



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

DON'T MISS FAPC Sunday School's A Miracle on Main Street Photo Review

Photos on Pg 11



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SCAN ME

Scan to Register for Church Events & Ministries



“I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.”

Isaiah 42:16 (NLT)



The New Year has started! Are you ready for 2024? Well, as the children shout during hide & go seek, “Ready or not, here I come!” I imagine, like me, you feel like the New Year has hit the ground running and you’re doing your best not to be run over!

As we anticipate these next twelve months, I want to remind you of God’s promise to His faithful people. In the midst of promising judgment on the disobedient, He promises to provide new light and new paths. He promises something new to those who remain faithful in the midst of a rebellious generation.

What good news! God promises to guide His faithful ones. What I find particularly encouraging is that He does not simply repeat what He has done

in the past. Too frequently we want God to be predictable, to do the same sort of things He’s done in the past. We want to be able to figure out what is coming next!

While God is faithful, He’s not predictable. His faithfulness gives us the security and the assurance that we are safe in His care, but He will not allow us to make our relationship with Him to be like a formula. If we do this or that, then God must do these things.

Oh, Lord, forgive us for trying to manage and manipulate you!

We are often “blind.” But He promises to “lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths.” It’s time to expect God do something unpredictably faithful! He promises to turn our darkness into light and to smooth out our unstable, rocky places.

Did you notice His resolution? He will do this and “not forsake” us!

This may be the passage you memorize to start off this New Year. This may be the passage you should cling to as you participate in the 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting. Consider meditating on this verse every morning in the month of January to fuel your hope for 2024.

As we study The Revelation of John this year, expect the Lord to reveal Himself in new ways and to draw you near differently than He’s done before. Jesus is not only revealing “what is to come.” He is revealing Himself! Invite Him to make Himself and His ways clearer than ever.

Because He lives

Prayer Requests?

Submit your requests online at fapc.net or via ChurchCenter app.





Building Relationship

Strengthen your Relationships

Investing in the ones that matter most

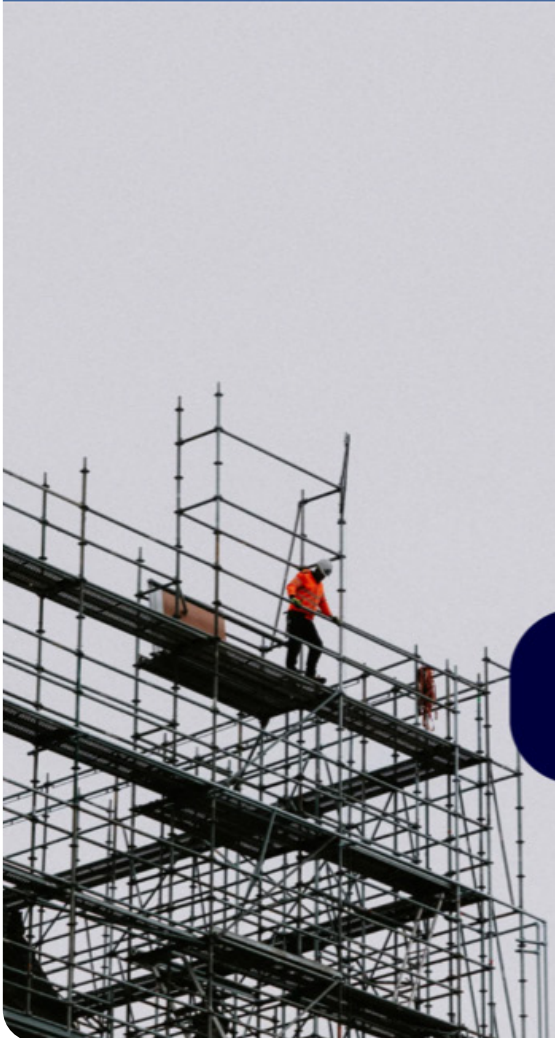
A 3 part series that builds on each other:

February 2-3: Strengthening your Relationships (I)
March 1-2: Strengthening your Relationships (II)
April 5-6: Strengthening your Community

No cost to join
Childcare available \$20 per child, per weekend no more than \$50 a family

Friday Night 6-9pm
Saturday 8:30am-2:30pm- lunch included

Come and be a part of the growth





Fellowship and Appreciation: Welcoming New Faces and Honoring Outgoing Deacons

The Deacon Ministry of FAPC expresses gratitude to departing members and joyously welcomes Tiffany and Jesse Dunbar, Bob & Sue Garabedian, and Cheri Melkonian as the newest additions to the team.

- by Sandy Marashian

Greetings from our Deacon Ministry. We look forward to 2024 and working alongside our leadership team and in fellowship with our FAPC congregants.

Our deacon ministry team would like to convey heartfelt appreciation and thank you to three of our outgoing deacons who have finished their term and partial term. Though we will miss them, we share our heartfelt “Thank You” to Rita Barsamian, Ando Sivas and also to Steven Baker (partial term) for their wonderful dedication to our Deacon ministry and sharing their time and talents in service to our FAPC church congregants. You truly made a difference!



We have been blessed with incoming deacons who will join our Deacon Ministry team. We are so very happy to share that Tiffany and Jesse Dunbar, Bob & Sue Garabedian and Cheri Melkonian will be our incoming Deacons. We are excited, enthused and encouraged by their happy hearts to join our FAPC deacon ministry. Please join us in welcoming them.

Our deacons gathered at the home of Noelle & Tim Nightingale on December 9, 2023, for a Christmas potluck brunch and time of deacon fellowship. During which we enjoyed each other’s company and shared some of our favorite memories of celebrating Christmas growing up. It was fun to hear how each person’s family celebrated from big gatherings to multiple gatherings, to smaller intimate times and even some celebrating on Armenian Christmas or New Year’s instead! Thank you to all who came and participated in our time together.

We look forward to all the ways the Lord will be at work through our Deacons and in our church family.

We wish you all a Happy 2024!



CENTER STAGE

Suzy Martirosyan



What is something many of us don't know about you yet? I was born in Armenia and moved to the US as a child. Fun fact: I met my husband, Ernest, at FAPC when I was six years old and he was nine.

What is something you enjoy doing and why? I enjoy spending time with my family. Whether it's traveling or running errands together, nothing makes my heart happier than being with my husband, kids, and extended family and friends. I also love crafting and cheering my kids on at their soccer, basketball, and football games.

What or who is the reason you are connected with being at FAPC? My parents brought me to FAPC for the first time when I was six. While our church has been a part of my life since I was a young child, I became really connected to FAPC and our church family through our Young Couples Bible Study when Ernest and I became engaged. The Young Couples Ministry holds a special place in my heart and I am so grateful to be a part of it.

1st Advent Candle & Holiday Gathering



Esmund Dunbar reads Advent prayer to FAPC congregation



Guest Pastor Joe White delivers an uplifting sermon.



Jariah Dunbar lights first Advent candle of 2023

FAPC Christmas Gathering at Nelda Baker's Residence



● ● ● ● ● *Christmas Eve Sunday AM* ● ● ● ● ●
Candle Light Service





Our Sunday School Christmas Program Was A Success!

Mrs. Nataly Wairdian

Dear Beloved Church Parents,

Our Children’s Ministry Christmas event ‘Miracle on Main Street’ was a true testament to the spirit of the season. The children’s Christmas program was a highlight, showcasing their talents and spreading cheer with their performances, from recitations to songs and plays, captivating everyone present.

The atmosphere was further enhanced by the delicious dinner spread, where families gathered to enjoy a variety of dishes, fostering a sense of community and togetherness. The aroma of hot cocoa filled the air as people indulged in the warmth of the season, accompanied by a delectable array of treats and a tempting donut bar that delighted both young and old.

The worship band’s melodious renditions of classic Christmas tunes added a soulful dimension to the event, creating an ambiance of serenity and joy. Amidst the celebrations, cake was served to honor and celebrate the birth of Jesus, emphasizing the true meaning of Christmas.

However, the most enchanting surprise was when three individuals dressed as the wise men made an unexpected appearance, handing out gifts of cookies to each child. Their arrival and act of generosity added an extra layer of magic and wonder to the evening, leaving a lasting impression of love and kindness.

The event concluded with smiles on every face, hearts full of joy, and memories that would be cherished for years to come.

May the blessings of the Christmas season continue to fill your hearts and homes with love and joy as we celebrate Armenian Christmas and the New Year.

In faith and fellowship,



Nataly Wairdian
Children’s Ministry Director
First Armenian Presbyterian Church

NOT REGISTERED FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL?



Register Online





Sunday School



Sunday School



Sunday School





Men's Bible Study



The Men's Bible Study Luncheon Group will resume the study of the Gospel of Mark at noon on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 in the Fireside Room Kitchen. Men of all ages are invited to attend as their schedules permit. Please contact Administrator Jacci Rustigan at jacci@fapc.net to be placed on a no-obligation E-list for Bible Study Luncheon Group.

FAPC Men's Bible Study Luncheon Group Rings in Christmas and the New Year at Noah's Ark

Members and friends of the FAPC Wednesday Men's Bible Study Luncheon Group concluded the 2023 Church Year with a sumptuous Christmas Luncheon at Noah's Ark Restaurant and Bakery in the Headliner Shopping Center, First Street and Barstow Avenue in Fresno. The diners ranged in age from a recent college graduate to members of The Silent Generation.

After an Advent invocation by Senior Pastor Gregory Haroutunian, diners enjoyed a meal of pocket bread and garlic sauce, Armenian salad, jasmine rice pilaf, and chicken and beef kebab served family style. The guests rounded out the end-of-year meal with demi-tasse glasses of Hye Sourj (Armenian Coffee) and slices of chocolate cake, cheesecake, and napoleons.



Armenian Men's Bible Study

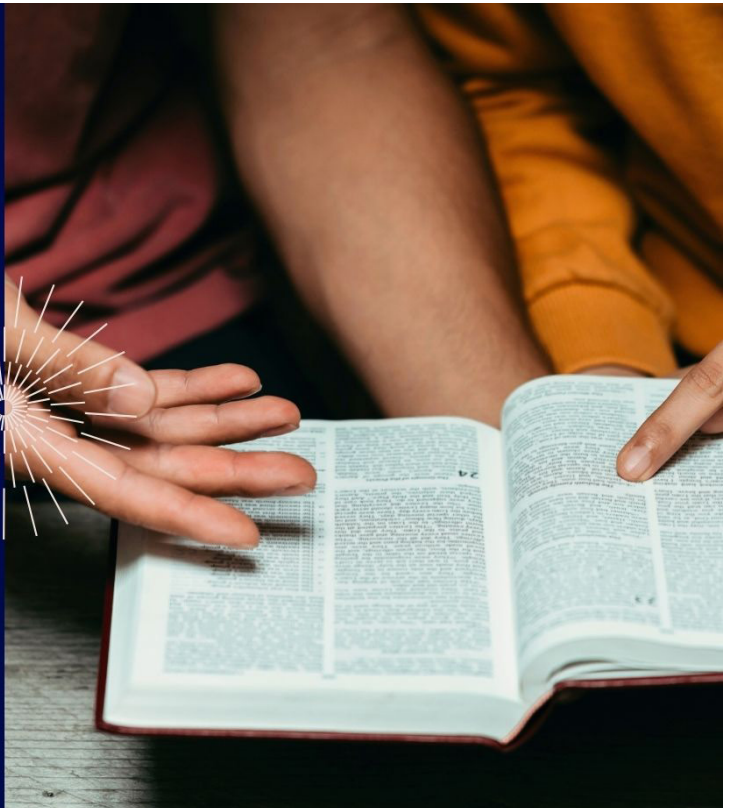


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Տեղադրության և
մանրամասների համար
կապվեք Լուսեյի հետ
(818) 438-2415
LUSEVAJIAN@GMAIL.COM

Միացե՛ք մեզ ընկերակցության, թեմատիկ
քննարկումների և հոգևոր աճի համար:

Ամեն 1-ին և 3-րդ շաբաթ օրը ժամը 9:30-ին:
Բոլորը ողջունելի են:





Men's Bible Study

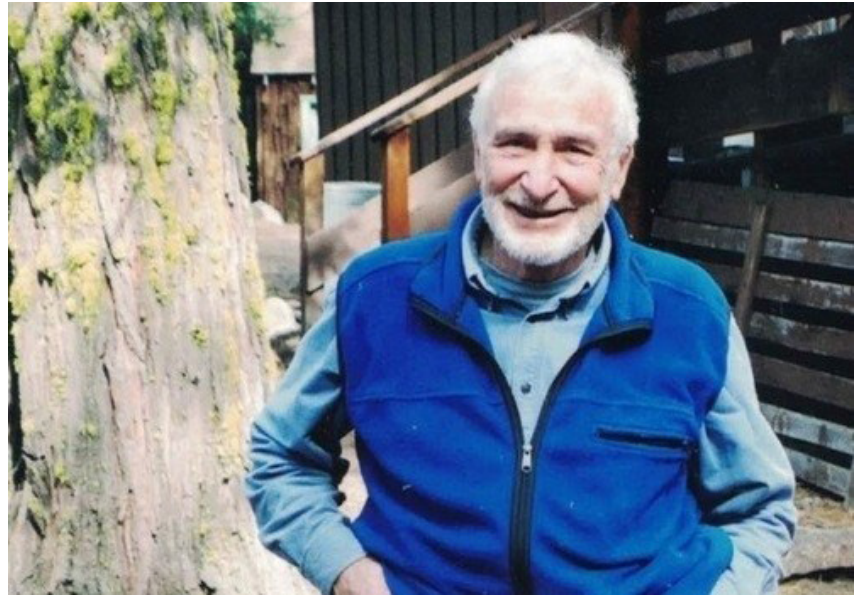




Richard Knoles Merchant

**June 23, 1928 -
November 4, 2023**

Richard Knoles Merchant died peacefully at his home on November 4, 2023 in Mill Valley, Calif. He had recently celebrated his 95th birthday under the towering sugar pines at his beloved retreat near Pinecrest Lake in the Sierras.



Richard, also known as Rick, was born on June 23, 1928 in San Francisco, Calif., to Ellen Lois Knoles and Albert Kalem Merchant né Chorbajian. Rick was inspired by his Armenian-American heritage, from William Saroyan to shish kabab. His youth was spent in Stockton and was memorable for being allowed to trade in traditional knickers for genuine Levi jeans. Rick spent his senior year of high school at the Putney School in Vermont, where he acquired a lifelong love of nature and husbandry. He attended Stanford University and Stanford University School of Medicine, with subsequent residencies at Grace New Haven Community Hospital and Stanford University Hospital, as well as a much-loved stint of public service at the National Institutes of Health from 1955-1957. Rick practiced internal medicine for many years in San Francisco, both in private practice and corporate settings, until his retirement in 1993.

An ardent amateur forester and naturalist, Rick was most recognizable in jeans, plaid shirt, and work boots; nurseries of potted trees sprang into life wherever he took up residence. He took seed hunting trips throughout northern California, his German shorthaired pointer by his side. Rick also enjoyed working with wood. He built an off-grid house in Calistoga and a home-crafted Snipe sailboat on which generations of Merchants learned the tricks of the tell-tail and tiller, cruising amidst bursts of “high glee”. Younger Merchants could expect gifts from Dad’s hands at the holidays, most famously his redwood-paneled waste baskets. Rick devoted his retirement to planting redwood trees and olive groves in Calistoga, on the rugged hills of the Napa Valley, very much in the spirit of Rabindranath Tagore: “The one who plants trees, knowing that he will never sit in their shade, has at least started to understand the meaning of life.”

Rick is lovingly remembered by his six children, Karen Merchant-Yates, Victoria Merchant Walker, Philip Merchant, Albert Merchant, Nathaniel Merchant, and Elizabeth Merchant; as well as six grandchildren. He also survived by countless thriving trees.

Published by San Francisco Chronicle on Dec. 6, 2023.



Denise Lynn (Silveira) Melikian

June 13, 1953 - December 24, 2023



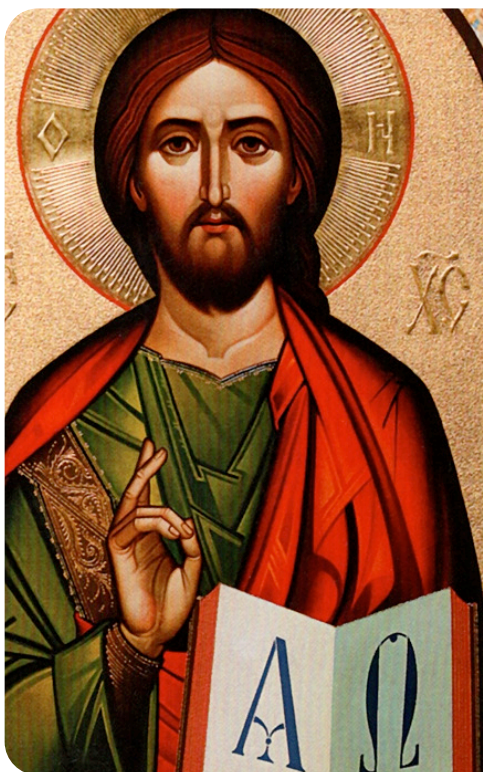
Denise Lynn (Silveira) Melikian passed away in Clovis on Christmas Eve 2023 at the age of 70.

A native of Tranquility, Denise received her early education in Fresno at Tenaya Middle School and Bullard High School, where she was Valedictorian of the Class of 1971.

She studied nursing at Fresno City College, attained licenses as Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner, and for many years served as a surgical nurse at Saint Agnes Medical Center. Denise was preceded in death by her beloved parents, Manuel and Elsie (Bettinsoli) Silveira, and her cherished husband, Larry Melikian.

She is survived by her sons, Bryan and his wife Malorie of Clovis and Adam of Fresno, and grandchildren Maxton and Blake. She is also survived by her siblings Carole Silveira of Fresno, Sanley Silveira of Tranquility, and Joseph Silveira and his wife Anne of Redding. Denise is also survived by sister-in-law Diane Melikian, brother-in-law Jeffrey Melikian and his wife Karen; sister-in-law Cheri Melkonian, and many nieces and nephews.

Lord's Prayer



Our Father, Who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy Name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

Matthew 6:9-13



For more information
Call or text:
(626) 755-8078

Grief Care Group

STARTING FEBRUARY 10, 2024 - MARCH 16, 2024
SATURDAYS 10:00AM - 11:30AM
@FAPC IN THE CE BUILDING

Deadline for registration: February 1, 2024

QR Code to Register:



Dr. Tamar Sevajian, LMFT
First Armenian Presbyterian Church
430 S. First St., Fresno, CA 93702



“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” - Mathew 5:4

Grief is a natural human reaction to emotional pain caused by a loss of someone or something significant to us. Although grief is mainly emotional, it also has physical, cognitive, behavioral, social, spiritual, and philosophical dimensions.

As fallen beings, we experience pain through various types of losses during our lifetime that produce grief. The most prevalent ones are:

- Death
- Divorce (or end of a relationship)
- Loss of Health
- Loss of Job
- Migration

Just as each relationship is unique, so are our feelings and grieving experiences. We express the range of emotions, depth, and severity of our pain according to our personalities and makeup very differently from each other. Hence, it is not helpful to compare our grief with someone else's.

Although as Christians it's crucial that we turn to God's word for comfort and strength, we still have a **part to play**. We need to take **proper actions**. Just as we pray to God for healing from an illness, we also go to the doctor. Similarly, there are steps we can take that would help us with our emotional pain.

Part of the recovery from loss effort is achieved by discovering and completing the undelivered communications that accrue in relationships. Learning about appropriate action choices can lead to emotional healing.

Combining the above tool with spiritual discipline is key. Filling the void created by pain with God's word and promises can serve as a great intervention.

The Grief Care Group program offers a Christ-based curriculum that fosters a safe environment to process loss stories and offers tools to make healthy choices that lead to a path for healing, wholeness, and completion of interrupted relationships.

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death, mourning, crying, or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
-Revelation 21:4



San Joaquin Valley Gathers in Faith: Save the Date for the Fresno-Clovis Prayer Breakfast on February 27, 2024

Join the community tradition at Fresno Convention Center Exhibit Hall, where people of all backgrounds come together for fellowship, delicious food, and powerful prayers to impact the Central Valley positively.



Coach Anthony Kevin "Tony" Dungy will keynote the 2024 Fresno-Clovis Prayer Breakfast. The Breakfast will take place from 7-9 a.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at the Fresno Convention and Entertainment Center Exhibit Hall. More details are available by visiting www.fresnoclovisprayerbreakfast.org. A player with the Pittsburgh Steelers and San Francisco 49ers, Dungy coached the Indianapolis Colts to victory in Super Bowl XLI in 2007. Dungy is currently a broadcast analyst with NBC Football Night in America and the author of the best-selling memoir, "Quiet Strength: The Principles, Practices, and Priorities of a Winning Life."

Interested in Attending?

Our church has reserved tables and available seats. Interested members should contact Jacci Rustigan, Church Administrator at jacci@fapc.net or call the church office (559) 237-6638.





MEN'S RETREAT 2024

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
26	27	28

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

UPCOMING EVENTS 2024

Camp AREV

Winter

HS: Jan. 12-14 JH: Jan. 26-28
Jrs: Jan. 19-21 YA: Feb. 2-4

AEYF East

C&C Retreat: NY, Feb. 16-18
Jr's: PA, Apr. 19-21
Fall: TBD Oct. 4-6

Camp AREV

Summer

HS: Jul. 14-20
Jrs: Jul. 21-27
JH: Jul. 28-Aug. 3

Camp Arevelk

NY: Aug. 4-10

AEUNA/AEYF Biennial

San Matteo, CA
Jun. 27-30
Tour to follow



AEUNA YOUTH MINISTRIES



OH NO! I lost my address book contacts!

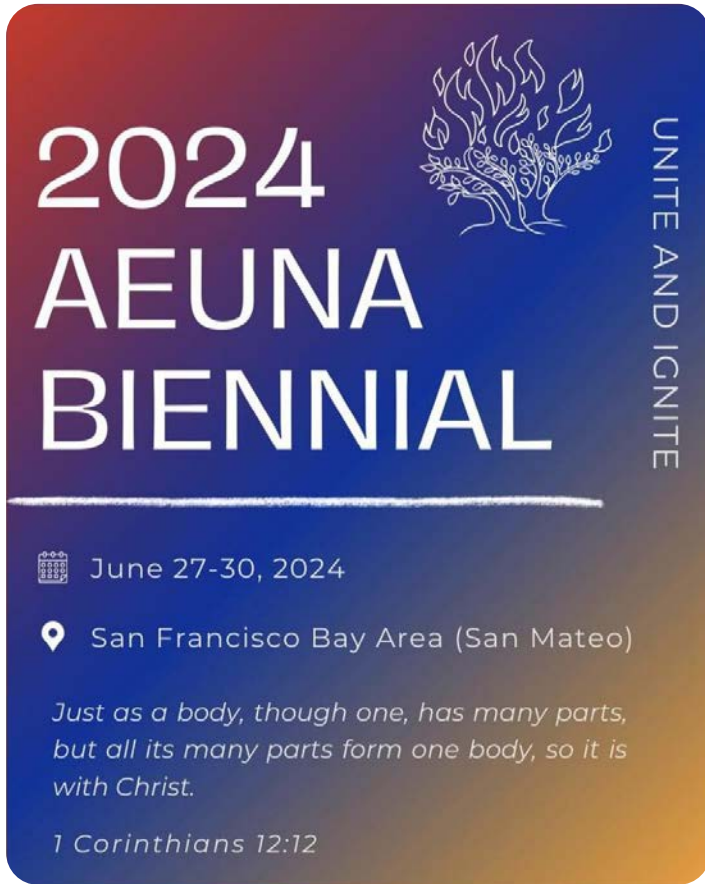
WELL, NOT REALLY...BUT OUR FAPC DEACON TEAM WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE WE HAVE YOUR UPDATED CONTACT INFORMATION.

IF YOU HAVE MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION, YOU CAN E-MAIL US AT jacci@fapc.net OR GIVE THE CHURCH OFFICE A CALL AT 559-237-6638 TO LET US KNOW.

YOU CAN ALSO CHECK PLANNING CENTER TO BE SURE YOUR INFORMATION IS UP TO DATE.

THANK YOU!

THE FAPC DEACON TEAM



2024
AEUNA
BIENNIAL

UNITE AND IGNITE

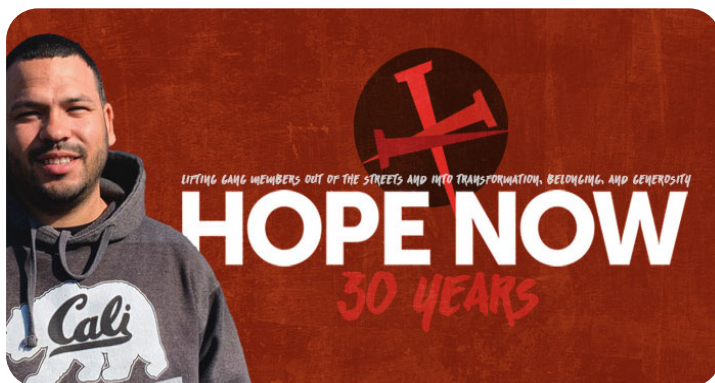
June 27-30, 2024

San Francisco Bay Area (San Mateo)

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

The FAPC Praise Band has been selected to perform worship services for this 4-day conference!

LIFTING GANG MEMBERS OUT OF THE STREETS AND INTO TRANSFORMATION, BELONGING, AND GENEROSITY

HOPE NOW
30 YEARS

“Leap of Faith” will be the theme of the Annual Banquet of the Hope Now for Youth “Gangs to Jobs” Ministry. The Banquet will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024, in the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building, 808 Fourth Street at Veterans Parkway, in Old Town Clovis.

For more information, please visit:
<https://www.hopenowforyouth.org>.



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 & Sosie Catchatoorian, Edward & Silva Esajian, Simon Kalebjian, Janik & Mariam Oganessian, Ando & Kinsey Sivas
 Staff Team: Church Administrator: Jacci Rustigan, Jacci@fapc.net; Financial Assistant: Araz Ghazarian, Araz@fapc.net; Marketing Director, Ara Catchatoorian, Ara@fapc.net; Custodian: Susan Ruiz; Music Director: Rev. Razmig Minassian, Razmig@camparev.org; Youth Director: Eddy Thurber eddy@fapc.net, Children’s Ministry Director: Nataly Wairdian, nataly@fapc.net

January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM	1 Office Closed	2	3	4	5 Mommy & Me 9:30 AM	6 Office Closed Armenian Christmas
7 Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 AM Communion Service 10:30 AM	8 21 Days of Prayer and Fasting Sanctuary 7PM	9 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Women's Bible Study 2:55 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55PM Family Fellowship 6:45 PM	10 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Fireside	11 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM	12 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Camp AREV: High School	13 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Camp AREV: High School
14 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Camp AREV: High School	15 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting	16 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Women's Bible Study 2:55 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55PM	17 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Fireside Badveli Greg's Birthday	18 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM Family Fellowship 7PM Zoom	19 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Camp AREV: Juniors Mommy & Me 9:30 AM	20 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Camp AREV: Juniors
21 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 AM Communion Service 10:30 AM Camp AREV: Juniors Armenian Family Fireside 12:00PM	22 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Personnel Committee Meeting Budget & Finance Meeting	23 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Women's Bible Study 2:55 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55PM Family Fellowship 6:45 PM Session Meeting	24 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Fireside	25 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM Family Fellowship 7PM Zoom	26 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Camp AREV: Jr. High	27 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Camp AREV: Jr. High
28 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM Camp AREV: Jr. High	29	30 Women's Bible Study 2:55 PM Women's Zoom Bible Study 5:55PM Family Fellowship 6:45 PM	31 Men's Bible Study 12:00 PM Fireside	1 Women's Bible Study Fireside 9:45 AM Family Fellowship 7PM Zoom	2	3

*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