

PILGRIM'S PROGRESS



3673 North First Street | Fresno, California 93726-6870 | p 559-229-2915 | f 559-229-6431 | pilgrimchurch.com

June 2018

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NERSES BALABANIAN

Summertime in Fresno

This is going to be our first summer in Fresno! We don't know what people usually do here in the summer but we are definitely looking forward to some "very warm" days. No problem. We will remember the dry, hot summers of our childhood in Syria.

Also, summer is graduation season. Congratulations to all those students who graduated! Receiving a diploma is a great feeling; it is an achievement that comes as a result of hard work.

This summer is also going to be a special time to go on a mission trip. Our youth and their chaperones will be heading out to Houston to extend a hand in the name of Jesus to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey. Also, another group from Pilgrim will be joining the AMAA Mission Medical Team to Armenia. Please remember to pray for these mission groups.

This summer some of our Pilgrim ministries will take a break but we are excited about another special ministry called Vacation Bible School. I wonder who will be the kids who will come to hear the message of the Gospel. Why don't you also consider helping us in this ministry?

In the Gospel of John we read that on his way back to Galilee after ministering in Judea, Jesus was **thirsty and hungry**. The events unfolded when his disciples went to find food and left him sitting at the well. Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman was remarkable. She came to get water but she left without water yet having found the **Living Water**.

Jesus was physically still thirsty and hungry. When his disciples came back with food to offer him, Jesus' answer made them rethink about life and priorities. He said: "My



food, is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work. Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, **open your eyes and look at the fields!** They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:34-35)

What kind of food is this? I believe although Jesus was thirsty and hungry, yet after his encounter with the Samaritan woman he forgot about his thirst and hunger. Reaching out to the deepest needs of that woman gave him true

satisfaction. Obeying His heavenly Father and doing His will was his first calling in life.

I admire Jesus. He had a **clear vision** about His mission. That kind of vision sustained him in all circumstances, good and bad. He knew that the harvest was around him and it was plenty, but he wanted faithful "workers" to reap the harvest. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Luke 10:2)

We all have ordinary jobs, positions or lifestyles. We all probably have ordinary summers. We will all face the dry weather of Fresno and feel the thirst it creates. We will search for water, cold icy water to satisfy our thirst. I hope the physical thirst will remind us to search for the **Living Water that only Christ can give**. That means my ordinary summer will be different this year. Like Jesus who did not lose his focus, we will have a **higher purpose** to live that **makes our ordinary summers extra-ordinary**. Let doing the will of our heavenly Father be our food, our real satisfaction.

As graduates, students, parents, or grandparents let us hear God's calling for our lives and let us obey His will. Have a blessed summer. May God bless you make you a blessing to others.

JUNE 10 – ANNUAL MEETING

The PACC Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 10, 2018 following morning worship for the purpose of electing the slate of candidates, receiving reports from church boards, committees and organizations, and other items that may pertain to the well-being of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church facilities and its ministry.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

By Moderator Cristel Tufenkjian

The May Council meeting included items related to the Annual Congregational Meeting scheduled for June 10. Nominating Committee Chair John Eleazarian presented the recommended slate of candidates that the Council unanimously endorsed. The Council was thankful for the thoughtful work the Nominating Committee put forth in filling the open positions on the Committees and Boards for the upcoming term. The Council also established the agenda and discussed the timeline for preparing the annual report and notification to the members. In addition to the annual meeting, Board of Trustees Chair Alex Jaramishian reviewed some of the facility maintenance occurring including the repair and painting of the sanctuary doors; repairs to the kitchen's walk-in cold box; repairs to a leak in the social hall roof; and the cleaning of water spots on the social hall windows. Bids are also being received for the construction of handicap bathrooms. During my research for our Founders' Day video, I learned about the vision and generosity of our members past and present that made our church campus on First Street a reality. Thank you to the Board of Trustees for your focus on the upkeep of our beautiful campus. If you would like to learn about Pilgrim's history and the building of our church campus, you can view the Founders' Day video at <http://www.pilgrimchurch.com/founders-day-video>.



Armenian Genocide Commemoration 2018
held at the Geocide Memorial, CSUFresno

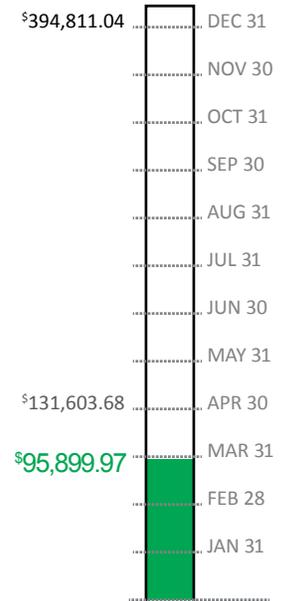
2018 Annual Giving Recap

*For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also.*

– Matthew 6:21



Shown is our total contribution income budget required for the year, 4/12ths of that budget required through April and where our contributions actually are as of April 30, 2018. In simple terms we are a month behind at this point in time. Our daily, weekly tithings are for the day to day operations of our church. We cannot afford to be a month behind in our own homes or our church home. In addition to our day to day expenses, our buildings are quickly becoming "senior citizens" and need repairs as well as replacements. Fund raisers such as Merchants Lunch help with the needed **unbudgeted** items but we will need to look for additional means of funding for these much needed expenses.



I encourage everyone to be guided by the word of God. He instructs us clearly in regards to financial matters. Our own as well as the matters of his church.

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. 1 Timothy 6:6-7 (NIV)

What we have has been given to us by God, including the gifts we have that put us in our employment to make money. We are stewards of the money we have been given. It's not ours, we're the managers.

The purpose of tithing is to teach you always to put God first in your lives. Deuteronomy 14:23 (TLB)

He doesn't get the left overs He gets the first. I know it can be difficult to follow biblical principles sometimes, there's always something that presents itself in our daily life. But when we do we reap a harvest that we have no conception of. We just need to surrender to Him and obey and watch what blessings He fills our lives with.

For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then the bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you. 2 Corinthians 9:10 (NLT2)

Thank you for all you do!

YOUTH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES



MIGHTY MEMORIZER CLASS 2018

Our Mighty Memorizers were honored and awarded trophies during the church service on Sunday May 20 for completing the 12 week Bible memory verse program for their grade. Congratulations Mighty Memorizers for a job well done! Pictured from left to right are Ruzanna Petrosyan, Elen Israyelyan, Katelynn Overbay and Milana Petrosyan. Not pictured are Ani Manukyan and Emilia Overbay.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY... to these individuals who have a birthday in June:

- Katarina Kezirian 6/1
- Samantha Petrosyan 6/10
- Elen Israyelyan 6/10
- Nadia Jones 6/21
- Tammy Petrosyan 6/24
- Emilia Overbay 6/30



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

– Romans 15:13

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SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR JUNE

- June 3 - Sunday School, 10:30 and Acolyte Elevation
- June 10 - Sunday School, 10:30 – Celebrating Me Sunday!
- June 17 - Sunday School, 10:30 –

Father's Day Celebration for our Dads in church; regular Sunday School ends for the summer

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL HOURS:

- 10:00-11:00: Sunday School for middle and high school; middle school meets in the Library; High School meets in the Family Life Center
- 10:30-11:30: Sunday School for toddlers through 6th grade; all students start in room 6 for the Bible lesson before going to stations
- 11:00: Worship service begins/nursery care available for Toddlers and Preschoolers
- 11:30-12:00: Enrichment- Preschool through 6th grade



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:



AMAA Medical Mission to Armenia

Student Summer Mission
Hurricane Relief Project



Youth Mission Trip to Houston

NEWS BRIEFS

Armenian Evangelical Union of North America (AEUNA) – The 24th Biennial Assembly of AEUNA and the 21st Convention of the AEYF are scheduled for June 28-July 1, 2018 at the Burbank Marriott Hotel, Burbank, California. For registration information: www.aeuna2018.com

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, Carol Forrest 431-2530, Alex or Sonia Jemanjian 579-8389, and Joe and Johnanna Soghomonian 834-3150.

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.

Pilgrim Church has a website, www.pilgrimchurch.com. It now is possible to download or read the "Progress" online. If you would like to receive the "Progress" via email, please contact the office at 229-2915, or email: office@pilgrimchurch.com.

SAVE THE DATE:
JULY 23-27-2018
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



2018 MERCHANT LUNCHEON

by Gary Eritzian, event chairman

I would like to thank everybody who helped make the Merchants Luncheon a success. The volunteers who worked the event, those who donated to underwrite the costs of the event, the Dorcas Guild ladies who helped make items for the Country Store, those who donated items to be sold in the Country Store, those who helped with the printing, marketing, and selling of the tickets and place mat ads, those who helped prepare food for the event, those who helped with the shopping, those who helped with the planning, and those who prayed for the event, and those who bought tickets.

The Merchants Luncheon was a great success but not just because of our sales. It was because we were able to work together as the Body of Christ to glorify God. While it was hard work and far from perfect, (yes, I already have a list of things to be done for future luncheons to help be more efficient), I was delighted to see everyone working together for the glory of God.

It was quite apparent during a large event like this, that each of us possess certain gifts that were given to us by God, and those gifts were used in unison to create a wonderful event which fed our neighbors, family and friends. We also shared with the public a bit of history of our church from the video that was produced for our Founder's Day celebration. We shared which ministries our church is involved with and what opportunities are available for people to plug into here at PACC. While we don't want or expect any earthly reward, recognition, or applause, we should rather direct any applause, thanksgiving, and praise to The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As it says in the New Living Translation of Ephesians 3:20, "Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Again, thank you to everyone involved with the Merchants Luncheon and praise God for His rich blessing upon us.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



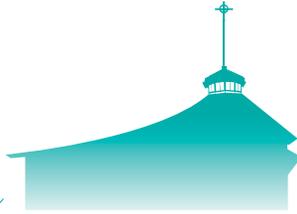
CALENDER OF EVENTS

June 2018

PILGRIM CHURCH

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>CALENDER OF EVENTS</p> <p>June 2018</p> <p>PILGRIM CHURCH</p>						
<p>10:00 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am WORSHIP/GRADUATION SUNDAY</p> <p>3:30-5:30 pm Youth Group (Summer Break Starts)</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00pm Young Adults, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Dorcas Guild 9:30am Luncheon Set Up</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Dorcas Guild 11:00 am General Meeting/Social Hall 11:30 am Luncheon Installation of Officers 2018/2019</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:00 am TGIF, Fireside Room</p> <p>7:00pm Young Couples' Night, Balabanian's</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10:00 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am WORSHIP</p> <p>Congregational Meeting</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00 am TGIF, Avakian's (Summer Break Starts)</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO HOUSTON, TX</p>						
<p>10:00 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School</p> <p>(Summer Break Starts for Elementary Sunday School)</p> <p>11:00am WORSHIP</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Pilgrim's Progress Article Due</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30 pm Trustees, Library</p> <p>7:00 pm Deacons, CE</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>7:00pm Bible Study, Saliba's</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO HOUSTON, TX</p>						
<p>10:00 am Adult Sunday School</p> <p>10:30am Sunday School</p> <p>11:00am WORSHIP</p>		<p>6:30 pm Council Meeting</p> <p>7:00pm Young Adults, Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. CE Committee, Library</p>			
<p>YOUTH MISSION GROUP Back in Fresno</p>						
<p>AEUNA'S BIENNIAL CONVENTION, LOS ANGELES, CA</p>						

PILGRIM
Armenian
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH



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2018 AEUNA's
24th Biennial Convention
LOS ANGELES

Revival
THROUGH
MISSIONS

June 28 - July 1 at Burbank Marriott

SPEAKER: Dr. J.P. Moreland **ACTS 1:8**

REGISTRATION: WWW.AEUNA2018.COM

MINISTERS

THE CONGREGATION

MINISTRY STAFF

Senior Pastor,
Rev Nerses Balabanian
Associate Pastor,
Rev Kevin Kasper

YOUTH MINISTRY

VOLUNTEERS

Alexander Jaramishian
Jason Davis
Claire Jaramishian

MUSIC STAFF

Director of Music, Oscar Luna
Organist, Faye DeLong

SUPPORT STAFF

Church Secretary,
Houry Sabiljian
Part-Time Custodian,
Joe Fischer
Wedding Planner,
Sandy Avakian

CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator, Cristel Tufenkjian
Vice Moderator, Ed Saliba
Scribe, Sue Moosoolian
Treasurer, Patrice Ruble

COUNSELORS-AT-LARGE

Carol Forrest
Alex Jemanjian/
Sonia Jemanjian
Joe Soghomonian/
Johnanna Soghomonian

BOARD OF DEACONS

Chair, Pete Moosoolian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chair, Alex Jaramishian

BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

Chair, Joy Torigian

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chair, Dale Overbay, Sr.
Sunday School Superintendent,
Cathy Cholakian

DORCAS GUILD

President, Dianne Kassabian

FLC COMMITTEE

Chair, John Tufenkjian

MEN'S FORUM

President, Jerry Janigian

MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Chair, Doreen Fischer

MUSIC COMMITTEE

Chair, *Vacant*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair, John Eleazarian