



IMMANUEL

ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY MORNINGS AND
LIVE-STREAMED ON FACEBOOK

11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

ENGLISH AND ARMENIAN SERVICE



Sunday School welcomes your children with open arms! Join us every Sunday at 11:00 am for faith, fun, and friendship. We would love to have them!

Blaise Pascal, a French philosopher from the 1600's, is often quoted as saying, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every person which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator." Pascal is saying that our happiness in the year ahead will not come simply through financial success.

Have you heard the story of the Medieval king who fell into a very serious depression? Nothing could lift up his spirits. His servants tried everything—music, dancing, court jesters, lavish banquets — nothing seemed to help him. Finally, an old, wise man came to the king with an unusual piece of advice: "O King, if you can obtain the shirt off the back of a truly happy man, you yourself will be happy."

Upon hearing those words, the king ordered his army to search the four corners of his realm and bring him the shirt off the back of a truly happy man. Weeks passed, then months. Finally, his soldiers returned. "O King, after many days and much searching, we found a truly happy man, but your Majesty, the man was not wearing a shirt!"

The moral lesson of this story is that we shall never find real joy in life through the acquisition of more things. Peace, joy and contentment can be found only in Jesus.

A. W. Tozer, another prominent theologian said this: "The widest thing in the universe is not space; it is the potential capacity of the human heart. Being made in the image of God, it is capable of almost unlimited extension in all directions. And one of the world's greatest tragedies is that we allow our hearts to shrink until there is room in them for little besides ourselves."

Jon Daniels, a Baptist preacher says, "One of the chores that I enjoy doing is washing my car. I like to see that dirt disappear. I like to see the shine of a freshly washed car. I like to shine up the tires, make the chrome sparkle, clean all the fingerprints and dog nose prints off the windows. After I finish washing it, I park it in front of house, then stand at a distance and admire the finished product."

Unfortunately, the car doesn't stay that way for a long time. Once it is driven, dust gets on it. If you go through a puddle, mud gets splattered on it. Fingerprints and dog nose prints show up again. Road grime gets back on it and soon it will need a fresh washing again.

We are like that. We drive our lives through the streets of life. The dust of sin settles on us. We go through the puddles of temptation instead of going around them. The tar of disobedience sticks to us. We need

a fresh washing again.

The prophet Isaiah said it this way: "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." Then he goes on to say, "If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best from the land." – Isaiah 1:18-19.

Receiving spiritual blessings throughout the coming New Year is contingent on our close walk with Jesus, our blessed Savior. The Apostle Peter writes in his first general epistle that one of the purposes of Jesus' coming to our world was to demonstrate for us how to live, so that we may emulate His example and walk in His footsteps (1 Peter 2:21). Just as religious teachings that are not in harmony with the Gospel are false, in a similar way, a life that does not conform to the pattern left for us by Jesus is a misdirected life that needs to be re-adjusted.

May you experience real joy and find fulfillment as you choose the Lord Jesus to be your trustworthy friend and only reliable guide.



Celebrating Rev. George Terian's 85th Birthday

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, our church joyfully celebrated the 85th birthday of Rev. George Terian. It was a special blessing to have his brother, Dr. Abraham Terian, join us for the occasion and serve as the guest speaker during the Worship Service. We are grateful for Rev. Terian's faithful ministry and for the meaningful message shared in honor of this milestone. May God continue to grant him strength, joy, and many more years of service.

Thanking Alice Terian for Her Faithful Service

On the same day, the congregation offered a heartfelt thank you to Alice Terian in recognition of her dedicated service to the church. Her commitment, warmth, and leadership have been a blessing to our church family and community. We are deeply grateful for all she has contributed and continue to hold her in our prayers with gratitude.



BAPTISM

On November 29, 2025, the Khojikian and Sohrabian families and friends celebrated the baptism and first birthday of Vahan Edwin Baghdassar Sohrabian, son of Shawnt and Anoush Sohrabian. It was a blessed occasion for the family. We extend warm congratulations to his parents and grandparents as we join them in praying for Vahan's growth in faith and love.



AEUNA Luncheon

On Sunday, October 19, 2025, IACC hosted an AEUNA Luncheon, bringing members and guests together for an afternoon of fellowship, food, and shared mission. A delicious meal was enjoyed while learning more about AEUNA's ongoing work. Proceeds from the luncheon were forwarded to the AEUNA.

Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon

On Sunday, November 24, 2025, our church family gathered for the Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon, enjoying a blessed time of fellowship, gratitude, and celebration. Following the Worship Service, members and friends came together to share a delicious meal lovingly prepared and served by our dedicated ladies.

Timothy Ketenjian entertained guests with beautiful music, accompanied by Sam Ketenjian, creating a warm and uplifting atmosphere. Lisa Khojikian offered a thoughtful devotional, reminding us of God's abundant blessings and the importance of a thankful heart.

The program was enriched by special contributions that added to the joy of the day. Jim Surmeian was the Master of Ceremonies, Pastor Miguel Cerna gave the opening prayer, Baghdo Khojikian led the singing, Rosemary Saatjian, Church Moderator, gave remarks and Rev. George Terian gave the closing remarks and benediction.

The luncheon provided a meaningful opportunity to strengthen our church community and reflect together on the many gifts we have received. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated, volunteered, and attended, helping to make this annual gathering a memorable and inspiring celebration of thanksgiving.



Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas Potluck Party, held on December 6, 2025, was a wonderful time of celebration and holiday cheer. Church members and friends gathered to share an abundance of delicious homemade dishes, creating a festive table that reflected the warmth and generosity of our church family.

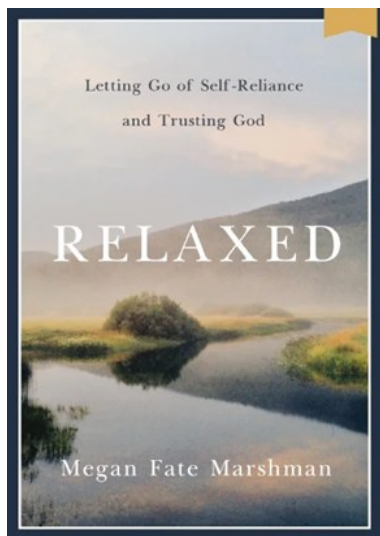
A highlight of the celebration was the gift exchange, which added excitement and smiles. Pierre Deyan was honored and recognized for his continued service to IACC.

This cherished annual tradition reminded us of the joy of our church community and the true spirit of Christmas—coming together in love, gratitude, and fellowship. We are thankful to everyone who participated and helped make this event such a memorable and joyful occasion.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Spiritual Fellowship



You're invited to the **Women's Monthly Bible Study**.

Join us as we continue a season of fellowship, faith, and friendship!

Enjoy a breakfast at 10 am followed by the study.

We continue the series by Megan Fate Marshman, based on her book, "Relaxed".

Let's grow together in God's Word and lift each other up in love and prayer.

BIBLE STUDY DATES, 10:00 am—12:00 pm

January 24, 2026

February 21, 2026

March 28, 2026

April 25, 2026

May

(no study due to

Mother's Day Luncheon)

BIRTHDAYS



OCTOBER

Marlen Kumjian
Marie Birebirian
Rev. George Terian
Tom Kazarian



NOVEMBER

Armen Fermanian
Rosanna Moreland
Steve Ashkarian
Barbara Gasparian

*Not pictured:
Melik Kumjian
Chris Ashkarian*



DECEMBER

Dicky Dodd



Women's Spiritual Fellowship Bible Study
and Christmas Party, December 20, 2025



Ladies Aid Annual Christmas Bake Sale
December 21, 2025

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

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. Large social hall/narthex windows repaired: new frame replaced rotting wood.
2. Ceiling in choir room repaired and painted.
3. Blinds in the social hall repaired.
4. New storage shed installed.
5. Pew in sanctuary repaired.
6. Plumbing in Sunday School building restroom tended to.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. Change vinyl flooring in Sunday School building hallway.

Board of Trustees,
Chair, Sona Minakian



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:

IN LOVING MEMORY OF NORMA MAKHANIAN

Patti Parrish

IN LOVING MEMORY OF STEVE KAZARIAN

Jan Kazarian
Ashley Kazarian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF VARTKES KETENJIAN

Boghos Ketenjian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANAHID TERJIMANIAN, ANDREW DODD, DEAN, & ZAVEN KHANJIAN

Dicky Dodd

IN LOVING MEMORY OF BARKEV & ARAXI BAGHDIKIAN

Nishan & Sonia Baghdikian
Souzi Baghdikian
Steve & Sylva Hekimian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GRANDPARENTS & GREAT GRANDPARENTS, MATTHEW & ELIZA HAROOTUNIAN, PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, JOHN & ANN GARABIDIAN, AUNT & GREAT AUNT, LILLIAN "EC" HAROOTUNIAN, AND SISTER & AUNT, LYNNE GARA- BIDIAN-MUSHEGAIN

Jesse, Marcy, Jon, Jace & JJ
Sahagian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF PARENTS, MAX & NELLIE SIMONIAN AND GRANDPARENTS, ALEX & HELEN HAMBARIAN

Denis Simonian

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALBERT & VIOLET KARAGOZIAN

Ann Karagozian

DONATIONS

Gabriel Container/Ron & Goharik Gabriel
Rev. & Mrs. Vartkes Kassouni
Violet Lorenzen
Sam Makhanian
Rosanna Moreland
TFT Foundation
Rev. & Mrs. Ron Tovmassian

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY'S

Rosanna Moreland

REV. GEORGE TERIAN'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

Marie Birebirian
Alyce Mashikian
Patti Parrish
Rev. George & Alice Terian

FOR PRAYERS FOR SON, GEORGE NERSISIAN

Mary Nersisian

DONATION FOR JUNK REMOVAL

Rev. George & Alice Terian

THANKGIVING DONATIONS

Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Ron & Goharik Gabriel
Alyce Mashikian
Sam & Ruth Proodian
Gayle Samarin
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON SPONSORS

Alan & Karen Arzoian
Souzi Baghdikian
Levon Baroutjian
Marie Birebirian
Dicky Dodd
Barbara Gasparian
Hagop & Cynthia Ketenjian
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian
Melik & Marlen Kumjian
Alyce Mashikian
Sona Minakian

Patti Parrish
Rosemary Saatjian
Rev. George & Alice Terian
Shahe & Houry Terjimanian

THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON MONETARY DONATIONS

Janeen Dinkel
Barbara Gasparian
Patti Parrish

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS

Suzie Abajian
Steve & Aida Ashkarian
Levon Baroutjian
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Barbara Gasparian
Rev. Joe & Suzie Matossian
Sona Minakian
Rosanna Moreland
Patti Parrish
Sam & Ruth Proodian
Gayle Samarin
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian

AMAA CHRISTMAS JOY PACKAGES

Astrid Ashkarian
Vahe & Chris Ashkarian
Levon Baroutjian
Lucy Deyan
Pierre Deyan
Janeen Dinkel
Dicky Dodd
Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Barbara Gasparian
Rosanna Moreland
Patti Parrish
Leon & Anoush Tchakalian
George & Marsha Zakaroff

FOR GRANDSON, VAHAN SOHRABIAN'S, BAPTISM

Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian



From Our Kitchen to Yours

Herriseh

1 cup gorgot (Armenian barley)
1 whole chicken
Chicken broth (from pot of boiled chicken)
1 cube butter or margarine
1 onion, chopped
Salt to taste

Topping:

1 cube butter or margarine
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon cumin (optional)

Wash gorgot really well and place in roasting pan. Boil chicken until cooked. De-bone and skin it. Cut or shred chicken into pieces. Cut onion into small pieces. Add chicken, onion, salt, and butter to gorgot. Add 2 cups water and chicken broth from boiled chicken pot. Bake at 375 degrees for 3 hours (covered). Check water level every 30 minutes. If water looks low add hot water. Mix with wooden spoon and then remove from oven. It should have a pasty, watery look. Blend with an electric blender on low speed until it looks like oatmeal. Melt all topping ingredients together. Serve in bowl with drizzled topping.

Health Corner

For Healthy Living

Fight the Flu and Influenza by eating the right foods especially during the WINTER Season.

- (1) **Citrus Fruits** : Oranges, tangerines and grapefruit are a rich source of Vitamin C which stimulates the production of white blood cells that fight against infections in the respiratory system.
- (2) **Sweet Potatoes** are a rich source of beta-carotene that increases the immune response of our body.
- (3) **Beans** are a rich source of zinc which prevents the disfunction of our immune system.
- (4) **Nuts, Walnuts and Pecans** support the growth of T cells that fight against germs.
- (5) **Yogurt (Madzoun in Armenian)** has anti-inflammatory properties.
- (6) **Salmon and Sardines** provide Vitamin D that fortifies the immune system of our body. Jennifer McDaniel, a nutritionist says that a study done recently shows that people who were deficient in Vitamin D were more likely to contract COVID-19.
- (7) **Garlic & Turmeric** enable our immune system to function more effectively. Make sure to add these spices to whatever dishes you cook.

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.

CALENDAR

Jan 4, Sun	-	Joint Worship Service, Armenian Christmas
Jan 11, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am Council Meeting, 1:30 pm
Jan 18, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Jan 24, Sat	-	Women's Bible Study, 10 - 12 pm
Jan 25, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am Annual Congregational Meeting, following service
Feb 1, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am.
Feb 8, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Feb 15, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Feb 21, Sat	-	Women's Bible Study, 10 - 12 pm
Feb 22, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 1, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 8, Sun	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 15, Sun	-	Worship Service
Mar 22, Sat	-	Worship Service, 11 am
Mar 28, Sun	-	Women's Bible Study, 10 - 12 pm
Mar 29, Sun	-	Palm Sunday Service, 11 am. Ladies Aid Bake Sale

Our newsletters are emailed; however if you prefer it be 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 2026 editorial staff includes:
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Debbie Fermanian
Rosemary Saatjian

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