

# 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)

**May 2017**

Interim Pastor: Reverend Louis R. Paradise

I've been wandering around out on the internet looking at devotional materials that might help us grow as we approach the season of Pentecost, June 4, 2017 (Also Communion Sunday). What I stumbled across was a discussion as to whether or not a sermon should be focused on the lost and bringing them to Christ, or focused on teaching about Jesus Christ. I was dumbfounded; I would say neither.

From my perspective the sermon is an expose on the Word of God and what it is calling us to do in response to God's grace in our lives. A sermon may call us to accept Christ as our Lord and Savior, or it may call us to be involved in a Christian Education class, but it is more likely to have us live as if God's love for us will never spoil or fade; to be a people with glad and sincere hearts bringing that to a needy world; to be a people that are a, "royal priesthood." Worship, the context in which we find a sermon, is a time to ascribe worth to God who has blessed us, called us and enjoys the people of God as they sing praise, offer prayers and earnestly open their lives, individually and corporately to God.

Well this of course has made me wonder, should we review a little about the nature of worship and our reformed heritage? Perhaps a review of the call to worship, opening prayers and hymns, the prayer of confession would help us understand the meaning of our worship. Paul Stookey from Peter, Paul and Mary has a song with the line, "If you get the message you might confuse it, but if you get the meaning you'll never lose it." Do we know what it means to be the Body of Christ at worship? Do we understand the meaning?

In the, "Book of Common Worship," the basic movements for the, "Service for the Lord's Day" are very simple: Gathering, The Word, The Sacraments (when observed) and Sending. I had learned it in seminary as, Preparation, Proclamation and Response with the sacraments after the proclamation. Within each of these general movements lie specifics we can do to prepare or proclaim or respond. Let's think about the preparation for worship and gathering first.

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*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.*

Worship really begins with sunrise on the first day of the week – Sunday, or as I like to think of it, Sondag. This is the day Christ set the world free from bondage to any and all plagues of life. It is the day God declared sin had lost its hold on mankind – our sin was buried on Friday and a new life was born on Sunday. Sunday at sunrise we can openly commit ourselves fresh and new to God's loving grace. We can begin preparing to worship God.

Preparation continues as we pause for personal prayer; prepare our bodies as fragrant offerings coming to God's holy sanctuary. (Remember how the women were going with fragrant offerings to prepare Christ for the day? – So we do the same.) We prepare our hearts as we see fellow members of Christ gathering with us. Some of these family members we like real well, others, well... it's harder, but we are the Body of Christ gathering and we open ourselves to the great differences and joys we have as that body.

We prepare with music that helps move us from a regular day to a holy (wholly other) day. We're called together by God, offering hymns of praise and prayers or litanies of invocation or confession that we might be set right by God for the activity of worship. God's Holy Spirit comes and we are blessed in our worship

In May, we will focus on recovery after the Merchant's Luncheon; on Mother's Day; on Memorial Day Fellowship with our fellow A.E.U.N.A. church family. Prepare yourself. Come and receive the meaning of God's love for you. Let's see if we can find the Word of God and what it is calling us to do in response to God's grace in our lives. Worship in truth and life through Christ our Lord.

In Christ,  
Rev. Louis R. Paradise  
Interim Pastor

Please be on high alert – We have been told and have experienced in our own parking lot thieves, rascals and scoundrels that are targeting cars during church services and funeral services. While your trustees are debating what the best course of action is for our particular situation, you can help! **DON'T LEAVE ANYTHING VISIBLE ON YOUR SEAT, DASHBOARD OR REARBORAD THAT MAY BE AN ATTRACTIVE NUISANCE,** criminals might decide to smash, grab and run even if the item is of no real value (one man lost his gym clothes and bag!). Keep things out of sight when you park at the church!

## NEWS BRIEFS

**RECIPE BOOK REQUEST** – Pilgrim church office has been getting request for, “A Harvest of Recipes” cookbook dated 1901-2001, burgundy in color and if anyone would have one to donate to the church office it would be very much appreciated.

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### SAVE THE DATE!

This Fall’s **HARVEST BANQUET** is set for October 14, 2017 – Put it on your calendar now.

**FOUNDERS’ DAY 2018** will be a special banquet at Pardini’s – We have reserved space for 200 people – Come and join the memories January 27, 2018.

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**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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## MEMORIALS

A gift was given in memory of **Margaret Ellen** by Ara and Robert Shapazian.

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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.

## YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY...** to the following individuals who have a birthday in May.

*“May you be blessed by the Lord,  
the Maker of Heaven and earth.”*

– Psalm 115:15

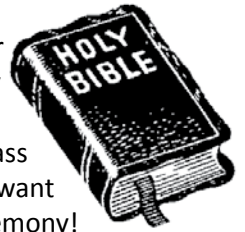
**Julia Branche 5/6**  
**Elliot Jinkerson 5/8**

**Daniel Olkova 5/19**  
**Pari Manoogian 5/20**

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### MIGHTY MEMORIZER - 2017

Make sure you learn ALL of your verses BY Sunday, May 14! Mighty Memorizer Sunday is May 21. We will be honoring our Mighty Memorizer Class of 2017 during the worship service and want to make sure you are part of that ceremony! Call Teacher Cathy at 285-5780 if you have questions!



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### KID’S T.I.M.E.

Join us each Sunday after Children’s Messge for a time of Bible learning, Bible games, crafts and special projects.



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### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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



#### Sunday School Teachers for 2016/2017

Nursery & Toddlers.....Room 1	..... Carol Jones
Preschool/Kindergarten ...Room 2	..... Jill Blanks
First-Fourth .....	Room 6..... Mardeen Jones
	..... Connie Vazquez
Fifth/Sixth.....	Room 5..... Dale Overbay Sr.
Junior High.....	Room 7..... Karen Jarmishian
	..... 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

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### 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



## Merchants Luncheon and Country Store: Your Help is Needed

Our May 5, 2017, Merchants Lunch/Dinner and Country Store is a time of great fellowship and fun and it provides a significant and crucial income to our General Fund.

Many have stepped forward to take on leadership roles, signed up to participate in the needed cooking/baking days and committed to take on one of the many event day duties necessary to make May 5 a great success.

For some, work and travel commitments prevent them from playing an active role in this church-wide effort. For others, regardless of their heart's desires, physical health or stamina simply prohibit them taking on the long days of activity associated with this very hands on venture.

We are again offering the opportunity to underwrite the preparation of the part of the event which is closest to your heart. Those who would like to donate in addition to their volunteer participation will have an easy avenue to do so. The covered expenses will result in an increased net profit for the Merchants Lunch which directly translates into more dollars in the General Fund.

As you can see, there are many components of the Merchants Lunch and Country Store for which you may wish to become an underwriting "angel." Please do give prayerful thought as to how you wish to help as your donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated.

Gratefully your brothers and sisters in Christ,  
The Merchants Lunch/Dinner  
and Country Store Committee

### COUNTRY STORE

As we prepare for our Merchants Luncheon I Country Store on Friday, May 5, 2017, we are requesting the following donations for the Country Store, such as:

- Pickles
- Tourshi
- Simit
- Breads (banana, apricot, zucchini, etc.)
- Cookies
- Pies
- Cakes
- Any other baked goods
- Jams and Jellies
- Crafts

Please deliver your donation to the church on Wednesday, May 3, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Thank you very much for your help and consideration. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and donation letters are available upon request. Call Dianne Kassabian, 285-0062 or Allison Karahadian, 269-9540, for more information.

# Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church MERCHANT LUNCH, DINNER & COUNTRY STORE

Friday, May 5, 2017 | Lunch: 11a-2p • Dinner 5-8p

Pilgrim's Famous Losh Kebab Meal • \$15

includes: Two Losh Kebabs with sauce, Pilgrim's Pilaf, Armenian salad, fresh Peda bread, Yalanchi and Armenian Bourma

Dine-In | Drive-Thru | Take-Out | Orders Now Being Accepted

Order for the Office! Order for Friends! Pilgrim's Famous Losh Kebab Meal LOSH KEBAB

## DELIVERY & TAKE OUT ONLY

Thursday,

May 4, 2017 - 11a-2p

Call the church office and place your delivery order

3673 N. First Street (between Shields and Dakota avenues) | Fresno CA 93726 | [www.pilgrimchurch.com](http://www.pilgrimchurch.com) | p 559.229.2915 | f 559.229.6431



# MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

**MONDAY** ★ **MAY 29 2017** 11am to 4pm

Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church and First Armenian Presbyterian Church

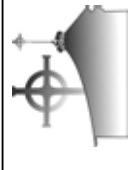
INVITE YOU TO...  
**THE BEST PICNIC... EVER!**  
WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S

★ FUN ★ GAMES ★ WATER SLIDES ★ CAKE WALK  
FACE-PAINTING ★ MUSIC ★ FELLOWSHIP

☞ \$5 per person *OR* \$20 family of 5

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION ★ CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE: (559) 229-2915 ★ 3673 N. FIRST STREET ★ FRESNO CA



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
<b>PILGRIM'S PROGRESS</b> <b>May 2017</b>	MAY 1 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	MAY 2 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	MAY 3 9:00am Dorcas Guild Set Up	MAY 4 No DORCAS GUILD Merchant Lunch Losh Kebab Delivery & Take Out 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	MAY 5 No TGIF Bible Study Merchant Lunch, Dinner & Country Store Lunch 11:00-12:00 p.m. Dinner 5:00-8:00 p.m.	MAY 6 FUND Fresno Urban Neighborhood Development 8:00am-2:00pm	
MAY 7 HOLY COMMUNION PANTRY SUNDAY 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am WORSHIP 3:30pm Jr High Youth 4:30pm Sr High Youth 7:00-9:00 Basketball	MAY 8 10:00am Dorcas Guild Executive Board Meeting, Overflow Room	MAY 9 10:00am Women's Tuesday Morning Bible Study, Library 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	MAY 10 7:00am Men's Forum Executive Breakfast	MAY 11 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room	MAY 12 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room	MAY 13	
MAY 14 MOTHER'S DAY Acolyte Elevation 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am WORSHIP NO YOUTH GROUPS 7:00-9:00 Basketball	MAY 15 7:15-4:15pm FUSD	MAY 16 7:15-4:15pm FUSD 10:00am Women's Bible Study, Library 6:30pm Trustees 7:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Young Adults	MAY 17 7:15-5:15pm FUSD 11:30am Dorcas Guild Wednesday Circle Bible Study, Overflow Room	MAY 18 7:15-4:15pm FUSD 7:00pm Bible Study, Saliba's	MAY 19 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room <b>Pilgrim's Progress</b> <b>Articles Due</b>	MAY 20 11:30am Tabitha Saturday Circle, Dianne Kassabian's Deacons Sanctuary cleaning 9:00-Noon	
MAY 21 Mighty Memorizer Trophy Sunday 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am WORSHIP 3:30pm Jr High Youth 4:30pm Sr High Youth 7:00-9:00 Basketball	MAY 22 7:15-4:15pm FUSD	MAY 23 7:15-4:15pm FUSD 10:00am Women's Bible Study, Library 6:15pm Council Overflow Room 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	MAY 24 7:15-4:15pm FUSD	MAY 25 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room Hoffman/Kalemkarian Rehearsal	MAY 26 7:00am TGIF Bible Study, Fireside Room Hoffman/Kalemkarian Rehearsal	MAY 27 Kalemkarian/Hoffmass Wedding	
MAY 28 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am WORSHIP NO YOUTH GROUPS 7:00-9:00 Basketball	MAY 29 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC</b> 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. With FAPC	MAY 30 10:00am Women's Bible Study, Library Summer Break? 7:00pm Young Adults, Kuppajoe	MAY 31 7:15-4:15pm FUSD	 <b>CALENDAR OF EVENTS</b> <b>PILGRIM'S PROGRESS</b>			



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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