

Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

December 2022 Vol. 12:1

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.

Romans 12:1 (NIV)

What do you want _____ for Christmas?
How would you like to fill in this blank?

Most of us would answer “to receive” or “to get” or “someone to give you” for Christmas. We train our children to make their “wish lists,” to make our gift-giving a little easier and to make sure we give something they actually want! Some send them to the North Pole so Santa or Կաղանկ Պապա knows what to bring them.

This year let's change things up. Let's switch the question to “What do you want to GIVE for Christmas?” Let's take the time to either create something or creatively think about a gift we could give that would bring great joy. I know a lot of you did that with the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes that you packed. That was wonderful! After all, Jesus did say that it is more blessed to give than to receive!

Last year, I shared with the children during the Children's Message one of our family's Christmas traditions. We asked what does Jesus want for Christmas. We opened a series of boxes that laid out the nativity with the angel Gabriel, Joseph, Mary, the shepherds, a wise man (Magi) and, of course, the infant Jesus!

There was a seventh box though. Do you remember what was in it? Rather than make you wait (shhhh! Don't remind the children!) I want to remind you what we find in the seventh box: a mirror.

In our home, it never gets hold! “What does Jesus want for Christmas? YOU! The only appropriate response to God's great gift of His Son, our Savior Jesus, is to offer ourselves back to Him!

I love how Romans 12:1 says it: *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.*

Paul urges his Roman brothers and sisters to offer their bodies to God. Holding nothing back from the One who held nothing back, we worship God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—by offering our bodies back to Him.

This year, let's resist the temptation to be absorbed with what gifts we're going to receive for Christmas or even with what presents we're going to give for Christmas. This year, come to worship together in our sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. (feel free to let the kids come in their jammies) and, together, offer ourselves, our very bodies to our great God and Savior!

Don't forget to join us in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, too, at half past three in the afternoon for our candle-lighting service followed by hot chocolate and cookies in the Fireside Room!

Because He lives,
Badveli Greg



Acknowledgements



Linda Kay Abdulian was elected to the Board of Directors of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (Class of 2025). The election took place at the AMAA's 103rd Annual Meeting at Paramus, New Jersey on October 22, 2022.

Hrayr Kerkezian was elected Treasurer of the Armenian Students Organization at California State University, Fresno for the 2022-2023 Academic Year. Hrayr is pursuing a major in Business Administration/Entrepreneurship and a minor in Armenian Studies.



A.A. Howsepien, M.D., Ph.D., has recently published an article, 'Possible Acromegaly Complicating the Death of George Floyd' in the Journal of Clinical Medicine and Case Reports, 2022, 1(3): 1011.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/364745473_Possible_Acromegaly_Complicating_The_Death_Of_George_Floyd



Congratulations to Badveli Greg on his half marathon on the Monterey Bay. He and Sossy ran a 5K on Saturday, followed by his half marathon on Sunday, achieving his best time ever.

²⁴“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”

1 Corinthians 9:24-25





FAPC MISSIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

OCT 23, 2022

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.

Below are your current 2022 FAPC Missions Committee Members:

**Paul Haroutunian, Elder Director *Nelda Baker, Secretary *Jay Khushigian *Elaine Rubio *Rev. Gregory Haroutunian*

You are most welcome and invited to be involved with missions at FAPC and there are several ways to participate. Please contact us and let us know:

- If you are a church member and want to serve on the committee.
- If you want to attend meetings.
- If you have questions, concerns, ideas or praises.

The best way to contact the Missions Committee is by sending an E-mail to the Director of Missions, Mr. Paul Haroutunian at: Missions@fapc.org



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

FAPC MISSIONS 2022

FAPC missions exists to fulfill the Great Commission of Jesus instructing His disciples to make obedient disciples. Ten percent of all FAPC tithes 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



Arman & LiLit Asatryan
Armenia
kbaxter@intl.younglife.org



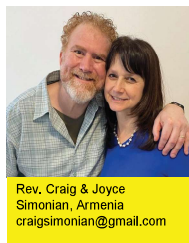
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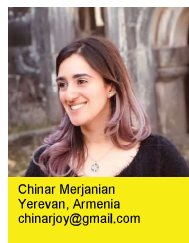
Pastor Vardan,
Astia
missions@fapc.net



Peter & Shushan Telian,
Yerevan, Armenia
petertelian@gmail.com



Rev. Craig & Joyce
Simonian, Armenia
craigsimonian@gmail.com



Chinar Merjanian
Yerevan, Armenia
chinarjoy@gmail.com



derk@aeuna.org



Drs. Nathan & Kristin Stockcamp
Asia
stocksters@gmail.com



info@hopenow.org



info@justiceco.org



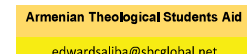
marva.ward@esal.org



evh@evangelhome.org



info@amaa.org



edwardsaliba@sbcglobal.net

You can also call the FAPC church office at 237-6638 and speak with Mrs. Jaci Rustigan, our Church Administrator. She will forward your name, number/ email to our Director of Missions.

It is important that you know that FAPC made a transformative decision years ago. To demonstrate and represent the heart of God concerning giving, **FAPC quarterly calculates 10% of all tithes and offerings** and this money is automatically placed in various cash clearing accounts and disbursed in accordance with a predirected formula. This predirected formula has been developed by the Missions Committee and is updated yearly. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

A Final Update and Tally of Lebanon Relief

Please reflect on Galatians 6:1-10. The Missions Committee at FAPC organized a Lebanon Relief campaign this past March 2022. The project was successfully completed. The congregation made a special contribution above the usual tithes and offerings for a total of \$33,862.87. The donations were prayerfully distributed and received by several vetted organizations whose leaders and workers labor to “share the burden” and serve “the least of these.” Thank you so much for your support.





Deacon's Corner



Congratulations to the following Communicant Members on their election to the FAPC Board of Deacons:
(Class of 2025)



****Richard Bittikofer *Ara and Sosé Catchatoorian *Edward and Silva Esajian *Janik Oganesyanyan***

The election took place at a Congregational Meeting following the Worship Service on October 23, 2022. The Session extends heartfelt thanks to the following members of the Committee on Nominations: Kalem Kazarian (Elder Chair); Paul Haroutunian (Elder Representative); Noelle Nightingale (Deacon Representative); Joanne Garabedian; Susan Khushigian; and Luther Sevajian.



Time of Giving @ FAPC



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SAMARITAN'S PURSE

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world. Through this project, Samaritan's Purse partners with the local church worldwide to share the Good News of Jesus Christ and make disciples of the nations.

Since 1993, more than 198 million children in more than 170 countries and territories have received a shoebox filled with necessities, toys, and other gifts. We have several members in our own church body who were directly blessed by this ministry.

This ministry does not stop with gifts that we pack in a shoebox . . . children receive a storybook (available in more than 80 languages) entitled The Greatest Gift that shares the message of salvation. Eleven scripture stories are shared, along with an invitation to follow Christ.

Our church family embraces this ministry every year, and provided 144 boxes that they personally filled, as well as supporting 36+ boxes online. A huge thank you to Karen Daoudian for organizing this effort every year.

"Let the children come to Me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Matthew 19:14

Submitted by Elaine Rubio, Missions Committee





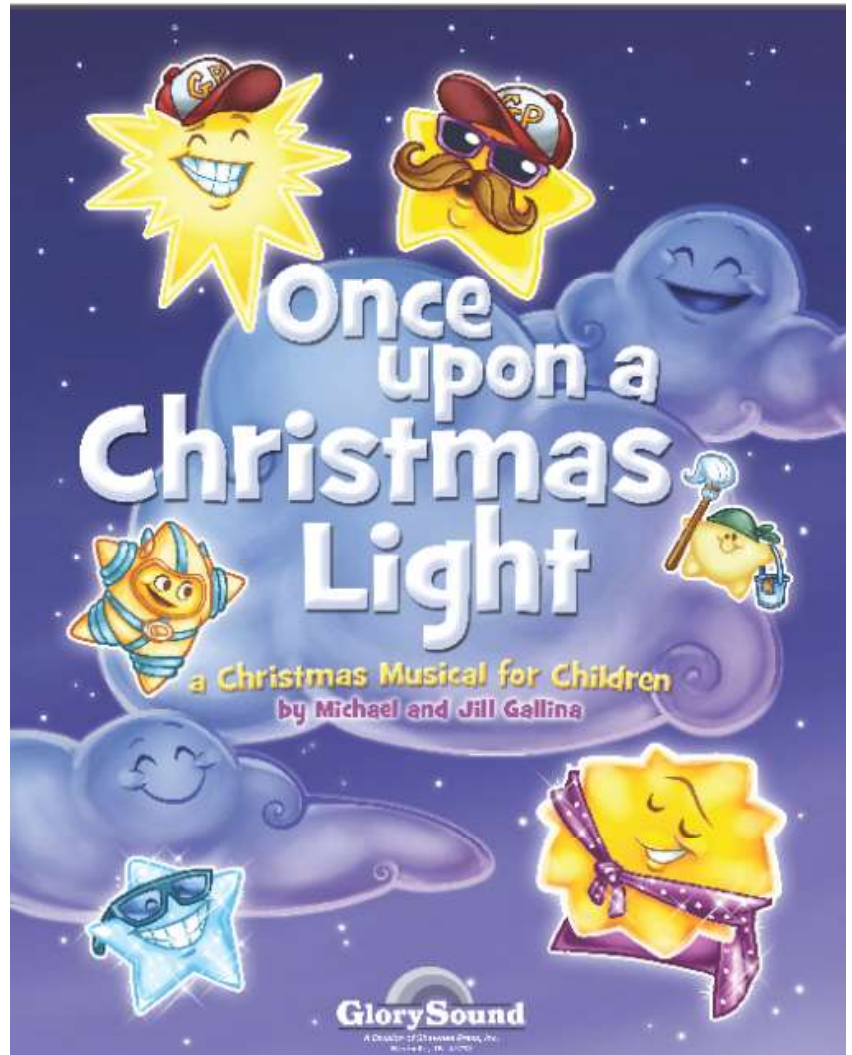
Upcoming Events



Earl R. Meyers, Jr., the FAPC Centennial Vocalist, will hold his Annual Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 10, 2022 at Fresno Westside Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Church is located at 2750 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard in southwest Fresno and FAPC members and friends are warmly invited to attend the free holiday musical gathering.

Children's Christmas Program December 18th, 2022 at 4:30 P.M.

It's the very first Christmas Eve ever, when Super Nova and Grandiosa, the heads of Galaxy Productions, appear and make an announcement. They have heard on the Greatest Authority that this is the night our Holy Savior will be born, they launch a "star search" to determine which star is worthy of lighting the sky above the manager. After dramatic twists and turns, we all learn we can be the brightest and best through God's love and light.





Upcoming Events

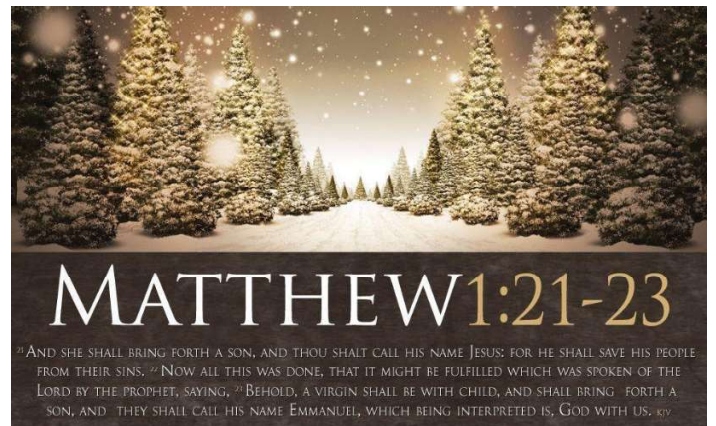


December Special Events

- 4th | Communion Sunday
- 4th | 2nd Sunday of Advent
- 4th | Worship Armenian Home
- 15th | CKAS Hantes @ FAPC
- 18th | Communion Sunday
- 18th | Christmas Program @ 4:30PM
- 24th | Christmas Eve Service @ 3:30PM
- 25th | Christmas Sunday Service

Community Events in December

- 3rd | Christmas Luncheon @ St. Paul
- 4th | Lady's Social Christmas Party @ St. Gregory
- 24th | Candle Light Service @ Pilgrim
- (Date TBD) Church Gala @ Holy Trinity



Our Condolences



Doris Simonian Thomas, member of a six-generation FAPC Family, passed away in Fresno on September 16, 2022, at the age of 94. Born on February 13, 1928, Doris grew up on North Valeria Street near members of her mother's family. She was a 1946 graduate of Fresno High School, attended then-Fresno State College, and worked in the handbag department of Gottschalk's. In the early 1950s, Doris married John Thomas, a Biola native and decorated U.S. Army Air Corps Flight Instructor in World War II. For many years, John and Doris operated The Gift Tree in Santa Rosa and John exhibited his crafted artwork at the J. Thomas Galleries of Sonoma County. Doris was preceded in death by her beloved husband, John; her parents, Ray and Blanche (Karabian) Simonian; and her brother, Kenneth Simonian, an early-day President of the FAPC Christian Endeavor Society. She is survived by her sister-in-law, Lorraine (Najarian Simonian) Cornish; nephews and niece, Keith and Brian Simonian and Karen Rexford; John's daughters, Vickie Cantrall and Linda Davidson; dear Cousins Elaine J. Garo and Patricia Vartan and their families; and many other members of the extended Karabian Family.





Camp AREV--a ministry of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America--has activated Phases 2 and 3 of the Master Plan for the Edward J. Manishagian Armenian Evangelical Conference Center in Frazier Park. The theme of the expansion program is "Forward by Faith" (Psalms 119: 90). Highlights of Phase 2 are a gymnasium, swimming pool, sand volleyball and outdoor basketball courts. Phase 3 projects include family lodges, family village meeting room, and expanded dining hall. To learn more about the Camp AREV Vision of the Future, visit <https://www.camparev.org> or call (818) 507-0922,



THE LODGE & FELLOWSHIP CENTER

There are plans to renovate and expand the existing lodge to 5,800 square feet (currently it is 3700 square feet) and to add an adjoining 1300 square feet activity room with vaulted ceilings, clerestory windows, with 21 foot pocket doors that lead to 1500 square feet of outdoor patios, creating a spacious indoor/outdoor pavilion.



GET READY!

FOR THE BEST WEEKEND EVER

MEET JESUS CHRIST, BE TRANSFORMED, SERVE THE WORLD

YOUNG ADULTS CAMP (18+)

JANUARY 7-8 (Sat-Sun)

HIGH SCHOOL CAMP (9th-12th GRD)

JANUARY 13-15 (Fri-Sun)

JUNIORS CAMP (3rd-5th GRD)

JANUARY 20-22 (Fri-Sun)

JUNIOR HIGH CAMP (6th-8th GRD)

JANUARY 27-29 (Fri-Sun)





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, Steven Baker, Rita Barsamian, Grace Chavoor, Simon Kalebjian, Karine Martirosyan, Ando Sivas, Kinsey Sivas
 Staff Team: Church Administrator: Jacci Rustigan, Jacci@fapc.net; Financial Assistant: Araz Ghazarian, Araz@fapc.net; Custodian: Susan Ruiz; Music Director: Rev. Razmig Minassian, Razmig@camparev.org; Media Director: Frank Kazarian; Media Technician: Brandon Petrie; Nursery Attendants: Anna Arakelian and Marine Frnzlyan

December 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 1st Sunday of Advent	28	29	30	1 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM	2 Mommy & Me CE Bldg 9:30 AM	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent Prayer Bridal Room 9:30AM Communion Service 10:30AM Armenian Home Service 1:45PM Armenian Family 12:30PM	5	6 Women's Bible Study 2:55PM Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55PM	7 Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM	8 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM	9	10
11 3rd Sunday of Advent Bridal Room 9:30AM Service 10:30AM	12 Prayer Worship	13 Women's Bible Study 2:55PM Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55PM	14 Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM	15 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM CKACS Hantas 6PM	16 Mommy & Me CE Bldg 9:30 AM	17 Christmas Program Rehearsal 10AM
18 4th Sunday of Advent Prayer Bridal Room 9:30AM Communion Service 10:30AM Christmas Program 4:30PM	19	20	21	22 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM - Christmas	23	24 Candlelight Worship 3:30 PM
25 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30AM Christmas Service 10:30AM	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29	30	31

*UNSOLICITATED 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