



Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

June 2023 Vol. 6:1

*“<sup>1</sup> To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of Him who holds the seven stars in His right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. <sup>2</sup> I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. <sup>3</sup> You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.*

*<sup>4</sup> Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. <sup>5</sup> Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. <sup>6</sup> But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. <sup>7</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”*

*Revelation 2:1-7 (NIV2011)*

First of all, “Thank you!” I am grateful for the opportunity to refocus my attention on being, first and foremost, a child of God, a disciple of Jesus so that I can return to Family Camp as a servant, a leader in the Body of Christ.

One of my favorite quotes that I still remember hearing first from my youth group leader in High School comes from Oswald Chambers—affectionately known as “Ozzie” in our family: We slander God by our willingness to serve Him without knowing Him. It comes from the October 3rd entry in his classic devotional, My Utmost for His Highest. The actual quotation is “We slander God by our very eagerness to work for Him without knowing Him.”

Close enough!

And slander Him I have! I believe each one of us who desires to serve the Lord, who desires to see His kingdom come, who yearns to see their life and the lives of others transformed and set free from the sin that so easily entangles us (Hebrews 12:1-2) are guilty of seeking to serve Him, to make an impact for Him, rather than focus our hearts on knowing Him.

How patient He is! He was patient with the disciples. Repeatedly He corrected them, rebuked them, and commanded them not to spread the word about Him because they would have gotten it wrong! Haven’t you been able to relate to the disciples as we’ve been reading and studying the Gospel of Mark? Even when Peter accurately identifies Jesus as God’s chosen Messiah, the Savior, within hours (maybe minutes!) Jesus addresses him as “Satan,” commanding him to take the rear, not the lead.

As I take these next several months to renew my soul, I’m eager to rekindle my “first love” for Jesus. You likely don’t know this, but in May of 2013 as I was seeking the Lord about submitting my candidacy for the position of Senior Pastor here at FAPC, I came to California to speak at a retreat at Camp AREV for UACC. I arrived a couple of days early to visit my parents. Since I woke up at 4 a.m., I took a drive into town with the goal of walking around the church facility to pray. Everything was gated up, so I just walked around from Raisina Street to the front of the church and back. I must have walked back and forth 20 times, simply praying, asking the Lord for guidance or a scripture.

One passage that the Holy Spirit kept bringing to mind was Revelation 2:1-7. I kept hearing verse 4 especially as I walked and prayed. “Yet I have this against you, that you have left your first love.” As I prayed a vision began to form that God might use me to rekindle FAPC’s “first love.” It’s only now, nearly ten years later, that I realize that this word was actually for me! Heavy sigh!

I am praying that this summer the Lord will meet each one of you as well and renew your love for Jesus. I hope you’ll participate in our FAPC Mission Statement Reflection Guide and luncheon on June 25th right after church. Spend this next month reflecting on our mission & vision statements and gather to talk about it together!

Can’t wait to see you all at Family Camp in August!

Because He lives,

Badveli Greg



## FAPC Missions Committee Update

### June 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.



The Pregnancy Care Center (PCC) is a life-saving ministry designed to show concern and compassion to young mothers through prayer, advocacy, and resources. They offer hope and encouragement for mothers to choose life for their unborn babies.

FAPC is currently participating in the Change for Babies campaign sponsored by the Pregnancy Care Center. This effort allows the Center to serve women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Services include pregnancy tests, limited ultrasounds, options education, resources and referrals, classes, post-abortive support groups, abstinence education and mentoring for males. Each month, the Fresno-based Center has nearly 500 client visits. As they state on their flier, choices for LIFE are being made.

How can you participate? There are empty baby bottles on a table in the narthex of our sanctuary. Please take a bottle and fill it with change, currency, or a check (tax donation receipt will be sent for checks written to Pregnancy Care Center). **Bring the bottle back to church by Father's Day (June 18).** You can either set it back on the table in the Narthex, or give it to Elaine Rubio or Paul Haroutunian.

If you would like more information on the PCC, visit [www.pregnancycenter.com](http://www.pregnancycenter.com).

Submitted by Elaine Rubio



## Deacon's Corner

Our Deacon team will periodically be highlighting FAPC congregants and would love to have you participate.

Please check to see in August!

**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

 <b>Rev. Razmig Mirassian</b> Director, Camp AREV <a href="mailto:razmig@camparev.org">razmig@camparev.org</a>	 <b>Armen &amp; Lilit Abayyan</b> Armenia <a href="mailto:lkavater@mt.younglife.org">lkavater@mt.younglife.org</a>	 <b>Armen &amp; Lilit Abayyan</b> Armenia <a href="mailto:lkavater@mt.younglife.org">lkavater@mt.younglife.org</a>	 <b>Pastor Vardan</b> Asia <a href="mailto:missions@fapc.net">missions@fapc.net</a>
 <b>Peter &amp; Shushan Telian</b> Yerevan, Armenia <a href="mailto:petertelian@gmail.com">petertelian@gmail.com</a>	 <b>Rev. Craig &amp; Joyce Simonian</b> Armenia <a href="mailto:craigsimonian@gmail.com">craigsimonian@gmail.com</a>	 <b>Chinar Marjanian</b> Yerevan, Armenia <a href="mailto:chinarpy@gmail.com">chinarpy@gmail.com</a>	 <b>deki@seuarts.org</b>
 <b>Drs. Nathan &amp; Kristin Stockcamp</b> Asia <a href="mailto:stockcamp@gmail.com">stockcamp@gmail.com</a>	 <b>HOPE NOW</b> <a href="mailto:info@hopenow.org">info@hopenow.org</a>	 <b>JUSTICE COALITION</b> <a href="mailto:info@justicecoalition.org">info@justicecoalition.org</a>	 <b>ESA Love INC</b> Love to the Name of Christ <a href="mailto:marva.ward@esalove.org">marva.ward@esalove.org</a>
 <b>AMAA</b> <a href="mailto:info@amaa.org">info@amaa.org</a>	 <b>Armenian Theological Students Aid</b> <a href="mailto:edwardsaliba@stcglobal.net">edwardsaliba@stcglobal.net</a>	 <b>Crucial Home</b> <a href="mailto:ev@crucialhome.org">ev@crucialhome.org</a>	



FAPC Events  
Memorial Day Picnic





# FAPC Events





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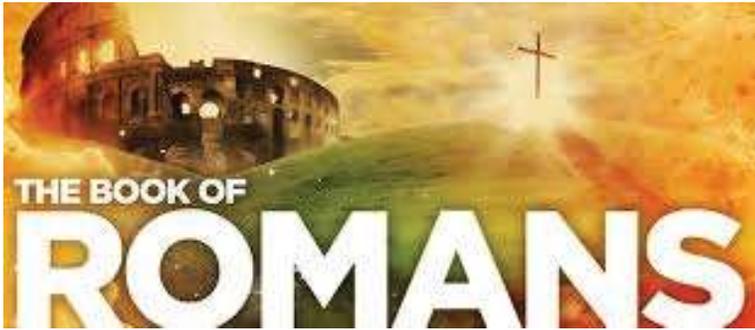


# FAPC Events



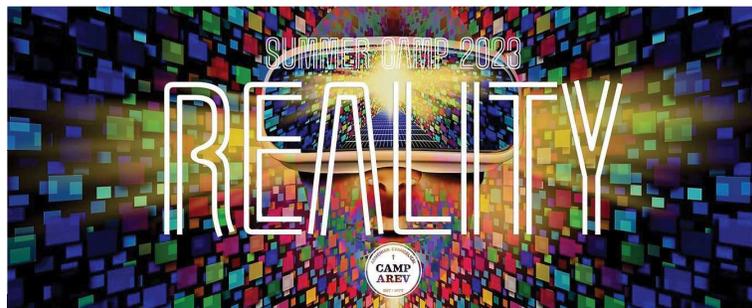


## Men's Bible Study



The Wednesday Men's Bible Study Luncheon will continue through the summer months of 2023. During Badveli Greg Haroutunian's sabbatical, Michael Garabedian will serve as discussion leader for the sixth book in the New Testament. The summer topic is Paul's Letter to the Romans and the group will convene in the Fireside Room from noon to 1 p.m. each Wednesday from May 24 through August 23. Men of all ages are invited to attend as their summer schedules permit. Contact Administrator Jacci Rustigan at [jacci@fapc.net](mailto:jacci@fapc.net) or (559) 237-6638 to be placed on the E-list for the Wednesday Bible Study group.

**Harry Markus, Jr.** celebrated his 89th Birthday with members of the FAPC Wednesday Men's Bible Study Luncheon Group. The celebration took place on May 3, 2023. Harry was born to Harry and Mary (Shirinian) Markus in Hazel Park, Oakland County, Michigan on April 21, 1934. At the age of six months, Harry moved to Fresno with his parents and brothers, Robert and Albert, and sister Alice. They resided at 491 Angus Street at Mono Street in Donahoo's Addition to Fresno, known today as the Huntington-Holmes neighborhood and home of FAPC. Harry has vivid childhood memories of the Gahvejian Family home adjacent to the FAPC Campus and the Associated Oil Company Gas Station on the southeast corner of Raisina Street and Huntington Boulevard (part of the Fellowship Hall parking lot today.) Happy Birthday, Harry!



## FAPC Events



## Our Condolences

**Christine Merjanian** took her last breath on Saturday, May 20, 2023, at about 5:25 P.M. She was surrounded by her husband, three children, daughter-in-law, and beloved aunt. We sang hymns and held her hands in the last moments. We will miss her dearly.

One of Chinar's friends let her know soon after that he had been praying Mark 5:25-34 (where the woman with a chronic hemorrhage was healed by touching Jesus' cloak) over Christine. Mark 5:25 and mom departed at 5:25 P.M.! Verse 34 reads, "Daughter your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be freed of your affliction."

After Mom passed, we covered her with rose petals from her garden. Then we went to her brother Ara's home to share lemon meringue pie, a treat she has been dreaming of enjoying these last few months! We know we will eat it again with her in the Kingdom of God.

There will be a private funeral in the coming days. A public memorial service is tentatively scheduled for August 12, 2023, location to be determined. Mom wants her memorial to be a concert featuring a huge pipe organ.

We ask that you refrain from visiting or calling in the immediate future we have many tasks to attend to. Thank you for all your love, prayers, visits, meals, gifts and overwhelming support in every way during these past three years. We will always remember! We will continue to post relevant updates.

With Love, The Merjanians





# 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, Richard Bittikofer, Rita Barsamian, Ara & Sosie Catchatoorian, Edward & Silva Esajian, Simon Kalebjian, Janik & Mariam Oganesyian, Ando & Kinsey Sivas  
 Staff Team: Church Administrator: Jacci Rustigan, Jacci@fapc.net; Financial Assistant: Araz Ghazarian, Araz@fapc.net; Marketing, Ara Catchatoorian, Ara@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

## June 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28 Badveli Greg's Sabbatical June 1st through August 26, 2023 Armenia Missions Trip June 11-24, 2023	29	30	31	1 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 A Family Fellowship 7P Zoom	2 Mommy & Me 9:45AM CE Building	3
4 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Communion Worship Service 10:30 A	5	6	7 Men's Bible Study 12P	8	9	10 Young Families Bible Study 5:00 P.M. Youth Group Pool Party at Sue Cunningham's 11:00 A.M.
11 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Worship Service 10:30 A	12	13	14 Men's Bible Study 12P	15	16	17
Session						
18 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Communion Worship Service 10:30 A	19	20	21 Men's Bible Study 12P	22	23	24
25 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 A Worship Service 10:30 A Renewal & Rest Luncheon 12PM Fireside	26	27	28 Men's Bible Study 12P	29	30	1

\*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