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The Spring Season is a time of joy and celebration because it marks the transition from the grip of Winter's cold to warmer weather and increased sunlight that makes trees bud and flowers bloom. The whole landscape comes back to life after being dormant during the dark winter days. For this reason, many cultures have Spring Festivals that represent the renewal of life. The Persians and the Kurds celebrate their New Year on March 21, which is the date for the Spring Equinox when the daylight hours equal the nighttime hours.

For Armenians, the arrival of Spring brings back to memory the tragic events of 1915, when the Ottoman Turks ruthlessly massacred a million and half Armenians. Taking advantage of the chaos created by the First World War, the leaders of the Young Turks executed their preplanned diabolical plan to ethnically cleanse Western Armenia and Cilicia of their indigenous populations through genocidal massacres and forced deportations,

Prior to His crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples, "You shall mourn and weep while the world rejoices" (John 16:20). He meant that His followers would experience deep sorrow at His death while the world celebrated, but their pain and suffering would later turn into profound and lasting joy through His resurrection.

The Armenians' experience was similar to that of Jesus' first disciples. We suffered, bled and died while the Turkish people celebrated our demise. Every year, at Springtime, instead of organizing celebratory festivals, we hold protest

marches and conduct solemn memorial services as we mourn the loss of our compatriots, and the loss of our historic lands where our ancestors had lived for four millennia.

All the successive Turkish governments have added insult to injury by denying the heinous crimes that



their kinsmen had committed by distorting and falsifying the historical facts. All our attempts to seek justice through the international courts have so far failed because we don't have the financial resources and the political power to influence the world's shakers and movers who, unfortunately, are interested only in pursuing their selfish interests.

History repeated itself on September 20, 2023, when we lost Artsakh, another important slice of our historic homeland through the shameful betrayal of our so-called "strategic ally" who had, through a signed treaty, pledged to defend Armenia if and when the country was attacked. The tragedy is compounded by the fact that our allies not only did not lift a finger to help us, but they had also lent material support to our perennial enemies.

"Woe to him who trusts in man" is derived from Jeremiah 17:5 that

states those who place their trust only in human strength would be utterly disappointed. During World War I, we naively believed that the Christian countries would rush to help us or at least would intervene to stop the bloody massacres. We displayed the same naivete when Azerbaijan and Turkey attacked Artsakh and ethnically cleansed it from its original inhabitants. Once again, Armenians were forced to leave their homeland and become refugees. Suffering has become, not only our fate, but also the identifying badge of our tiny nation.

It is an undeniable fact that, throughout the centuries, we have endured many losses, including the loss of 90% of our homeland, but we have not lost our Christian faith and national identity. Prior to and during World War I, the Ottoman Turkish butchers told our forefathers that the only way to avoid getting massacred and deported was to renounce their Christian faith and embrace the Islamic religion. Our brave forefathers tenaciously clung to their Christian faith by remembering Jesus' warning in Matthew 10:28, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; instead, fear Him who can destroy both body and soul in hell." Their devotion to Jesus exceeded their love for material and earthly treasures. They preferred to die as Christian Armenians to living unmolested as Moslem Turks.

True Christians, regardless of their ethnic origin and nationality, have never regarded the hardships of life as a curse or a divine punishment for a hidden sin; on the contrary, they viewed their difficulties as

painful trials to test the genuineness of their faith and the depth of their love and commitment to Jesus.

The life of **Annie Johnson Flint**, a prolific writer of Christian poems, could never be measured by comfort and ease; on the contrary, she suffered from Rheumatoid Arthritis from early childhood. When she turned 30-years old, the ravages of her disease left her with disfigured fingers and a twisted body. There came a time when she could no longer walk and was confined to her bed.

The amazing thing about her was, that throughout her struggles and confinement, she never complained about her condition, but maintained a positive attitude by utilizing her skill in writing inspiring poems, many of which were set to music and were used as hymns in the 19th century at almost all churches in the north-eastern states of America.

How easy it would have been for her never to pick up a pen and write, and nobody could have blamed her, but she chose to continue composing faith-based poems because she firmly believed that God could work through her weakness to demonstrate the glory of His grace.

She drew her inspiration and courage from 2 Corinthians 12:9, where the Lord tells Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness." This verse describes what seems to be a paradox, where human limitations do not hinder divine ability, but become a platform for the operation

of His power. It is important to note that God's power is not added to our human weakness, but is illustrated when we rely on Him, instead of relying on ourselves. It is a proven fact that our limitations force us to rely on God's strength, rather than relying on our own abilities. The Apostle Paul learned "to glory in infirmities," by viewing human limitations, not as failures, but as opportunities for the operation of divine strength. God delights in taking situations where human strength is lacking to demonstrate the greatness of His strength.

Annie Johnson Flint's poetry is born from her suffering. The following poem is a sample of her writings.

He Gives More Grace

He gives more grace when the burdens grow greater;

He sends more strength when the labors increase.

*To added affliction,
He adds His mercy;
To multiplied trials,
His multiplied peace.*

*When we have exhausted our store of endurance,
When our strength has failed before the day is half done,
When we reach the end of our hoarded resources,
Our Father's full giving is only begun.*

*Fear not that your need shall exceed His provision,
Our God yearns His blessings to share.*

*Oh, lean on the arms everlasting,
The Father both you and your load will bear.*

*His love has no limit,
His grace has no measure,
His power has no boundary known to men,
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus,
He gives and gives and gives again.*

In a similar vein, the music produced by the great Armenian composer, **Komitas Vartabed**, was born from the suffering of his people during the genocidal massacres. If you listen to his music, you will notice that almost always it begins with a sad and melancholic tone that gradually builds up to a crescendo of victory.

The Psalmist says, "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning (Psalm 30:5).

This verse signifies that sorrow, pain, suffering and hardships are temporary occurrences, like a passing night, that is followed by the dawn of a new day that brings relief. This verse is used to encourage people who are going through trials and difficulties to hold on, for better times are just around the corner.

Rev. Kevork George Terian,
Senior Pastor



NEWLY ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBERS 2026

Council Moderator

Jim Surmeian

Treasurer

Levon Baroutjian

Vice Moderator

Marie Birebirian

Council Secretary

Jean Beeson

Chair of Deacons

Janeen Dinkel

Council Members

Debbie Fermanian

Melik Kumjian

Patti Parrish

Rosemary Saatjian

Chair of Trustees

Sona Minakian

Deacons

Ed Kassabian

Barbara Gasparian

Chair of Ladies Aid

Rosanna Moreland

BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY

Pierre Deyan
Katharine "Kitoosh" Marcarian

Not pictured
Baghdo Khojikian
Vahe Ashkarian
Astrid Ashkarian



FEBRUARY

Parounak Minassian
Lucy Deyan



MARCH

Lisa Khojikian



Holy Week

Immanuel Armenian Congregational Church

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2026

11:00 am Worship Service

Maundy Thursday & Tenebrae Service

April 2, 2026

6:30 pm

A light Lenten meal will be served
followed by Communion

Easter Sunday

Joint Service with St. Nareg Armenian Church

April 5, 2026

10:30 am Worship Service

9516 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90240

562.862.7012

www.immanuelacc.org

office@immanuelacc.org

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.
Bring a friend!*

STUDY DATES, 10:00 am—12:00 pm

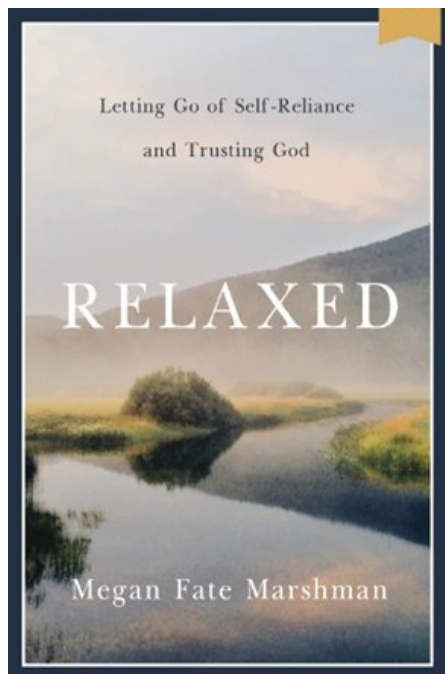
March 28, 2026 (meet in the
Sunday School building)

May (no study)

June - Aug - summer break.

Will resume on Sept 19, 2026

April 25, 2026



*Immanuel Armenian
Congregational Church*
invites you to join us at our annually themed

Mother's Day Luncheon

Saturday, May 9, 2026
11:30am

~ Fellowship, Food, Raffle, Games & Fun! ~

Adults \$40
Children 12 & under \$25

Sponsor \$150
(includes 2 meal tickets + 10 raffle tickets)

RSVP by May 2, 2026 to the church office at:
562.862.7012
office@immanuelacc.org
www.immanuelacc.org
9516 Downey Ave,
Downey, CA 90241


IMMANUEL ARMENIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC

Let's Honor Our Soldier's Together

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2026
11:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

LAMB & CHICKEN KEBAB PLATES, \$30

**RAFFLE, TAVLOO TOURNAMENT, BAKE SALE WITH
TRADITIONAL ARMENIAN DESSERTS**


9516 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90240
562.862.7012
www.immanuelacc.org


AEYF, One Day Event, March 14, 2026, hosted by IACC & SNAC



CAMP AREV—Women's Weekend, March 20-22, 2026



IACC & SNAC Thursday night Bible Study, Catalina Island, March 28, 2026



LADIES AID EASTER LOVE GIFT OFFERING

During the month of April, the Ladies Aid will be collecting a special Easter Love Gift Offering to support three AMAA student sponsorships in Armenia. This meaningful outreach provides educational opportunities and Christian encouragement to students in need.

Those wishing to contribute are asked to make checks payable to "Ladies Aid" and mail to the church office at 9516 Downey Ave, Downey, CA 90240. In the memo section, please write, "Ladies Aid Love Gift".

We thank our church family and friends for your continued generosity and faithful support of this important ministry.

Rosanna, Ladies Aid Chair

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:

UPCOMING PROJECTS

1. Change vinyl flooring in Sunday School building hallway.

Board of Trustees, Chair, Sona Minakian



DONATIONS

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:

CHRISTMAS DONATION

Souzi Baghdikian
Garabet & Nadia Bogosian
Sirapi Stepanian

ARMENIAN CHRISTMAS

Rosanna Moreland
Patti Parrish

IN LOVING MEMORY OF DAVE PARRISH

Patti Parrish

IN LOVING MEMORY OF HARRY & SARA GARO, SISTER'S LYDIA AND EMILY

John & Alicia Bair
Elizabeth Garo

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ANDREW DODD

Dicky Dodd

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JACK BIREBIRIAN

Armen & Debbie Fermanian
Rosanna Moreland

IN LOVING MEMORY OF ARMEN AROYAN

Levon Baroutjian

DONATIONS

Marie Birebirian
Stephen Philibosian Foundation
Rose Makasjian
Richard & Gayle Moore
Carol Noorigian

FOR CELEBRATION OF KATHARINE "KITOOSH" MARCARIAN'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

Nerses & Margaret Aroyan
Baghdo & Lisa Khojikian
Rosanna Moreland



From Our Kitchen to Yours

TACO SALAD

2 cans kidney beans, washed and drained
1 large red onion, chopped
3/4 lb cheddar cheese, grated
5 tomatoes, cut medium size
3 heads lettuce, cut or torn
1 1/2 lbs cooked ground beef
1 package taco seasoning (cooked with the beef)
1 very large bag or 2 medium bags of tortilla chips
1 large bottle of Kraft Catalina salad dressing

Toss all ingredients in a bowl, top with dressing and enjoy!

Recipe taken from the IACC, Volume 1 cookbook that was
submitted by Chris Ashkarian

Health Corner: Spring Into a Healthier You

As the days grow longer and the weather warms up, spring is the perfect time to refresh your health habits and embrace a renewed sense of energy. Just as we clean and organize our homes, it's also a great opportunity to "reset" our bodies and minds.

Stay Active

Enjoy the warmer weather with light activities like walking or gardening. Even a short daily walk can help improve circulation, balance, and overall well-being.

Eat Light & Fresh

Add more seasonal fruits and vegetables to your meals, such as leafy greens and berries, to support heart health and digestion.

Hydrate & Rest

Drink plenty of water and aim for good sleep each night to maintain energy and support your immune system.

Watch for Allergies

Spring can bring seasonal allergies. Keep windows closed on high pollen days and check with your doctor if symptoms become bothersome.

Health Tip

Take a 10–15 minute walk each day - it's one of the easiest ways to stay active, boost your mood, and support heart health.



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

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 and women individually and collectively.

CALENDAR

March 29 (Sun)	-	Palm Sunday Worship Service. 11:00 am
April 2 (Thur)	-	Maundy Thursday—Tenebrae Service. 6:30 pm. Lenten meal and communion.
April 5 (Sun)	-	Easter Worship Service. 10:30. Joint Service with St. Nareg
April 25 (Sat)	-	Women's Spiritual Fellowship, 10 am breakfast followed by the study.
May 9 (Sat)	-	Mother's Day Luncheon, 11:30 am
May 10 (Sun)	-	Mother's Day
May 25 (Mon)	-	Annual Memorial Day Picnic.
June 21 (Sun)	-	Father's Day

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:
Rev. George Terian
Debbie Fermanian
Rosemary Saatjian

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