

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SISTER CHURCH IN GYUMRI, ARMENIA

The Church Is Called to Resistance

⁹After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰And they cried out in a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." ¹¹All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²saying, "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

¹³Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes — who are they, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵Therefore,

***"they are before the throne of God
and serve him day and night in his temple;***

***and he who sits on the throne
will shelter them with his presence.***

¹⁶***'Never again will they hunger;
never again will they thirst.***

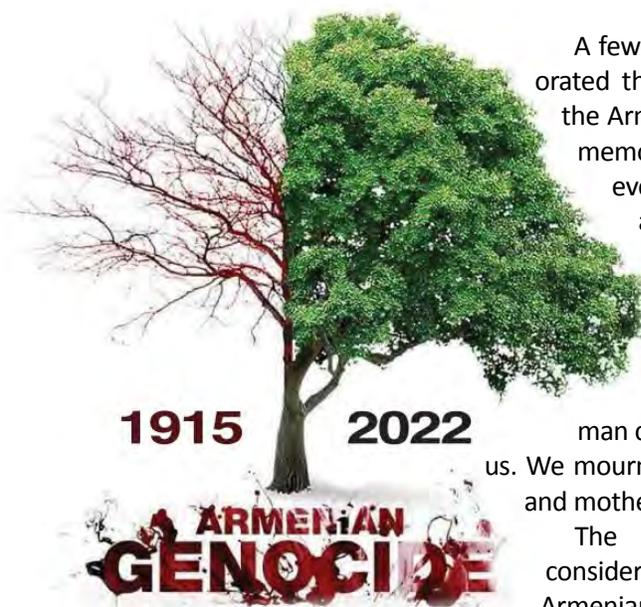
***The sun will not beat down on them,
nor any scorching heat.***

¹⁷***For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;***

***'he will lead them to springs of living
water.'***

***'And God will wipe away every tear from
their eyes.'"***

(Rev. 7:9-17 NIV)



A few days ago we commemorated the 107th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. In the memory and consciousness of every Armenian, this day is a symbol of our immeasurable national loss and grief. This day is the culmination of the pain and the experience of the inhuman crime committed against us. We mourn the loss of our fathers and mothers.

The Armenian Church considers the victims of the Armenian Genocide martyrs. They are martyrs because they were killed for their faith. They were killed

because they chose to die rather than deny their Christ-based faith. Our fathers and mothers are an example and witness of martyrdom for faith. This is a great lesson of faith for us.

Martyrdom is the daily life of the church. Martyrdom lies at the basis of the church. Martyrdom is the history of the church. The book of Revelation 7: 9-17 speaks of a victorious church standing before God. This passage tells us that the victorious church is the church of the martyrs, those who have ***"washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*** (Rev. 7:14b)

And what does martyrdom mean for us today in our quiet and comfy lives? For us today, martyrdom means resistance. In the Book of Revelation in the New Testament and in the prophecy of Daniel in the Old Testament, God calls His people to a life of resistance. We are called to resist the world. To resist sin, evil, ungodliness, injustice, distortion of truth, we are called to resist the enemies of God. And if the world attacks and persecutes the church, that means we resist. And thank God for that.

We are part of the Church of Christ and are called to remain in the mission of His church. And His mission is to resist evil and to obey God.

– Badveli Aram Babajanyan
Gyumri Armenia

PACC EVENTS OF 2022

New Year and Armenian
Christmas Sunday **January 2**

Joint Armenian
Christmas **January 5**

Dry Creek Service
Project (Youth)..... **January 22**

Broomball (Youth)**January 30**
at 8:30 pm

Founders Day
Sunday..... **February 27**

Vartanantz Commemoration
Thursday **February 24**
FAPC

Lent Season Bible Studies
Thursday nights**March 17, 24**
March 31 & April 7

PACC Church Retreat **TBD**

Dorcas-Men's Forum:
Love Song **April 7**

Palm Sunday **April 10**

Maundy Thursday..... **April 14**

Easter Sunday **April 17**

Genocide Commemoration
Gathering Sunday **April 24**

Mother's Day **May 8**

Memorial Day Picnic..... **May 29**

Graduation
Elevation Sunday **June 5**

Summer Student
Mission Trip **June 10-20**
Sneedville, TN

PACC Annual Meeting..... **June 12**

Biannual Meeting
Philadelphia **June 23-26**

Father's Day **June 19**

Vacation Bible School **July 31-
August 4**

Rally (Renewal)
Sunday **September 11**

Harvest Banquet..... **October 16**

Thanksgiving
Sunday **November 20**

Congregational
Budget Meeting **December 4**

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service **December 24**

Christmas Worship
Celebration Sunday ... **December 25**

MODERATOR'S REPORT

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope in your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

(Ephesians 4:4-6 - NASB)

If we all have the same Father, we all belong to the same family, and that family forms the body of Christ. Thus, we at PACC belong to a family. This month, we get to enjoy different aspects of God's great gift of the family.

By the time you receive this month's *Pilgrim's Progress*, we will have celebrated the rededication of the Goorabian Family Life Center and its refurbished playing surface in the basketball court.

We will celebrate Mothers' Day on May 8, in our morning worship service. Be there to enjoy a special celebration. In addition, our Young Adults, Homebuilders and Baby Boomers will get together within their groups for dinner during various evenings in May. Finally, we will enjoy an old-fashioned picnic (with cake walk and bingo) on Sunday, May 28, immediately following the worship service.

Our fellowship committee has been busy planning further get-togethers. They already scheduled a camping trip at Pinnacles National Park, south of Hollister, for everyone in the church who wants to come. This is now scheduled for October 28-30 (note the changed date).

Shared experiences like camping, hiking, dining, and simply being around others in our church family help to build and deepen our friendships. I hope everyone will be able to participate in at least some of these fellowship opportunities. I look forward to being with you and getting to know you better – and thereby know more about the body of Christ – in the coming weeks and months.

– By Moderator John Eleazarian



BAPTISM ANNOUNCEMENT

Sophia Grace Kojekian

Parents: Christapor & Laura
Geuvjehizian Kojekian

Godparents: Jordan & Nina
Yahnian

SUNDAY, JUNE 12 ANNUAL MEETING

The PACC Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, June 12, 2022**, following worship for the purpose of electing the slate of candidates, receiving reports from church boards, committees and organizations, and other items that pertain to the well-being of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church facilities and its ministry. **Plan to attend!**

SAVE THE DATE! OCTOBER 28-30

Church Camping Trip
Pinnacles National Park
Questions?

Scan the QR Code
or text Amy Bressette
559-696-5038



DEACON'S CORNER

What Does It Mean to be a Church Member?

What identifies one as being part of God's team, a part of the Body of Christ? Simply going to church occasionally or only to attend special events is not enough.

Being a believer and follower of Christ makes us part of the Body of Christ, and being a member of the local church declares commitment to God and His people. The more "committed" members in the church, the more secure and stable the church.

Communicant membership allows one the opportunity to help make key decisions affecting the church, the focus of which should be the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Membership in a church is about the Body of Christ coming together, under the authority of God, to share their faith, minister, edify and serve others, and to grow spiritually. It means a sense of community, belonging, connection, responsibility and accountability. As an ethnic church, Pilgrim Church also provides the opportunity to maintain and celebrate our roots.

Ephesians 4:11-16 teaches that God has equipped the local church with all of the people and tools that are necessary to do what God wants done. The people have the spiritual gifts, and the tools are found in the truths of the Word of God. Together, God uses these to grow His people spiritually and to teach them how to serve each other more effectively.

PACC Bylaws define the responsibilities of communicant Members as:

- (1) To be faithful to Christ and His teachings;
- (2) To attend regularly the services of the church, and to share in its organized work;
- (3) To contribute to the financial support of the church.

Active Members are those who, according to their ability, support the church life by faithful attendance at the services, and by regular contributions to its financial support, and by

participating in the life and work of the church. They may act and vote in all matters of the church and are eligible for office and membership on all Boards and Committees of the church.

Inactive Members are those individuals who because of their continued unresponsiveness to the obligations of active membership, are removed from active membership. If they have not shown interest in the church or have not contributed to the church for a period of two consecutive years shall be placed on the inactive roll, but only after faithful efforts have been made by the Board of Deacons to renew the member's interest in the work of the church.

Rick Warren, in his book "The Purpose Driven Life", outlines from Scripture how man was planned for God's pleasure (worship), formed for God's family (fellowship), created to become like Christ (discipleship), shaped for serving God (ministry) and made for a mission (evangelism). The purpose-filled Christian life can only be fulfilled by committing to be part of a local church and working to make it purposeful.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church or in renewing your commitment to the church, please contact Rev. Nerses Balabanian (559) 229-2915. Rev. Balabanian will provide you with more information and pray with you about your decision.

- Deacon Roseann Saliba



GRADUATION SUNDAY IS JUNE 5!



ATTENTION GRADUATES! Graduation Sunday is June 5. We would like to acknowledge the graduates during the worship service, and honor their accomplishment in a special booklet. To help us in this process, please complete the form below and submit a photo to the church office at office@pilgrimchurch.com by May 22, 2022.

Please Print

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME _____

FATHER'S NAME _____ MOTHER'S NAME _____

SCHOOL GRADUATING FROM _____ GRADE GRADUATING FROM _____

SCHOOL GOING TO _____

MAJOR WILL BE _____ MINOR WILL BE _____

An April to Remember

Fun & Fellowship – An Evening in the Courtyard: April 2, 2022

April 2nd marked the first gathering of the Young Adult, Home Builder and Baby Boomer groups all together in the courtyard of PACC. Under twinkling lights and music, eighty-five of us enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by our Men's Forum and participated in fun games... the best part was the fellowship we shared with one another. Stay posted for more gatherings and fellowship! If you would like to host or organize an event for one or all of these groups, please contact Amy Bressette (Young Adults), Mariam Israyelyan (Home Builders) or Shawn Kalemkarian (Baby Boomers).

– Karen Jaramishian



our relationship with Christ. The evening closed with Holy Communion and singing The Old Rugged Cross.

For all of us who attended, it was a reverent and meaningful evening drawing us closer to Jesus and reminding us once again of our Lord's great sacrifice for us.

– Paula Ganimian

Dorcas Guild & Men's Forum Easter Bag Generosity

Dorcas Guild members prepared bags of Easter goodies, gathered from donations provided by the Men's Forum. Anyone attending Sunday Easter service was encouraged to take a bag home to share with family and friends. Thank you!



Maundy Thursday Service: April 14, 2022



After two years, almost 100 people gathered in our church Social Hall on Maundy Thursday to commemorate the Lord's Last Supper. We worshiped the Lord with music and reverence. We enjoyed a Lenten meal in silence to take time to reflect on God's grace and mercy to us by sending His Son, Jesus, to take all our sins to the cross and die for us that we may have life eternal with Him.

After dinner our youth read from Luke. Badveli's message for the evening focused on the second criminal who died on the cross next to Jesus. The Scripture, taken from Luke 23: 40-42, reveals the following:

The second criminal knows the fear of the Lord: **"Do you not fear God?..."**

He confesses his guilt: **"And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds."**

He recognizes that Jesus is innocent: **"this man has done nothing wrong..."**

He asks for mercy: **"Jesus, remember me ..."**

He confesses Jesus' Kingship/Lordship: **"when you come into your kingdom..."**

The message seemed simple and concise, but so powerful. We were led to reflect on the words of God and

Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt: April 17, 2022



Armenian Genocide Remembered: April 24, 2022

On April 24 at 5pm we gathered in front of the Armenian Genocide Monument at the Fresno State University to commemorate the 107th anniversary of the Genocide. This was one of the weekend events organized to remember and honor our 1.5 million martyrs who were deported to the Der Zor desert and killed. Thanks to the Armenian Genocide Commemoration Committee (AGCC) for their efforts to put together such a meaningful gathering.

On April 21 at the City Hall of Fresno, we received a proclamation by the Mayor of the Fresno recognizing our Genocide and condemning Turkey for their ongoing denial. And on April 22, we gathered in front of the City Hall for the Armenian Flag Raising event.



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



PACC

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/	2 6:30pm Fruit of the Spirit women's Fellowship	3 10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room	4 7:00 am Men's Forum Executive Board Meeting 8:30-4:00 pm FUSD 6:00 pm High School College Bible 7:30 pm College Bible Study 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 5:30-7:00 pm William Saroyan Society Award Ceremony 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	6 7:00 am TGIF, Fireside Room 6:00 pm Junior High Bible Study	7 10:30 am Tabitha Circle, Library
8 MOTHER'S DAY 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship	9 10:00 am Dorcas Guild Executive Meeting, Library 6:30pm Fruit of the Spirit women's Fellowship	10 10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room	11 1:30-4:30 pm FUSD 6:00 pm High School College Bible Study 7:30 pm College Bible Study	12 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	13 7:00 am TGIF, Fireside Room 6:00 pm Junior High Bible Study	14
15 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/	16 6:30pm Fruit of the Spirit women's Fellowship	17 10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room 6:30 pm Trustees, Overflow Room 7:00 pm Deacons, Fireside 7:00 pm CE Meeting, Zoom	18 12:45 pm Dorcas Guild Circle, Overflow Room 6:00 pm High School College Bible Study 7:30 pm College Bible Study	19 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	20 7:00 am TGIF, Fireside Room 1:30-4:30 pm FUSD 6:00 pm Junior High Bible Study	21 3:00 pm Wedding
22 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/	23 Pilgrim's Progress Articles Due 6:30pm Fruit of the Spirit women's Fellowship	24 10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room 6:30 pm Council Meeting, Overflow	25 6:00 pm High School College Bible Study	26 1:30-4:30 pm FUSD 7:00 pm Young Adult Bible Study	27 7:00 am TGIF, Fireside Room 6:00 pm Junior High Bible Study	28
29 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 9:15 am Sunday School 10:30 am Worship/ MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE/GFLC ARE CLOSED	31 10:00 am Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room				

PILGRIM
Armenian
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

3673 North First Street
Fresno, California 93726-6870

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

In-person 10:30 am

Online at 10:30 am

On our website: pilgrimchurch.com

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Permit No. 41
Fresno, CA

**MEMORIAL DAY
PICNIC**

PILGRIM ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US

SUNDAY * MAY 29 2022 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP
WEAR CASUAL CLOTHES

THE BEST PICNIC... EVER!



LUNCH IS ON US

HOTDOGS, HAMBURGERS WITH CHILI BEANS, POTATO SALAD, CHIPS & DRINKS

*** FUN ***



*** CAKE WALK ***

*** BINGO ***



BACKGAMMON

Bring your backgammon board and play with friends!

*** MUSIC ***



*** FELLOWSHIP ***