

*“The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul.” Psalm 23:1-3 (NIV2011)*

Last month I asked you when the last time you had a conversation with someone was. Can you identify the last time you sat with someone or walked with someone and became curious about their lives? This is an excellent starting point for a conversation!

Did it happen at our All-Church Family Camp? I know many of you did have wonderful conversations getting to know each other better at Camp AREV. I'm so excited to see our relationships as a church family grow! We are seeing each other more and more these days, and the time we spend together can be so refreshing when we take the time to ask questions and listen to each other.

If you can't remember your last conversation, it may be time to “let your soul catch up with your body.”

A story is widely told of European missionaries serving in Africa in the 19th century. They hired some locals to help carry supplies to a station that was several days away by foot. The missionaries wanted to go at a much faster pace than their porters. Finally, on the third day of the journey, they forced the pace, and they went twice as far. Excited, the Europeans rose enthusiastically on the fourth day, only to find the workers unwilling to move. They wouldn't budge. When pressed for an explanation one responded, “We cannot go any further today.” “Why not? Everyone looks fine.” “Yes,” the African replied, “but we travelled so quickly yesterday that we have to wait here for our souls to catch up with us.” (paulborthwick.com, March 7, 2016).

I wouldn't want to push this anthropology too literally, but has the summer come and gone with your soul lingering somewhere back in May, maybe on Mother's Day or Memorial Day? Maybe you're still relishing the barbecue before fireworks on July 4th?

As we lace up for our race into the new school year, I want to ask you—and me! —if we need to take a moment to allow our souls to catch up. Before we get going too fast, take the time to hear from God:

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul.” (Psalm 23:1-3)

You may know it in another version. Stop and take a moment right now to repeat it.

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul.” (Psalm 23:1-3)

Hear these words of hope in your heart. The Lord of all creation is caring for you, slowing you down, guiding you and refreshing you. This is His commitment to us. This is our hope as “the sheep of His pasture.”

Are you experiencing this right now? I think my soul got delayed on our way back from visiting Mark at West Point last weekend. How about you? Could you use some “restoring of your soul”?

It may start with a simple conversation with God. It may actually be a conversation with someone else; a friend, a family member, a neighbor, maybe someone you need to catch up with, someone you haven't seen for a couple of months.

Races always start with three commands:

- 1) On your mark
- 2) Get set
- 3) Go!

Be sure not to “jump the gun” before you're on your mark and set. Let your soul catch up.

Because He lives,

## Altar Internship Report — Ani Haroutunian

Our responsibilities at Altarship included working in the coffee shop and spending time in the prayer room. We spent four days a week working at the coffee shop, and every day we spent a minimum of two hours in the prayer room. We read the book of Proverbs as well as the book Magnificent Obsession by Brian Kim. We also journaled and prayed as a group during that time.

Three main highlights from my missions' trip were getting to know the Altar family and work as an international barista, visit the Emili Aregak Special Ed Center as well as Aregak Café in Gyumri, and reunite with close friends as well as make new friends at YoungLife camp!

Through the experience of Altarship, I was able to experience God's presence more and grow my relationship with Him. I also connected with so many amazing people in the bigger body of Christ! God opened doors for new friendships and an even stronger passion for ministry!

Lord willing, I will go back to Armenia next summer, and get to explore other ministries that I learned about from this trip. I am hoping to work with Special Needs youth at Aregak Center in Gyumri next year!

I am so grateful for our Church's support and faithful prayer!

Link to the presentation: <https://youtu.be/kL0kmavs9Y8>



**UPCOMING Events...**



First Armenian Presbyterian Church

# Rally Sunday

**Join the Fun!**  
 Sunday, September 18, 2022  
 Immediately After Church Service




**CAMP AREV**

## MEN'S RETREAT!

MEET JESUS CHRIST. BE TRANSFORMED. SERVE THE WORLD.

**OCTOBER 7-9, 2022 (FRI-SUN)**

**CAMP AREV MEN'S RETREAT!**

WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN AMAZING TIME OF WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, TEACHING AND MORE.



THE ANNUAL FAPC FRESNO

# Harvest Fest

FOOD (FREE) TRUCK

NACHO & CHILI BAR

TRUNK OR TREAT

GAMES & MUSIC

COSTUME CONTEST

MUCH MORE!

Everything is FREE!

**October 30, 2022 3-7 P.M.**

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. SAFE FAMILY FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT. ALL AGES WELCOME!


<https://www.facebook.com/FAPCFresno/videos/404339237963214/>

### Women's Bible Study

Thursday Mornings 9:45-11:00 am

Join us as we continue our study in Revelation taught by Barbara Tirapelle


Starting September 1<sup>st</sup> in the Fireside Room



"Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study."

Please join us as we will be studying The Book of *Ezekiel*, starting September 13th, virtually, via ZOOM.

For more information please contact Sonia at 559-287-6615 or email at [soniayemenjian@gmail.com](mailto:soniayemenjian@gmail.com)




Tuesday evenings 5:55 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.

Save The Date

November 12, 2022

Banquet in support of The Fresno Medical Mission



Organized by The Knights of Vartan Yeprad Lodge  
 Details forthcoming



# First Armenian Presbyterian Church

430 S. 1<sup>st</sup> 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: Jaci Rustigan, Jaci@fapc.net; Financial Assistant: Araz Ghazarian, Araz@fapc.net; Custodian: Susan Ruiz; Music Director: Razmig Minassian, Razmig@camparev.org; Media Director: Frank Kazarian; Media Technician: Brandon Petrie; Nursery Attendants: Anna Arakelian and Marine Frnzlyan

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

## September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM - 11AM	2	3
4 Worship 10:30AM Armenian Home 2:45 P.M.	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6	7 Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	8 Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM - 11AM	9 Young Life Armenia Visit Mommy & Me 9:30AM	10 Young Life Armenia Visit
11 Worship 10:30AM Young Life Armenia Visit	12 Young Life Armenia Visit	13 Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM	14 Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	15 Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM - 11AM	16 AEYF Fall Retreat in Glendale, California	17 AEYF Fall Retreat in Glendale, California 24/7 Prayer 7PM
18 Worship Service 10:30AM Rally Sunday 12:00 PM Armenian Family Group 12:30PM	19	20 Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM	21 Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	22 Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM - 11AM	23 Mommy & Me 9:30AM	24
25 Worship 10:30AM	26	27 Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:45 PM - 7:00 PM	28 Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	29 Women's Bible Study 9:45 AM - 11AM	30	

## SAVE THE DATE **Camp AREV Men's Retreat October 7-9, 2022**

\*UNSOLICITATED SUBMISSIONS ARE WELCOME. ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE SUBJECT TO EDITORIAL REVISIONS.

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

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