to be aware of.





Events



Dear Pastors, Leaders and Christian Workers
Greetings in the name of Jesus.

It is my pleasure to serve you, your churches and connect with your youth ministries. In January 2023, along with my current role as the Executive Director of Camp AREV, I assumed my new responsibility as the AEYF Western Region Youth Minister. Our vision is to bridge the missional aspect of AEUNA's youth ministry (Camp AREV) and the fellowship/growth aspect of the youth ministry (AEYF) closer, with the hope that it will produce tremendous fruit and growth in our local church youth groups and young adults ministries. Our aim is to lead our campers and our youth to be Christ-centered, Kingdom-minded and servant-hearted individuals. Our prayer is that they have an impact in their own circles as they make the name of Jesus known through their life.

I'd love to share with you some of the great things happening in the AEUNA, particularly in the western region youth ministries. We have created unique opportunities for our youth to come together, enjoy fellowship, lean on Christ and grow in their walk with Him. Please, scroll through this email, mark your calendar for upcoming events, and participate.



Camp AREV hosted the First-Ever Inter-Church Soccer Tournament on Saturday, April 1, 2023. The Tournament featured 9 v 9 games with Co-Ed teams, 20-minute halves, and a guarantee of two games per team. Pasadena Nazarene took the title, right ahead of First Armenian Presbyterian Church.



The Spring of 2023 marks the 25th Anniversary of the publication of the FAPC Centennial Cookbook, "A Hundred Years and Still Cooking." The 500+ page recipe collection includes instructions for preparing 636 different ethnic dishes. First reviewed in the January 14, 1998 edition of The Los Angeles Times, the volume is a unique compendium of heritage recipes, Scriptural wisdom, Old World culinary precepts, and Central California ethnic history. The collection--prepared by the FAPC Fidelis Society and first printed by H. Markus & Company--includes recipes by the pioneering Armenian women who first settled in the heartland of the Golden State more than 120 years ago. A limited number of cookbooks from the second printing are still available from the Church Office for \$25 per volume. Please contact Administrator Jacci Rustigan at jacci@fapc.net or (559) 237-6638 for ordering information.





Events

Armenia Country Store



Daytime play-date/babysitting provided by Kim Haroutunian (and Hannah and Ruth)

- *3 hours at my house or yours, you decide!
- *Especially suited for toddlers, preschoolers, or homeschoolers!
- *Snacks or lunch for kiddos included

YOUTH TO ARMENIA

MARCH 31, 2023 Minimum Incess \$1,000

NAME	PHONE NUMBER	AMOUNT OF BID
MINIMUM BID		25
Lara Babikian	351-9119	25





Upcoming Events



Come join us for the 2nd annual FAPC Easter Egg Hunt, April 9, 2023!

Egg hunt will begin after church 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM for children 2-13 years old. Over 500 eggs to be found!

Fellowship will take place in the Fireside Room to coincide with the Easter Egg Hunt.

Don't forget your Easter Baskets!

Please contact the office with any questions, or reach out to Paul David and Terri Bedrosian. (559) 237-6638

THE GATHERING INVITES YOU TO

Art with Arpi

Learn about Arpi's beautiful card craft & hear how God has used this ministry in her life. Create your own cards to share God's love!

April 29 from 10 A.M. to 12 P.M.
FAPC Fireside Room
\$5 per person

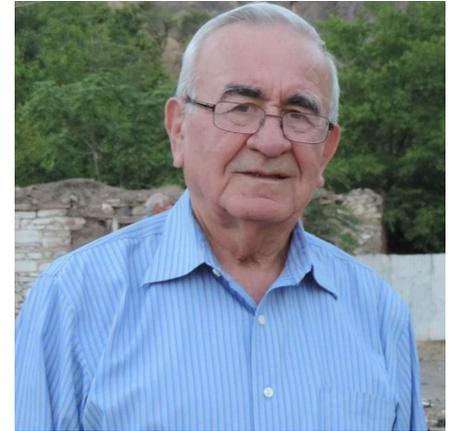
Supplies and refreshments will be provided.

New Membership / Re-membership Class
May 7, 2023 | 4:30PM. | Fireside

Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian our dear colleague and brother in Christ. We offer our deepest condolences for the passing of Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian. Please see the note below from the family.

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of our dear father, grandfather, uncle, father-in-law, and brother-in-law, Rev. Yessayi Sarmazian, on Wednesday, March 15, 2023. He passed away peacefully after a complicated surgery and subsequent infection. Funeral arrangements and visitation details will be posted once decided.

We praise God for his boundless love for us all, and his lifetime of service to His church and the Armenian Evangelical community.



Anita Console was born to Walter and Thelma Cooper on February 13, 1937, in Colorado Springs, Colorado. As the fourth of eight children, she must have seemed to be an early Valentine for her older siblings: Mary Jo, Pauline, and Charles. Their family would be completed with the later additions of Anita's younger brothers and sister: Gary, Robert, Donna, and Walt.

When the family moved west, they found a new home in Fresno, California, where Anita attended school and graduated from Roosevelt High School. After graduating, Anita struck out on her own, and headed to San Diego, California, where she worked in retail sales and as a waitress. It was during one of her serving shifts that she noticed a handsome young man staring at her. She asked what he was looking at, and he replied, "You're the most beautiful woman I've ever seen." Little did she know she had just met her future husband.

Russ and Anita were married on March 29, 1958. After an adventuresome honeymoon in Las Vegas (where they wandered into a casino ballroom by mistake and ate several large shrimp from a buffet intended for a private party), they made their home in San Diego.

Anita is survived by her three children, Pennie, Russell and Darlene.





First Armenian Presbyterian Church

430 S. 1st St. Fresno, CA 93702

Return Service Requested

Teaching Elder: Rev. Greg Haroutunian; Badveli@fapc.net
 Ruling Elders: Dr. Hagop Afarian, Paul David Bedrosian, Rev. Paul Haroutunian, Kalem Kazarian and Rev. Razmig Minassian
 Deacons: Noelle Nightingale, Sandra Marashian, Maral Afarian, Richard Bittikofer, Rita Barsamian, Ara & Sossy Catchatoorian, Edward & Silva Esajian, Simon Kalebjian, Janik Oganesyanyan, Ando Sivas & Kinsey Sivas
 Staff Team: Church Administrator: Jacqui Rustigan, Jacqui@fapc.net; Financial Assistant: Araz Ghazarian, Araz@fapc.net; Custodian: Susan Ruiz; Music Director: Rev. Razmig Minassian, Razmig@camparev.org; Youth Director: Eddy Thurber, Media Director: Frank Kazarian; Media Technician: Brandon Petrie; Nursery Attendants: Anna Arakelian and Marine Frnzlyan

April 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 Prayer 9:30A Worship Service 10:30 A Armenian Home 1:45P	3 Men's Soccer (Tim) 6:00 P	4 Women's Bible Study 2:55 P Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55P Family Fellowship 6:45 P	5 Men's Bible Study 12P Sports Fellowship Hall 6P	6 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 A Maundy Thursday 6-8P	7 Mommy & Me 9:30A	8
9 EASTER Prayer 9:30A Worship Service 10:30 A Easter Egg Hunt 12:15P	10 Men's Soccer (Tim) 6:00 P	11 Women's Bible Study 2:55 P Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55P Family Fellowship 6:45 P	12 Men's Bible Study 12P Sports Fellowship Hall 6P	13 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 A Family Fellowship 7P Zoom	14	15
16 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Communion Worship 10:30 A Armenian Fellowship 12:30P	17 Men's Soccer (Tim) 6:00 P	18 Women's Bible Study 2:55 P Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55P Family Fellowship 6:45 P	19 Men's Bible Study 12P Sports Fellowship Hall 6P	20 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 A Family Fellowship 7P Zoom	21 Mommy & Me 9:30A Piano Recital 6P Sanctuary	22 Gathering Art w/Arpi 10A Young Families 5P Youth Group 12P
23 Prayer 9:30A Worship Service 10:30 A	24 Men's Soccer (Tim) 6:00 P	25 Women's Bible Study 2:55 P Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55P Family Fellowship 6:45 P	26 Men's Bible Study 12P Sports Fellowship Hall 6P	27 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 A Family Fellowship 7P Zoom	28 Camp AREV Women's Retreat	29 Camp AREV Women's Retreat Youth Group Grizzlies Baseball Game.
30 Prayer 9:30A Worship Service 10:30 A Camp AREV Women's Retreat	1	NOTES				

*UNSOLICITED SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME. ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITORIAL REVISIONS. PLEASE EMAIL TO JACCI@FAPC.NET

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M. PHONE: (559) 237-6638 FAX: (559) 237-9526