



Love God. Love Others. Make Disciples.

February 2024 Vol. 2:1

Sunday Morning Study (SMS) each week @ 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room

## Check out the recap of the 2024 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting Kick-Off

Pg 4



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Scan to Register for Church Events & Ministries

SCAN ME

***10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. 11 They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.***

**- Revelation 12:10-11 (NLT)**



The "unveiling," Revelation, the Apocalypse ... the last book of the New Testament, the last book of the Bible is filled with mystery, imagery, bizarre sights and sounds. No wonder God's people regard it from two extremes: 1) from a distance, only sampling various verses divorced from their context or 2) with passionate obsession, trying desperately to see every recorded detail in the current events of our present day.

In a year that promises to be filled with dramatic partisanship, incivility and conflict, we are

diving into one of the most controversial portions of Scripture to humbly seek the mind of Christ to see the past, the present and the future from what God has revealed in His Word. We are promised "blessing" as we read it out loud, as we listen to it and as we take it to heart. (1:3)

I'm so excited to invite you to join in our Sunday Morning Study (SMS) each week @ 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room. The enthusiasm and hunger to study God's Word together is so stimulating! One person described it as like throwing gasoline on a fire. We're taking more time to discuss and reflect on the passages than we can take in a morning sermon and it's wonderful to have such energetic participation!

Each one of us and all of us as a congregation need to be strengthened by His Word. We want to be like those described in Revelation 12:11 who triumph day by day over the evil one "by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." Our confidence in our relationship with God lays solely with "the Lamb who was slain." He secures our forgiveness and our salvation. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and we will praise Him with the people of God for all eternity!

However, we have a part to play too! Never forget that within the Body of Christ growing as a disciple has three components: 1) God's part, 2) our part and 3) other people's part. Do you have a "testimony" of experiencing and living out Christ's cleansing power in your life?

Christ is returning and He is with us now by His Spirit. His promise and His presence can be the grace we need to live daily as His faithful followers! Also, if you missed the first "Strengthening Your Relationships" training, mark your calendar for March 1-2. You can still benefit greatly!

Because He lives

**Prayer Requests?**  
Submit your requests online at [fapc.net](http://fapc.net) or via ChurchCenter app.

**NEW: Bible Study with Badveli Greg**



Հայերեն Լեզուով  
**Տղամարդկանց**  
 Աստվածաշնչի ուսումնասիրություն

Տեղագրության և  
 մանրամասների համար  
 կապվեց Լուսինի հետ  
**(818) 438-2415**  
 LUSEVAJAN@GMAIL.COM

Ախայե՛ց մեզ ընկերակցության ընձառնիկ  
 քննարկումների և հոգևոր աճի համար  
 ամեն փն և 2 րոշ շաբաթ րոշ ժամը 9:00 և 9:45  
 Բողոք ուղարկե՛ք մե

**Sundays: 9:00 A.M.-9:45 A.M.** in the Fireside Room!

In our new Sunday Morning Study (SMS), Badveli Greg will lead us through the *Book of Revelation*.

\*Graphic courtesy of SamStorms.org

*Announcements*

**FAPC Church Family GAME NIGHT & POTLUCK**

A little rusty on your entrepreneurial skills? Craving to solve a good mystery? Armenian but embarrassed you don't know how to play TicTac? Well, we have a place for you!

Come join us for a church family game night and potluck in the fellowship hall. All are welcome -- children, singles, you young people. That also includes you, ADULTS! Don't be losers.

Bring your signature food item and favorite family board game(s) to share. Scrabble, Monopoly, Apples to Apples, Uno, Clue, Checkers -- anything is welcome. Electronics, however, are uninvited.

Get to know the REAL faces of FAPC. Talk to someone new or get to know someone better. IT'S GAME DAY, BABY!

Friday, March 15th at 6:30 pm  
 FAPC Fellowship Hall  
 430 S. First St.

RSVP to the church office by Thursday, March 14.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**JUNE 17-21 A.M.**



Congratulations to **Nyree Shishmanian** on her permanent appointment as **Principal of the Charlie Keyan Armenian Community School**. Nyree served as Interim Principal of CKACS for the past year and the Board of Education announced her official appointment as Principal on February 3 following an extensive search process.

The Clovis-based Kindergarten through Sixth Grade School held its Christmas Hantes at the FAPC Campus in December 2023.

21 Days of Prayer &  
Fasting

# Forging Unity of One Church Through Prayer & Fasting

## Joining Hearts, Igniting Souls: A Recap of the Spiritual Revival at First Armenian Presbyterian Church

- by Paul Harutunian

First Armenian Presbyterian Church hosted a momentous beginning to the **21 Days of Prayer and Fasting** on January 8, 2024. The kickoff event, streamed live on YouTube, emphasized a call for unity among pastors and churches, igniting hearts and fostering a renewed sense of mission within the community. The service was recorded and is available to watch by scanning the Code or clicking the link: <https://bit.ly/21DaysFAPC>



This unique initiative is sponsored by the Fresno-Clovis Pastor Clusters. Each night during the 21 days, a different church hosted and provided an opportunity for the community to experience the depth and diversity of congregations across Fresno and Clovis. The underlying theme of the initiative was Unity, recognizing that despite differences, we are One Church in Jesus Christ.

*...for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28b niv*



The nightly services, featured a blend of prayer and worship, creating a powerful atmosphere for collective spiritual growth. This event served as an excellent opportunity for the local community to come together in unity, lifting their voices in prayer for the region. This year the events were jam packed, and we had attendees from over 100+ local churches and ministries in attendance.





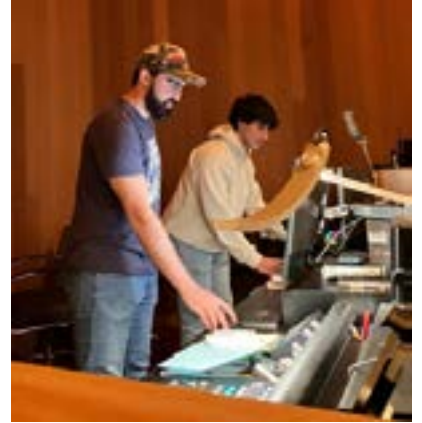
# 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting



Attendees were led in worship by FAPC's worship team. The excitement and energy was powerfully palpable. At the end of the evening, worship leader Chris Shamlian expressed his awe at the event's enthusiastic turnout.

One of the highlights of the evening was the acknowledgment of Alan Doswald and the Fresno Clovis Pastor clusters' roots, emphasizing their profound impact on the local community. Leaders who initiated this movement were honored for their dedication to uniting churches and fostering spiritual growth throughout the region.

Cluster leaders also took center stage, symbolizing their commitment to the cause of unity in Christ. A video was shown of the Sheriff praying and asking for prayer. Attendees were encouraged to uplift these leaders in prayer, and revival in the community. Bishop Paul Binion, ended the evening with an encouraging word, and an invitation to the next night at Westside Church of God. Badveli Greg closed out the evening by praying for Bishop Binion.



## Why Fast and Pray?

To quote Pastor Chris Hodges, "Prayer connects us with God, fasting helps to disconnect us from the world."

Come join us at 9:45am on Sunday mornings as we learn to grow deeper in prayer together as a church.

Here is a good fasting resource:

<https://21days.churchofthehighlands.com/fasting>



# Dr. Zareh Darakjian

December 1, 1950 to January 28, 2024



Dr. Zareh Darakjian – scientist, educator, linguist, musician, philosopher, child of God – passed away in Fresno on January 28, 2024 at the age of 73.

A native of Aleppo, Syria, Zareh received his early education at the Armenian Evangelical Bethel Kindergarten and Emmanuel Elementary School, secondary education at the Aleppo College for Boys, and then undergraduate education with honors at Haigazian University in Beirut, Lebanon.

In 1979, Zareh and his sister Vera immigrated to the United States. Zareh continued his education at California State University, Northridge and then earned Master of Science and Doctoral degrees in Theoretical Chemistry at the University of California, Davis.

He received the Clorox Award for Best Graduate Student at UC Davis and went on to serve as a Lecturer in the Ohio State University Department of Chemistry from 1992 to 1996. He then conducted research at Rice University in Houston and in Newark, Delaware.

Nicknamed “the Walking Encyclopedia,” Zareh was the author of eight published articles in computational and chemical physics. After departing Delaware, Zareh devoted his remaining years to private education and tutoring, including nursing and medical students.

Humble and humorous, Zareh was fond of saying, “Never stop asking questions!” and “Science and God go together; you cannot separate them!” Zareh was preceded in death by his parents, Mesrob and Sophie Darakjian.

He is survived by his sister, Vera, and brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Vahe and Annie Darakjian, and their daughters Lori Harer and her husband Matt, and Gareen Darakjian, and granddaughter, Gracie Harer; and a host of dear cousins and their families worldwide -- Drs. Nazareth and Ani Darakjian; Drs. Hrayr and Nadia Darakjian; Arpy and Curtis Sahakian; Suzy Darakjian; Arda and Carl Clark; Aline Hoffman; Rubina Darakjian; Rafi Darakjian; Ara Darakjian; Shahe and Mary Darakjian; Houry and Michael Vitale; Gassia and Rafi Mouradian; Rev. Vicken Cholakian; Rev. Hrayr and Karine Cholakian; Limi and Samuel Khounganian; Arpi Keledjian, Grace and Jack Chavoor; Ani Chamichian; Lena Hadidian Welch; Rev. Allen Hadidian; Grace Darakjian; Rev. Dr. Vahe and Ani Simonian; Dr. Ara Ketenjian, Dr. Dikran Ketenjian, Vera and Piet Bos, Rebecca Grigorian, and Aida and Boghos Karamanlian.

*<sup>1</sup>I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.*

*<sup>2</sup>Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.*

*<sup>3</sup>Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.*

*Psalm 145 1-3*

# Thomas Charles "Tom" Bulger

**November 13, 1945 - February 3, 2024**

Thomas "Tom" Charles Bulger, 78, of Milan, formerly of Fresno, CA, passed away on Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024, in Rock Island, Illinois.

Tom was born on Nov. 13, 1945, in Moline, IL, the son of Charles and Violette (Hallquist) Bulger, and brother to his younger sister, Mary. He graduated from Moline High School in 1963. Tom attended Black Hawk College where he met Carolynn Sims in Spanish class. They married on May 26, 1968, at Central Presbyterian Church, had two daughters, Bridget Kathleen and Brittany Jeanne, and cherished 55 wonderful years together.

In his early years, Tom worked as a paper boy, made ice cream at Whitey's, coded for International Harvester, and worked sales for Duffy Paper Company.

His desire to serve others moved him to return to college and enroll at the University of Iowa in 1971. He received a degree in Recreation Therapy. After he graduated college, in 1974, Tom and Carolynn moved to Fresno after Tom received a job offer from Fresno Community Hospital to work in its Alcohol Rehab Program, and continued to work for the hospital for over 20 years. Tom worked in the mental health field serving adults and children of Fresno for over 37 years.

Being of service was always a priority for Tom. He began volunteering at Central Presbyterian by teaching Sunday school, tutoring children, and being a youth group leader. While living in Fresno, Tom continued to volunteer his time by coaching his daughters' t-ball teams, feeding the homeless, organizing inner-city outreach missions, coaching and refereeing inner-city basketball leagues, tutoring children and holding multiple volunteer positions at World Impact and at First Armenian Presbyterian Church.

When Tom and Carolynn returned to the Quad Cities, Tom continued his life of service at Good Shepherd Church, Trinity Hospital, and Christian Care Rescue Mission. Tom was a truly selfless person who never met a stranger. To Carolynn's dismay at times, it was not unusual for him to give hitchhikers rides and give away his last dollar.

Committed to his faith, Tom attended Central Presbyterian in Rock Island, First Armenian Presbyterian Church in Fresno, and Good Shepherd (now Grace Presbyterian) in Rock Island.

Throughout his life, Tom experienced many physical challenges, but his faith in the Lord gave him the strength to go on. Tom's faith also gave him the privilege of being a helpful listener and counselor for family and friends.

Tom enjoyed playing, coaching, refereeing, and watching sports, especially the Chicago White Sox, Iowa Hawkeyes and Notre Dame. When he could no longer play sports he turned to walking, volunteering, feeding birds and squirrels and enjoying the spectacular sunsets off his balcony. A wonderful encourager, Tom spent lots of time calling family and friends.

Those left to cherish Tom's memory include his wife, Carolynn; daughter, Bridget Ginty and husband, Kevin; daughter, Brittany Becklin and husband, Matt; granddaughter, Jovie Becklin; sister, Mary Maze and husband, Gary; canine companion, Baxter; and many beloved cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents and in-laws, Melvin and Mary Sims.



***“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](http://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](mailto: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



California State University, Fresno  
 Armenian Studies Program

**36th Annual Banquet**  
 celebrating  
*the 45th Anniversary of Hye Sharzhoom*  
 and the  
*50th Anniversary of the Armenian Students Organization*  
 recognizing graduating seniors  
 receiving an Armenian Studies Minor  
 and  
 Armenian Studies Scholarship recipients

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**  
 Reception 5:00PM • Dinner 6:00PM  
 Fort Washington Country Club  
 10272 N. Millbrook • Fresno, California

\$90 per person • Table Sponsors \$2,000 • \$30 Fresno State students  
 Please respond by Friday, March 8, 2024



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



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

Return Service Requested

Teaching Elder: Rev. Greg Haroutunian; Badveli@fapc.net  
 Ruling Elders: Paul David Bedrosian, Rev. Paul Haroutunian, Kalem Kazarian, Rev. Razmig Minassian and Ando Sivas  
 Deacons: Noelle Nightingale, Sandra Marashian, Maral Afarian, Richard Bittikofer, Rita Barsamian, Ara & Sosie Catchatoorian, Jesse & Tiffany Dunbar, Edward & Silva Esajian, Bob & Sue Garabedian, Simon Kalebjian, Cheri Melkonian Janik & Mariam Oganesyanyan, and 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

# February 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	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 Mommy & Me 9:30am 6:00 pm Strengthening Relationships	3 8:30am - 2:30 pm Strengthening Relationships 10 am Zareh Darakjian Memorial
4 SMS Revelation w/ Badveli Greg Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Armenian Family 12:30 pm 12pm Youth Group	5	6 Women’s Bible Study 2:55 pm Women’s Zoom Bible Study 5:55pm Family Fellowship 6:45 pm	7 Men’s Bible Study 12:00 pm Fireside	8 Women’s Bible Study Fireside 9:45 am Family Fellowship 7pm Zoom	9 Young Family Bible Study 7:30 pm	10
11 SMS Revelation w/ Badveli Greg Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Youth Group 12pm	12	13 Women’s Bible Study 2:55 pm Women’s Zoom Bible Study 5:55pm Family Fellowship 6:45 pm	14 Men’s Bible Study 12:00 pm Fireside Ash Wednesday	15 Women’s Bible Study Fireside 9:45 am Family Fellowship 7pm Zoom	16 Mommy & Me 9:30am	17 24/7 Prayer
18 MS Revelation w/ Badveli Greg Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 am Communion Service 10:30 am Armenian Family 12:30 pm	19 President’s Day; Office Closed	20 Women’s Bible Study 2:55 pm Women’s Zoom Bible Study 5:55pm Family Fellowship 6:45 pm	21 Men’s Bible Study 12:00pm Fireside	22 Women’s Bible Study Fireside 9:45 am Family Fellowship 7pm Zoom	23 Young Family Bible Study 7:30 pm	24
SMS Revelation w/ Badveli Greg Prayer Bridal Room 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Youth Group 12pm	26	27 Women’s Bible Study 2:55 pm Women’s Zoom Bible Study 5:55pm Family Fellowship 6:45 pm	28 Men’s Bible Study 12:00 pm Fireside	29 Women’s Bible Study Fireside 9:45 am Family Fellowship 7pm Zoom	1 Mommy & Me 9:30am 6:00 pm Strengthening Relationships	2 8:30am - 2:30pm Strengthening Relationships