



# IMMANUEL

ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
SUNDAY MORNINGS AND  
LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK  
11:00 AM – 12:15 PM  
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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Dear Church Members & Supportive Friends,

Every year, on April 24, the Armenians of the world, solemnly observe a tragic event, the anniversary of the First Genocide of the 20th century, that happened during World War I, and is continuing today, through the Azerbaijan-Turkey alliance that ethnically cleansed Artsakh, known as Nagorno Karabakh, of its indigenous Armenian population, who had lived there for 3,000 years.

About 2 million Armenians perished in Eastern Turkey (Western Armenia) between the years 1894 and 1923. After the humiliating defeat of the Turkish Ottoman armies in Greece and the Balkan countries of Eastern Europe by freedom-seeking Christians, the Turks vent their anger by massacring the Christian minorities in Asia Minor and Anatolia. The campaign to exterminate the Armenians began during the bloody reign of Sultan Abdul Hamid II, who was nicknamed "The Red Sultan" because he had slaughtered 300,000 Armenians. After the ruthless Sultan was deposed by the so-called Young Turks, who attempted to stop the continuous decline of the once mighty Ottoman Empire, they resumed the massacre of Armenians in 1908, when they killed 50,000 Armenians in the province of Adana, in the region of Cilicia.

When the First World War broke out in 1914, the Turks continued their policy of annihilating the Armenians on a large scale by taking advantage of the turmoil that the war had created. Talaat Pasha, the Turkish Minister of War and the leader of the Young Turk party, admitted his government's criminal intent, when he said, "Turkey is taking advantage of the war in order to thoroughly liquidate its internal foes."

Henry Morgenthau, the US ambassador to Turkey, writes in his Memoirs, "What the Turks were doing was a carefully planned scheme to exterminate the Armenian race."

Aurora Mardiganian, in her book titled, "Ravished Armenia" describes

how she was raped and thrown into a Turkish harem where young Christian girls were kept to be used as concubines by high-ranking Turkish officials. Fortunately, she was able to escape and while fleeing from her tormentors, she saw 16 Christian girls who had been crucified, with nails driven through their hands and feet. Such horrible scenes were portrayed in the 1919 documentary film "Auction of Souls."



What is often overlooked is the fact that these genocidal massacres targeted, not only the Armenians, but also the Greeks and the Assyrians who had the misfortune of being Christian citizens of Turkey. Dr. Joseph Yacoub, an Assyrian historian, who was professor of "International Relations," at the Catholic University in Lyon, France, writes that besides the Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians were also massacred. Professor Yacoub says that the Turkish policy of ethnic cleansing by mass killings and cruel deportations was stirred up and fueled by Islamic fanaticism whose victims were the Christian minorities in Turkey.

Despite the overwhelming evidence provided by eyewitnesses, foreign diplomats, journalists, American and European missionaries, and archival documents, the successive Turkish governments since 1915 have consistently denied the historical reality of the Armenian Genocide. The Greek dramatist, Aeschylus, who

lived in 550 B.C., rightly says, "In war, truth is the first casualty."

More recently, in September of 2020, Azerbaijan attacked Armenia in Artsakh and was immediately joined by Turkey, whose President Erdogan admitted that the Turkish Special forces were directly involved in leading the battles against the Armenians. Once again, the barbarian Turks committed heinous crimes that were reminiscent of the Genocide of 1915. When they captured an Armenian female soldier, a mother of 3 children, they gang-raped her, chopped off her limbs, gouged her eyes and placed her severed finger inside her private parts.

The Genocide of the Armenians is still continuing. Aliyev, the dictator of Baku, continues to threaten Armenia with extinction, and the civilized world remains silent. "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil" (Isaiah 5:20).

Just as Abel's blood cries out for justice in Genesis 4:10, the souls of the martyred Christian Armenians raise the same demand today. The Lord will not overlook the guilt of those who promote injustice or encourage oppression.

A reminder to those who shout, "Never Again!" Well, genocidal massacres are taking place today, and God requires that people of integrity lend their support to the cause of truth and justice, and refrain from equating the victims with the perpetrators of violence.

Edmund Burke, the Irish philosopher says, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing." Do not contribute to the victory of evil by remaining passive and inactive. Let us not stop protesting against injustice.

If the Turks of Northern Cyprus and the Moslems of Kosovo have the right to self-rule and autonomy, then the Armenians of Artsakh should be granted the same privilege.

Rev. George Terian  
Senior Pastor

## Women's Spiritual Fellowship

The women continue with the study from the book, "*Joshua: The Journey of a Faith Walker*". The studies were led by Sylva Hekimian and Lisa Khojikian.

The final Bible Study that concludes this book series will be on April 6, 2024. Breakfast at 10 am followed by the study. The monthly Bible Study will resume in September.

## BIRTHDAYS

### JANUARY

- 7 - Baghdoo Khojikian
- 18 - Vahe Ashkarian
- 19 - Astrid Ashkarian
- 19 - Katherine Marcarian
- 31 - Pierre Deyan



### FEBRUARY

Parounak Minakian,  
Not pictured, Lucy Deyan



## CHRIST'S TEMPTATION

In desert's heat, Christ faced his plight,  
Three temptations, a cosmic fight.  
Satan whispered, "Turn stones to bread,  
Fill your hunger, ease the dread."

But Christ stood firm, his faith un-swayed,  
"No mere bread can souls be saved."  
Next, to the temple's lofty height,  
"Sway the crowds with a stunning sight."

Yet Jesus knew, true power lies,  
Not in spectacle or worldly ties.  
Lastly, atop the mountain high,  
"All these kingdoms, to you, I'll supply."

But Christ rebuked, with strength divine,  
"For God alone, my loyalty's sign."  
In wilderness, he stood his ground,  
In trials great, true grace was found.



# VAHE ASHKARIAN'S 93rd BIRTHDAY PARTY



On January 20, 2024, friends and family gathered at Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church (IACC) to celebrate the 93rd birthday of Vahe Ashkarian. Throughout the afternoon, favorite stories of Vahe were shared that brought much joy and laughter. The celebration was organized by Baghdo and Lisa Khojikian, long-time friends of Vahe & Chris.

Vahe has been an active member of IACC for over 70 years. Over the many years, he has served the Armenian Evangelical Community through the AMAA, AEUNA, and the Board of Merdinian School of which he was a founding member. He was also a founding member, along with Rev. Jirair Sogomian and Jim Kundakjian, of the Armenian Evangelical Social Service Center in Hollywood, CA to aid Armenian refugees. Vahe was also involved as a founding member of Camp Kessab in Wrightwood, CA, where Armenian youth were enlightened with faith, culture, and language. During the celebration, Zaven Khanjian, AMAA Executive Director/CEO, presented Vahe with a letter of appreciation from the AMAA.

Vahe and his family have been long-standing members of IACC. He has been very active in the church including being member on Council and Deacon for many years and heading the BBQ at the annual Memorial Day Picnics. He was also very instrumental in finding IACC's forever home in Downey, CA. Vahe has dedicated his life to the Lord and to his Armenian Community.

Vahe has been married to Chris (Paloutzian) Ashkarian for 64 years. Together they are blessed with five children, Anoush, Ara, Raffi, Steve, and Michael, and seven grandchildren.

The Ashkarian family would like to thank Bagdho and Lisa Khojikian for hosting this wonderful celebration, and to everyone for their heartfelt wishes.



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.

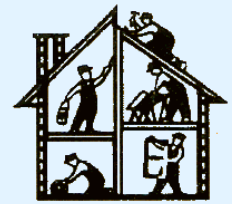
To maintain the grounds and to beautify our Lord's house, the following items have been taken care of to date:

1. New roof on Sunday School building.
2. Various areas on the church grounds repaired: benches secured, lights repaired/fixed, drain pipe repaired, floor plank repaired, restroom fan fixed, ceiling fan repaired, etc)
3. New paint on Sunday School building roof overhang following new roof installation.

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. All four bathrooms new paint.
2. Change vinyl flooring in Sunday School building hallway.
3. New paint on parking lot lines.

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





**PALM SUNDAY**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 24, 2024  
WORSHIP SERVICE, 11 AM

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024  
6:00 pm  
A light lenten supper will be served followed by communion

**EASTER**  
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2024  
WORSHIP SERVICE, 11 AM

The banner features a light blue background with a sunburst effect in the top right corner. It includes illustrations of a wooden cross with a white cloth draped over it, a chalice and bread, a white dove, and a nest of brown eggs. The bottom of the banner is decorated with green grass and white daisies.

## MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 11, 2024, 11:30 am  
Fellowship, Food, Fun, Raffle & Games!

Adult: \$35

Children under 12: \$20

Sponsor: \$100 includes 2 tickets + 10 raffle tickets

RSVP by May 3, 2024 to the church office at  
562.862.7012 or [office@immanuelacc.org](mailto:office@immanuelacc.org)



IMMANUEL ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

May 27, 2024, Monday

11:30 am - 4:00 pm

Lamb & Chicken Kebab Plates

\$25



RAFFLE, TAVLOO TOURNAMENT, BAKE SALE  
with ARMENIAN & AMERICAN PASTRIES

Presenting our first

## CAR SHOW



If you would like to enter your car,  
please contact Rosemary Saatjian at  
714.743.8660 or the church office at  
562.862.7012

9516 Downey Ave  
Downey, CA 90240  
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[www.immanuelacc.org](http://www.immanuelacc.org)



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:

## THANKSGIVING DONATION

Suzie Abajian

## AMAA CHRISTMAS JOY PACKAGES

Marshall & Marsha Zakaroff

## CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Nishan & Sonia Baghdikian  
Souzi Baghdikian  
Florine Bradley  
Rev. Joe & Suzie Matossian  
JoAnn Ohanesian  
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

## IN HONOR OF VAHE ASHAKARIAN'S 93rd BIRTHDAY

Steve & Aida Ashkarian  
Vahe & Chris Ashkarian  
Souzi Baghdikian  
Levon Baroutjian

Marie Birebirian  
Dicky Dodd  
Armen & Debbie Fermanian  
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian  
Steve & Lisa Kradjian  
Haig & Hilda Manjikian  
Alyce Mashikian  
Sona Minakian  
Todd & Rosanna Moreland  
JoAnn Ohanesian  
Patti Parrish  
Gayle Samarin  
Lorraine Sogomian  
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian  
Anahid Terjimanian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF LORRAINE AGAJANIAN

Art Agajanian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF HERMINE EKMEKJIAN

Levon Baroutjian  
Rosemary Saatjian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF PATTY MUSHEGAIN PELTZER

Patti Parrish

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF MAX & NELLIE SIMONIAN

Dennis Simonian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF GRANDPARENTS, JOHN & ZEVART KARAGOZIAN

Ted & Ann Sarafian

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF LUCY SCHLAUCH

John & Alicia Bair

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF HARRY & SARA GARO

John & Alicia Bair

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW DODD

Dicky Dodd

## GENERAL EXPENSES

Hagop & Cynthia Ketenjian  
Sam & Norma Makharian  
Richard & Gayle Moore

## WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK

Visit our website at [www.immanuelacc.org](http://www.immanuelacc.org) for up-to-date information.

Follow us on Facebook,

*"Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church" & "Immanuel Church Downey"*  
for Live-Stream



## Newsletter

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](mailto:office@immanuelacc.org)

*The quarterly publication of Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church.*

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Debbie Fermanian  
Rosemary Saatjian

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