



*“A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”  
Ecclesiastes 4:12b (NIV2011)*

We are better together!

This last week I had the privilege of participating in the General Assemblies of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) and the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA). Both were fantastic and demonstrated the gift of being in a church that is connected to the larger body of Christ!

I joined the EPC General Assembly hosted by Ward Church just outside Detroit. From the moment I sat down it was obvious the Lord was working! Seeing my name tag a couple across the table asked, “Are you Armenian?” “Yes!” What came next floored me: “Our son served in the Peace Corp in Armenia for two years and is fluent in Armenian and when he returned he earned a Master’s Degree in Musicology focused on the music of Gomidas and he has brought together a choir to sing a wide selection of his pieces.”

I was stunned, speechless. “What?!” It felt like I was drinking from a fire hydrant! I learned that he lives in California and would be excited to come to Fresno to give a concert that would weave the Gospel through the music.

Just as I was regaining my bearings (the jet lag was real!), I turned to meet the gentleman next to me. “Oh, you’re Armenian! I am from Egypt. I’d like to give you a copy of my book.” Marc Christian is a Muslim born follower of Jesus with a radical testimony of his conversion from Islam to Christ.

What a bold brother! As we talked, I asked if he’d come to California. “I’d love to come to your church! We all need encouragement to believe that the Lord really can reach Muslims!” Stay tuned.

The highlight for the General Assembly was listening to Andrew Brunson give the keynote addresses and enjoying a delicious Lebanese meal together. We discussed our mutual Turkish friends and the possibility of hosting a conference in Fresno with our Turkish brothers and sisters, with Andrew & Norine, sometime next year. His time imprisoned in Turkey has had a profound impact on him and they both have a deep burden to see the Gospel continue to impact the entire nation. It was so intriguing to learn that the man entrusted to continue the Brunsons’ work in Izmir and beyond is an Armenian man who is extremely effective in both evangelism & training. More on this in the coming months.

Our sister church in Philadelphia hosted the AEUNA’s 26th General Assembly focused on the theme of Bold Love. Rev. Ron Tovmassian challenged us to overcome our differences and unite in Christ expressing radical, Biblical, forgiving, bold love to each other and to the communities around us. I had the privilege of participating on a panel discussion and sharing our church’s involvement in reconciling bold love with the formerly Muslim Turkish pastors and leaders. It was so good to be together to encourage each other and be encouraged that we are in this mission together!

Because He lives,

●●●●● Badveli Greg

**Family Camp at Camp AREV**  
Friday, August 26th - Sunday, August 28th  
1701 Darling Ave, Frazier Park, CA 93225

**Rally Sunday!**  
September 11th, 2022  
Starting after church at 12 p.m.

## CONGRATULATIONS

Daniel Khushigian, D.O. recently completed his three-year residency in Emergency Medicine at Kaweah Health in Visalia. Daniel is a 2019 graduate of the Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Lynchburg, Virginia.



If you are a fan of local television, be on the lookout for a Mercedes-Benz of Fresno commercial featuring the First Armenian Presbyterian Church Media Technician, Brandon Petrie!



## UPCOMING EVENTS...

# FAMILY CAMP

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Speakers: Calvin and Janine Sagherian

Special Event: Saturday 11am-3pm  
Camp Arev Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Celebration!

Registration will be online only. Housing will be on a first come, first serve basis, so register early!

More Details to follow soon!!

**AUG**

**26TH-28TH**

LODGE PREMIUM (INCLUDES ALL BEDDING AND TOWELS): \$200/PERSON

LODGE STANDARD (PROVIDE YOUR OWN BEDDING, ETC.): \$170/PERSON

LOWER CABINS (DORM STYLE, PROVIDE YOUR OWN BEDDING): \$150/PERSON

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

First, I would like to thank our former personnel chairman, Kalem Kazarian, for all his hard work and dedication in overseeing this committee. Many changes have been made for the betterment of the church and while we have also faced difficulty, God has provided.

The personnel committee would like to provide you with an update of the changes to our staff here at our church. We would like to introduce Jacci Rustigan as our new Administrator. We are so glad to have her on staff. She will provide the skills needed to keep the church's day to day operations running smoothly. Please say hello to her if you see her in the office or on a Sunday.

As we have brought on Jacci, Sue Garabedian has stepped down as the Interim Administrator. She did an amazing job in the absence. I don't know where we would be if she had not agreed to help. Thank you Sue!! Please thank her when you see her in church.

Araz Ghazarian has been with us for almost a year now and is our financial assistant. Kelsey Tovmassian is our part time communications receptionist. Many of you know her parents Jack and Grace Chavoor.

We are saddened by the departure of Stephen "Captain America" Goodale, who has been part of the church's youth ministry for the past three years. We will miss his funny children's messages and his drives up to camp. Thank you Stephen for your time and effort here at our church.

Paul Bedrosian  
Personnel Committee Chairman

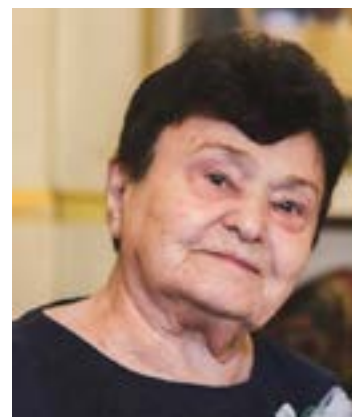


## Our Condolences...

Richard David Kalashian, a child of our Church, passed away on May 2, 2022 at the age of 74. A native of Fresno, Richard was educated at Bullard High School, Fresno City College, and California State University, Fresno, where his varied interests included madrigal singing, football, and the natural sciences. In the early 1970s, he joined his father-in-law in farming and eventually developed a niche as a grower, processor, and packer of figs for Nabisco Fig Newtons and Paul Newman's Fig Bars. In recent years, he was active in the ministries of Celebrate Recovery and regional efforts for sustainable agriculture. Richard was preceded in death by his parents, Sark and Gladys Kalashian; his brother, S. Baxter Kalashian, Jr.; his sister, Mary Katherine Niksarian; and his brother-in-law, Raymond Niksarian. Richard is survived by his partner, Gail Purtell; his sons, Karson Kalashian and his wife, Jennifer, and Ryan Kalashian and his wife, Courtney; grandchildren, Maragaret, Katherine, and Calder; sister, Verjene Kalashian; sister-in-law, Sylvia Soghmonian Kalashian; his niece, Kristian Minasian, Pharm.D. and her husband, Edward; and his former wife, Jane Melikian Carruth.



Elena (Akritidi) Djezyan passed away in Fresno on June 12, 2022 at the age of 92. She was a native of Maykop, Russia, the oil-producing capital city of the Republic of Adygea on the right bank of the Belaya River. Elena was the second child in a family of four, three girls and one boy. She lost her cobbler father in Joseph Stalin's Great Purge of 1937. A short time later, the whole family was relocated to the city of Karakalpakiya in northwestern Uzbekistan. Elena's 36-year-old mother died soon after they arrived. Her aunt, Evlampia, took in the Akritidi children—Elena, sisters, Anna and Yulia, and younger brother, Stylianos. Elena worked in the fields at a young age but later worked as a telegrapher at Pochtasi, the postal service of Uzbekistan, for half a century. In 1955, Elena met and married Khachik Djezyan and they had a son and twin daughters. In 1984, Elena and Khachik moved to Armenia and resided there until the devastating earthquake of 1988. The couple then moved to Tashkent, capital city of Uzbekistan, to live with one of their daughters. In 1995, Elena, Khachik, their daughter, and her family relocated from Tashkent to the United States, where Elena devoted herself to her extended family. Elena was preceded in death by her parents, Ivan and Athena (Azvestopolos) Akritidi. She is survived by her beloved husband of 67 years, Khachik; son, Leonid; daughters, Evgeniya and Margaret (Rita); six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.



## Prayer List

We want to pray for you. What are specific ways we can be praying for you, or praising God with you? Each Sunday we pray during the worship service, and if you send in a request we will include it in the service. If it is a private request, there is a place to mark that, so that we can still be praying for you as a staff team, but will not share your request.

Please use the link [www.fapc.net/prayers](http://www.fapc.net/prayers)



Hello Everyone!

Chinar here. I so enjoyed being with you all for worship on Sunday, June 5th! I want to share some thoughts and updates on missions in Armenia!

The crux is this: Jesus is building His Church, and the gates of hell are not prevailing (Matt. 16:18). God is at work! BUT! The backdrop is suffering.

The backdrop is the war in Syria which brought an influx of Armenians to Armenia from Syria. The backdrop is the explosion and economic crisis in Lebanon which caused a surge of repatriation.

The backdrop is the religious persecution and political turmoil in Iran, bringing Persians - Muslim and Christian alike - to find haven in free Armenia.

The backdrop is the war in Ukraine, bringing thousands of Russians and Ukrainians into the country for refuge and to start a new life. The backdrop is the Armenia/Azerbaijan war in 2020 which leaves the people in grief and the region in political uncertainty and turmoil. War, political instability, and persecution. This is the backdrop.

But God has a purpose! *“He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their lands... so that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though He is not far from any one of us.”* (Acts 17:26-27).

All this turmoil and displacement has one end: so that humanity would seek God, reach out to Him, and find Him. And it's happening! Here's the fruit I'm witnessing within my community, Yerevan International Church:

Alpha ~ This picture is from our spring bi-lingual, Armenian and English Alpha Course, which is an introduction to Christianity for nonbelievers and baby believers. This group consisted of Indian medical students, local Armenians, Lebanese and Syrian Armenians, Persians, Arabs, and a handful of Americans. Besides community being formed, we witnessed many people stirred towards walking more closely with Jesus.

Nareg's Story ~ The most exciting fruit of the Alpha course was ten baptisms! Among them was a local named Nareg. He “received Christ” during an Alpha course two years ago, but soon fell away and was calling himself “son of Satan.” The Lord shook him and brought him back and he was baptized on Easter Sunday. Please pray for Nareg as he embarks on this journey of faith!

Discipleship groups ~ Another beautiful fruit blooming in this season has been the starting of various Bible studies, discipleship groups, and home groups. Pictured above is the Armenian women's Bible study group I organize. There's nothing like the joy of walking with people on their spiritual journey!

Thank you all for your prayers and support! This is a hand-in-hand effort, the fruit of YOUR prayers and partnership. Let's continue to pray for His kingdom to advance in Armenia and the Middle East. All praise be to God!

Chinar Merjanian





Armenian and English Alpha Course



Nareg's Story



Discipleship groups



## STEPHEN'S FAREWELL

Thank you for welcoming me into your church. During my three years as the Youth Director and Director of Ministries I have learned a lot, made many friendships, and been greatly blessed by God. I have learned to sing the Lord's Prayer in Armenian, and have enjoyed worshipping together in both English and Armenian. Thank you for the opportunity to preach, and to hone in the gift of teaching through Youth Group meetings and the children's messages. As we have walked through lockdowns, online church, reopening modifications, and returning to full in-person services, I have seen how nothing can or should stop us from worshipping in spirit and in truth. As I leave, I will miss time with the Youth Group students. I will miss being with you enjoying good food and seeking truth in Scripture. I don't know exactly what God has next for my family or the church family, but I am leaning on Him everyday to guide and give peace. Thank you for letting an "odar" learn a little bit of what it is like to worship and serve God in the Armenian community.



God bless you and keep you,  
Stephen Goodale



# Youth Sunday



Hello, my name is Maral Afarian. I am a member of this church, and I am currently one of the deacons serving this year. I have two sons- Hagop with his wife Aleen, and Sevag with his wife Cynthia, and 5 grandchildren, all who are also attending FAPC.

When Stephen Goodale first approached me, he asked if I would like to teach Sunday school. At first, I hesitated to say yes. I thought to myself, “How am I going to teach these innocent children when I don’t have enough knowledge about the Bible?” But the Lord showed me that He had chosen me for a reason, and with His help, I felt led to accept.

Adrina Gulian and I taught the 3–5 year old children, and it was such a pleasure serving alongside with her. From the very first day of Sunday school, I was amazed how much these kids know about Jesus. I am certain this was a result of the parents attending church and planting Christian values in them at home.

Every Sunday when we gathered in our Sunday school classroom to study the Bible lesson, the kids were so curious about Jesus and the Bible stories. When they started asking questions, it was a bit hard to answer right away. I had to search the Bible and dig for the answer to get back to them with the correct response. This challenged me and allowed me to grow in my faith as well.

This experience was a blessing and renewal of my soul. I was encouraged to continue attending Bible studies and serving my church. I am excited to grow in my relationship with God and looking forward to always learning more about Jesus and His Word.

Luke 18:15-17

“<sup>15</sup> People were also bringing babies to Jesus for him to place his hands on them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus called the children to him and said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

For His Glory,

Maral







# Youth BBQ





430 S. 1<sup>st</sup> St. Fresno, CA 93702

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## *Upcoming Special Events*

July 10th - 16th - Junior High Camp @Camp AREV  
July 17th - 23rd - High School Camp @Camp AREV  
July 17th - 24/7 Prayer Day  
July 24th - 30th - Juniors Camp @Camp AREV  
August 17th - 24/7 Prayer Day  
August 26th - 28th - Family Camp @Camp AREV  
August 28th - Sunday Worship Service @Camp AREV  
September 11th - Rally Sunday



If you would like to receive a paper copy, please contact the church office at 559-237-6638.

### *Staff Team:*

*Anna Arakelian*, Nursery Attendant  
*Marine Frnzlyan*, Nursery Attendant  
*Jacci Rustigan*, Church Administrator  
(jacci@fapc.net)  
*Araz Ghazarian*, Financial Assistant  
(araz@fapc.net)  
*Frank Kazarian*, Media Director  
*Razmig Minassian*, Music Director  
(razmig@camparev.org)  
*Brandon Petrie*, Media Technician  
*Susan Ruiz*, Custodian  
*Kelsey Tovmassian*, Administrative Assistant  
(kelsey@fapc.net)

**Unsolicited submissions are welcome.**

**All submissions are subject to editorial revisions.  
Please email to [kelsey@fapc.net](mailto:kelsey@fapc.net)**

#### **Church Office:**

(Interim hours)

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. MWF

10:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. TTH

Phone: 559.237.6638

Fax: 559.237.9526

**Teaching Elder:** Rev. Greg Haroutunian, Senior Pastor (559.575.4022 — [badveli@fapc.net](mailto:badveli@fapc.net))

**Ruling Elders:** Dr. Hagop Afarian, Paul Bedrosian, Paul Haroutunian, Kalem Kazarian, Rev. Razmig Minassian

**Deacons:** Sandra Marashian, Noelle Nightingale, Maral Afarian, Steven Baker, Rita Barsamian, Grace Chavoor, Simon Kalebjian, Karine Martirosyan, Ando Sivas, Kinsey Sivas