

THE IMMANUEL

Messenger

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



OCT NOV DEC 2026

VOLUME 58, ISSUE 4

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PASTOR'S MESSAGE.....	Page 2-3
RALLY SUNDAY, FUNDRAISER.....	Page 4
WSF, SUNDAY SCHOOL.....	Page 5
SPECIAL COFFEE HOUR, DONATIONS.....	Page 6
BIRTHDAYS, BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS..	Page 7
CHURCH NEWS.....	Page 8 - 9
UPCOMING EVENTS.....	Page 10
THIS 'N THAT.....	Page 11 - 12

WORSHIP SERVICE

**SUNDAY MORNINGS AND
LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK**

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

ENGLISH AND ARMENIAN SERVICE

WHAT WE CAN LEARN FROM THE BOW AND THE ARROW



*“Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.”*

— PROVERBS 3:5-6 —

According to the Book of Proverbs, wisdom is one of God's most valuable gifts. Therefore, one of the wisest things we can do is earnestly seek this priceless treasure.

A careful reading of Proverbs 3:1–12 reveals the remarkable blessings associated with embracing God's wisdom and instruction. Among these are:

1. **Longevity and peace** (vv. 1–2)
2. **Favor with God and people** (vv. 3–4)
3. **Health and strength** (vv. 7–8)
4. **Provision and prosperity** (vv. 9–10)

What is particularly interesting is that the portion of Proverbs 3 we know and quote most frequently is not the section that speaks of peace, health, longevity, or prosperity. Rather, it is the passage that speaks of **guidance**:

*“In all your ways acknowledge Him,
and He will make your paths straight.”*

Certainly, trusting God rather than relying on our own understanding is of immeasurable importance. Yet, as we reflect on this familiar passage, let us not overlook the many other blessings that accompany a life shaped by God's wisdom.

As Christians, we naturally desire to discover and follow God's will. We seek His guidance because we recognize how easily we can be misled by the many competing voices, values, and di-

rections offered by the world around us.

Shawn McEvoy, director of editorial content for the Salem Web Network, uses the familiar relationship between a bow and an arrow to illustrate the importance of guidance, trust, alignment, and direction.

The Arrow and Its Bow

Consider some of the characteristics of an arrow:

- **Arrows point toward destinations.** They indicate a direction and suggest where one is headed.
- **Arrows show which way to turn.** We encounter them on roads, signs, and maps, helping us navigate unfamiliar paths.
- **Arrows are straight and narrow.** Their design is intentional, enabling them to travel toward a chosen target.
- **Arrows are sleek, efficient, and sometimes colorful.** Their appearance may vary, but their purpose remains the same.
- **Arrows are intended to hit a target, but they can miss the mark.** No matter how carefully aimed, an arrow does not always reach its intended destination.
- **An arrow cannot propel itself toward its target.** It requires a bow to launch it and give it momentum.

This last observation reveals something especially important: an arrow must be properly aligned with its bow. Without that alignment, its direction can be compromised, and its intended target may be missed. How beautifully this illustrates the words: “

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.”

An arrow does not determine its own course. It depends on the bow that launches it.

The Arrow's Dependence on the Bow

An arrow is completely dependent upon its bow to fulfill the purpose for which it was created. Without the bow, the arrow may be beautifully crafted, straight, and capable—but it cannot accomplish what it was designed to do.

In the same way, we may possess abilities, intelligence, experience, and ambition. We may have carefully designed plans for our lives. Yet, without depending on God, we can easily lose our direction or fall short of the purpose for which He created us.

The arrow does not launch itself. It does not rely on its own strength. It is released from the bow.

Likewise, we are called to place our trust in God rather than in our own understanding. When an arrow reaches its destination, how absurd it would sound for the arrow to boast about how it arrived there while completely ignoring the bow that launched it!

Yet, how often do we do precisely that? We celebrate our accomplishments, speak of our abilities, and take credit for our achievements, forgetting the One who gave us life, strength, opportunity, and direction.

“In all your ways acknowledge Him.”

Every accomplishment, every answered prayer, every open door, and every meaningful step forward should remind us of our dependence on God.

The Bow, the Arrow, and Our Relationship with Christ

The relationship between the bow and the arrow also brings to mind Jesus' words:

“I am the vine; you are the branches.”— John 15:5

The branch has no independent source of life. Its strength, nourishment, and ability to bear fruit come from remaining connected to the vine.

In much the same way, the arrow depends on the bow, and we depend on Christ. Jesus is the source of our spiritual life, strength, direction, and fruitfulness. Apart from Him, we cannot bear the fruit He desires to produce in our lives. A branch separated from the vine withers and eventually dies.. An arrow separated from its bow cannot fulfill its purpose. And a Christian who attempts to live independently of Christ will eventually discover the limitations of self-reliance.

Our lives are not meant to be guided solely by our own understanding, preferences, or ambitions. We were created to remain connected to our Creator, to trust His wisdom, and to allow Him to direct our paths.



A Final Reflection

The next time you see an arrow pointing toward a destination, perhaps it will remind you of God's promise to guide you. And when you see a bow, may it remind you of the One upon whom your life ultimately depends.

We may not always understand the direction God is leading us. We may not see the destination clearly. At times, His ways may seem unfamiliar, and His timing may test our patience. But our responsibility is not to understand everything. It is to trust Him.

For the arrow does not need to understand the wisdom of the bow. It simply needs to remain properly aligned and be willing to be released.

May we trust God with all our hearts, acknowledge Him in every aspect of our lives, and remain so closely connected to Christ that our lives may fulfill the purpose for which He created us.

Rev. Kevork George Terian,
Senior Pastor

RALLY SUNDAY & COMMUNION

September 20, 2026, Rally Sunday was a wonderful opportunity for our church family to come together, reconnect, and begin the fall season with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

As we gathered for worship, we were reminded that the church is more than a building, it is a family of believers who worship and grow together. Rally Sunday gives us a special opportunity to look ahead to the ministries and activities of the coming season and to consider how each of us can take part.

The celebration was made even more meaningful as we shared in Holy Communion. At the Lord's Table, we were reminded of God's grace, Christ's sacrifice, and the gift of forgiveness and new life we have through Him. Communion calls us not only to remember what Christ has done for us, but also to live out our faith in love and service to one another.

As we begin a new season at Immanuel, may we carry the spirit of Rally Sunday with us throughout the year. May we continue to worship together. We invite you to join us as we continue this journey together sharing God's love as a church family.

"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds." — Hebrews 10:24



SOLAR PANEL FUNDRAISER

Shining a Light on Our Future

Our church has embarked on an exciting journey and installed solar panels to create a more sustainable future for our congregation. We believe this project is an opportunity to be good stewards of the blessings God has given us while reducing our long-term energy costs. We raised some funds for this project, but are looking for partners in faith who believe that we should use the gift of light to power our church.

Every gift makes a difference. Whether you give \$25, \$100, \$500, or whatever you are able to contribute, your support will help bring this vision to life. Together, we can invest in our church, care for God's creation, and leave a brighter, more sustainable legacy for generations to come.

Join us in powering our church with the light of the sun and the generosity of our church family.

Give today. Share the vision. Help us shine!

For your convenience, you can give online through our website, www.immanuelacc.org, under the tab, "GIVE", or mail to IACC at 9516 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90240. Please write "solar" in memo. We thank you in advance for your support!

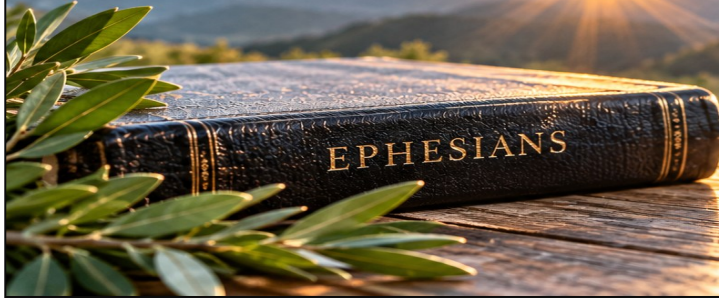


NEW Study Series

Ephesian's HEAD HELD HIGH

BY LORI WILHOTE

*The book of Ephesians is about identity.
It's about learning who we are,
living who we are, and then leveraging
who we are. When we do that, we stop
walking in defeat, and instead,
walk with our heads held high.*



10 am breakfast, followed by the study

DATES:

October 24, 2026
November 21, 2026
December 19, 2026
January 16, 2026
February 20, 2026
March 20, 2026
April 17, 2026

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Bible in Life Fall Curriculum is Based on Exploring God's Word together.

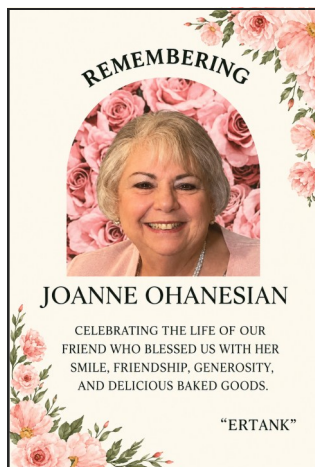
We are important to Jesus. Ask the Lord to remind you often that you are loved with an endless love. Just as the people in the Bible stories learn who Jesus is, our children and we as adults can explore how He shows His love through his actions and he can help us in our lives and we can trust him in all things today.

Our first story was based on John 1:43-49 Philip followed Jesus and became a disciple. Philip told his friend Nathanael that he had just talked with Jesus. He is the Son of God and he's here right now. Philip and Nathanael walked up to Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Nathanael you are a good man who loves God. I know you always always tell the truth." Jesus knows each of us. Let us wholeheartedly serve him each day.

Lisa Khojikian, SS Superintendent



IN REMEMBRANCE

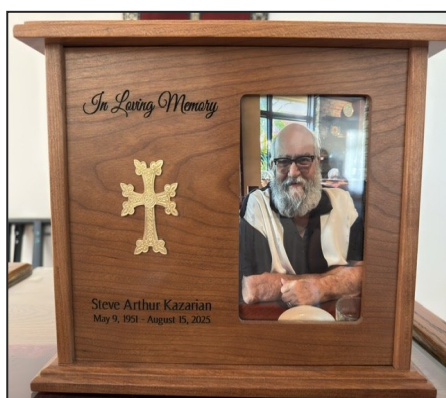


On July 5, 2026, Patti Parrish sponsored a special coffee hour was held in loving memory of our dear friend, **JoAnn Ohanesian**, in celebration of her heavenly birthday. Friends remembered her and honored the beautiful life she shared with so many.

On August 16, 2026, the coffee hour was sponsored by Jan and Ashley Kazarian in loving memory of their husband and father, **Steve Kazarian**. His family and the church family gathered to honor the meaningful memories of Steve. We are grateful for the opportunity to honor his life and the many ways he touched the lives of those around him.



Armen & Debbie Fermanian sponsored the coffee hour on July 19, 2026, in loving memory of parents, **Levon and Anoush Birebirian and Krikor and Violet Fermanian**. Family and friends gathered for fellowship and to honor their lives, cherish their memories, and celebrate the lasting impact they had on those who knew and loved them.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN THE UNITED STATES



On September 13, 2026, a special coffee hour was held in honor of **Baghdo Khojikian**, celebrating his 50 years in the United States. It was a joyful occasion marking this wonderful milestone and a time to celebrate Baghdo and this special chapter of his life with those close to him.

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

**IN HONOR OF
ALICE TERIAN'S BIRTHDAY**
Rev. George & Alice Terian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
CAROL NOORIGIAN**
Levon Baroutjian
Patti Parrish

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
HAROLD HEKIMIAN**
Souzi Baghdikian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
STEVE KAZARIAN**
Ashley Kazarian
Rosemary Saatjian

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PARENTS, LEVON & ANOUSH
BIREBIRIAN AND KRIKOR &
VIOLET FERMANIAN**
Armen & Debbie Fermanian

**IN HONOR OF
TODD MORELAND'S
HEAVENLY BIRTHDAY**
Rosanna Moreland

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
TODD MORELAND'S
SECOND YEAR PASSING**
Rosanna Moreland

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
PARENTS,
ANUSH & QUEENIE
KAZARIAN**
Janeen Dinkel

GENERAL EXPENSES
Rev. and Mrs. Ron Tovmassian

SOLAR PANEL FUNDRAISER
Levon Baroutjian
Janeen Dinkel
Patti Parrish

BIRTHDAYS



JULY

Alice Terian
Jim Surmeian
Sona Minakian



AUGUST

Patti Parrish
Kayla Fermanian
Tyler Fermanian
Talía Varjian
Janeen Dinkel
Julian Deyan



G



SEPTEMBER

Haley Surmeian
Debbie Fermanian



Not pictured: Houry Terjimanian

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome, Alina Julia!

We are delighted to announce the birth of **Alina Julia Marganian**, daughter of Vatche and Genesis Marganian, born on March 29, 2026. Alina is welcomed with great joy by her proud grandfather, Hrag Marganian and grandmother, Dolores Garcia.

Congratulations to the Marganian family on this precious new blessing! May Alina's life be filled with love, joy, good health, and God's abundant blessings.



Welcome, Adrian Aren!

We are happy to announce the arrival of **Adrian Aren Mulé**, born on July 11, 2026, to proud parents Alex & Ani Mulé. Adrian has made the family a family of four! He is doing great, and big brother Joey is already a wonderful big brother. Adrian is also welcomed with great joy by his grandfather, Hrag Marganian.

We celebrate this precious new blessing and pray that God will guide, protect, and bless Adrian throughout his life.



Church Family BBQ

On the afternoon of Sunday, August 23, 2026, Armen and Debbie Fermanian opened their home to our church family for a wonderful summer BBQ. It was a special afternoon filled with swimming, fellowship, and delicious food. It was a joy to see everyone spending time together and enjoying one another's company. We are so thankful to Armen and Debbie for their generous hospitality and for helping create such a fun and memorable day for our church family!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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. Solar panels with batteries were installed.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. Change vinyl flooring in Sunday School building hallway.

Board of Trustees Chair,
Sona Minakian

Special Guests Visit Immanuel Church

On August 23, 2026, we were pleased to have guests, Rev. Hendrik Shanazarian, Rev. Ron & Renee Tovmassian, D. Min., our Field Pastor worship with us, along with Henry, Ani, and Arevig Abadjian. It was a joy to share fellowship and worship together, and we are grateful for their visit and the opportunity to welcome them into our church family.



• UPCOMING EVENTS •



Thanksgiving SUNDAY AND LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 22, 2026

Worship Service | Luncheon
11:00 am | 12:15 pm

Traditional Thanksgiving Meal

\$25 per person
\$100 sponsor
(includes 2 meal tickets)

RSVP by November 15, 2026,
to the church office at 562.862.7012
or email at office@immanuelacc.org

Ladies Aid Annual Christmas Bake Sale

❄️ *Sweet Treats & Holiday Cheer!* ❄️

Come support our annual Christmas Bake Sale and stock up on delicious homemade goodies just in time for the holidays!

Sunday, December 20, 2026

Immediately following the worship service

Featuring:

Armenian pastries, cookies, breads, cakes, and more!

Proceeds will benefit the AMAA's
Children's Education Program,
supporting students in need and helping
provide a brighter future through learning.



Christmas Party & Potluck

December 6, 2026

Immediately following
worship service

Gift exchange
not to exceed \$20



Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church

Armenian Christmas Sunday and Communion

January 3, 2027
11 am Worship Service



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you ever wonder why it's called an Avenue or Street?

AVENUE - East ↔ West

STREET - North ↓ South

CRESCENT - Curved road

BOULEVARD - Wide, landscaped road

DRIVE - Scenic or winding road

ALLEY - Narrow pathway located between or behind buildings

WAY - Small, minor residential street that branches off a major road

PLACE - Short, narrow street that ends in a flat dead-end

COURT - Dead end, ends in a circular loop/cul-de-sac

CIRCLE - Roadway that loops entirely back onto itself or forms a

LANE - Narrow, quiet road

PARKWAY - Broad highway or scenic route bordered by parkland

ROAD - A general term for a route connecting places

TERRACE - A street with a slope or elevated area

From Our Kitchen to Yours

ZUCCHINI BREAD

By Rosemary Saatjian

3 eggs beaten

1 cup vegetable oil

2 cups granulated sugar

2 cups grated zucchini (2 med size)

2 cups flour

1/4 tsp baking powder

2 tsp baking soda

1 tsp salt

3 tsp cinnamon

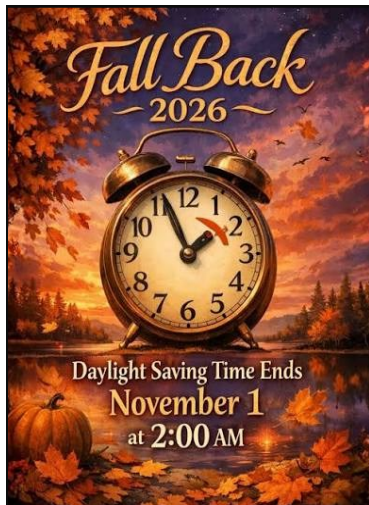
1 cup chopped walnuts

1 tsp vanilla

Blend oil and sugar. Add beaten eggs, vanilla and zucchini. Add dry ingredients. Add nuts. Bake in loaf pan (7.5" x 3.75") at 350° for 1 hour.

QUIZ *There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? Actually, there are 31 if you can find the variant of one Old Testament prophet's name, a variant that's used in the text of the King James Version (not as the title of a book, but in the text itself).*

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, *The Chronicle*, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view, hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.



Answer to the
previous newsletter
anomaly quiz.

Winner:
Sophie Terian

Answer key to the paragraph with the hidden Bible book names. The letters forming Bible book names are in bold highlight print.

This is **a most** re**mark**able puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu**lu, ke**eping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his **john** boat. Another friend studied it while playing his ban**jo, Elaine** Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it that she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend **judges** the **job** of solving this puzzle so involving, s**he brews** a cup of tea to help her nerv**es. Ther**e will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a **fact. S**ome people, however, will soon find themselves in a **jam, es**pecially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. **Truth**fully, **from** **ans**wers we get, we are forced to admit **it us**ually takes a minister or a scholar to **see** some of the **m at the w**orst. Research has shown that something in our **genes is** responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in this paragraph. During a recent fundraising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta **Phi le**monade booth set a new record. The local paper, The **Chronicle,** **s**urveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As **Daniel** Humana **hum**bly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." **Those** **a**ble to find all of them will hear great **lamentations** from those who have to be shown. One **revelation** that may help is that books like **Timothy** and **Samuel** may occur without their **num**bers. Also, remember that punctuation and spaces in the middle are nor**mal. A chi**pper attitude will help you com**pete** really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad **exodus**. There really are 30 books of the Bible lur**king** somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found. God Bless.

Note: Osee appears in the King James Version translation (often listed as KJV) of Romans 9:25 as a variant spelling of Hosea.

*The quarterly publication of **The Immanuel Messenger.***

The 2026 editorial staff includes:

Rev. George Terian
Debbie Fermanian
Rosemary Saatjian

For additional information or article submissions, please write to:

9516 Downey Avenue, Downey California 90240
(562) 862-7012

E-mail: office@immanuelacc.org
Website: www.immanuelacc.org

Our newsletters are emailed; how-
ever if you prefer it be mailed to
your home, please contact the
church office at 562-862-7012, or
email at
office@immanuelacc.org