

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NERSES BALABANIAN

## Father of the Family

Father's Day! I sometimes find it strange to have date in the calendar to honor our fathers or mothers. Aren't we called to honor them every day? The Bible teaches us to honor them not just one day but always.

Yet, there is a specific day when we remember our fathers in a special way. This is a day when we examine where we stand as fathers and where we stand as daughters and sons.

Here are Dad's favorite sayings:

- Go ask your mother
- Don't make a decision; just wait till I get home
- When I was your age...
- I used to walk to school in the snow...
- I'm busy right now

***"But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."***  
(Joshua 24:15)

This is a statement by the leader of a people. Notice it is a statement by Joshua about his own family. Enough is enough; it is time to take sides. Joshua takes the side of the Lord. But listen carefully, he makes his decision with his household, his family, his children. **We need fathers today who are leaders. We need fathers who are walking with the Lord, who learned fatherhood from our Father who is in heaven. Joshua was very affirmative.**

Decisions like this have two sides. A father who obeys his heavenly Father, and a family who is ready to listen to and follow the father's leadership.

### **A FATHER WHO OBEYS HIS HEAVENLY FATHER IS A SPIRITUAL LEADER AT HOME.**

No one can replace the role of a father in the family. A father who wants to lead his family spiritually should be obedient to his heavenly Father.



***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."*** (Prov. 1:7)

***"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."*** (Prov. 9:10)

Fathers, how much time do you spend in your relationship with our heavenly Father? An intimate relationship with our Father gives us wisdom and character.

Do your children see you as a man of prayer?

Do you pray with them? Do they know obeying God comes first in your life? Do they know giving to God from your income is a priority?

**Children need guidance.** The fear of God does not mean hiding from Him. No, it means loving, respecting, and worshiping Him with awe and adoration. We need to teach to our children who God is. We need to **teach God's character** to our children.

Joshua was first a leader in his household. I must start from my house. The greatest thing a father can pass on to his children is that God loves His creatures, and His creatures have disobeyed and have sinned. Therefore, we need to repent and seek God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Paul advises young Timothy.

***"He (the spiritual leader) must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?)"*** (2 Tim. 3:4,5).

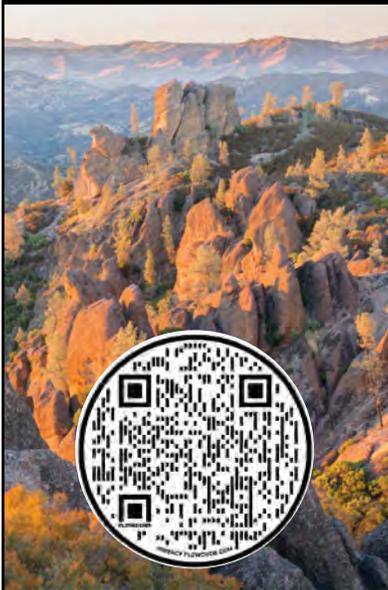
The point I am stressing is that the role of the father starts from home and continues in the church. He reminds young Timothy how he grew up learning the Holy Scriptures since his childhood. Fathers, I urge you, train your children and instruct them in the Word of God. **Train your children to think Biblically.** If you don't, "others" from the outside world will train them in their philosophy. Our children will face the world. They will go to school, they will go to college, but will go prepared.

*continued on next page*

## PACC EVENTS OF 2022

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

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**OCTOBER 28-30**  
 Church Camping Trip  
 Pinnacles National Park  
 Questions?  
 Scan the QR Code  
 or text Amy Bressette  
 559-696-5038



Harvest Banquet.....	October 16
Church	
Camping Trip .....	October 28-30
Thanksgiving	
Sunday.....	November 20
Congregational	
Budget Meeting.....	December 4
Christmas Eve	
Candlelight Service ....	December 24
Christmas Worship	
Celebration Sunday ...	December 25

## 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!**

## Father of the Family

*Continued from page 1*

### FATHERS, LEARN TO BE TEACHERS AND NOT PROVOKERS.

Paul says to the fathers of the Ephesians, "**Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**" (6:4)

Can we provoke our children? Yes indeed, we can. In one of his sermons, Rev. John MacArthur gives several ways we can provoke our children:

1. We provoke them by **overprotecting them**. Do you know that overprotection can become an idol? It might even indicate not trusting the Lord.

2. We provoke them by **favoritism**. I have seen this. You are better, you sister is better, and so on. This does not motivate you child, on the contrary, it agitates them.

3. We provoke them when we **set unrealistic goals**. Our children are often expected to perform beyond their limits. We do set high goals for them, but we might provoke our children when these goals become unrealistic. Such as playing "thousand" instruments, "thousand" sports, being involved in "thousand" activities and so on.

4. We provoke them when **we discourage them**. "Nothing can come out of you. You are a failure; you cannot do this." You think parents don't say these words?

5. We provoke them when we **do not allow them to grow up**. With the intention of helping them, we decide everything for them and do not give them any responsibilities. This will not

help them grow.

6. We provoke them when **we neglect them**. Many children are in this position. They do not have fathers who have the time to listen and care for their children.

7. We provoke them **when abuse them verbally and physically**. Sad stories are all over us. When we abuse our children, we destroy them.

Do you see how much **responsibility** we have as parents? It is not a joke to be a father or a mother. Unfortunately, sometimes we work so hard to be good providers, which is important, but we lose the most important thing, to be real fathers... **instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**" (Eph. 6:4)

### JOSHUA HAD A PLAN.

What was the plan?

He and his household did not just decide to worship God, **they decided to serve God.**

My last point is this. We educate our children; we help them to find Jesus; we lead to God's ways. Also, we serve together as family.

I enjoyed the days when all my family helped me to serve God. We could serve by singing, by helping a needy person, by working on a project in the church, by teaching in a camp....

There is joy in serving as a family. You are not alone. When the family is united it will endure hardships together. It will rejoice together.

**Fathers, we are called to be fathers, let us not forget to have daily relationship with our Heavenly Father. We are responsible to be a father at home, a leader who loves his household and directs his household in God's ways.**

Amen

## MODERATOR'S REPORT

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (Ephesians 10:24-25 – NASB)*

In the month of May we enjoyed several opportunities to come together as a family, both for worship and for fellowship. We began with a rededication of the Goorabian Family Life Center, then Mother's Day and dinners for the Young Adults and Baby Boomers. We are planning how to expand our fellowship groups to encompass even more of our parishioners. As I write this, I look forward to our Memorial Day picnic on Sunday, May 29.

In addition, we received seventeen new and returning members on May 15. I have been in this congregation over seventy years and I cannot remember a time when we welcomed so many members at one time. We also see many new faces in worship, which excites us all.

Sad to say, though, our Sunday worship services still have not reached the pre-pandemic levels we enjoyed. In other words, if you haven't been attending worship, we miss you. I know many of you no longer have the physical ability to attend regularly, but suspect – and hope – that many of you could be here in person, but have been enjoying the excellent podcasts of the service from the comfort of home instead. Please return in person. We need you!

As we start our summer vacation, the church's activities will change. We may suspend some studies and classes, but we will gain Vacation Bible School, and retain the ability to spend every day with our Lord in prayer and in His Word. I hope we also see you in church when you are in town.

– By Moderator John Eleazarian

## 2022 ANNUAL GIVING RECAP

*"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And thereby put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need." (Malachi 3:10 ESV)*

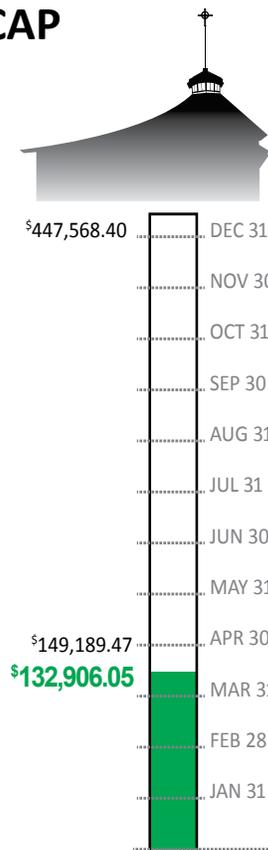
The graph indicates budgeted and actual activity for 2022. Total budgeted amount for annual contributions is shown. Also shown is the budgeted amount through April. The last amount shown is the actual contributions we have collected through the current month. For the first four months of the year to the end of April 2022 we have received approximately 89% of the budgeted amount. The last time I reported to you, two months ago, we were only at 59% of the budget. Praise to God our provider and protector.

I'm not sure about you but I have several relatives and friends who are dear to me but do not walk with Jesus. They are either non believers or were once believers who have fallen away or maybe just not walking very close with Him. I can relate to the latter. Each of them fill my life with love, joy, friendship and contribute to making my life here full and meaningful. Most of all I want to be with them in heaven. My dear friends in Canada have a tradition at their church. The first Sunday of the year they place an empty jar on the altar and each person writes names on a piece of paper of those non believers in their life that they will pray for to find Jesus. I think the idea is brilliant because they pray over that jar all year long. I have pieces of paper in the jar and it gives me hope that besides me there are others praying for my loved ones. Jesus it meant to be shared. Besides praying for our loved ones we need to share our experiences with them. Like how you were having an overwhelming day and God said "It's Bible study tonight, Patrice don't you think you should go?" And lo and behold it's a lesson about having too many kuftas in the air at once. God hears you, we need to listen, we need to obey and we need to share those God moments with others.

*"but in your hearts regard Christ the Lord as holy, ready at any time to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15 – CSB)*

*"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by people. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Your light must shine before people in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:13-16 – NASB2020)*

I have to have a song, especially because this one is new and therefore playing on every channel I listen to and it's great:



continued on next page

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIRTHS

**Ozzie Reiner Darakjian**

March 15, 2022

Parents: Gary & Allyson Darakjian

Grandparents: Hrant & Kelly Darakjian

**Presley Jane Black**

May 26, 2022

Parents: Jenna & Zac Black

and big brother Gavin

Grandparents: Rodney & Linda Gavroian

and the late Stacey Gavroian

Great Grandmother: Jackie Gere

Grandmother: Sharon Black and the late Philip Black

•••••

### WEDDING

**Rachel Boghosian & Adam Hunter**

May 21, 2022

Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Scott Boghosian

•••••

### WITH SYMPATHY

**We are deeply saddened by the passing of:**

**Antaram (Anta) Saroyan**

May 23, 2022

*Mother of Rob Saroyan*

***Well done, good and faithful servant.***

***You have been faithful over a little;***

***I will set you over much.***

***Enter into the joy of your master.***

*(Matthew 25:21)*

## Treasurer

*Continued from page 3*

*Who am I that the King of the world  
Would give one single thought about my broken heart?  
And who am I that the God of all grace  
Wipes the tears from my face and says,  
"Come as you are"?*

*You paid the price, You took the cross  
You gave Your life and You did it all with me on Your  
mind*

*— Treasurer Patrice Ruble*

Excerpt from "Me on Your Mind" by Matthew West, Jeffrey Thomas Pardo, Anne Catherine Wilson

## Children's Ministry Update

Dear Friends,

As we approach the final weeks of Sunday School classes for the school year, I am reminded of God's faithfulness to Children's Ministry. We wish to express our gratitude to the families who allow us a significant role in the lives of their children. We are privileged to be members of their church family!

Mother's Day was celebrated with a lesson from Ephesians 6:1-3, and all of the children (and some volunteers) created framed flower prints. The children participated in the worship service by handing out beautiful red roses to all of the women in attendance.

We concluded the in-depth study of the Gospel of John. Currently, we are midway a 4-week Sunday school curriculum, The Love of God. God's love is:

- L - long-suffering
- O - one-of-a-kind
- V - victorious
- E - eternal.

We were even successful in growing some sweet potato slips!

We think children are pretty amazing! More importantly is how much God values each and every child:

Matthew 18:1-5:

***At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"***

***He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."***

JUNE 6 IS THE FINAL DAY OF  
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

PLEASE JOIN US!

*— Melinda Eritzian, Children's Ministry Director*



# Congratulations 2022 Graduates!

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;  
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.  
(Proverbs 3:4-5)

## OLIVIA BRANCHE

Graduating from: Ayer Elementary School  
Going to: Terronez Middle School  
Father: Andy Branche  
Grandmother: Phyllis Branche



## TAHMINA PETROSYAN

Graduating from: Bullard High School  
Going to: California State University, Northridge  
Major: Biology  
Parents: Artem & Anna Petrosyan



## MICHAEL AVEDIS MAZMAN

Graduating from: California State University, Fresno  
Major: Economics  
Minor: Armenian Studies  
Parents: Mike & Barbara Mazman



## ELEN ISRAELYAN

Graduating from: Tenaya Middle School  
Going to: Bullard High School  
Parents: Misak & Jemma Israelyan



## SAMANTHA PETROSYAN

Graduating from: West Park Charter  
Going to: SDCC San Diego Christian College  
Major: Dental  
Minor: Biology  
Parents: Sedrak & Rhonda Petrosyan



## NATALIE THOMPSON

Graduating from: California State University, Fresno  
Degree: BS Finance  
Magna Cum Laude  
Valedictorian  
Employed: EECU  
Mother: Susan Avakian  
Grandmother: Marie Avakian



## DENNAH ERITZIAN

Graduating from: Mariners Pointe Private School  
Going to: California State University, Monterey Bay  
Major: Psychology  
Parents: Gary & Melinda Eritzian



## SOSSE BALOIAN

Graduating from: California State University, Fresno  
Major: History  
Minor: Armenian Studies



## TIFFANY TUFENKJIAN

Graduating from: Lipscomb University, Nashville  
Degree: Master of Science  
Major: Biomolecular Science  
Parents: John & Cristel Tufenkjian



## ARMINE ISRAYELYAN

Graduating from: Liberty High School  
Going to: Golden West College, Huntington Beach, CA  
Major: Nurse Practitioner  
Minor: Registered Nurse  
Parents: Sedrak & Mariam Israyelyan



## JULIA ERITZIAN

Graduating from: California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.  
December 2021  
Degree: BS Animal Science  
Parents: Gary & Melinda Eritzian



## CLAIRE HERON KOLIGIAN

Graduating from: Touro University  
Degree: Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, Master of Public Health  
Medical Residency: Valley Children's Hospital, Pediatrics  
Husband: Paul Koligian  
Son: Caleb Koligian  
Parents: Alex and Karen Jaramishian



## NICHOLAS MARIS

Graduating from: Central East High School  
Going to: Fresno City College  
Father: George Maris  
Mother: Ani Mardini



## VIVIEN HALEY

Graduating from: Salve Regina University  
Newport, Rhode Island  
Degree: Environmental Studies and Political Science  
Magna Cum Laude  
Mother: Stephanie Mann  
Grandparents: Joyce & Bob Kierejczyk



## PAMEE THIELMAN

Graduating from: The Graduate Center, City University of New York  
Degree: Ph.D. in Theatre and Performance  
Parents: Joyce & Bob Kierejczyk



## VIKTORIJA OLKOVA

Graduating from: Bullard High School-Early Graduate  
Going to: Fresno City College  
Major: Kinesiology  
Mother: Armine Olkova



**Sunday,  
May 15:  
17 New  
Members  
Join Pilgrim  
Family**

**Welcome!**



## **Goorabian Family Life Center Rededicated**



On May 1, we celebrated the rededication of the Goorabian Family Life Center (GFLC). With the newly refinished floor in the gym, it was the perfect time to renew the mission of the GFLC with our church family and friends of the gym. It is stated on the dedication plaque by Harry and Zabelle Goorabian, "It is our greatest hope that all who enter here will be encouraged in body and spirit, leaving with a strengthened sense of Christian commitment to serve our Lord in daily life".

We thank Badveli Nerses for the prayer of rededication and the many of you who attended the event. We enjoyed a "gourmet" chili dog lunch after the ceremony with the Pilgrim Church Kef band playing background music in the Kupp Joe. It was wonderful to have original committee members Carl Kassabian, Seth Atamian and Peter Moosoolian attend the event. The facility is being used throughout the week by about a dozen

groups including our Church youth and other Armenian Church groups. We gratefully remember Harry and Zabelle Goorabian and their committee for having the vision of providing such a wonderful facility. As the building ages, there will be upcoming needs to preserve this facility. If you are so

moved, please make your donation to Pilgrim Church and indicate that it is to be used for the Goorabian Family Life Center. Thank You!

*– The GFLC Committee,  
Rodney Gavroian, John Tufenkjian,  
David Emerzian, Michael Mazman,  
Vartan Vartanian*



**JUNIOR HIGH CAMP: JULY 10-16  
HIGH SCHOOL CAMP: JULY 17-23  
JUNIORS CAMP: JULY 24-30**

SUNDAY

MONDAY

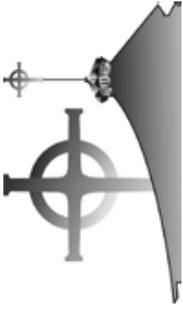
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



## PACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS June 2022

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**PACC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**JULY 31- AUGUST 4**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>9:15am</b> Adult Sunday School <b>9:15am</b> Sunday School <b>10:30am</b> Worship Graduation Sunday	<b>10:00am</b> Dorcas Guild Executive Meeting, Library	<b>10:00am</b> Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room	<b>7:00am</b> Men's Forum Executive Board Meeting <b>9:30am</b> Dorcas Guild Luncheon Set up, Social Hall <b>6:00pm</b> High School <b>7:30pm</b> College Bible Study	<b>11:00am</b> Dorcas Guild, General Meeting-Luncheon <b>7:00pm</b> Young Adult Bible Study	<b>7:00am</b> TGIF, Fireside Room <b>6:00pm</b> Junior High Bible Study	<b>10:30am</b> Tabitha Circle, Overflow Rm
<b>10:30am</b> Worship <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Dorcas Guild Executive Meeting, Library	<b>10:00am</b> Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room	<b>FUSD/All Day Event,</b> Social Hall/Overflow/Fireside/Court Yard <b>7:30 pm</b> College Bible Study	<b>7:00am</b> TGIF, Fireside Room	Youth Group Mission Trip,	<b>9:30am</b> Women's Breakfast, Fellowship Hall
<b>10:30am</b> Worship <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> <b>10:30am</b> Worship	<b>10:00am</b> Dorcas Guild Executive Meeting, Library <b>Pilgrim's Progress Articles Due</b>	<b>10:00am</b> Women's Bible Study, Overflow Room <b>6:30pm</b> Trustees, Overflow Room <b>7:00pm</b> Deacons, Fireside <b>7:00pm</b> CE Meeting, Zoom	<b>7:30pm</b> College Bible Study	<b>7:00pm</b> Young Adult Bible Study	<b>3:00pm</b> Piano Recital, Sanctuary	
<b>10:30am</b> Worship	Youth Group Mission Trip.	<b>6:30pm</b> Council Meeting, Overflow	<b>7:30pm</b> College Bible Study	<b>7:00pm</b> Young Adult Bible Study	AEUNA Biannual Convention, Philadelphia	

**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](http://pilgrimchurch.com)

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VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 31-August 4

**Created in Christ. Designed for God's Purpose.**

Spark Studios - Ephesians 2:10

Pilgrim Armenian Congregational Church  
Tuesday Morning Bible Study invites you to a

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST**

"Lord, What Do You Want Me to Do?" (Acts 9:6)

**Saturday, June 11, 2022 • 9:30-11:30 am**

PACC Fellowship Hall



GUEST SPEAKER

**Rev. Dr. CH. Lucy  
Der-Garabedian**

Retired Chaplain who served as US Army officer for more than 20 years. Her duty took her to Korea, Hawaii, Egypt, Iraq, Japan, South Carolina, Georgia, Michigan, Texas, Washington DC, and Virginia.

Do not miss the opportunity to meet the faithful servant of Christ and to hear her story as a testimony of God's faithfulness. Find out how God can transform your life.

**RSVP by June 7**

**Roseann Saliba 559-960-4100**

**or Sevan Balabanian 650-815-8680**

**Free-will donations accepted**