



IMMANUEL

ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY MORNINGS AND
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ENGLISH AND ARMENIAN SERVICE

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of IACC is to unite together believers in Jesus Christ for worship, prayer, instruction, fellowship, service and evangelism for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. The Church shall make the will of God, as revealed through the Holy Scriptures, preeminent in the lives of men individually and collectively.”

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THE CAUSE AND CURE OF CONFLICTS AMONG PEOPLE

In any community and any human organization, conflicts are inevitable to occur. It all began in the Garden of Eden where the first human pair lost their perfect peace and comfortable existence because they were tempted to choose a way of life that was contrary to God's plan for them.

Jean Baker Miller, a prominent psychiatrist, says that conflict begins at the moment of our birth. In other words, we are the cause of conflict. **Walt Kelly** was right when he said. **"We have seen the enemy, and they are us."** This often-quoted line is undisputably correct because it is in harmony with what the Bible teaches. The Apostle James asks, "What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from desires that battle within you?" (James 4:1).

In the following 2 verses, we get the answer, which is not very surprising. When unconverted and impenitent sinners desire to have what they don't possess, their covetousness and greed will cause squabbles and altercations. They will have no inhibitions for committing horrible and violent acts because their motivation is entirely selfish. They will grab, through illegal means, what others rightfully own, in order to provide instant gratification for their illegitimate desires and evil passions.

These innate impulses are demonstrated by little children who throw tantrums when their parents do not give them what they want, when they want it. In malls and grocery stores, you have probably seen rebellious kids screaming and kicking because their parents have shown resistance to complying with their unrestrained urges for buying candy or toys. I have witnessed such ugly scenes that have caused unwarranted embarrassment to parents.

Unfortunately, conflicts caused by human greed and the inordinate desire to attain power and influence, have been a part of the tragic history of our fallen human race. The result of a research study that was reported by the **Canadian Army Journal**, shows that since 3600 B.C., our world has known only 292 years of peace! The proven history of our world ought to be a warning to us that the current polarization and divisiveness that exist among individuals and nations could lead to unmitigated disasters.

Apparently, we cannot prevent conflicts from happening in our world, but we can keep them out of the church. In the remaining verses of chapter 4, of the Epistle of James, we are told what steps to take to avoid this nasty problem that is plaguing the world.

Submit yourselves to God (James 4:7).

The submission referred to here involves obedience to God's commandments, and an unwavering surrender of ourselves to God's will. We are encouraged to trust what God says as a little child trusts his/her parents.

The greatest challenge that Christians face today is to live in the world without being of the world. We have to exert every effort to influence the world without being adversely affected by its corruption and corrosive customs. It is always difficult to swim upstream and reject the adoption of worldly standards that are not approved by Jesus Christ. **Come near to God and He will come near to you (James 4:8).**

If you seek the Lord with all your heart and true sincerity, you will eventually find Him. He is not hiding from you; on the contrary, He is waiting patiently for you to return to Him in penitence and humility. Jesus has promised to never cast out those who seek His help.

Lynn Buzzard, who was Professor of Law at Campbell University, gives us judicious advice to help us resolve relational conflicts.

1. Control your feelings and prevent

them from exploding like a volcano.

2. State your concerns clearly to help your opponent take practical action to resolve the dispute.
3. Do not assume that you know all the facts surrounding the dispute. Never say that your position is totally right because such an attitude will block the road that leads to reconciliation. Be humble enough to accept some blame for the disruption of the relationship.
4. Refrain from doing all the talking. Give time to your opponent to explain his/her point of view. Listen carefully to the clarifications that the opposing party will make.
5. Do not cling tenaciously to all the evidence you have assembled that shows the other person is completely wrong. During an open and honest discussion, you may realize that some of your facts were mere assumptions.
6. Do not judge the motivation of the other party because that might bring the dialogue to an abrupt end.
7. Do your utmost to find a win/win solution that will be satisfactory for everyone involved. Never pursue a win/lose strategy because if the opposing party perceives that they gained nothing, the desired restoration of friendly ties would not be achieved.

At the height of the Civil War conflict, when President Abraham Lincoln was asked if he thought he might fail, he replied by saying, **"Without God, I cannot succeed; with God, I cannot fail."**

The Lord whom we worship and follow is called "The Prince of Peace" who admonishes us to be promoters of peace through the practice of unselfish love.. In 2 Corinthians 5:18, we are told that God, through Christ, has given us the **Ministry of Reconciliation**. The mission of all Christian believers is to help people be reconciled with God and with one another. Our primary goal ought to be replacing hate with love and dissension with unity.

Rev. George Terian, Senior Pastor,

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



Howdy Y'all. On May 11, 2024, I.A.C.C. held its Mother's Day Luncheon and this year, we featured a Western theme. The Church hall was decorated complete with a barn backdrop, hay bales, and a Chuck Wagon. As guests entered the hall, they were invited to find their "Cowgirl" name which they wrote on a sticker and proudly wore throughout the luncheon. Wanted posters of our Church ladies were posted all throughout the hall which featured hilarious "crimes" they were wanted for. There was also a large "Wanted" cutout where guests could take pictures of their own "wanted" sign.

The Luncheon was inspired by Proverbs 31:31 - *"Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."*

The luncheon began with Badveli Terian leading us in prayer and blessing the food. The ladies were then invited to "mosey over" to the Chuck Wagon to get some "grub", which consisted of BBQ chicken, tri-tip, baked beans, macaroni & cheese, coleslaw, and apple and peach cobbler for dessert.

Our program continued with Debbie Fermanian (our 2023 Mother of Year) who gave/recited a heart-warming devotional and poem dedicated to mother, Anoush Birebirian and mother-in-law, Violet Fermanian, who both passed away in 2023.

Next, Kayla Fermanian entertained us by singing a beautiful country-western song, *"Mama's"* by artist, Anne Wilson. Everyone was moved by the song and Kayla's beautiful voice.

The fun continued with a *"pass the gold nugget"* game where the guests learned some fun facts about the people at their tables. We also played our favorite luncheon game, B-I-N-G-O (or in keeping with the theme - "H-O-W-D-Y").

Door prizes and raffle prizes were plentiful and we had many happy winners!

The luncheon was a huge success thanks to all our guests, helpers, participants, sponsors, and donors. We hope to see everyone back again for next year's Mother's Day Luncheon.

With warmest regards,

Anoush Tchakalian
and Debbie Fermanian
Co-chairpersons, Mother's Day
Luncheon Committee



MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON



BIRTHDAYS



APRIL

Rosemary Saatjian
Souzi Baghdikian



MAY

Not pictured
Ed Kassabian



JUNE

Hrag Marganian
Levon Baroutjian
Not pictured
Araxi Sarchisian
Jean Beeson

WOMAN & MAN OF THE YEAR



On May 12, 2024, Souzi Baghdikian was voted as the Woman of Year.

Congratulations Souzi, well deserved!



On June 16, 2024, Parounak Minakian was voted as the Man of the Year.

Congratulations Parounak!

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC, MAY 27, 2024



MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC, MAY 27, 2024



VINTAGE CAR SHOW, MAY 27, 2024



JUNIOR HIGH/MIDDLE SCHOOL



AUDRA ROSE ARAKELIAN graduated from Salem Junior High and will be attending Crème Lutheran High School in Irvine, CA in the fall. She is the daughter of Ron & Kourtni Arakelian, granddaughter of Ron & Shelly Arakelian and Varus & Janet Kardashian, and great-granddaughter of Barabara Gasparian. Congratulations Audra!



VIOLET SEVANA DEBNAM graduated from El Segundo Middle School and in the fall, will be attending El Segundo High School. She is the daughter of Ashley and Jared Debnam, granddaughter of Dicky Dodd and the late Andrew Dodd, and Pete & DyAnne Keuck. Congratulations Violet!

CLASS OF
2024

HIGH SCHOOL



HARRY BAGRAMIAN JR graduated from Orange Lutheran High School in Orange, CA and in the fall will be attending Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. He is the son of Harry & Kimberly Bagramian, grandson of Mike & Kay Bagramian, Ron & Shelly Arakelian and, great grandson of Barbara Gasparian. Congratulations Harry!



LORI TERJIMANIAN graduated on June 7, 2024 from Shurr High School in Montebello. In the fall, she be attending University of California, Irvine and will be majoring in Environmental Science and Policy. Lori is the daughter of, Shahe & Houry Terjimanian, the granddaughter of the late Hagop & Anahid Terjimanian and Sossy Tikijian and the late Papken Tikijian. Congratulations Lori!

COLLEGE



KAYLA MONA FERMANIAN graduated from Biola University, La Mirada, CA on May 4, 2024 with a Bachelor's of Music Degree in Music Composition with a concentration in New Media, and a minor in Biblical Studies. She is the daughter of Armen and Debbie Fermanian, the granddaughter of the late Levon and Anoush Birebirian and the late Krikor and Violet Fermanian. Congratulations Kayla!



TYLER ARMEN FERMANIAN graduated on June 15, 2024 from University of California, Irvine with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science with a specialization in Intelligent Systems and a Minor in Informatics. He is the son of Armen and Debbie Fermanian, the grandson of the late Levon and Anoush Birebirian and the late Krikor and Violet Fermanian. Congratulations Tyler!



ALEXIS JACQUELINE TCHAKALIAN graduated on June 15, 2024 from the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a B.A. Degree in Psychology. She is the daughter of Leon and Anoush Tchakalian, granddaughter of Vahe and Chris Ashkarian, and Jacqueline Tchakalian and, the late Edward Tchakalian. Congratulations Alexis!

We will continue with our efforts to keep IACC's buildings and grounds looking their best. Our Lord and our congregation deserve it as do our visitors who come and praise Him with joy. Please keep an eye on your surroundings and contact the church office to let them know if you see any needed repairs.

To maintain the grounds and to beautify our Lord's house, the following items have been taken care of to date:

1. All bathrooms received new paint.
2. New paint striping in parking lot.
3. Rain gutter drain pipe on Sunday School building cleared and re-positioned.
4. New cement ramp for shed.
5. Sanctuary carpet and pews shampooed/cleaned.
6. New locks on cabinet doors in social hall.
7. 4 benches received new paint.
8. Various pew fastened and tightened.
9. Light switch replacement in one area in social hall and Sunday School building.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. Change vinyl flooring in Sunday School building hallway.

Board of Trustees Chair,
Sona Minakian



Dear Church Members:

Those of you who have been attending IACC for many years probably remember when the congregation moved from its Los Angeles location to its current address in Downey. It was, I am sure, bittersweet to leave your church home but there is joy in looking to the future, change and anticipation. The majesty of the structure and the memories made may have paled in comparison to the adventure of creating a new church home. This current structure is the result of changes to the front facade of the original building and an addition of the social hall; trees planted in the medium of the parking lot and then removed due to the damage caused by the tree roots to the cement. Improvements made to better suit our use and to beautify our surroundings.

As with all things, wear and tear give way to much needed repairs and even renovation. It takes careful stewardship to protect Christ's church and the many Councils that have served over the years are all too familiar with the need to repair. We can never lose heart about our church's needs and gratefully, when the time arose for expensive work, the funds in our Building Fund and the support of our congregation have stood tall.

Continuing to maintain our church is our joy and brings the vision of God not to us but through us. We must not waiver from our obligation to be good stewards but always remember that God expects us to take care of the building He has given us within which to worship and your continued support in that regard is vital. We appreciate all you do to support IACC and her existence and pray for your continued attention and support. Come see our progress!

Sincerely,
Rosemary Saatjian, Moderator

To strengthen the ministry of our church and to help nurture faith, stewardship and a deep sense of mission, we welcome the following gifts, with thanks:

EASTER DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian
Souzi Baghdikian
Levon Baroutjian
Garabet & Nadia Bogosian
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
David & Linda Gabriel
Barbara Gasparian
George & Linda Kardashian
Melik & Marlen Kumjian
Sona Minakian
Brian & Sharon Mequet
Sam & Norma Makhania
Todd & Rosanna Moreland
Patti Parrish
Sam & Ruth Proodian
Gayle Samarin
Sirarpi Stepanian
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HARRY HAMBARIAN

JoAnn Ohanesian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LILLIAN HAROOTUNIAN

Levon Baroutjian
Marie Birebirian
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian
Lynne Mushegain
JoAnn Ohanesian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GARO KHOJIKIAN

Levon Baroutjian
Marie Birebirian
JoAnn Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
Lorraine Sogomian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANAHID TERJIMANIAN

Souzi Baghdikian
Levon Baroutjian
Marie Birebirian
Lucy Deyan
Dicky Dodd
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Barbara Gasparian
Ed Kassabian
Alyce Mashikian
Sona Minakian
Todd & Rosanna Moreland
Patti Parrish
Rosemary Saatjian

MOTHER'S DAY DONATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF SARA KAZARIAN AND GLADYS CHITJIAN

Gayle Samarin

MOTHER'S DAY DONATIONS

Steve & Aida Ashkarian
Sue Boranian
Goharik Gabriel
Norma Makhania
Marianne Ohanesian

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON SPONSORS

Renee Agajanian
Marie Birebirian
Dicky Dodd
Barbara Gasparian
Lisa Khojikian
Norma Makhania
Sona Minakian
Rosanna Moreland
JoAnn Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
Rosemary Saatjian
Rev. George & Alice Terian

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON RAFFLE DONATIONS

Chris Ashkarian
Virginia Dergazarian
Debbie Fermanian
JoAnn Ohanesian
Patti Parrish
Gayle Samarin
Carolyn Sands
Anoush Tchakalian

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON RAFFLE PRIZE DONATION IN MEMORY HELEN TINDEL AND ZABEL KAZARIAN

Carolyn Sands

MOTHER'S DAY DONATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF ROSE KASPAROFF

Pat Kasparoff

DONATIONS

Rev. Vartkes & Samira Kassouni
Steve & Jan Kazarian
Hagop Ketenjian
Boghos Ketenjian
LaVonne Sherman

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC DONATION IN LOVING MEMORY OF HELEN TINDEL'S 105TH HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY

Robert & Carolyn Sands

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC RAFFLE DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian
Souzi Baghdikian
Coffee Werks/John Shahabian
Rosemary Cugno
Janeen Dinkel
Ed Kassabian
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian
Melik & Marlen Kumjian
Patti Parrish
Rosemary Saatjian

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian
Armen Aroyan
Levon Baroutjian
Barbara Gasparian
Patricia Kasparoff
Hrag Marganian
Tom Mushegain
JoAnn Ohanesian
Todd & Rosanna Moreland

CAR SHOW PARTICIPANTS

Pete Agredano
Bernie Alvano
Arthur Babigian, 1st place winner
E.J. Boranian
Vahn Bozoian
Jon Deyan, 2nd place winner
Sevak Karapetyan
Tom Kazarian
Melik Kumjian
George Melkonian
Richard Olivas

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PATTY MUSHEGAIN PELTZER

Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANNIE NOORIGIAN

Barbara Gasparian
Patti Parrish

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
BARKEV BAGHDIKIAN'S
HEAVENLY 115TH BIRTHDAY
Souzi Baghdikian

Women's Spiritual Fellowship

The women's monthly Bible Study is on summer break and will resume in September.

The Ladies Aid would like to thank Gayle Samarin, Liz Papazian and Dicky Dodd for working at the Memorial Day Picnic Pastry table. Setting up, getting the pastry ready to sell and pricing takes a lot of time. It's a group effort. Thank you so much. Also, thank you to all the ladies who donated pastries: Debbie Fermanian, Dicky Dodd, Patti Parrish, Rosemary Saatjian, Anoush Tchakalian, and Gigi Ajemian. If I have forgotten anyone, my deepest apologies.

*May God Bless You Always,
JoAnn Ohanesian, Ladies Aid President*

Chasing Eternity, Not Moments

Our church is set on a lifelong pursuit of Jesus, for He seeks not the fleeting devotion of a season but the steadfast love of a faithful church.

Our ancestors had no interest in pursuing Jesus with short sidedness, but wanted to love God with longevity.

Jesus is coming back not for a short-lived church. He's coming back for a faithful church.

It matters little to live with passion for a season, we must live with passion for a lifetime.

Wearmerchants

If you would like a newsletter mailed to your home, please contact the church office at 562-862-7012, or email at office@immanuelacc.org

The quarterly publication of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church.

The 2024 editorial staff includes:

Rev. George Terian
Debbie Fermanian
Rosemary Saatjian

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"Immanuel Church Downey"



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**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO
WELCOME YOU
TO IACC!**

We invite you to join us for in-person **Worship Service** on Sunday mornings from 11:00 am - 12:15 pm or on **Facebook**, "Immanuel Church Downey", live-stream English and Armenian Service