

# PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



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

**February 2017**

Interim Pastor: Reverend Louis R. Paradise

If I said, “Tell me about February,” almost everyone would make the hit with Saint Valentine’s Day on February 14. A few would remind me about Ground Hog’s Day on February 2nd and one or two might point out that, sometimes lent begins in February. The school children would be excited about, “President’s Day” because, they get the day off from school! The reality is, the really big event is Valentine’s Day. (I think it is a specially rigged event between the ladies and the chocolate companies.) Tradition ties us to Saint Valentine’s Day.

The older traditions come up with at least three Saint Valentine figures over the years. No one really knows which one is the true Saint Valentine. It doesn’t really matter; a man believed in people in love and did his best to see that they were bonded in the eyes of God in that love. This is a noble gesture, considering that it cost him his life in at least one of the traditions.

When you check the Bible for, “Saint,” there are no references. When you check for, “Saints,” the references begin in First Samuel and run through Revelations. It is always plural; it is always about a group of believers who love God. Are you a saint? Are you one of the saints? My guess is, we are the saints.

The book of Acts obviously refers to saints as the body of believers gathered in Christ’s name. Luke uses the term to define the early Christian church. Does it define Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church, the church that gathers; the church that struggles? The church that is persecuted is identified as the saints. It does sound a lot like Pilgrim. We gather, struggle, take persecution and continue to press on, identifying ourselves with Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

This year as February comes rolling through; maybe we should start a campaign to take back Valentine’s Day. We could title it, “Saints Valentine Day” – the plural group being pushed and identified as believers in the love of God; the plural group who weathers persecution. The plural group united to bring Christ to a needy world.

Let’s take back February, “For All The Saints.” “For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who thee by faith before the world confessed, Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.” Be blessed with me this February and discover true unending love from God, the true saints of Valentine’s Day.

In Christ,  
Rev. Louis R. Paradise  
Interim Pastor



*Pilgrim Church has set up our website, [www.pilgrimchurch.com](http://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](mailto:office@pilgrimchurch.com) or by telephone, 229-2915.*

## MEMORIALS

A gift was given in memory of Jenanyan and Mosesian Families.

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## 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.

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## 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 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!

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## 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.

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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.

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## MEN'S FORUM 2016/2017

Attention Please:

Save the date and plan to attend because you are to be the guests on Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Dorcas Guild Luncheon. Social time is 11 a.m.; lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Mr. Al Perry, Director of the Central Valley Honor Flight. You must make reservations with Jerry Janigian (439-7910) by February 24.

## YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



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

— Psalm 115:15

Abigail Aller 2/1  
Cole Gulesserian 2/10  
Jonah Aller 2/16  
Lorelei Klomhaus 2/16

Jonathan Parvanian 2/17  
Matthew Parvanian 2/17  
Adam Garabedian 2/24

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### MIGHTY MEMORIZER - 2017

Mighty Memorizer begins on Sunday February 5th. It is not too late to sign up. See Teacher Cathy for details or call her at 285-5780.



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### SCIENCE SUNDAY: FEBRUARY 26

Teacher Dale, PACC's SCIENCE GUY will be doing ANOTHER GREAT Science Bible Lesson.



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### DON'T FORGET! SUNDAY SCHOOL EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:45

Deep Blue curriculum has something special for you. The lessons about God are REALLY COOL and there's ALWAYS something fun to do.



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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

SECOND ANNUAL **Christian Women of First Street**

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



*Dorcas Guild at Valley Teen Ranch.*

Dear Christmas Angels,

On behalf of all of our kids at Valley Teen Ranch I want to say a huge and special THANK YOU from the bottom of my heart for making our Valley Teen Ranch Christmas Parties sensational! As you can tell from the enclosed letters our kids are extremely thankful and blessed by your generosity.

Many of them have never had a Christmas gift that was wrapped with their name on it. We had such huge and meaningful Christmas parties with all the ingredients we put into it from the musical Christmas Band, to the homemade Christmas goodies, to the Christmas Story, to the pictures and then naturally the gifts!!!!

One boy told me he had never had a watch before. Another one said this is the first Christmas that he wasn't homeless and living in the street with his "family." Another one told me that his family doesn't celebrate Christmas so this was his first ever Christmas and he had no idea about the Christian Christmas Story. The list goes on and on!

It is my most favorite time of the year with our kids. To see them be so surprised, overwhelmed, happy and just like little kids makes my heart sing! We will never really know the total impact that we have on these kids at Christmas. YOU make it happen for us. I could never make it happen without YOU all!!!!

Enjoy their letters and please share them with your whole team so everyone knows how special this is to us. You can see the photo collage represents all of our groups: Group Home young men, Foster Care, Adoption, Transitional Living, Board and Staff. WE are all so very grateful.

Thanks again and know that we prayed for you at the end of all of our parties. The boys prayed blessings on you and major thankfulness for your kindness. If you could hear and see them pray it would melt your hearts, too. It's real and unforgettable!

Love, Hugs and Prayers,

Connie Clendenan, CEO Valley Teen Ranch

*P.S. You are so generous! Love having you on our team.*



## **Bass Lake Family Retreat 2017**

Sign-up now! This year's Bass Lake Family Retreat is scheduled for February 17-20. Come enjoy an extended weekend at the lake with your church family and our speaker, Chris Tozlian. Please contact Alexander Jaramishian if you have any questions.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Take our warm wishes from Armenia,

These days we are getting ready for New Year Eve, that is richly celebrating in Armenia. People buy all kind of food and gifts for each other. Just from January 1 we start to visit our relatives and friends. They visit us in their turn. So about three days we visit to our relatives, celebrate with them, give gifts and receive. That is an Armenian culture for New Year, and on 6th of January we celebrate Christmas with Armenian Apostolic tradition.

I know you also richly celebrate the New Year Eve and Christmas.

Thank you for all prayers and wishes for our church and my family.

God bless you more and more this coming year, may God give you happiness and health. Happy New Year and Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

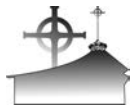
Karen, Liana, Eliza, Gevorg and Maria  
AMAA, ECA Gyumri

## **ARMENIAN CHURCH BASKETBALL LEAGUE**

begins February 26, 2017  
at the Goorabian Family Life Center







# February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			FEBRUARY 1 9:00am Dorcas Guild Setup, Social Hall 3:00-6:00 pm FLC Police Chaplain Community Outreach	FEBRUARY 2 DORCAS GUILD 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Fellowship 11:30am General Meeting/Luncheon, Speaker Armon Bacom Guests Armenian Home	FEBRUARY 3 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room	FEBRUARY 4 10:30am Tabitha Saturday Circle, Sandy Janigian's 11:00am-7:00pm Birthday / Retirement Fellowship Hall
5 9:30am Prayer 9:45am Sunday School HOLY COMMUNION MIGHTY MEMORIZER PROGRAM BEGINS No Youth group Sunday Fun Day Zoo Mobile	6	7 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	8 7:00am Men's Forum Board 3:00-6:00 pm FLC Police Chaplain Community Outreach 6:30pm FLC Committee Fireside Room	9	10 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room	11 FUND Fresno Urban Neighborhood Development 8:00am-2:00pm
12 9:30am Prayer 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am WORSHIP 3:30pm Junior High Youth Group / 4:30pm Senior High Youth Group DORCAS GUILD SUNDAY / FELLOWSHIP	13 10:00am Dorcas Guild Executive Board Meeting, Overflow Room Katah Baking Also	14 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	15 1:00pm Dorcas Guild Wednesday Circle Bible Study 3:00-6:00 pm FLC Police Chaplain Community Outreach	16	17 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room Bass Lake Family Retreat Speaker Chris Tozlian	18 FUSD 7:00am- 5:00pm Main Hall, Overflow Bass Lake Family Retreat
19 9:30am Prayer 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am WORSHIP The Congregation In Conversation Bass Lake Retreat No Youth Groups	20 PRESIDENTS' DAY OFFICE CLOSED PILGRIM'S PROGRESS ARTICLES DUE	21 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe 6:30pm Trustees, Library 7:00pm Deacons	22 3:00-6:00 pm FLC Police Chaplain Community Outreach	23	24 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Overflow 11:00am Bible Study Leaders' Meeting	25 FUSD 7:00am-5:00pm Mail Hall, Overflow
FEBRUARY 26 9:30am Prayer 9:45am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Marlene Reception Armenian Basketball League Begins 6:30 pm Old Night Movie	FEBRUARY 27 Dorcas Guild Make Losh Kebab 10:00am	FEBRUARY 28 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe 6:15pm Council Meeting, Overflow Rm	Ash Wednesday	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>PILGRIM'S PROGRESS CALENDAR OF EVENTS</p> </div>		



CHARLIE KEYAN  
ARMENIAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
invites you to join them for their 14th Annual

— ALL YOU CAN EAT —  
**CRAB DINNER**  
*Evening in Tuscany*  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Doors open at 6 o'clock | Dinner served at 7 o'clock  
Holy Trinity Armenian Church  
*Crab Dinner  
Auction & Live Entertainment*

THE ARMENIAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA  
CHILD & ORPHAN CARE  
LUNCHEON • CHILDREN'S FASHION SHOW • SILENT AUCTION  
**UNDER THE BIG TOP**

BENEFITING CHILD & ORPHAN CARE PROGRAMS IN ARMENIA & KARABAGH

 SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017   
11:00 A.M.

THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL  
CRYSTAL BALLROOM  
9641 WEST SUNSET BOULEVARD, BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA

DONATION \$100 R.S.V.E. BY MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup>



Armenian Theological Students' Aid  
**BANQUET**  
Sunday, February 19, 2017  
1:00 p.m.

Please join us for a delicious brisket dinner  
with all the trimmings – no cost  
**Guest Speaker: Harut Khachatryan**  
Youth Pastor, United Armenian Congregational Church  
**First Armenian Presbyterian Church**  
430 S. First Street, Fresno, CA 93702

For information: Edward Saliba (559) 907-8110  
Dr. Jason Keledjian (559) 301-1127

**GOOD NEWS  
IN THE VALLEY**  
www.fresnocityfest.org



**APRIL 1-2 SAVE MART CENTER FREE EVENT**

**DR. LUIS PALAU – World Evangelist & Author**  
For more than 50 years, world evangelist and author Dr. Luis Palau has been a powerful spokesperson for the relevance, reality and significance of Jesus Christ on communities, cultures, and nations around the world. His ministry has taken him to more than 75 nations, brought him face-to-face with royalty, heads of state, diplomats, and national leaders, and allowed him the opportunity to present a clear case for Christianity with more than 1 billion people through television, radio, print, and live events. In addition to his outreach through media, Dr. Palau has proclaimed the Good News of Jesus Christ in person to more than 25 million people and documented more than 1 million public decisions for Jesus Christ. He has authored more than 50 books on faith, has been a regular contributor to some of today's leading Christian periodicals and magazines, highlighted by leading secular media outlets worldwide, and has been heralded by many as one of the most influential Christian evangelists of the twentieth century.

**FRESNO CITYFEST WOMEN'S LUNCHEON**  
Speaker: World Evangelist, Luis Palau

Wednesday, March 29, 2017 • 12:00 p.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Fresno Convention Center | Valdez Hall  
702 M Street, Fresno, CA 93721

Please join in for a time of fun, encouragement, and blessing as world evangelist Luis Palau shares a message of redemption and hope. This is a unique opportunity to invite your friends to hear the clear Gospel message in a powerful and compelling way.

**ATTENTION PACC WOMEN**  
If you are interested in attending, please contact Roseann Saliba (559) 960-4100 as soon as possible, as space is limited. Tickets are \$27.50 if we fill a table of 10. Otherwise \$30/person.

**VARTANANTZ  
COMMEMORATION**  
Thursday,  
February 23, 2017  
First Armenian  
Presbyterian Church  
430 S. First Street, Fresno  
(559) 237-6638  
Joint Worship Service  
6:30 p.m.  
Civic Program: 7:15 p.m.



Speaker: Phil Tavlian, Esq.  
Presentation:  
Charlie Keyan Armenian School Children  
After the program, a full mezza will be served  
*Organized by*  
The Knights and Daughters of Vartan, Yeprad Tahlij and Alidz Otyag  
Participating Churches:  
Holy Trinity Armenian Church • Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church  
St. Mary Armenian Church, Yettam • St. Paul Armenian Church  
St. Gregory Armenian Church, Fowler • First Armenian Presbyterian Church



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/  
Johnanna 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