

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



3673 North First Street · Fresno, California 93726-6870 · (559) 229-2915 · Fax (559) 229-6431 · www.pilgrimchurch.com

January 2017

Interim Pastor: Reverend Louis R. Paradise

For me, each year January is, without a doubt, the darkest, coldest, dampest month of the year in the Central Valley. I get along with the heat of summer better than I get along with the dark, the cold, and the dampness. It is a good time to be in Hawaii or Palm Springs. Arizona has its best month of the year in January. How is one supposed to keep faith when it is so cold, and dark, and damp?

I know, I'll watch one of my favorite movies, "Hook." What does that do for me, you say? It is in that movie where Smee declares he has had an, "apostrophe." Of course, Captain Hook corrects him declaring, "You mean an epiphany." Yes an epiphany. That's what I have in January. Every January 6th the Epiphany of our Lord comes forth. So, now I have an Epiphany to get me through the dark and cold and dampest month. (I think it's the dampness that really gets me – my toes never get warm.)

Epiphany is the conclusion after the 12 days of Christmas. Traditionally on Epiphany the Wise Men arrive to offer their gifts to the God incarnate, the Christ child. Epiphany is the true day of gift giving in many of the middle-eastern cultures and often the greatest or most valued gift is opened on that day. It warms my heart just to think of the joy and the prophecy of Epiphany.

Three wise men traveled some distance to see the Christ child. The suspicion is these were priests from the Zoroastrian religion; a religion based on the stars

and constellations. This is our first signal that Christ is for the whole world, not just a small sect in the Middle East. These well educated and highly thought of sojourners tell us that Christ, the humble child of average means, may reach through culture and class to redeem the world for God's sake. What a gift they gave to the child, but also to us.

Maybe a new tradition could be started in your household this Epiphany. You could always start by watching the movie, "Hook," and then progress to giving that last special gift of Christmas to someone you loved. Or maybe it is more your style to go and do something unexpected, the aha, what a surprise, kind of activity. Go help at Poverello House, or baby-sit some children so dad and mom can have the afternoon together and have their own epiphany. What if you just spent time reading scripture until you discovered something you had not discovered before? An epiphany straight from the word of God!

Smee had an epiphany, a sudden new and great thought. We have the Epiphany; when the world is surprised and the light goes on that this child, Christ, is God incarnate – God with us, and it will change the whole world. My prayer for you this new year is to have an epiphany on Epiphany. May Christ richly bless you in your journey through the year 2017.

In Christ,
Rev. Louis R. Paradise
Interim Pastor



Pilgrim Church has set up our website, www.pilgrimchurch.com. It is now possible to download or read the Progress on line. If you would like to receive the Progress via email, please contact the office at office@pilgrimchurch.com or by telephone, 229-2915.

NEWS BRIEFS

Visa and/or MasterCard giving is available in the church office. We also have a Square Card Reader, which gives us the capability of charging to the church using a smart phone.

MISSIONS

REQUEST FROM DEACONS to all PARISHIONERS. If you or your family would like to host a Sunday to honor a family member, celebrate a birthday or a special occasion, please contact Marlene by calling the Church Office at 229-2915. Our Parishioners truly enjoy fellowship together every Sunday. This is a wonderful way to contribute to the life of our church. Thank you for your consideration, Board of Deacons.

DEACONS' FUND. Contributions are always welcome!

WORSHIP For Prayer and Praise

PRAYER CHAIN. For prayer, call Sheri Manoogian at 412-4241 or Helen Sadoian at 439-3443. If you would like to be added to our prayer list, please call the church office, 229-2915.

PILGRIM CHURCH COUNSELORS. If you have any concerns and/or affirmations, please speak with or call any of our counselors, Diana Mazman 222-9177, Hal Avakian 431-1033, Alex or Sonia Jemanjian 579-8389, and Joe and Johnanna Soghomonian 834-3150.

MEN'S FORUM 2016/2017

President Jerry Janigian
Vice President..... Pete Moosoolian
Secretary Edward Saliba
Treasurer Harry Sadoian
\$30 /year to join – do not have to be a PACC member.

DORCAS GUILD

DORCAS GUILD PRESIDENT: Dianne Kassabian
January Chair: Kathy Jenanyan

JANUARY 7 SPECIAL LUNCHEON IS
HOSTED BY THE TABITHA CIRCLE

The TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY is beginning a new study called, "ONE in a million," by Priscilla Shirer. All ladies are welcome to join in at 10 a.m. in Room 6 of the Christian Education wing.



SECOND ANNUAL **Christian Women of First Street**

Save the Date: **April 6, 2017**

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



HAPPY BIRTHDAY... to the following individuals who have a birthday in January. "May you be blessed by the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth."

– Psalm 115:15

Alyssa Mosesian 1/8
Max Gulesserian 1/26



SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ON SUNDAY JANUARY 8

Preschool through 6th grade we are continuing to learn about Jesus - the early years of his life and his early ministry - AND have some FUN surprises planned for January – Details to follow.



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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is back in session for all children Preschool through 12th Grade. We invite you to join us each Sunday to grow in your knowledge of God's word.



Sunday School Teachers for 2016/2017

Nursery & Toddlers.....	Room 1	Carol Jones
Preschool/Kindergarten	Room 2.....	Jill Blanks
First/Fourth	Room 6	Robyn Jinkerson Mardeen Jones Connie Vazquez
Fifth/Sixth.....	Room 5.....	Dale Overbay Sr.
Junior High.....	Room 7.....	Karen Jaramishian Barbara Mazman
High School.....	FLC	Rev. Kevin Kasper

DON'T FORGET the Sunday School Hour starts at 9:45 with Praise Time in the Social Hall

POWERED BY GOD



We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.
2 Corinthians 4:7

YOUTH GO CART DAY AT THE OVERBAY HOME



Women's Bible Study Responds to AMAA "Stitched with Love"



On December 1, 2016, two large boxes filled with hats, blankets and warm jump suits were shipped to the AMAA Office in New Jersey for babies in Armenia.

Joy Torigian and Barbara Simonian were busy making hats and Angele Seberdjian and Margaret Gregory added blankets. In addition, Lucille Pilibos purchased blankets and warm jumpsuits to fill the boxes to the brim.

The outpouring of love is sure to be appreciated by the mothers in Armenia, who will be

able to keep their babies warm through the frigid cold months.

It's not too early to begin crocheting or knitting hats and blankets for next Christmas. If you would like the patterns, please contact Roseann Saliba or go on line at AMAA.org and enter "Stitched with Love".

Dear brothers and sisters,

Warm greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Today we had a Holy Communion and for the first time we used the new set of the Holy Communion that we received from your church as a gift.

Take our gratitude and many thanks for this gift.

Our church hall is the basement of the residential building, and on the first floor there is the office of Armenian Missionary Association of America. Now AMAA constructed and builds another big building where our Evangelical church will have more bright and large hall. We praise God and hardly wait until we move to that new building next year.

On the group picture you can see part of our group teachers and Sunday School teachers, in the middle you can see our pastor Rev. Hamlet Kyurekhyan, on his right side you can see me (Karen Manukyan) and on his left side it is Gregor Vardanyan (one of our brothers that gives Bible studies).

Thank you again, God bless you.

In Christ,

Karen Manukyan

ECA, Gyumri, Armenia

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karen.manukyan@amaa.am





3673 North First Street
Fresno, California 93726-6870

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MINISTERS

THE CONGREGATION

MINISTRY STAFF

Interim Senior Pastor, Rev Louis Paradise
Associate Pastor of Youth, Rev Kevin Kasper

YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Molly Corcoran
Alexander Jaramishian
Jason Davis
Claire Jaramishian

MUSIC STAFF

Director of Music, Oscar Luna
Organist, Faye DeLong

SUPPORT STAFF

Administrative Assistant, Marlene Wood
Part-Time Custodian, Joe Fischer
Wedding Planner, Sandy Avakian
Memorial Secretary, Kathleen Melikian

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator, Gene Kezirian
Vice Moderator, Cristel Tufenkjian
Scribe, to be determined
Treasurer, Patrice Ruble

COUNSELORS-AT-LARGE

Diana Mazman/Hal Avakian
Joe Soghomonian/
Johanna Soghomonian
Alex Jemanjian/Sonia Jemanjian

BOARD OF DEACONS

Chair, Karen Jaramishian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair, Alex Jaramishian

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Chair, Joy Torigian

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair, Gail Vartanian
Sunday School Superintendent,
Cathy Cholakian

DORCAS GUILD

President, Dianne Kassabian

FLC COMMITTEE

Co-Chair, Bobby Tutunjian
Co-Chair, John Tufenkjian

MEN'S FORUM

President, Jerry Janigian

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Chair, Doreen Fischer

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair, Cristel Tufenkjian

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair, John Eleazarian



CALENDAR OF *E*VENTS

PILGRIM'S P ROGRESS

January 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Sunday 9:30am Sunday School Teachers Prayer 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am WORSHIP 3:30pm Jr High Youth Group / 4:30pm Senior High Youth Group	Every Monday	Every Tuesday 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	Every Wednesday	Every Thursday	Every Friday	Every Saturday
JANUARY 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY HOLY COMMUNION PANTRY SUNDAY NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR NO YOUTH GROUPS	JANUARY 2	JANUARY 3 7:15-4:10pm FUSD, Conditions for Learning No Young Adults No Tuesday Morning Bible Study 6:30pm FLC Board Meeting, Denny's	JANUARY 4 7:15-4:15pm FUSD, Conditions for Learning 7:00am Men's Forum Breakfast	JANUARY 5 7:15-4:15pm FUSD, Tough Kids	JANUARY 6 7:00-4:30pm FUSD, Tough Kids ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS 7:00am TGIF Bible Study resumes	JANUARY 7 10:00 No Dorcas Guild Bible Study 11:00am Dorcas Guild, Armenian Christmas Potluck, Sponsored by Tabitha Circle, Social Hall
8 Celebration of Armenian Christmas Sunday School Resumes	9 10:00am Dorcas Guild Executive Board Meeting, Overflow Room	10 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study Resumes	11	12	13 7:00am TGIF Bible Study	14
15	16 MARTIN LUTHER KING HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSED	17 6:30pm Trustees Meeting, Library 7:00pm Deacons Meeting, Room 6	18 Pilgrim's Progress Articles Due 1:00pm Dorcas Guild Wednesday Circle Bible Study, Overflow Room	19	20 7:00am TGIF Bible Study	21
22	23	24 6:15pm Council Meeting, Overflow Room	25	26	27 7:00am TGIF Bible Study 11:00am Bible Study Leaders Meeting/Office	28 9:30am Founders' Day Preparation and Set Up
JANUARY 29 FOUNDERS' DAY LUNCHEON, 116TH Anniversary JOINT YOUTH GROUPS	JANUARY 30	JANUARY 31	FEBRUARY 1	FEBRUARY 2	FEBRUARY 3	FEBRUARY 4